



PLAY IT LIKE A PRO

BLACK BALL

**RULES AND
REASONS OF PLAY**

SCOTT IGBENE

For Cue Sports Association of Nigeria

Our newest ingredient



Brewed with
100% green energy



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Foreword

Pool, or billiards, has been around for over 100 years. Pool Tables have become an iconic part of millions of working men and families across the world. Pool tables are often found in pubs and bars of workingmen's clubs, social clubs, and youth clubs. The social aspect of pool has played a significant part in the lives of millions, people would finish work, go to the pub and then have a pint and a game of pool.

This is evident in Nigerian culture as many clubs still have pool and snooker tables since decades ago. Pool goes far beyond being a fun and addictive game though; it has several health benefits, which we will cover in this book.

Pool asides been a game has fast turned into a sport proffetionally around the world and even with the exceptional skill levels of Nigerian players we are still behind in harnessing pro players of the sport. This will hopefully change in the coming years with the structure and efforts being put in place by the Cue Sports Association of Nigeria.

Pool players also stand a better chance of survival in scenarios that bring reaction speed into play. In a scenario like driving, the ability to stay calm

under pressure and hand eye co-ordination would greatly benefit you including but not limited to

- Pool Improves Life Skills
- Pool Strengthens Friendships and Family Bonds
- Pool Improves Reaction Speeds

Investing in a pool table is a long-term investment, you can get a high quality pool table for under N500,000, a commercial one for N1,000,000 or a pool dining table for a lot under that price too. A pool dining table will double up as a great looking diner, thus saving you space in your home.

Playing pool on a regular basis or over family events can be a great way to engage all family members and have fun. In our world today, video gaming and smartphones have taken over, nobody interacts like they used to, it is up to the parents of the family to make the decision to involve family in social events that don't require video gaming or phones.

Having fun is the best distraction from an ever-growing problem of being glued to our TV screens, phones, and computers. The next time you think about setting up a family event, going for a social drink with friends, or want to invest into something for your games room, take a look at investing into a pool table.

It may be the best decision you ever make

Chapter 1

About Us

Cue Sports Association of Nigeria

Vision

Our vision is to give national relevance to the game of Pool, Snooker and Billiards, bringing growth and prosperity to the players, administrators and sponsors, and maximum enjoyment to lovers of the game.

Mission

Our mission is to facilitate access to the best of local and international Pool, Snooker and Billiards sporting opportunities for Nigerian Cue Players and help develop their skills so that they are ranked amongst the best in the world.

Cue Sports Association of Nigeria - CSAN, the sole affiliate member of AAPA (all African Pool Association) in Nigeria, and automatically a member of the WPA (World Pool – Billiards Association). The objective of the pool body is to develop the game, increase its acceptance in the country and its national relevance, give hope to players and enthusiasts, and to take

the game to another level altogether by bringing together all stakeholders under the same umbrella.

Being a member of the world body, we use our position and opportunities to organize accredited competitions locally and ensure that the association members represent Nigeria in internationally organized pool, snooker and billiard games and events.

Chapter 2

The Objective Of The Game

Blackball is played with 15 coloured object balls and a cue ball. The object balls consist of two groups of seven and the black ball.

Generally the group balls comprise one group of reds and another of yellows.

Less often other colours of balls are used such as blue and yellow.

The black ball may sometimes be referred to as the eight ball. The player or team potting their own group of object balls and legally potting the black wins the game.

Players do not need to nominate any of the shots they are about to play in blackball pool.

Chapter 3

Terms Used

The table is comprised of rails, cushions, pockets and the playing surface.

The foot end of the table is where the object balls are placed at the start of a game.

The head end is where the cue ball is positioned when play is about to begin.

The cushions and pockets are considered parts of the head, foot and side rails.

The baulk line is parallel to the head rail. It is drawn one fifth of the length of the playing surface away from the head cushion.

Baulk is the rectangular area bordered by the baulk line and the three cushions at the head of the table.

The head cushion is often referred to as the baulk cushion. After an illegal or foul shot is played an incoming opponent is given a free shot. That free shot may be played either from the existing position of the cue ball on the table, or from baulk.

When discussing playing options you may hear the words 'on' ball. An object ball is said to be 'on' when it is legally playable.

A player is snookered when the cue ball cannot take a straight path to hit at

least part of a target ball.

Snookers must be declared as such by a player (and confirmed so by a referee where appropriate) before attempting to escape from said snooker.

Chapter 4

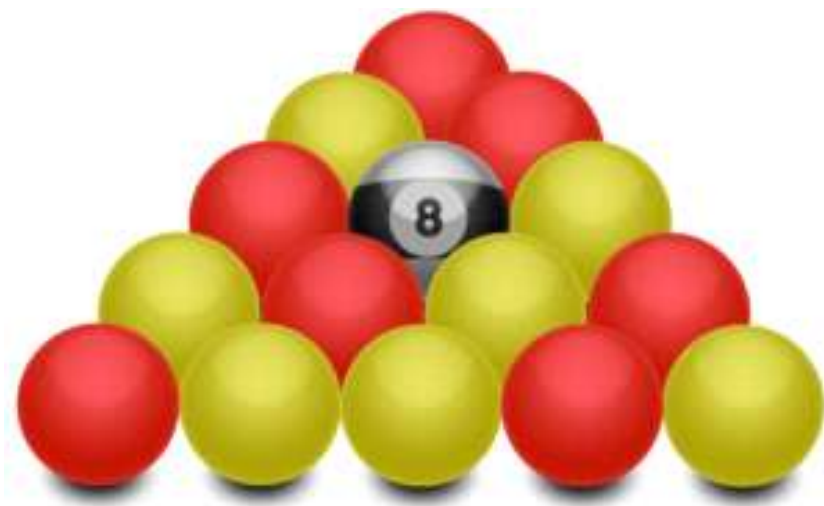
Lag And Break

Play begins when a break shot is played from baulk. However, before breaking, it is necessary to determine which player executes the first break shot of a match. It is the player winning the lag who will decide which player breaks.

Two cue balls are used. Balls are placed on opposite sides of baulk adjacent to, but not touching, the side cushions. The objective of opposing players is to play their ball to directly strike the foot cushion before returning and coming to rest as close as possible to the baulk cushion.

The lag winner is the player whose ball comes closest to that baulk cushion.

A player may lose the lag if, for example, his or her ball strikes a side cushion or drops into a pocket.



