



INDIAN SNOOKER & BILLIARDS ACADEMY





ISBA

Indian Snooker & Billiards Academy (ISBA) is India's first chain of Cue Sports Academies set up by SportsMasters at Top Schools & Universities across India.

ISBA will offer a unique experience to young aspiring Billiards & Snooker players of all standards. From technical coaching to the psychological insight off of it, our academy will cover every aspect of the game.

Players will receive coaching from an accredited coach to aid improvement in their technical ability and match play. The coaching programme will involve group sessions with all the students, building social interaction and confidence, as well as individual coaching to offer more personal advice to every player.

Mission Statement

To build a successful, innovative, fresh Cue Sports environment by providing professional coaching at grassroots level.

To grow participation in the sport and mentor the next generation of Billiards & Snooker champions.

Vision Statement

To produce the next Men's and Women's World Champion.

To produce players who can compete consistently on the International Platform.



ABOUT THE GAME

Billiards & Snooker is a sport played on a table roofed with a green cloth or (baize), with pockets at each of the four corners and in the center of each of the long side cushions. Snooker is commonly regarded as having been invented in India by British Army officers and is widely held in many of the English-speaking and Commonwealth countries.

A Brief History of Snooker

Snooker was invented in 19th century by changing some rules in billiards. The word **snooker** came into light when one of the opponents of Chamberlain failed to pocket a ball and was called a **snooker** by Chamberlain.

Snooker became popular in England, and later on various clubs began to play the sport. The first World Snooker Championship was held in 1927 and its organiser was Joe Davis. Before his retirement he won the World Championship in 1946.

In 1969, David Attenborough organised Pot Black snooker tournament which included multi colored balls and green table. He did this for the demonstration of a colored television. In 1978, World Snooker Championship was telecasted Live on television.

Participating Countries

Snooker is one of those popular sports that is played in almost every corner of the world. The sport is often treated as a royal sport too. It was originated in India (during the British rule) but soon after that it got widespread all over the world. Now every country has their individual snooker governing bodies to ensure fair play of this sport.

The countries where the sport is popular include: England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, India, Thailand, China, Canada and Australia.



EQUIPMENT

As snooker is a cue sport, it is necessary that all the equipment used for this purpose should be compliant with IOC (International Olympic Committee) standards and should be robust and comfortable to enhance the performance of the players. In this chapter we will be dealing with the equipment used in this sport.

Table

The playing surface should be 11 feet 8.5 inches by 5 feet 10 inches. The table consists of six pockets. One pocket each at the corner and two at the center of the longer side.

Cloth

The cloth spread on the table is woollen having a directional nap. Directional nap is brushed and ironed in the direction from baulk to the top table. The nap affects the direction of the cue ball which depends on the shooting direction of the ball.

Cue

Cue is a stick made up of wood or fibreglass and tapered to a tip ending in leather. The cue is used to hit the cue ball in order to pocket the other balls.

Triangle/Rack

The triangle is used for collecting the red balls into the formation essential for the break to start a frame.

Extension

Extension is an instrument used when the cue ball is at a position where entire length of the table has to be used to strike it.



EQUIPMENT

Rest

Rest is a stick with an X-shaped head that is used to hold the cue when the cue ball is out of reach.

Ball marker

Ball marker is a D-shaped notch which is used by a referee who can mark the position of the ball by placing the marker.

Snooker Balls

There are 22 balls on the table which include 15 red, 6 colour balls and a white cue ball. The size of each ball is 52.5mm.

Each color has different points which are as follows:

Red ball has one point and is not constituted as a colour ball.

Colour Balls:

Yellow two points

Green three points

Brown four points

Blue five points

Pink six points

Black seven points

Billiards Balls

There are 3 balls on the table which include 1 red, 1 spotted White Cue ball and One spotted Yellow Cue ball. The size of each ball is 52.5mm.



HOW TO PLAY SNOOKER?

