

Pool Game for 3 Players

ELIMINATION

Approach

Being as Elimination is a social game with numerous variants that can lead to complex and intractable disagreements, the emphasis in this version of the rules is on simplicity and clarity. Elimination is also known as Cut-Throat.

Object

To pocket your opponents' balls before they pocket yours, thus leaving you with the last object ball on the table.

Players

Elimination is designed to be played by three, but can easily be adapted for five players.

The Rack

Using the 15 standard pool balls, the 1-ball on the foot spot, the 6-ball on one corner, the 11-ball on the other corner, and the remaining balls randomly placed in the rack.

Who Shoots What

For three players: the first to shoot owns the balls numbered one through five, the second to shoot owns the balls numbered six through ten, and the third owns eleven through fifteen. Each player attempts to pocket the balls owned by the other players. So, for example, if the game progresses to the point where all the object balls have been legally pocketed except the 7-ball, the second player would be the winner.

If there are five players, the game is played with the balls assigned in five groups of three balls each.

Players are not required to call their shots unless all so agree prior to the break.

The Break

The break shot must drive at least four numbered balls to the rail. Otherwise, the next player may either accept the table as is and shoot, or have the balls racked again and break herself.

Legal Shot

Other than on the break, for a shot to be legal it must first contact one of the opponent's object balls and then cause any object ball to be pocketed or hit a rail, or cause the cue ball to hit a rail after contacting an object ball.

In other words, a player may pocket her own ball and continue shooting, but only if the cue ball first hits an opponent's ball.

Penalty

If a player illegally pockets an opponent's ball (by hitting his own ball first), that ball is spotted and the player's turn ends.

If a player illegally pockets one of his own balls, that ball remains pocketed and the player's turn ends. If a player *legally* pockets his own ball, he continues to shoot, unless he has no balls left on the table.

If an illegal shot does not result in a pocketed ball, the player's turn ends and the next player has ball in hand.

If the cue ball is scratched, one ball belonging to each of the opponents is spotted. Even if an opponent's ball is illegally pocketed during the scratch shot, only one of his balls is spotted. This penalty has no effect on a player whose entire group is on table. (That is, no one can be owed balls.) The incoming player has ball in hand.

Restoration

When all of a player's balls have been pocketed, she is out of the game. Nevertheless, if another player should scratch — resulting in one of her balls being spotted — she is reinstated and resumes shooting in the same spot in the rotation that she held prior to being eliminated. ■