The Rules of Breaking

The balls are racked as shown, although reds and yellows may be switched provided the same relative pattern is maintained. The cue ball begins in hand.

That means it can be placed by the breaking player anywhere within the baulk area.

On breaking at least one group ball must be potted or two object balls cross the centre string. That is a line joining the centre points of the two centre pockets.

When two object balls fail to cross that line, and no group balls are potted, a standard foul is declared.

If the cue ball is potted or driven off the table, then that too is a foul.

More about fouls and their consequences in blackball pool below.

Any fouls on the break are ignored if the black ball is potted. If that happens the object balls are always racked again and the same player breaks.

Determining Groups

In this game players do not nominate their group of object balls.

At the start of a frame, before players' groups have been determined, the table is said to be open.

The table is open after the break, and remains open until a player pots a ball or balls from only one group in a normal legal shot.

The ball potted decides the group of that player. However groups are not assigned if balls from both groups are potted on a shot, or on a free shot following a foul.

Chapter 5

Continuing Play

A player remains at the table while continuing to play legal shots, or until the frame ends.

If a player does not pot any ball on a shot and no foul has been committed the incoming player plays the cue ball from its current position. If a player commits a standard foul, play passes to the opposition. The incoming player then takes a free shot before continuing with his or her visit to the table in the normal way. That is provided of course the player does not commit a foul in the course of taking that free shot. In taking a free shot an incoming player may play the cue ball from the existing position on the table or choose to have the cue ball in hand. In which case the player plays the free shot from baulk.

When taking that free shot a player may, if he or she wishes, first strike or pot a ball or balls from the opponent's group. On a free shot these are not considered fouls.

After a free shot play continues with a normal visit to the table.

Chapter 6

Standard Fouls

There are a number of so-called standard fouls in the game of blackball.

This term distinguishes them from fouls which lead to the automatic loss of a frame.

All standard fouls result in the incoming player receiving a free shot.

- On playing a normal shot it is a standard foul when an opponent's group ball is accidentally struck first or if only an opponent's group ball is potted.

However such play is not considered a foul if a player is taking a free shot.

When playing a free shot, after a foul has been awarded, a player may first strike or even pot a ball or balls from an opponent's group.

During normal play, or when taking a free shot, it is also a standard foul under the following circumstances...

- No balls contact a cushion after the cue ball strikes an object ball. That is

unless an object ball is legally potted on that same shot. The exception to this rule is in attempting to escape a snooker. It is not then necessary to strike a cushion when a shot is played. Of course, if a player fails to escape a snooker it is a foul.

- The cue ball is potted, or any balls leave the pool table. They must be returned to the table, and placed in accordance with official blackball rules before play continues.
- A player does not have a foot on the floor when the cue tip contacts the cue ball.
- Touching or moving the cue ball by hand. The exceptions being that the cue ball may be moved by hand prior to breaking or on a free shot when positioning the cue ball in baulk.
- A ball is accidentally touched during the course of a game by chalk, bridges or, for example, a player's hair or clothing.
- The cue tip contacts the cue ball more than once on a single shot.
- The cue tip is still touching the cue ball when the cue ball contacts an object ball.
- Tip to ball contact is prolonged beyond that seen in a normal shot. That constitutes a push shot.
- A shot is played while any balls are moving.
- A player unintentionally takes a shot out of turn.

- If the referee feels that a player is playing too slowly he or she may be advised to speed up play.

If the player does not comply a foul could be called.

Chapter 7

Combination Shots

In considering standard fouls it is important to understand the concept of a combination shot.

In normal continuing play, that is when not playing a free shot, a player may strike an object ball from his or her own group and then go on to legally pot balls from both groups in that same shot.

Note, the object ball struck first must be a player's own group ball, unless a free shot has been awarded.

When balls from both groups are potted in combination, it does not matter which balls fall into pockets first.

Combination shots can also be played involving the black ball. Of course, on playing a shot in which the black is potted in combination with any other object ball, the frame is won only if no balls from a player's own group remain on the table. Otherwise, it's loss of frame.

The term skill shot is also used to describe combinations.

Touching Ball

When a player plays a cue ball away from a touching object ball that cue ball is considered to have struck that object ball.

One consequence of this is that the cue ball need not subsequently contact another object ball when executing the shot. Though of course the other requirements of a legal shot must be met, such as striking a cushion. It also follows that in playing away from a touching ball from his or her own group, the cue ball may then legally proceed to hit an opponent's group ball. This is possible because the player is deemed to have first struck the touching object ball from his or her own group.

Chapter 9

Combination Shots

Chapter 8

Loss Of Frame:

Under certain circumstances a player may automatically lose the frame.

This happens when a player...

- Pots the black ball on an illegal shot. For example, on a push shot.
- Pots the black on a shot that leaves any of his or her group balls on the table.
- Intentionally strikes a ball which is not an 'on' ball.
- Deliberately touches or picks up a ball when not entitled to do so.
- Does not attempt to hit an 'on' ball.

Stalemate:

In some games a situation may occur when no legal shot is playable.

Whether this happens by accident or design it is a stalemate and the frame is restarted.

The referee will decide whether a legal shot is possible.

The original breaking player breaks again if a stalemate has been called.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct :

Players should be made aware that penalties will be imposed for conduct considered unsportsmanlike.

The referee might issue a warning, call a standard foul, declare loss of frame, or even the loss of a match.

Unsportsmanlike conduct is any intentional behavior that brings the sport into disrepute, or which disrupts the game to such an extent that fair play is affected.

Such behavior might include distracting an opponent, intentionally miscuing, marking the table, using equipment inappropriately or playing under the influence of drink or drugs.

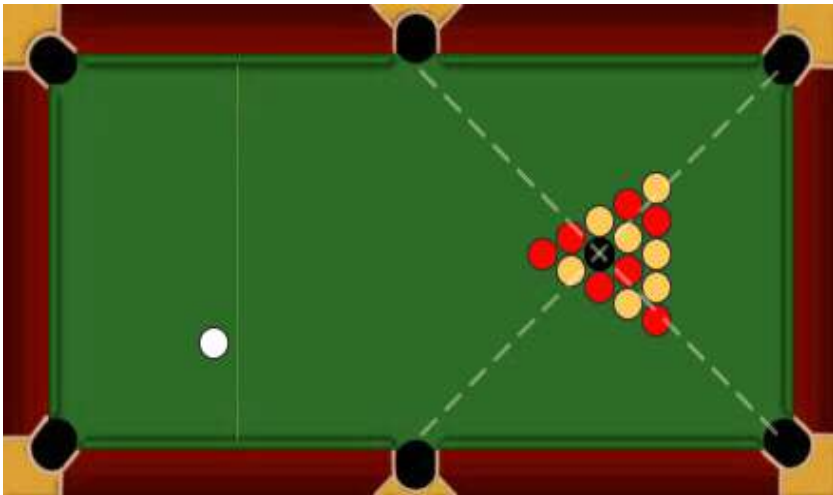
This kind of conduct could result in ejection from a competition or even the forfeiture of prizes, trophies and competition points.

