8 Ball

Winning Strategies.



Hello Fellow 8 Ball Player.

Nice Job on making a great decision towards advancing your pool game to the next level.

This book is an action packed no fluff or fillers document with one goal / purpose in mind. The purpose is to turn you into an unstoppable 8 Ball Winning Machine.

I have been playing pool for over 50 years and playing organized league and tournament pool for over 38 years. I have won many tournaments and money matches along with countless top 10 % tournament and league records.

I have spilled my guts in this book in an effort to transfer my knowledge from all of these years of playing pool to you.

I wish you the best in improving your game and I am sure you will do just that if you take what you read in this document and then apply what you learn.

Remember, there is no magic pill for learning the game. Practice is the one thing that will advance your game at lightening speed. There is No Substitution To Focused PRACTICE.

Disclaimer

The information in this book is the opinion of the author based on over 50 years of playing and studying the game of pool.

Read and use this information at your own risk. The author will assume no responsibility for financial or any other loss as a result of the contents of this book.

Thats Right. If you lose your mind and go off playing for cash, I can't be held responsible for your wins or losses.

There are links to web sites in this book. You may have to hold down the control key while you left click on the links.

The Links should also display when you hover the mouse over them. You can type them in an Internet Browser if clicking won't work.

8 Ball Winning Strategies

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Part 2: Start with the Mind.

What does the mind have to do with playing pool?

Pretty much everything.

If you have read the book or watched the movie "The Secret", then you will know how important it is to control your thoughts and keep your mind focussed on the right outcome.

If you are not familiar with "The Secret", it is simply the Law of Attraction. This law simply follows your thoughts. To put it simple, You Get What You Think About and Focus On. Have you heard the saying, If you believe it and conceive it, you can achieve it?

The statement is so true, it's Profound.

When you are playing pool, your thoughts will either make or break you.

Have you ever caught yourself thinking, I hope I don't Scratch? I better not Miss this shot? If I miss, I know my opponent will run the rack and win the game?

These kind of thoughts will almost always produce the exact results that you are thinking about or wishing would not happen.

You must develop a pre shot routine and think specifically about what you want to happen. When you think about and visualize the outcome that you need, You will get the intended outcome more often than not.

We get what we expect most of the time. Doesn't it make since to expect our desired outcome?

When you can make visualising, expecting and seeing your desired outcome second nature, Your game will take on a whole new level of danger for your opponent.

(This works with life in general. Pool is only one possible application. Another term for this thought process is NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming.))

Step into your shot, be lining up as you walk into the shot. (Address the Ball) Focus only on your desired outcome. Keep your head down until you pocket the ball. Stroke straight through the ball moving only your for arm. Keep Your Eyes on the Shot.

Click On This Text and check out the Pre Shot Routine Video.

Part 3 Fundamentals of Pool Billiards:

I know that this book is about 8 Ball. I am not going to get heavy into the fundamentals. The fundamentals is a book all of it's own.

Have you studied the fundamentals of Pool / Billiards? You should have downloaded the 7 part fundamentals course when you downloaded this book.

Besides lining up straight, keeping your head down and your cue level, there are many other things to know. If you have not studied the fundamentals or you need a refresher course, You can get it Free with the link below.

Click Here For FREE Billiards Fundamentals.

https://www.pool-billiards-game.com/pool-billiards-tips.html



Part 4: Breaking The Rack!

There are several choices when it comes to breaking the rack in 8 Ball. I personally have developed 3 different break shots.

1: The first is a head on shot hitting the cue ball middle and level and hitting the head ball Full. (The head ball is the One in this diagram.) You want the cue ball to hop back to the center of the table after the break shot. Follow Through with Your Stroke.



2: My second favorite or Maybe even my First Favorite Break, is pictured below. This break usually leaves me the best chance for running the table off the break. I get my cue ball up toward the center of the table pretty good and the balls spread nicely when hit from this angle.


Hit Ball around center. Hit one ball full. Draw Cue Ball to Center of Table
CUETABLE.com
Free Diagramming Tool For Billiard Education

3: Below you will see one of the most common 8 Ball breaks among players today. Tom Rossman (Dr. Cue taught me this break years ago. When you practice this break often, you will begin to pocket the 8 on the Break Often.

I use this break sometimes in the APA if I am trying to win a cheap game. You can win or lose the game on the break in APA. We do not play by those rules in BCA. (If you pocket the 8 on the break and scratch, you lose the game in APA.)



