

## Pool Game for 2 Players

# 9-BALL

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### Object

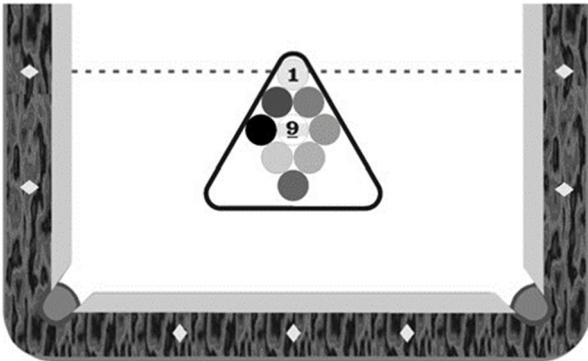
To cause the 9-ball to be pocketed by striking the lowest-numbered ball on the table with the cue ball.

### Players

Although any number may play, 9-Ball works best with two players.

### The Rack

In a diamond shape using the object balls 1 through 9. Place the 1-ball on the foot spot, the 9-ball in the center, and the rest in random order.



### The Break

The break shot must strike the 1-ball and then either pocket a ball or drive at least four object balls to the rail. Otherwise, opponent has ball in hand.

The winner of each game breaks in the next.

### Calling Shots

Players are not required to call any shot, not even the 9-ball. (Note: The rules established for many tournaments require calling the 9-ball if it is the only object ball remaining on the table. Often people follow this rule in non-tournament play; so it's good to inquire before playing strangers.)

### Scratch

When the cue ball is pocketed or driven off the table during the break or at any time during the game, the opponent has ball in hand anywhere on the table.

### Balls Off Table

If one or more object balls (other than the 9ball) is jumped off (falls from) the table at any time during the game, it is a foul. Balls (other than the 9ball) are not put back on the table.

If the 9-ball is jumped off the table at any time, it is a foul and the 9-ball is put back on the table, on the foot spot (or behind and as near to it as possible without moving another ball).

### Legal Shot

For a shot to be legal, the cue ball must first contact the lowest numbered ball on the table.

If the cue ball does contact the lowest numbered ball but no object ball is pocketed the General Rules apply.

If the cue ball does contact the lowest numbered ball first and also an object ball is pocketed as a result, the player shoots again.

### Push Out

The player shooting immediately after the break may play a "push out." (If an object ball was legally pocketed on the break this would be the breaker, if not, the next player to shoot.) A push out is a shot made only to change the placement of the cue ball. It does not have to contact any object ball, nor does it have to hit a rail, but all other fouls apply. It can only be called once in a game, right after the break.

To play a push out, the shooter must first announce her intention to do so. The player then strikes the cue ball with the intention of placing it in the position desired. If any ball is pocketed during a push shot, it remains off the table, except for the 9-ball, which is spotted.

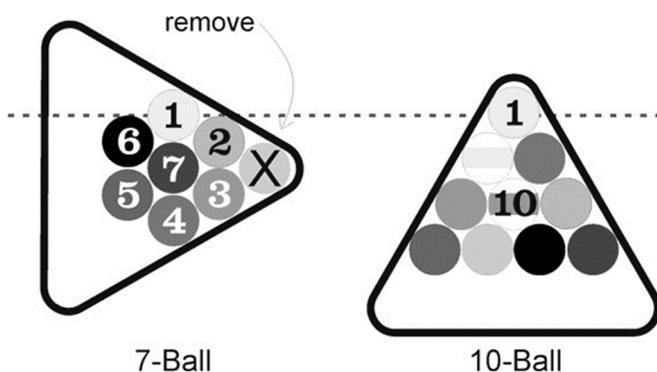
The next player then takes his turn and may choose to either (1) accept the new position of the cue ball and take a shot, or (2) relinquish his turn and pass the shot on to the next player.

## Similar Games

9-Ball is the most popular type of “rotation” billiards. Other similar games you might try are 7-Ball (for a quicker game) and 10-Ball (for a more challenging one). They can both be played by the same rules as 9-Ball, only the number of the ball you need to pocket to win is different. And, of course, the rack.

To rack for 7-Ball, turn the rack sideways and place any ball numbered eight or higher in the side corner (see illustration). Then put balls numbered one through six in clockwise rotation around the seven ball. Place the 1-ball on the foot spot, remove the rack, and then carefully remove the extra ball (marked “X”) from the corner.

To rack 10-Ball, put the 1-ball at the apex, the 10-ball in the center, and the others (2-9) randomly in the first four rows.



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