Chapter 10

A Visual Guide To The Rules

This is a comprehensive visual guide to the official blackball pool rules as sanctioned by the World Pool Association.

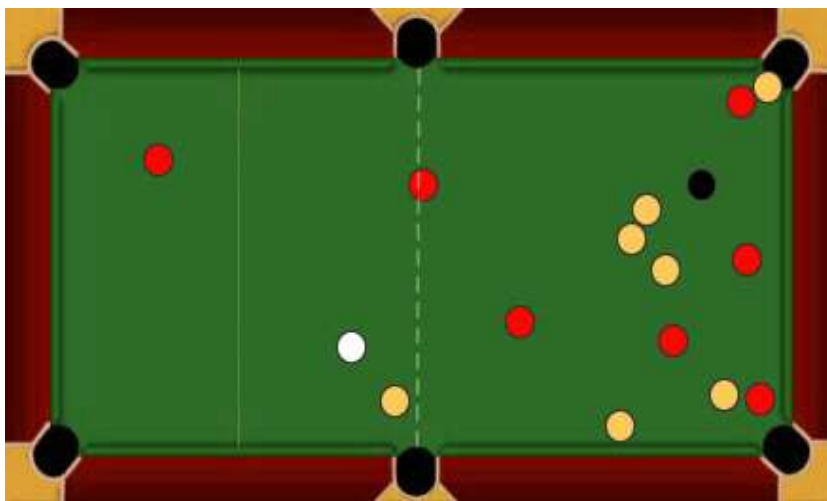
From the opening break to the completion of a frame this guide provides a colourful exposition of general play, legal and illegal shots, play resulting in fouls and loss of frame, combination shots and lots more!



Setting up the balls and breaking off

The balls are 'racked' as shown, with the black ball positioned at the intersect of two imaginary diagonal lines. The winner of the lag decides who is to break. Thereafter opposing players break alternately in successive frames.

Position the cue ball anywhere within baulk. It is acceptable if the centre of the cue ball is placed directly above the baulk line.



2. A legal break defined

To achieve a legal break at least two object balls (reds, yellows or black) must completely cross an imaginary line joining the middle pockets. Alternatively, at least one ball must be potted.

If no balls are potted and two object balls do not pass over this line, then the oncoming player is awarded 'one free shot and one visit'. The cue ball may be played from where it lies OR from baulk.... alternatively the

oncoming player may decide to re-rack.

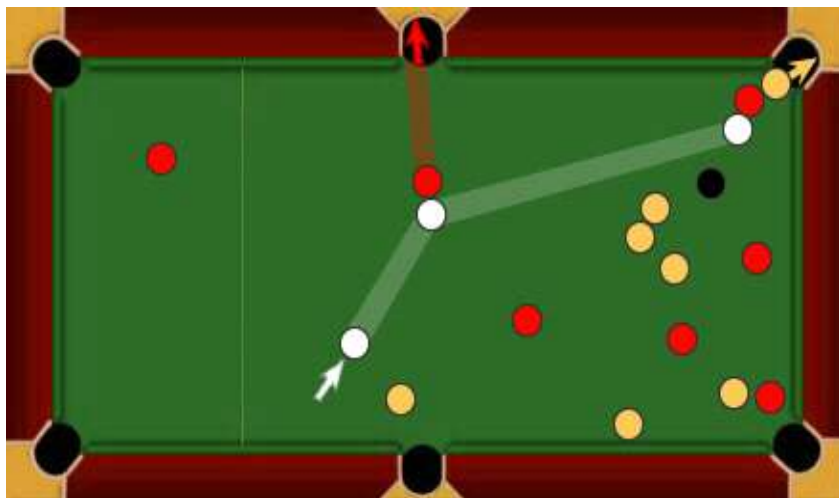
It is also a foul if the cue ball is potted on the break.

The retrieved white must be played from baulk.

If the black is potted the table is set up again and the same player breaks.

On a break shot, no matter the outcome, the table remains 'open'. Groups are never decided on the break.

There is no 'nomination' of groups in blackball rules.

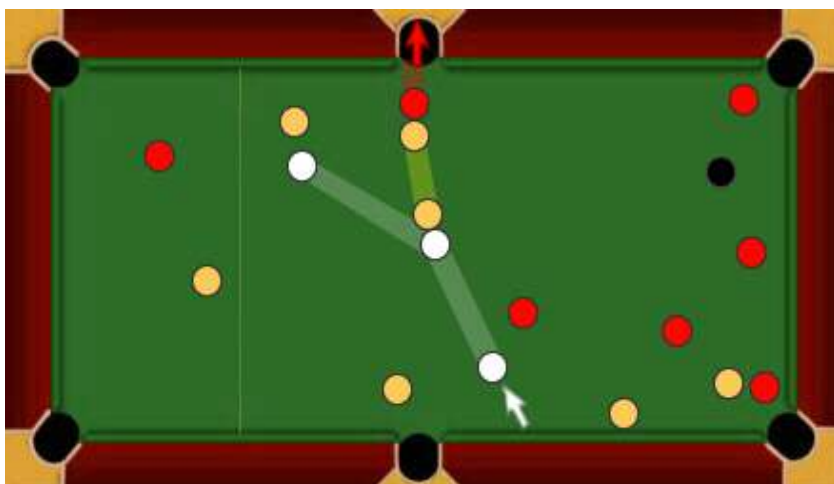


An 'open table' and determining groups

In an 'open table' situation groups (reds or yellows) are NOT determined in the following situations..... on the break shot, when a foul is played on a shot, when taking a free shot after a foul or where a combination shot is played in which balls from both groups are potted.