The break is one of the most important if not the most important shots in the game of 8 ball and most other pool / billiard games.

Many games are won or lost on the break.

With all of the breaks diagrammed above, You can change to the other side of the table and shoot the shot that way. I am right handed and set the angle shots up the way I like to play them. Shooting from the left side just does not quite feel natural for me.

You Must Learn to Keep Your Cue Ball On The Table.

Many times the cue ball will end up in a pocket or on the floor as a result of a break shot. I can assure you that if you are playing a skilled player, you will probably lose the game from this mistake.

Good players will often run several racks of 8 ball before missing a ball or making a mistake. I have won and lost entire matches from a mistake on the break. (Some players break soft and leave the balls clustered.) This makes for a possible safety war.

Part 5: Racking the Rack.

The main rules that I have seen as relating to 8 ball is that you can't have all three of the point balls the same on the rack. There ar 3 points and you must have at least one stripe and one solid color ball in each point. The remaining point can have either stripe or solid.

As you can see from the computer generated rack below, the one, five and 10 ball are in the 3 points. This follows the rule of one ball from each suit.



An old timer taught me a trick when I was younger. He said to push the corner balls up with your thumbs and let the rest of the balls lax back in the rack. This causes a terrible break, leaving all of the balls in clusters.

This can be known as dirty pool or several other choice words. This can make for a bad game and or a mad opponent. I do Not Use or Encourage This Break.

Experienced players will be watching how you rack the balls. The best and correct way to rack, is to have all of the balls touching each other and tight against each other.

https://www.pool-billiards-game.com/8ball.html Follow this link for some Rack the Rack Videos.

Part 6: Find Your Pattern

When it's your turn at the table, whether it be right after the break or after your opponent fails to pocket (pott) a ball, You will need to find your pattern.

The table below is a computer generated break. The cue ball was down by the foot spot. I moved it up by the middle because when we practice our break the right way, we will leave our cue ball in the center of the table.

You will also find a video with this material along with the pre shot routine video in part 2 above which you probably already watched. You may wish to review the pre shot routine video again and watch As I talk about and shoot, possible patterns.

Part 7: Plan Your Out.

When we are looking for our pattern, one of the first things we need to look for are balls that will be hard to make. (Trouble Balls)

The Trouble Balls in the Diagram below are the 12 ball and the 4 ball. The 10 and 15 ball could pose a bit of a challenge from here as well.

I would pick the solid balls (little ones) if this were my shot. The four is tough, but with some good position play you can get on the four for the opposite corner pocket and run this rack out.

I would be looking to possibly get an angle on the 5 where the cue ball could draw (back up) straight back for shape on the 4 in the corner.

I would start with the one ball getting shape on the seven off one rail. I would stop the cue ball on the seven and then take the 3 soft leaving the shot on the 5 to draw for the 4. Shoot the 4 with a little back slide spin and get on the 6 ball. From there it's easy to get position on the deuce (2 Ball) in the side pocket. Follow up for position (shape) on the 8 Ball

and you win the game.



Part 8: Be Smart From the Start.

If you make a mistake such as maybe not getting on the 4, then you must make other plans.

If you don't feel you can play the shape to get out, start planning where your safety will fit into your game plan.

Never Make all of Your Balls Leaving one Tough Ball or the 8 Ball!

If you Feel that You can't Run Out, Play Safe. Never clear all of your balls. Leaving your opponent a run with none of your balls in the way is 8 Ball Suicide.

There are many ways to play safe. We will be talking about this more in another section of this book.

Follow This Link For Some Video on Finding and shooting A pattern.

Part 9: If You Do The Chores Finish The Job.

This is just a reminder on the info above. Do Not Run Your Balls Off The Table Until You Can Finish The Rack with a Run or a Lock up Safety.

