

Young Farmers Pool Competition Rules 2026

A. The Spirit of the Game

The game is known as Eight-Ball Pool. It is expected that players will always play the game in the true spirit and in a sporting manner. The referee will take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the spirit and rules of the game are observed.

B. Definitions

1. **BALL ON** : At any time during a frame, a ball "On" is any Object Ball that the player may play without incurring a penalty.
2. **VISIT** : A "Visit" comprises one shot or a series of shots. Each visit lasts until the player fails to pot a ball "On". (Or until a foul is committed or the frame ends).

D. Object of the Game

1. The object of the game is to win by being the first player to Pot a group of colours in any order and in any pocket and the Pot the Eight-Ball in any pocket.
2. When "On" a group of colours, potting more than one ball of that Colour in the same shot is allowed. But a separate shot must be played to pot the Eight-Ball and win the game.

E. Playing from Baulk

1. "Baulk" is the rectangular area of the table that is bordered by the Baulk Line and the three cushions at that end of the table.
2. When playing from Baulk:-
 1. The centre point of the Cue Ball must be in Baulk when a shot is played. If the centre of the Cue Ball is directly on the Baulk Line it is not deemed to be in Baulk.
 2. The Cue Ball may be played in any direction.
 1. After an "In Off" the referee will recover the Cue Ball and hand it to the incoming player or place it on top of, and in the centre of, the cushion at the Baulk end of the table for the player to retrieve by hand.
 2. If a player wishes to play from Baulk after a "Foul Snooker", "Foul Jaw Snooker", or "Time Foul" the player must verbally advise the referee of this choice and the referee will then recover the Cue Ball and hand it to the player or place it on top of, and in the centre of, the cushion at the Baulk end of the table for the player to retrieve by hand. If the player touches or recovers the Cue Ball it is a Standard Foul. {see(K) Standard Fouls (21)}.

F. The Break

The Break will be deemed a "Fair Break" if:-

1. At least one Colour is potted.
and/or
2. Four Object Balls (at least) are driven to a cushion.
2. If the Break is not a Fair Break it is a Non-Standard Foul and:-
 1. The opponent is awarded two visits.
 2. The balls are re-racked.
 3. The opponent re-starts the game and is under the same obligation to achieve a Fair Break.
3.
 1. If the Cue Ball is potted on a Fair Break it is a Non-Standard Foul that is penalised by the turn passing to the opponent.
 2. If the break is not a Fair Break and the Cue Ball is potted, the penalty for failure to perform a Fair Break applies. (see (b) above).
2. If the Eight-Ball is potted on any break, the balls are re-racked and the same player will break again.

G. Legal Shot

1. On all shots, the player must:-
 1. Cause the Cue Ball's initial contact with a ball to be with a ball "On",
AND THEN
 2. Pot a ball "On" OR Cause the Cue Ball or any Object Ball to contact a cushion.
2. Failure to play a Legal Shot is a Standard Foul.
3. Exceptions:
 1. On the Break, the conditions of a Legal Shot do not apply. (see (F) The Break)
 2. When playing out of a Total Snooker a player is only obliged to meet the conditions of (1)(a) above. (see (Q) Total Snookers).

H. Deciding Colours

1. On the Break
 1. If no Colours are potted on the break the table is "Open".

2. If one or more Colours are potted on the break the player then has a right and obligation to verbally advise the referee of a choice of Colour before proceeding. Failure to do so is a Standard Foul. If a player is fouled under this rule the opponent faces an "Open" table.
3.
 1. if the player nominates a Colour that was potted on the break, the player is on that Colour no matter what happens next.
 2. if the player nominates a Colour that was not potted on the break, to be on that Colour, the player must pot a ball of that Colour on the next shot.

Q. Total Snookers

1. Definition: A player is in a Total Snooker when it is impossible to play any part of any of the player's own Colour by way of a "straight line" shot. Leaving an opponent in a Total Snooker is not a foul.
2. If a player believes that a Total Snooker exists, the player may ask the referee for a ruling.
3. If the referee rules that a Total Snooker exists, the player's obligations under the "Legal Shot" rule are relaxed as follows:- The player need only cause the Cue Ball's initial contact to be with a ball "On". The requirement to pot a ball and / or cause a ball to strike a cushion is waived.

R. Foul Snookers

1. Definition: When an opponent plays a foul shot and this results in the incoming player being snookered, the incoming player is deemed to be Foul Snookered.
2. If a player believes that a Foul Snooker exists, the player may ask the referee for a ruling.
3. If the referee rules that a foul snooker exists, the player initially has the following options:-
 1. Play the Cue Ball from where it lies. {see (4)(a) below} OR
 2. Ask the referee to remove the Cue Ball so as to allow the player to play from Baulk. {see (4)(b) below}
4.
 1. If the player chooses to play the Cue Ball from where it lies, the player may, if the player wishes, nominate the Eight Ball (but see (5) below) or any one of the opponent's Colour. The player can nominate a particular ball by verbal description of it or its position or by pointing at it. The Referee may ask for further information if any doubt exists as to which ball has been nominated.
 2. Once nominated, a ball is deemed to "become one" of the player's Colour for the first shot of the first visit. The player may then play any of the player's own Colour or the nominated ball. If any of the player's Colour and/or the nominated ball are potted, the player continues with the first visit.