Given these conditions, if a player pots a ball or balls from a single group the

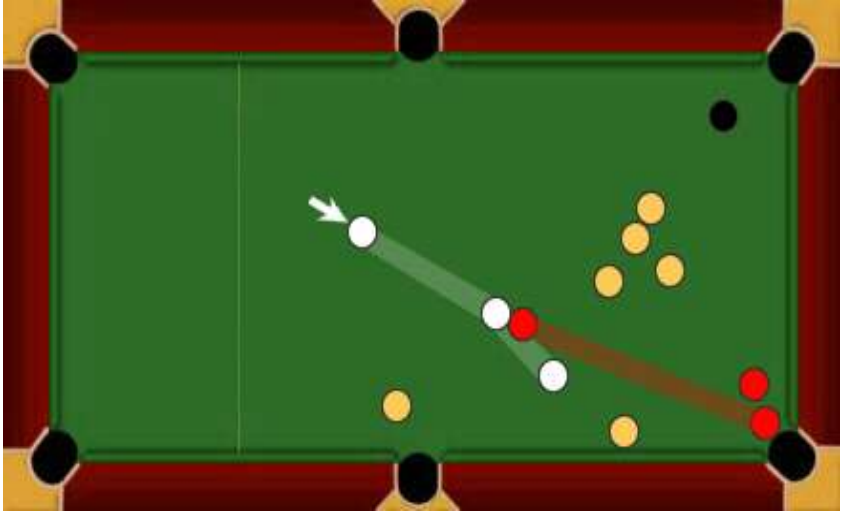
player is then 'on' that group for the duration of the frame. Above, potting only the red in the middle pocket would determine 'reds' as the player's group. But pot both red and yellow in a combination shot and the table remains open.



With an 'open table' play any group ball

If an 'open table' (groups have not been decided) you may play the cue ball to strike any group ball. In the above diagram a yellow has been played onto a red which dropped into the pocket. The player's group is then reds. If the red had fallen short of the pocket and no balls struck a cushion the shot would not be 'legal' and a foul would be called (see definition of a legal shot, below.)

The black cannot be used as an 'on' ball to pot an object ball unless a foul has been committed and it is a free shot.

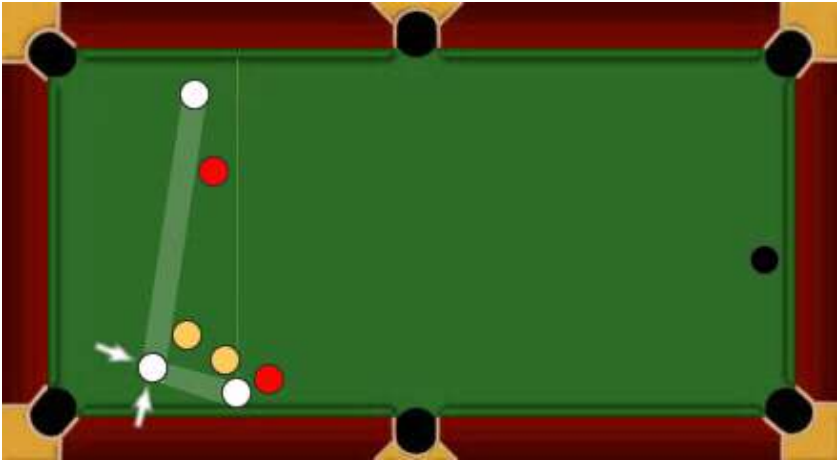


5. Legal shot defined

To play a legal shot a player must cause the cue balls 'initial' contact to be with an 'on' ball and THEN.....

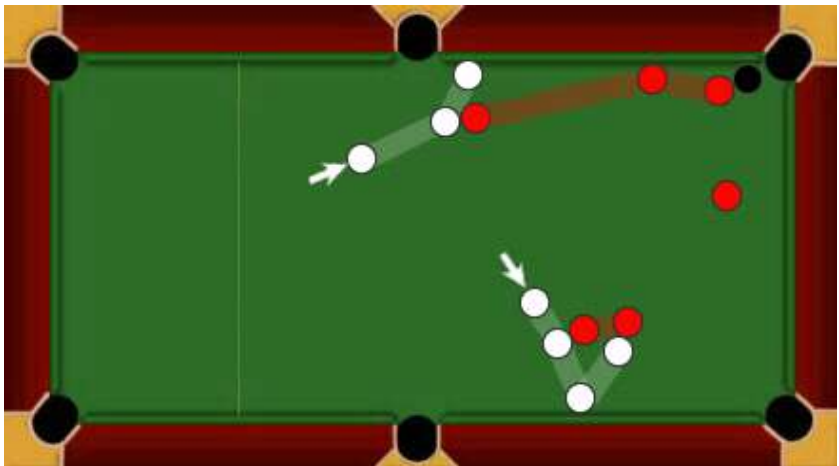
(a) Pot any 'on' ball or balls, OR

(b) Cause the cue ball or any other ball to contact a cushion.
In the situation above, if the red ball falls short of the pocket and no ball struck a cushion after the cue ball hit the red, then the referee calls a foul. There is one exception to this definition..... escape from a snooker is described below.



6. A snooker defined

A player is 'snookered' when it is deemed impossible to strike any part of an 'on' ball by way of a straight line shot..... which is the case in the above example. Players should seek confirmation of a snooker from an opposing player, a referee or official before playing a shot.

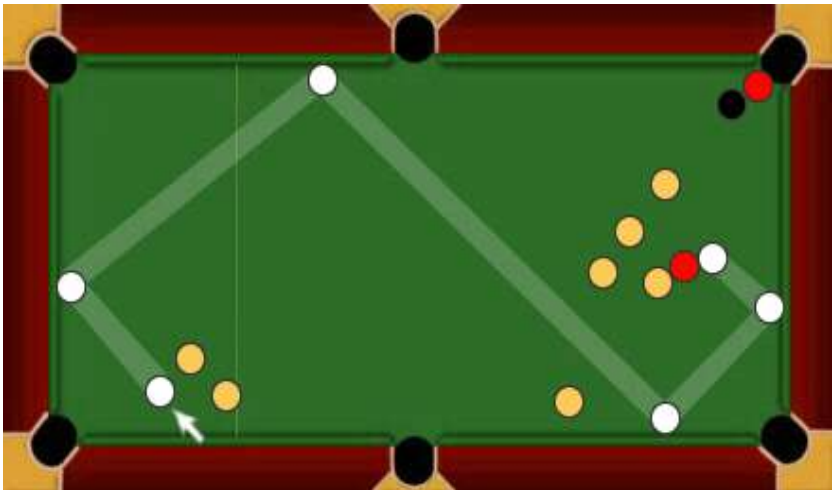


7. Legal shots and laying snookers

A direct consequence of the need for a ball to strike a cushion after contact with an 'on' ball is that it is not possible to simply tap up behind a ball to lay a snooker.