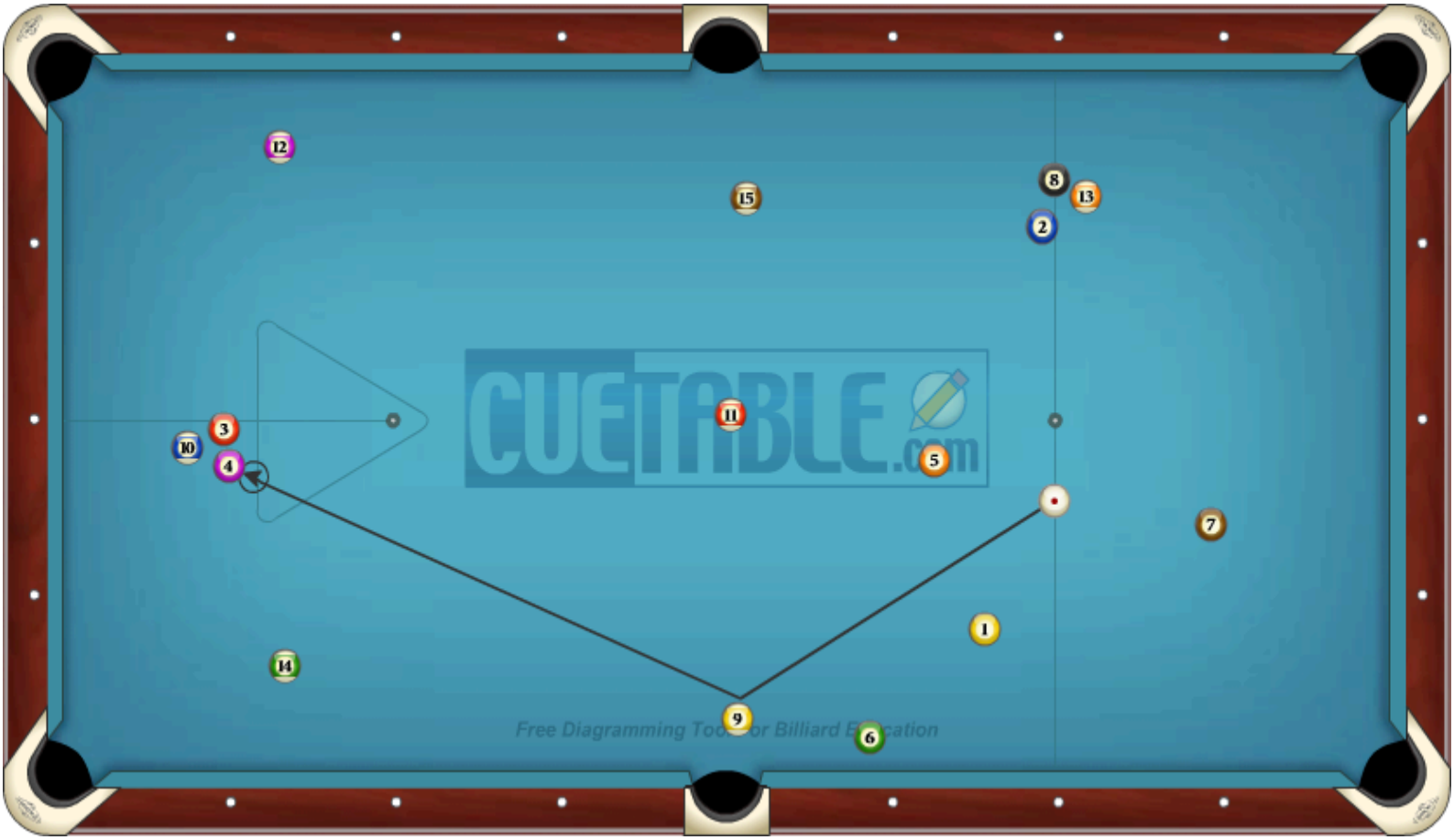
Running all but one or 2 of your balls and leaving your opponent a shot is 8 Ball suicide.

Part 10: Sometimes You Should Miss.

The table diagrammed below has a couple examples of trouble balls. (Clusters) Lets take a look and decide how to play this rack.

You can see that the 8, 2 and 13 are close together and would definitely be a tough situation. On the other end of the table the 4,3 and 10 are in a cluster. Because of these 2 clusters, the chances for running out is less than on a totally open table. Yo would have to break these clusters out after pocketing a legal shot for a chance to run the table. Your other option would be to look for a way to break out a cluster and leave your cue ball safe.

The example below is an open table. I would probably start out by pocketing the 9 ball in the side and drawing my cue ball to the bottom of the table for a break out on the 4, 3, 10 cluster. I would use a little low and a little right hand English.



This could result in leaving the table as pictured below. There is a possible cut on the 15 ball in the side which could send the cue ball into the 2, 13, 8 cluster for a possible break out and table run if the cue ball rolls good. This is a pretty thin hit on the 15 ball and you run the risk of banking the eight cross corner off of the break out. (Loss of Game Making The 8 Early) You also have to use the hope and pray system on keeping the cue ball on the table and having shape (position) on your next shot.

