

**1)Coaching** (VNEA and C&N)

In team play, a player at the table can ask his teammates what the score is or how many balls they need to win the match. However, a teammate cannot blurt out the score without being asked by the player at the table, that would be a foul.

**2)Break Shot/Rack** (VNEA and C&N)

Breaker racks the balls for his own break. Balls on the rear side of rack must be parallel to the back rail. Only racks supplied by the tournament organizer may be used.

**3)8 Ball on the break:** (VNEA and C&N)

A player that makes the 8-ball on the break has the option of spotting the 8 ball and continue shooting the table, or re-breaking. The player can spot the 8 ball, then walk around the table and examine options.....then that player can decide to play the table as is or re-break. It does not matter that the player “took his hand off the 8 ball.”

**4)8 Ball on the break and scratch:** (VNEA and C&N)

If a player makes the 8 Ball on the break and scratches, the opponent will have two options: spot the 8 Ball and shoot the next shot from behind the headstring OR re-rack and break. It is not a loss of game.

**5)Open Table turn after the break shot** (VNEA and C&N)

If the table is still open after the break shot, the in-coming player can use any ball in a combination to pocket an object ball and complete a legal shot, including the 8 Ball. After a ball set has been determined, the 8 Ball can no longer be contacted first to make a legal shot.

**6)Shooting Opponents Ball Set:** (VNEA and C&N)

If your opponent shoots at your ball set and makes contact with your ball first, it is a foul. You do not need to call that foul however. If your opponent pockets your ball and keeps shooting, it is up to you if you want to call the foul, or let him keep shooting. If your opponent pockets multiple balls that belong to you, you may call this foul at any time. Although legal, it is not very sportsmanlike to allow this to go on. We suggest you call the foul the very first time it happens. The players never “switch” ball sets once established.

**7)Breaking Stick down during the Match** (VNEA and C&N)

There is no concedement rule in regard to a player “breaking their stick down” during the match. The shooter is still required to complete their turn at the table and the match will continue. However, it is recommended that players don’t break their stick down until the match is over.

### **8)Laying Cue Down on the Table** (VNEA and C&N)

A player may lay the cue stick down on the table when it is their “turn” at the table. This is not a foul. However, the cue stick cannot be dragged on the table to make a shot. See VNEA rules video for more detail on this.

### **9)Three Fouls in a Row** (VNEA and C&N)

Three fouls in a row is not a loss of game in 8 Ball. There is no limit on how many times a player fouls in a row. (see stalemate rule below)

### **10)Stalemate** (VNEA and C&N)

If both players foul 3 times in a row (six total fouls), and both players agree that moving an object ball is a disadvantage, the game will be considered a stalemate. The breaker of this game will re-rack and break.

### **11)Jumping an object ball or 8 Ball off the table** (VNEA and C&N)

If an object ball is jumped off the table during a shot, it is considered a foul. In-coming player will spot any object ball that has left the table, then have cue ball in hand. If it was the break shot and an object ball left the table, opponent can play the table as is after spotting the ball that left the table, or the cueball may be placed behind the headstring for play to continue. If the ball jumped off the table is the 8-Ball, it is loss of game for the shooter.

### **12)Jumping the cueball off the table** (VNEA and C&N)

If the cue ball is jumped off the table during a shot, it is a foul. Incoming player will have ball in hand during play, or ball in hand behind the headstring if it was the break shot.

### **13)Balls leaving table – other** (VNEA and C&N)

Accidentally moved object balls that leave the table, or object balls that leave the table due to accidentally moving other object balls is a foul, but are handled differently. The Incoming player has the option of replacing balls where they were or leave them down (pocketed).

### **14)Cue Specs** (VNEA and C&N)

Cue tip width maximum is 15mm

Shaft length minimum is 40”

### **15)Played Wrong Player** (VNEA & C&N)

If two players play each other but do not match up on the score sheet, the game does not count. If the two players play each other later in the match, the scores are recorded in the proper spot and the game counts.

### **16) Marking a spot to Aim** (VNEA and C&N)

A player is not allowed to “mark” a spot on the table to help in the aiming process. Putting chalk or any object on the table or rail to “mark” a spot is not allowed. Normally the player would get a warning prior to any foul being called.

### **17) Patches/8 Ball** (VNEA and C&N)

It is not necessary to use a patch during league or tournaments. The VNEA also did away with the patch rule in the summer of 2025.

### **18) Slow Play Rule** (VNEA and C&N)

Players are expected to take 1 minute or less between shots.

## **Rules that apply to C&N events, not necessarily the VNEA**

### **1) Substitute Players** (C&N)

Players that start each match need to finish the match. Players can “sub in” between matches only.

### **2) Tiebreakers** (C&N)

In the event of a tied match (ball count), both teams will select a shooter for a one game tiebreaker. Flip to see who breaks. In team play, we do not recognize the number of “wins” each team has to break a tie.

### **3) Moving Object balls while shooting** (C&N)

Moving an object ball by accident is not a foul unless the moved ball 1) comes in contact with the cue ball or causes another ball to come in contact with the cueball 2) is pocketed or causes a ball to be pocketed 3) leaves the table or causes a ball to leave the table. Here is an example of a situation that may create an issue within this rule: Player shoots a long bank shot, immediately after the shot his cue stick “accidentally” moves an object ball. This object ball which was moved appeared to be blocking a pocket preventing a successful bank shot. The shot is then successful. This can be ruled unsportsmanlike and loss of turn may be called, and if the 8 ball is pocketed, loss of game. A referee would need to be called to the table to interpret exactly what happened.

#### **4)Soft Breaks/Safety Breaks (C&N)**

During team matches at the C&N Year End tournament, intentional soft breaks are not allowed until the last round of the match. If a player shoots a soft break prior to the last round, the player and team will receive a warning and be allowed to re-break. If either team does it after the warning, it will be a foul and the opponent will get the break. Any soft break in the last round must meet the requirements of 4 object balls hitting a rail or pocketing an object ball. A soft/safety break must be announced to the opponent prior to breaking. Failure to announce a soft break may result in rebreaking again by the same shooter.

#### **5)No Call vs. Safety (C&N)**

The shooter can use the words “no call” or “safety” when playing a safe. Both phrases will mean the same thing....the player is giving up his next turn whether a ball is legally pocketed or not.

#### **6)Scotch Doubles Coaching/Fouls (C&N)**

Coaching is not allowed if it is your teams turn at the table. But, either player from the team can call a foul anytime during the match.

#### **7)Measuring Distance and Angles (C&N)**

You may use your cue stick or fingers/hand to measure distance and angles.

No foreign objects can be used to measure ball clearance, distance from rail, or angles. For example: you cannot use a pool ball, piece of chalk, coins, cell phone, ruler, measuring tape, etc.

#### **8)Simultaneous Hits (C&N)**

The VNEA rulebook indicates you must hit your own set of object balls first to be a legal hit. On a rare occasion, the cueball appears to hit both a solid and stripe at the same time (or the 8-ball). If it is determined that the cueball hit both balls simultaneously, the shot will be deemed legal. If it is apparent that the shot hit the opponent ball first or the 8 ball first, a foul will be called. We recommend that the non-shooter video records the shot so it can be viewed after the shot is taken.