In this diagram, in the upper shot, to play a snooker on the black, either the cue ball or the red must touch a cushion after the red has been struck.

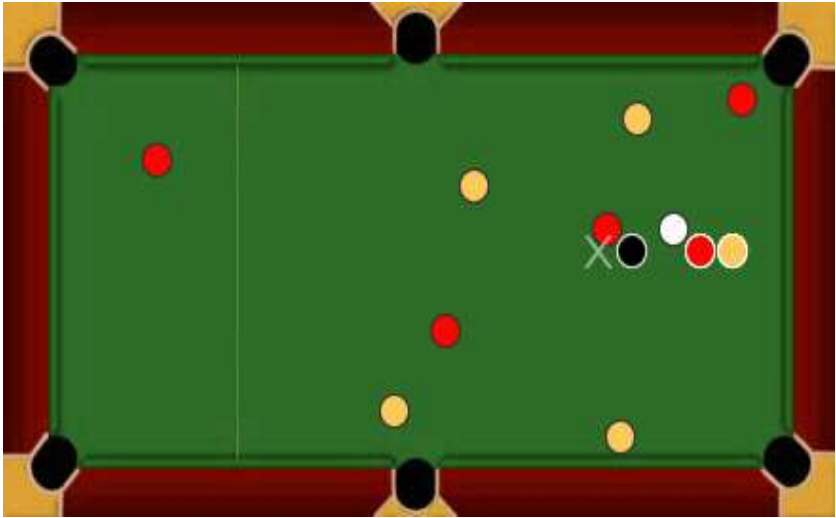
Similarly, in the second scenario, the white is played off the red and returns from the cushion to achieve a snooker.



8. Legal shots and escaping snookers

There is one exception to the definition of a legal shot. After successfully escaping a snooker, in the diagram above, it's not necessary for a ball to touch a cushion.... nor need a ball be potted.

It's sufficient for the cue ball to make initial contact with any 'on' ball.



9. Balls which leave the table are replaced

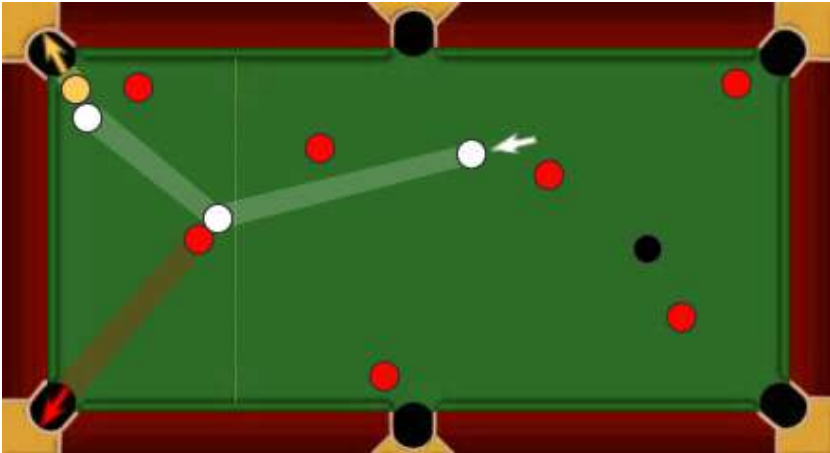
At any stage in the game, balls which leave the table are returned to the playing surface.

If the cue ball, then it's played from baulk.

In the above example three object balls (a red, yellow and black) left the table on the break.

Balls are always 're-spotted' on or as close as possible to the black spot in a direct line between the spot and the end cushion which is closest to the spot.

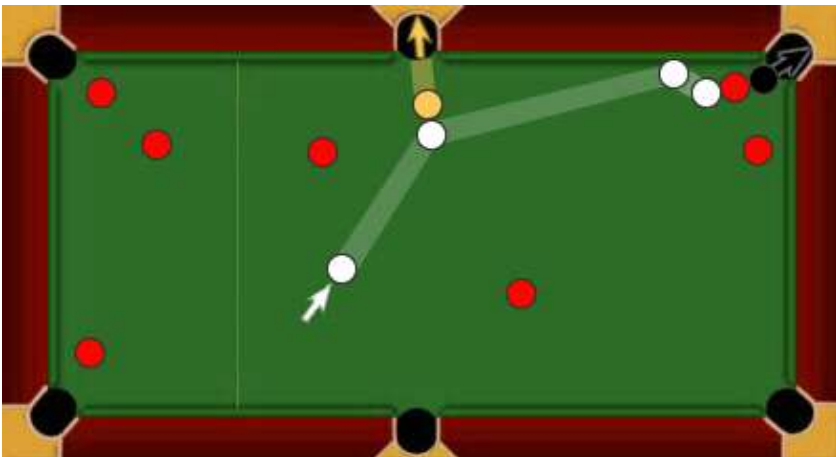
Object balls are replaced in order of black, red and yellow. Return balls to the playing surface in a straight line, as close as possible, without touching.



10. Combination shot defined

Two or more object balls can be potted without penalty in a single shot. In such shots the balls can drop into pockets in any order. The object ball with which the cue ball makes initial contact must be an 'on' ball.

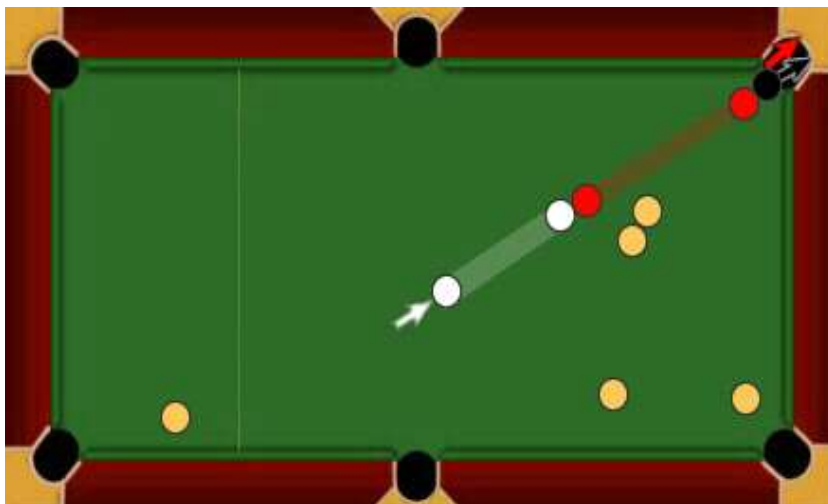
A combination shot is commonly used to clear an opponent's ball which is 'blocking' a pocket. In the situation depicted the player on reds plays a combination and by sinking both red and yellow creating an opportunity to clear the table.