I would hit the edge of the 14 ball soft with a little middle right hand english and stick the Cue Ball up against the 10 Ball Leaving my opponent no shot.



This would leave the table looking like the picture below. This means your opponent would not even be able to strike one of his solid color balls (small ones) straight on. Your opponent would have to hit a rail first, then hit one of the solid balls and then A ball would have to make contact with a rail after that.

[Side Note]
I am referring to Ball In Hand Rules. If you have not played tournament or league pool, You may not know about ball in hand rules. These days most people know them. There are still some players who play bar pool or as they call it Straight 8. These rules do not believe in safeties. They say to go for every shot. These rules also state calling all rail shots, kisses and caroms. (Most league or tournament pool is Ball in Hand call pocket only.) When you foul in bar pool / straight 8, the cue ball is left alone on a table foul. On A scratch the next player must place the cue ball behind the head string. (No Ball In Hand) Read all about Billiards Rules Here.
I play in Major Tournaments and I love Watching the Pros. This book is referring to Ball in Hand Rules, Call Pocket. [End Side Note]



Part 11: Leave Some Balls on the Table.

This part is pretty much a reminder to never clean the table and leave only one or 2 balls. Only clear the table when you are sure you can win the game.

Your opponent will have a tough time winning with your balls still on the table.

It has been my personal experience, that there is no easier game to win as when you only have your own suit of balls left on the table along with the 8 ball.

I am not saying that you should avoid running the table. I am saying get to your trouble balls early and if you don't get them broken out, look to lay down with some good safety play.

Block the pockets and ditch the cue ball. Get your balls open with available pockets. Only then should you get your cue ball in line, keep it in line and run that rack out.

Follow this Link for Break Out Shots.

12: Only Go For the Out when You Have the Out.

I see way too many players saving the break out shot until last or close to the last shot you take with the last open ball. Your best bet is to go for the break out early.

Sometimes waiting till last will work, you will make the break out get shape (Cue Ball Position) and Run the Rack. When this fails however it leaves you almost helpless without anywhere to hide. I know this is repeating information. It is that important.

Part 13: You missed the break out shot, Now What?

The diagram below shows a good example of a break out shot and will help you to know what you should be looking for. You can see that when pocketing the 2 ball, by striking the cueball a hair below center will cause it to deflect into the cluster of balls.

In a perfect world, you will break them out, get shape so you can continue to run the rack. In reality, you may end up with a tough or non existent shot. This is when you will want to play it safe and smart.



Part 14: Break it out and or play a tough safety.

Sometimes this is a big choice for us to make. Do we go for pocketing a ball and the breakout shot or do we shoot a safe shot and let our opponent figure it all out?

My rule of thumb is that if I can make the safety with pretty good certainty and the shot to pocket a ball and break out is tough and I'm not that sure, I will play safe.

If the safety is as hard or harder to execute than making the shot, I will always play the offense and go for the shot.

Most of the time with a little planning, you can shoot for the breakout shot and still have the option for playing safe on your next shot.

Part 15: Get the break out and complete the run out.

Ideally, after shooting a ball in the pocket and making a brake out shot at the same time with your cue ball, finishing the rack is the goal.

You must be careful and avoid putting the balls that you break out into another cluster or up against or behind another ball.

You should always go for the break out early in the rack and only attempt the out when you know there is an open shot that you are pretty confident in for every ball on the table.

Check out the page below to get a better understanding.

Part 16: Plan Your Work and Work Your Plan.

You will need to learn how to plan your out and finish in a natural way with the 8 ball being the last ball in the pocket.

I find it best to start with the 8 ball and work my way back. If there are balls in trouble, I look for a breakout plan or I plan a safety in advance.

Many times a ball will roll to far and you will have to change your plan. Sometimes your plan may change several times during one rack if your stroke is not being predictable.

Watch the 2nd video linked from page 8 and for your convenience linked below for some out planning.

Check out The Second Video Click Here.

Part 17: Keep an Eye on Your Opponent and surroundings.

Depending on the circumstances of your game, you may need to keep an eye on your opponent and other people in the room.

Be prepared for someone to cross your line of site or possibly cause a distraction which could take your mind off of the game.

If you are playing for money, make sure your opponent sticks around and pays up after you win. lol (This does not mean I am advising you to gamble.)