Potting Red Balls

The objective of the sport is to score more points than one's opponent by shooting and pocketing the object balls in the correct order. At the jolt of a frame, the balls are positioned and the players hit it by striking the cue ball with the tip of the cue. Their goal is to pot one of the red balls into a pocket to score points. If pocketing a ball is not possible then the player has to pot a ball without making a foul. If the striker pots a red ball, he or she must pot one of the six coloured ball excluding the red ball.

After that, the player must pot another red ball, then another colour, and so on. This process remains until the striker fails to shoot the desired ball. At this point the opponent comes forward for playing the next shot. If the colored balls have been potted but red balls are still remaining, then the colored balls are resumed and put at the proper places.



Potting Coloured Balls

The match is played till all the reds are potted and only six coloured balls are there on the table. At this point, the coloured balls should be potted in the order from Yellow ball to Black ball.



HOW TO PLAY BILLIARDS?

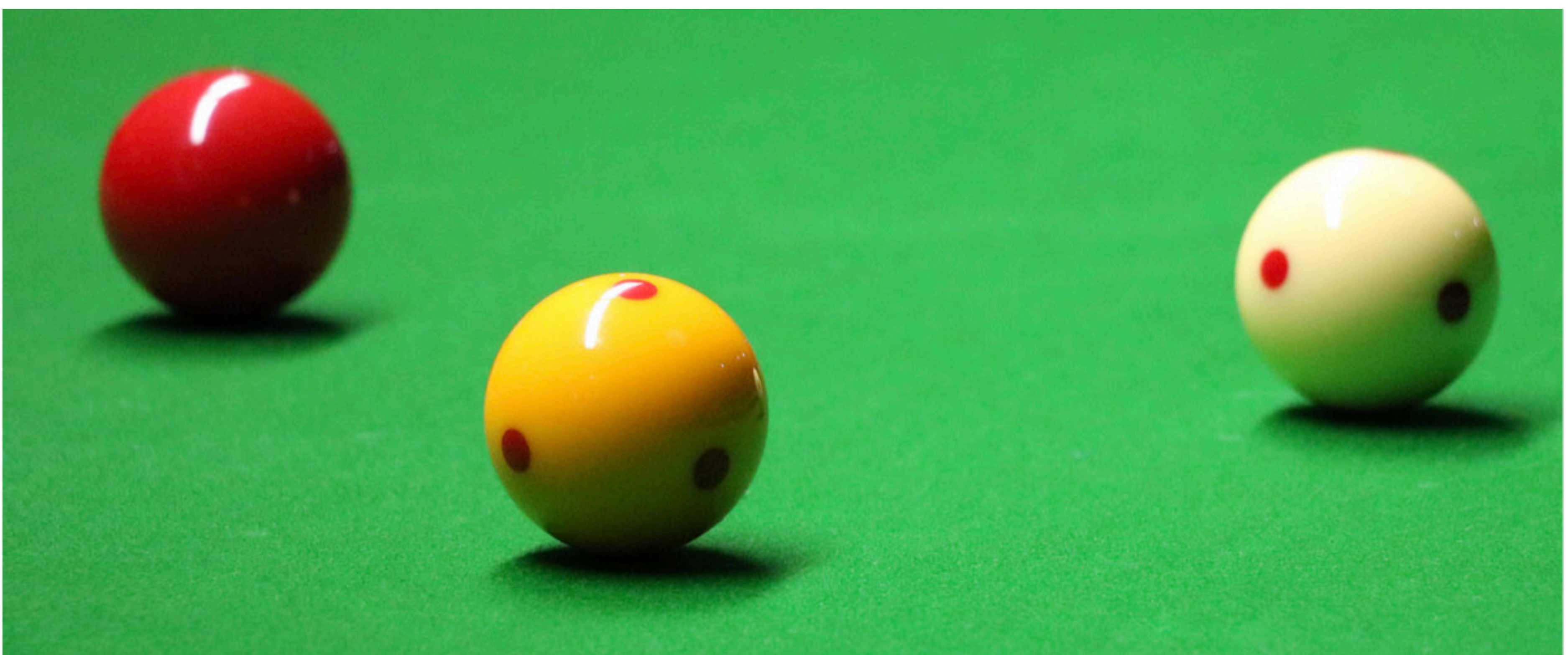
Billiards (in this case referring to English Billiards) is a game that is popular not just in England but around the world thanks to its popularity during the time of the British Empire.

