

APRIL 2016

9-Ball: THE BASICS

LEGALLY POCKET THE 9-BALL AND WIN

- MAKE THE 9 ON THE BREAK, while not scratching
- MAKE THE 9 AS PART OF ANY LEGAL COMBINATION

NO CALLING OF SHOTS
LUCKY 9'S WIN THE GAME

- MAKE THE 9 WHEN IT'S THE ONLY BALL REMAINING ON THE TABLE

LEGAL SHOTS REQUIRED

- INITIAL CUE BALL CONTACT WITH LOWEST NUMBERED BALL ON TABLE
- AFTER SUCH CONTACT, SOMETHING, ANYTHING, TO RAIL OR POCKET

GAME DOES NOT END UNTIL 9-BALL IS LEGALLY POCKETED

IF POCKETED ON NON-LEGAL, FOUL, OR PUSH SHOT, IT IS SPOTTED BACK ON THE TABLE

BALL-IN-HAND

ALL FOULS, SCRATCHES, OR FAILURE TO MAKE A LEGAL SHOT RESULT IN BALL-IN-HAND ANYWHERE ON THE TABLE

ON THE BREAK

LEGAL BREAK

INITIAL CONTACT WITH THE 1-BALL AND A BALL IS POCKETED
OR

INITIAL CONTACT WITH THE 1-BALL AND 4 NUMBERED BALLS HIT
A RAIL

ILLEGAL BREAK PENALTY

ILLEGAL BREAK, (whether or not a scratch is involved): INCOMING SHOOTER HAS CHOICE OF

- BALL-IN-HAND OR RERACKING (with choice of whom is to break)
- SCRATCH ON BREAK DURING AN OTHERWISE LEGAL BREAK: BALL-IN-HAND

AFTER THE BREAK, PUSH-OUT

THE FIRST PLAYER AFTER THE BREAK HAS A STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY TO DO A ONE-TIME NON-LEGAL SHOT

Done by: THE BREAKER IF A BALL WAS POCKETED ON THE BREAK or THE IN-COMING SHOOTER IF NOTHING ON THE BREAK

THE SHOOTER MUST DECLARE "PUSH", FOR IT TO BE A PUSH

FAILURE TO MAKE A LEGAL SHOT IS NOT BALL-IN-HAND, IT'S JUST LOSS OF TURN

THE INCOMING PLAYER CAN ACCEPT THE TABLE AND SHOOT OR DECLINE THE TABLE AND GIVE IT BACK TO THE PLAYER WHO DID THE "PUSH" SHOT

IT'S NOT A "PUSH" UNLESS IT'S CALLED

POCKETING THE CUE BALL IS STILL A SCRATCH WITH A BALL-IN-HAND PENALTY

AFTER THE BREAK, SHOOTING

- ALL LEGAL SHOTS
- NO CALLING
- NO CALLING "SAFE"; YOU MAKE A BALL, YOU KEEP ON SHOOTING

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

DEFENSE IS A BIG PART OF THE GAME

one could say that 8-ball is more about offense, while 9-ball is more about defense

BALL-IN-HAND CAN BE FATAL IF IT OPENS UP A 9-BALL COMBINATION

IT'S OKAY TO INTENTIONALLY FOUL AND GIVE UP BALL-IN-HAND. EXAMPLES:

- SINKING THE 9-BALL TO GET RID OF A HANGER, (it just gets spotted)
- AVOIDING OPENING UP THE OPPONENT
- BREAKING UP A MESS

WE DO **NOT** ENFORCE THE 3 FOUL RULE

in tournament 9-ball, if you foul on 3 consecutive shots, you lose the game