

## Rule Selection

The ACS follows the world-standardized rules established by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) – affiliated world-governing body for pool: the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA). The WPA made some minor changes to the rules in March 2016, primarily referenced in REGULATIONS 4. BALL RACK TEMPLATE and 18. THE THREE POINT BREAK RULE (relating to breaking in 9-Ball) in this handbook). This updated version of the world-standardized rules are hereby in force for the 2017-18 ACS league year beginning June 1, 2017, and in effect among the various continental and national federations which follow these rules of play; and a 5-year moratorium on any further rule changes is typically followed.

## SPORTSMANSHIP IN LEAGUE PLAY

Sportsmanship is simply treating your teammates and opponents with courtesy and respect. While everyone wants to win, the purpose of league play is to have fun playing the great sport of billiards in the company of friends.

By following a few simple guidelines, you can help ensure everyone gets the most out of their ACS League experience:

1. Know the rules: Most disputes can be avoided if both players are knowledgeable about the rules of the game.
2. Play to your potential: Being a good sport doesn't mean taking it easy on your opponent; quite the opposite. You'll be respected far more if you give it your best each turn at the table. If you're in a handicapped league, don't "sandbag" by keeping your wins as modest as possible. Handicaps are meant to be a genuine measure of your skill. It's poor sportsmanship to give anything but your best effort.
3. No "Sharking": "Sharking" is any act designed to upset your opponent or disrupt their concentration at any time during the game. Examples are using profanity, making sarcastic comments, refusing to acknowledge an obvious foul, standing close to your opponent's line of vision or creating sudden noise. These rules apply not only to you, but also to any person who is in your "cheering squad".
4. Resolve disputes the right way: Disputes will occasionally occur, and most will arise over a judgement call. Learn the procedures for settling disputes in your league and follow them religiously. This way, disputes can be resolved equitably and calmly.
5. Respect your host and their equipment: Billiard rooms help sponsor your league and provide use of their facilities and equipment. Whether at home or away, you represent your host club or bar.

Sportsmanship is all about courtesy and respect. Be sure to shake the hand of your opponent before and after each game, acknowledge your opponent's good shots, and make sure that the trademark of you and your teammates is good sportsmanship. Win or lose, that's what league play is all about.