Billiards is a cue sport that is played by two players and utilises one object ball (red) and two cue balls (yellow and white).

Each player uses a different color cue ball and attempts to score more points than their opponent and reach the previously agreed total required to win the match.

Objective of the Game

The objective of a game of Billiards is to score more points than your opponent, reaching the agreed amount that is needed to win the game. Like chess, it's an immensely tactical game that requires players to think both attacking and defensively at the same time. Although not a physical game in any sense of the word, it is a game that requires a tremendous degree of mental dexterity and concentration.





HOW TO PLAY BILLIARDS

Scoring

In English Billiards, scoring is as follows:

A cannon: This is where the cue ball is struck so that it hits the red and other cue ball (in any order) on the same shot. This scores two points.

A pot: This is when the red ball is struck by the player's cue ball so that the red ends up entering a pocket. This scores three points. If the player's cue ball strikes the other cue ball resulting it going down the pocket, then this scores two points.

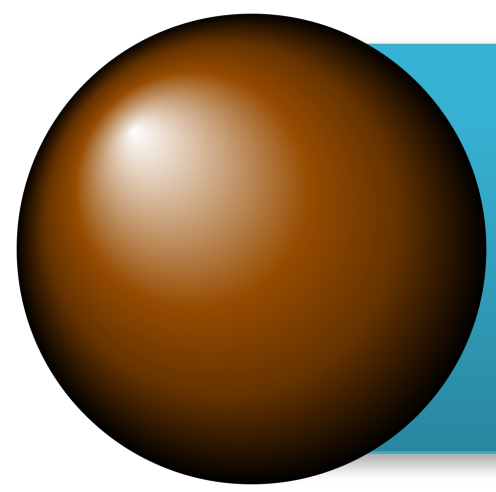


In-off: This occurs when a player strikes their cue ball, hitting another ball and then entering a pocket. This scores three points if the red was the first ball hit and two points if it was the other player's cue ball hit first. Combinations of the above can be played in the same shot, with a maximum of ten points per shot possible. English Billiards is won when one player (or team) reaches the agreed amount of points needed to win the game (often 300). Despite their being only three balls on the table at any one time, it is a very tactical game which requires a tremendous degree of savvy gameplay as well as skill to ensure that you keep ahead of your opponent.



ETIQUETTES

- ☑ Speak softly; control your language and temper. Billiards room is a place where men, women and children should be able to feel comfortable. So respect those around you by lowering your voice.
- ☑ Mind your attire. Before heading to the Billiards Room, picture yourself bending over the pool table and dress accordingly. Dress comfortably so you can focus on the game and have fun.
- ☑ Respect your opponent before, during and after the match.
- ☑ Always keep in mind the old saying, “Treat and respect others the way you would want to be treated.”
- ☑ When playing, always keep one foot on the floor. Getting up on the table is a no, no. This is not only etiquette, but a rule of the game. No exceptions.
- ☑ Keep clean! Do not place the chalk upside down on the rail after chalking or you’ll leave chalk residue on the rail that ends up getting everywhere. After chalking, place the chalk side up. This way, after a game you, your clothes and the table won’t be covered in blue.
- ☑ Make it a point to be a gracious winner and a good loser.
- ☑ Finally, keep in mind to replace everything just the way you found it.
- ☑ To sum it up, keep in mind to show consideration for those around you in the billiard room, respect the equipment you play on and above all, have a good time!