11. Combination shot sinking the black

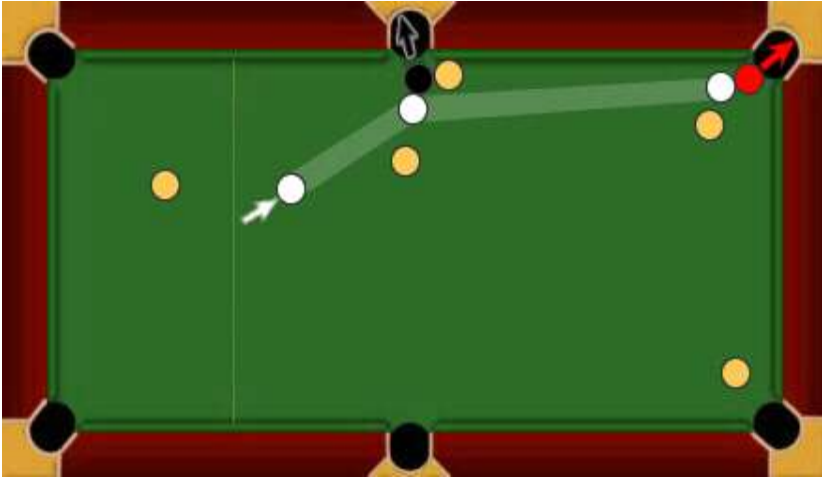
A player may sink his or her last remaining group ball (or balls) in the same shot in which the black is potted to win the frame. Initial contact, as always, must be with an 'on' ball.

In this instance the player on yellows pots the final yellow ball and in the same 'combination' shot wins the frame by potting the black.



12. Combination shot potting two object balls in the same pocket

In certain circumstances a combination shot can be played in which two balls are potted in a single pocket. Here the red is played to pot the black and then to follow through to drop into the same bag and clinch the frame.



13. Combination shot with a free table

After a foul the oncoming player has a 'free shot' and may play onto any object ball on the table. The player on 'reds' may legally strike and pot the black ball and then, in the same shot, sink the last remaining group ball to win the frame.

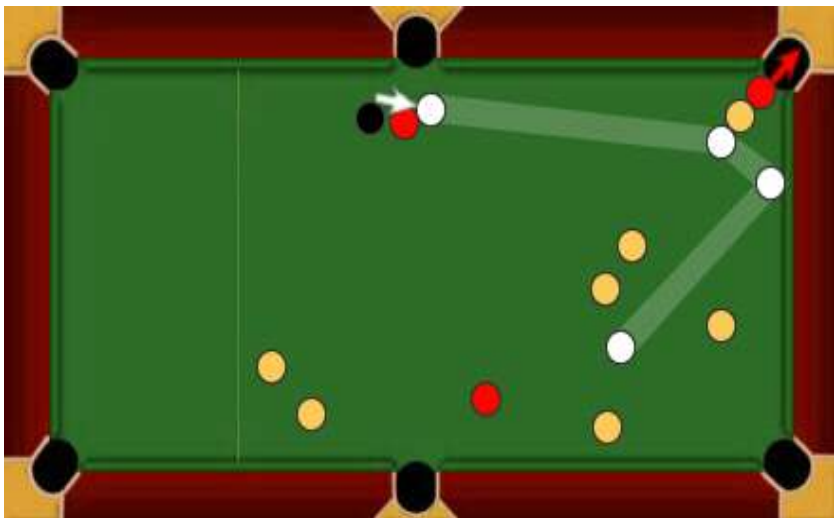


14. Playing away from touching balls

It is necessary to play away from any object ball declared to be touching the cue ball.

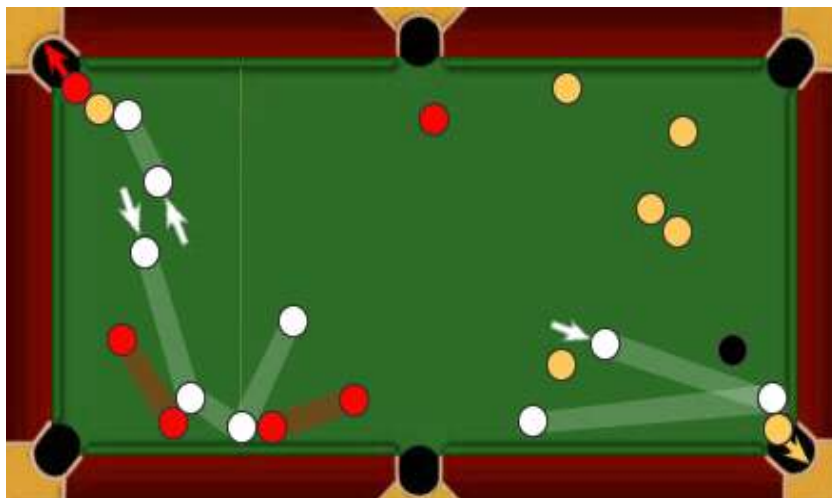
If, in doing so, the touching object ball moves, then it is a foul. If the cue ball is touching a ball from your own group (or indeed any 'on' ball) then that object ball is regarded as having been 'struck'. It is then only necessary to meet the requirements of a legal shot. That is a ball must be potted or a ball strike a cushion.

In the diagram the player is on reds. The cue ball is deemed to have 'struck' the touching red and the player takes advantage of this opportunity by playing the cue ball onto the cushion and laying a snooker. If playing away from a touching ball 'not on' the requirements of a legal shot must be met and initial contact on playing the shot must be with an 'on' ball.