You must also watch your opponent while he or she is shooting and make sure that all hits and pocketed balls are legal.

Part 18: Know which version of the rules you are playing by.

Depending on where you play, you will find several variations of 8 Ball Rules. I did a couple pages about the rules on my website.

Follow this link for Billiards Rules.

Knowing which version of the rules you are playing before starting a game or match can save many hassles.

Part 19: The Various differences in 8 Ball Rules.

You need to know if you are playing ball in hand rules or cue ball in the kitchen.

Is it call ball or call pocket?

These things can have a big effect on the outcome of an eight ball match.

In the BCA league it is not a loss if you scratch on the 8 ball but don't pocket the eight ball. It is ball in hand for your opponent.

In the APA League, any scratch on the eight ball is a loss.

BCA Rules state that table is always open after the break. In APA you have to take what you make, unless you make one or more of each.

Part 20: Ball in Hand or Bar Rules.

Most leagues and tournaments play ball in hand rules. Many bar players play cue ball behind the head string.

Call pocket means call the pocket and the shot is good just so it is a legal hit and the ball is shot into the call pocket. It does not matter how many rails or if it touches another ball.

Call shot means call any rails or caroms. Most bar players play cueball behind the line and bar rules. This is becoming less common as more and more bar players are getting to know about and play league rules.

Knowledge is power. Learn the rules. There are some good articles about the rules linked in the pages above.

Follow This Link for Bar Rules

Part 21: Safeties. When to lay down. When to Run Out.

When playing 8 ball, you have to decide early on if you can clear the rack and win the game with a run out, or if you will need to plan some safe play while getting your balls in the open.

You can follow the link below and view the videos which will explain this in more detail.

Follow this link for safety play in 8 ball.

Part 22: Get Safe or Get Out.

This has been talked about many times in this book. It's worth repeating again here. This is important 8 ball strategy material.

You must not make all but 1 or 2 of your balls and then give your opponent A shot.

If you can't get to a couple of balls, plan a safety and work it out. Many times you can break out your trouble balls and hide the cue ball.

Do Not Commit 8 Ball Suicide!

Clearing the table and leaving your opponent a shot, with only one or two of your balls on the table or only the 8 ball is 8 ball suicide.

A rack with No Obstacles is Very Easy to Run. Even for an average skill level player.

Do not do all the chores and then get caught watching the paint dry.

Part 23: The Money Ball. Game Ball. Eliminate the Choke.

This is sometimes easier said than done.

It's a fact that everyone misses shots. I'm sure that everyone at one time or another has missed the money ball. Many times missing a very easy money ball which equals a choke.

I believe that to a certain extent, this will happen to all players once in a while, regardless of their skill level.

There are some players however, who make choking on the money ball or the easy out a habit.

Many things can contribute to this phenomenon. In my experience, most often it is simply letting your mind think about and focus on the wrong things at the wrong time.

Don't get me wrong. You have to develop your shot making and pattern play skills. The better your skills, the higher your level of confidence and the easier the mental part of the game.

We all know that a shark is when someone makes a

statement which effects our ability to think and play with a clear state of mind.

More often than not, when a player has missed an easy shot and especially a clutch shot for the game or match, This player has probably sharked him or her self.

Our self talk is very important.

Avoid thoughts below.

Never be thinking, The Following Thoughts.

- I hope I don't miss.
- I hope I don't scratch.
- This is the match ball or game ball. I better make it.
- If I miss this shot everyone will see and think I suck. lol (I have had players tell me they do this.)
- This out is easy. The game is in the bag. (This leads to over confidence and carelessness.)
- Never Never Never Picture yourself losing the game.

The only thing you should be thinking about is the Task at Hand, making the shot.

Picture your desired outcome in your minds eye and see the shot happen in your minds before you ever approach the shot on the table.

Always play shape with the cue ball when pocketing the money ball.

Many times a player will run all of their balls and then miss the money ball or scratch because of lack of focus on where the cue ball is going. All shots in the great game of pool involve making the ball and getting position. Play the cue ball to a spot on the rail when pocketing the 8 ball.

Stay positive, bare down and focus and make the shot the same way you do all of the other shots that you make. Think about clearing the table, not the consequences of the game.

This concludes this book on 8 ball winning strategies. There will be continuous updates. The Book is a Work in Progress.

To Your Run Out Success!

Ted Mauro

https://www.pool-billiards-game.com

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