BROWN BALL CURRICULUM

Questions to support knowledge and understanding

1. What is a free ball?

Ans:

2. Can you snooker your opponent behind a free ball?

Ans:

3. How many points will you get when you pot a free ball?

Ans:

4. Where should your eyes be looking just before your tip makes contact with the cue ball, and for the remainder of the shot?

Ans:

Observation Criteria

1. Staying down on the shot.

2. Eyes finishing down the line of the shot and on the object ball.



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& BILLIARDS ACADEMY



The WPBSA Blueprint



ENGLISH PARTNERSHIP FOR
SNOOKER AND BILLIARDS

The Basics

Standing position

- Decide what shot to play.
- Stand in a comfortable position with your shoulders; hips and feet square to the line of aim.
- Visualise the completed shot and decide what pace is needed.

Walk in and stance

- Place your right foot on the line of the shot.
- Place your left foot approximately shoulder width from the heel of your right foot. (40 - 50cms) (Tall players should increase this distance to help them to get lower down on the shot.)
- With the boxers stance the left foot is placed in front of the right foot. The heel of the left foot should be approximately 20 - 30cms in front of the right foot, again depending on the height of the player.
- The left leg should be slightly bent at the knee to take the weight while your right leg should be braced.
- With the square on stance the feet are level and the left knee should be slightly bent. It is impossible for a person of 2 meters to form the same stance as person of 1.4 mts, adjustments are needed.

(This is for right handed players)



Notes

The Basics

The Bridge

It is recommended to form a firm bridge with no movement to support the cue on the line of aim. Forming a solid bridge hand is achieved by placing all of your hand flat on the table and spreading your fingers on the cloth.

By raising the knuckles you should feel pressure on the tips of your fingers and the back of your palm, these two points must stay in contact with the cloth at all times.

Finally bring your thumb tight against your index finger to form a channel for the cue to slide through. This channel should point along the line of aim. You can drop or raise your bridge hand for screw, stun or topspin, always try to keep the cue as level as possible. Once you have set the height of your bridge hand it must not move until the shot is completed.

The two feet and the bridge hand form a triangle, which offers the stance stability. The main objective of the stance is to be comfortable, solid and allow your cue to be delivered along the line without interference.



The Address Position

Check the distance from the thumb of the bridge to the cue ball; this should be 23 - 33 cms. Check your grip is placed on the butt end of the cue in a position that allows your forearm, wrist and hand to hang in a vertical position.



Your tip should be as close as possible to the cue ball and the cue should be touching the underneath of your chin but not with any pressure. There must be a gap of approximately 10 cms between the inside of your grip and your hip. This is needed to allow the cue to be delivered without interference. If the gap is too small you will need to rotate your hips to increase it. Your left arm should be relaxed and slightly bent at the elbow.

Notes

The Basics

Keep the tip close to the cue ball and still while you check all the ingredients for a sound address position. The position of the tip can be checked to confirm you are applying the correct spins. Your cue should be as level as possible, the tip and butt must be in line with the shot.