15. Making the most of a 'touching ball' situation

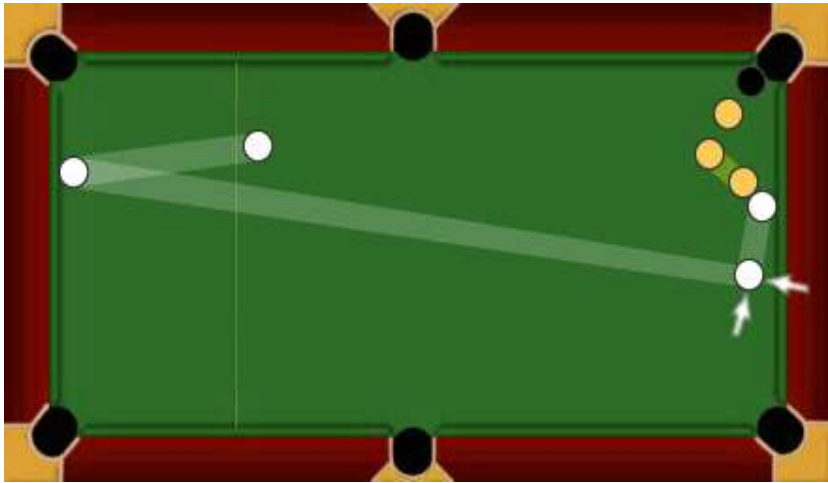
In this scenario the cue ball is touching the red object ball. The player is 'on' red and is considered to have struck the touching ball from which he 'plays away'. By playing onto the yellow it's possible to sink the obscured red and the player has an excellent opportunity of clearing the table.



16. Free shot after a foul

Following a foul the table is declared 'open' and the oncoming player may take a 'free' shot. It is permissible to play onto any object ball. Any ball may be potted, including the black if it is 'on'. Also play combination shots.

In each example above the player on 'reds' is taking a free shot. To the top left, a shot is played on a yellow to sink a red ball. Bottom right, an opponent's yellow ball is played to clear the way to pot the black in the same pocket. Finally, bottom left, the player uses a free shot to bring two of his red balls into play.



17. Loss of frame shots

A player who clearly and intentionally fails to attempt to play an 'on' ball OR deliberately plays a ball which is 'not on' will lose the frame. The player's group is red in the diagram. Only the black remains to be potted, but the player is snookered. There is a possible shot, up and down the table, to escape the snooker. But leave the cue ball well short, as shown, and the player risks losing the frame for playing a deliberate foul. The decision is with the referee.

Alternatively, the player may decide to strike the yellow and in doing so open up access to the black. This is undoubtedly a deliberate foul and loss of frame will be called by the referee.



18. Foul . . . but not loss of frame!

Here's a situation which is not so unusual. The player on yellows plays a yellow ball onto a red which is potted. By striking a ball from his own group first the player has fulfilled the requirements of a 'legal shot' described above.

This may be regarded as a 'tactical' option in which the player on yellows risks committing a foul in the expectation that, despite the award of a free shot and one visit to the opposing player, the remaining balls are positioned in such a way that the player on yellows remains the most likely frame winner.



19. Stalemate defined

In a situation where no legal shot is playable, whether this be by accident or design, the frame will be re-started.

To the top right, the player is 'on' the black ball. The cue ball cannot pass beyond the reds to strike the black, so the referee calls 'stalemate' and there is a re-rack.

Moving clockwise, in the next situation, the cue ball is touching the black and must be played away from that ball. If the player is on reds and the cue ball is unable to pass through the gap between yellow and black then it is not possible to play a legal shot. Again, the frame must be re-started. It's a little different in the final example to the left. A stalemate is not called when it remains physically possible to play a legal shot..... however unlikely it is to be successful. There are two pathways to the black ball between the reds, so it's NOT a stalemate.

Chapter 11

Benefits Of Playing Pool

The physical benefits of pool playing include low-impact toning of the back, hip, and leg muscles with the continuous bending and reaching to facilitate arm/hand setups and the exercise found in cue stroking movements. And there is a surprising amount of beneficial walking: a typical 2-hour 8-ball or 9-ball session often provides 100 trips around the table's perimeter ... equaling nearly three-quarters of a mile of non-aerobic walking. Since the game requires (and teaches) finesse and ball speed control, very little strength is demanded, making it a perfect activity for both men and women players of any age. (While few would want this as their total exercise program, it is still significant several times a week.) Additionally, the mental stimulation of billiards is rich and very varied owing to the virtually infinite table layouts that each broken rack presents. These layouts challenge any player's imagination, visualization, creative problem solving and constant improvisation in order to pocket balls and achieve good position on further shots as skills increase.

Slows aging in men

Billiards has become a staple for socializing among men and with good reason! According to a recent study from the University of Copenhagen, playing a game of pool with friends can help keep older men active due to the exchange between active activity and passive activity during a round of pool. This can help combat the aging process by providing the elderly a casual activity that still utilizes the use of their muscles.

Helps build focus

Playing pool requires a great amount of focus and concentration. Your ability to focus on a given objective is essential in achieving happiness and attaining goals. In billiards, players must focus on their targets (the cue ball and the target ball), the angle of their own cue, the angle the cue ball will move in once it is hit and if the cue ball will strike the target ball.

Burns calories

There is a surprising amount of beneficial walking involved in a round of pool: a typical 2-hour 8-ball or 9-ball session often provides 100 trips around the table's perimeter, which is about equal to walking nearly three-quarters of a mile. Playing multiple games of pool will stack up these distances and burn even more calories!

Enables stretching and balance

Playing requires a lot more stretching than a person would not normally do. Having to bend across the table top to reach the cue ball at a desired angle requires a player to be moderately flexible, especially with complex shots. Pool also enhances balance as the game requires you to stand on one foot at certain time, promoting stability.

Helps build control

Studies have shown that individuals who play cue sports like pool are less likely to panic amid crisis. The levelheadedness of those who play concentration games are able to think clearly and logically, enabling them to examine the most pertinent facts and details and encourage them to go into action without becoming hysterical.

Sharpens the mind

Those who frequently play billiards and pool often have sharper minds. Pool requires performing mental mathematical estimates and calculations, such as basic geometry and physics. These skills are necessary to calculate precise angles and trajectories and to determine how much force to apply during a strike so as not to under or overshoot a target. Having a sharp mind enables one to think on their feet faster and pick up on little details.

Hones good hand-eye coordination

Playing pool can also increase your eye-and-hand coordination. In the above bullet regarding how pool can sharpen the mind, all that is for nothing if the player cannot apply those calculations to the table. The hand-eye coordination involved is a crucial factor in winning a game of pool. Your hands become swift and agile and can perform minute, finite tasks.

Fun for all ages

Anyone can play this activity regardless of age and sex, so playing these games can be a regular family event. From your youngest nephew who wants to stab the 8-ball into a pocket, to your spouse's great grandmother, billiards is a leisure activity that anyone can learn and anyone can play, ensuring that everyone gets a turn around the table.

Tones muscles

The physical benefits of playing pool include low-impact toning of the back, hip and leg muscles pertaining to continuous bending and reaching to facilitate arm/hand setups and the exercises found in cue-stroking movements.

Improves cognitive skills

The mental stimulation of pool is rich and variable, owing to the virtually infinite table layouts that each broken rack presents. These layouts challenge the players imagination, visualization and creative problem-solving skills and requires constant improvisation in order to pocket balls and achieve good position on further shots as skills increase.

Chapter 12

Pool and Kids

10 SURPRISING REASONS WHY KIDS SHOULD PLAY POOL

When your youngster takes an interest in pool, this is a good thing. In fact, it's awesome! Whether it's the clacking of the colorful balls or the technical "how to" that attracts your child, introducing them to playing pool is beneficial in a number of ways, some of them not so readily apparent.

Studies have revealed key reasons why children benefit from cue sports. Most parents understand the value of their child participating in sports, but pool isn't as typical for kids to enter into as tee-ball or basketball.

The game can appeal to a wider variety of children since it isn't physically exhaustive. Children who are not as rough and tumble may not be as drawn to more physical, outdoors sports. Pool might appeal to children who like puzzle games or games of strategy, such as chess.

As exceptional and impressive as billiards prodigies are, children don't have to be one to be very good at billiards. Your child may have unfettered confidence since they haven't experienced many failures that can build mental blocks.

It doesn't take a big person to play, and some children want to grab a cue and

play their own mock game as early as toddlerhood. When encouraged early enough, they can eventually win games against mom or dad!

The benefits that can result from children learning to play cue sports are definitely points to consider:

1. It teaches kids problem solving and how to develop strategies. For example, if the situation of the balls on the table doesn't present a good shot, they can learn to take shots that will set their opponents at a disadvantage.
2. They learn situational logic. This leads to formulation of different ideas and strategies depending on a given situation.
3. Billiards offers character-building benefits. Your child will learn one of the basic tenets of sportsmanship which is to understand that they can't always win and to congratulate opponents when they gain a victory over them.
4. Children can realize when they make mistakes. They can learn to analyze when the wrong step or action was taken and learn from it, which can apply to other areas in their life.
5. Pool improves hand-eye coordination. Abundant evidence proves that sharpening this functional skill improves hand writing and other fine motor skill activities. This also improves a child's confidence, as they are less likely to be clumsy. Children with weak hand-eye coordination have trouble gripping objects and aiming, which can accidentally class them as learning disabled in certain academic contexts.
6. It can be a gateway to other sports. When a child is more confident in the functioning of their own motor skills, they may feel up to trying other sports, also.
7. They can become more spatially aware, which improves abilities later such as driving a car or adopting a craft.
8. Pool is mathematical. It teaches kids to make mental calculations and

make mental judgements about distance, angle and speed required for the cue ball to reach the object ball and land it in a pocket.

9. The game helps build focus. Playing pool requires a great deal of concentration, and the act of placing such focus in the context of fun is a positive way to train kids' minds to reign in their focus to one action.

10. The game ties together the whole family. You can create a rewarding bonding experience with your children over family game nights around the pool table.

Chapter 13

The Billiard Academy Nigeria



The Nigerian Billiards Academy's "BILLIARDS PLACE" primary aim will be to improve the skill level of all the cue sports (Blackball, 8, 9, and 10 ball pool, Snooker, and Billiard) in Nigeria. We will be catering to three categories of individuals.

The first group, which is the primary, will comprise of primary school leavers who for one reason or another cannot further their education. We will engage as many as are willing on trials and select the most qualified 100 for each batch. They will have a full year of schooling under the academy with the regular syllabus compressed to 4 hours per day and they will also have 4 hours of Billiard training every day. After a full year of rigorous academic work and sports training, they will be integrated into the proper school system under the support of the academy. They are mandated to still have a minimum of 9 hours a week of training in the academy weekly to improve their skills and prepare for local and international tournaments. From these supposed relics of society, we are determined to produce world champions.

The second will be youth of any age who have basic knowledge of the game and play it daily as a means of entertainment and survival; many in this category are idle youth. Our goal is to bring in international trainers to teach them for periods ranging from 2 weeks to a month at regular intervals. Since they are already skilled at potting the balls in the pocket but lack international ranking, they would be taught the rudimental skills to become skilled enough for international trophies.

The third and final will be an elite membership section of pool and snooker enthusiasts who can come in anytime to relax and network while enjoying their favourite sport, and also have the fulfilment that they are developing the next generation to be better at the game and have a fulfilled life for themselves and also propagate a good image for Nigeria.

The academy will comprise an indoor stadium with 16 pool tables and a spectator pavilion capacity of over 1,000, classrooms, a gym, conveniences, a cafe, a health centre, a sports shop, a food court, and offices. Attached are architectural drawings of the proposed stadium and quantity surveyors estimated the building to cost about 300m naira.

Sports bring people and communities together, bridging ethnic and cultural divides. Pool further teaches discipline, confidence, patience, and leadership. It teaches the value of victory and defeat. As part of the United Nations' sustainable development goals, we are positioning the sport on a path that will stimulate a fraternity of pool/snooker players and enthusiasts who can build a career in the sport which will consequently produce champions that will become role models for Generation Z.

With over 5 million people actively playing the sport in every corner of Nigeria; many of whom are super talented and just need a platform such as the CSAN's Academy to guide and propel them towards a professional career. The Billiard Academy can build future champions in the coming years with access to international competitions and the endless possibilities that come with attendant opportunities that come with international exposure.

We have acquired a 2 Acre property at Osubi (5 minutes' drive from the airport) and have engaged Aesthetic Plus Ltd as official architects and builders from start to finish. They have drawn and estimated costings for the project already. (Visuals attached).

The fundraising will be divided into 3 stages

Stage 1 – Carcass Structures	- 3 months	- N75,000,000
Stage 2 – Finishing Structures	- 1 Year	- N100,000,000
Stage 3 – Furnishing & Equipment	- 6 Months	- N125,000,000

Donations are to be in 3 categories with corresponding benefits

Platinum Partners	- N1,000,000 (One Million Naira)
Gold Partners	- N 100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira)
Silver Partners	- N 10,000 (Ten thousand Naira)

Corporates who want to be involved and also have branding rights to the facility will have to commit to a minimum of 10m (Ten million Naira)

Thankyou

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