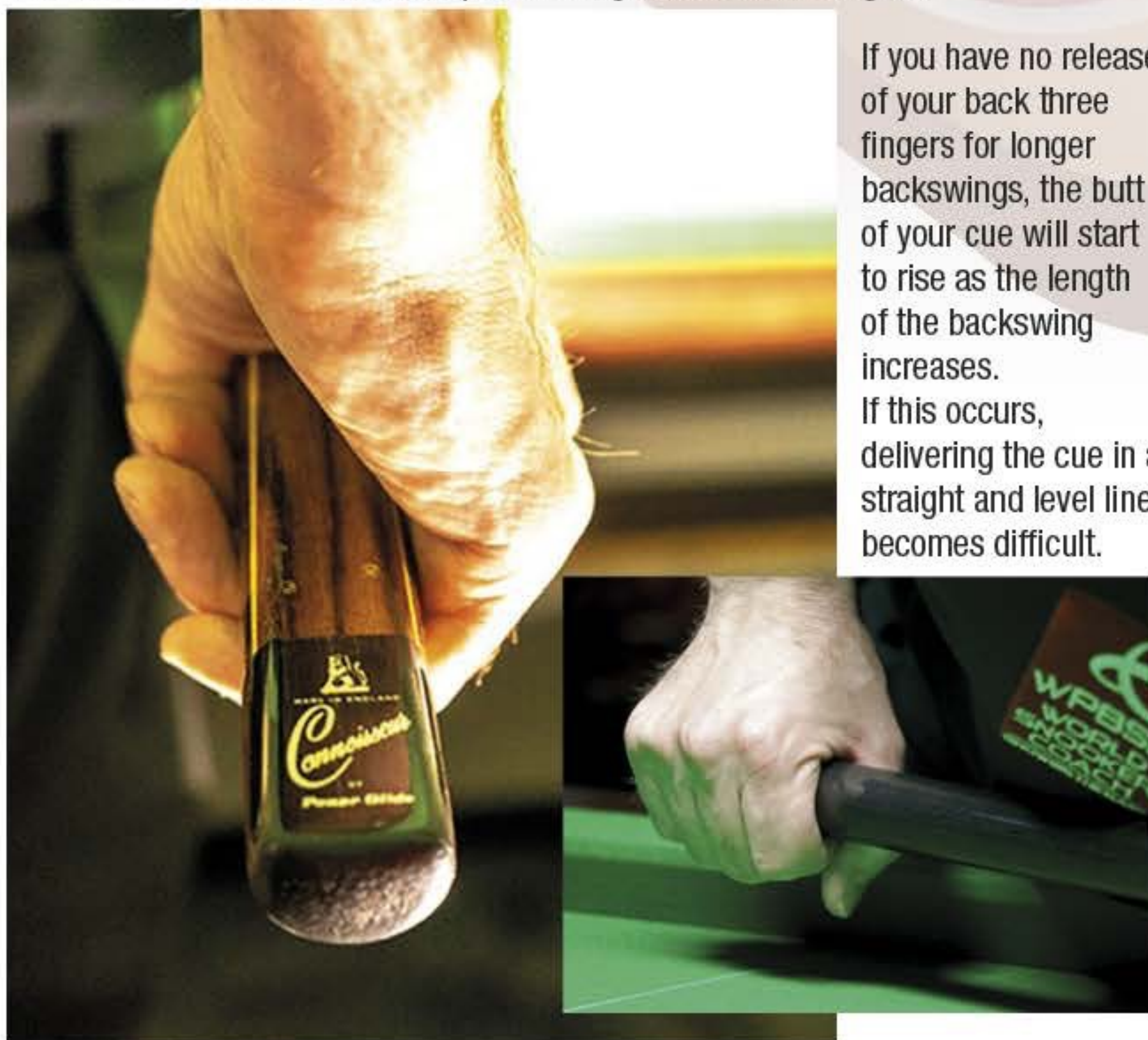
A sound address position is essential in that it provides the foundation of a good cue action. Neglect it at your peril.



Preparing to strike

The backward and forward motions of the cue, in preparation for the final delivery, are called 'feathers' and they will help you get a 'feel' for the shot. The length, speed and number of feathers you take for a given shot should be consistent. The length of the backward movement in the 'feathers' should be dictated by the pace the shot demands: The more pace that is needed, the further the cue is drawn back.

During these 'feathers' the grip starts to function. It is recommended to grip the cue with a natural grip with no tension in the fingers or the arm. This is achieved by wrapping the thumb and first finger around the butt of the cue forming a 'ring'. The 'ring' should dominate in strength, with the other fingers supporting the cue during the opening and closing of the grip. The back three fingers of the grip are forced to release as the length of the backswing increases. With the maximum amount of backswing, the tips of the three back fingers should still be on the cue. To practice the feel of your grip opening during the backswing, hold the cue in front of you in a vertical position in your right hand and pull the cue towards you with your left hand. You will feel the tension on the top of the ring and back two fingers.



If you have no release of your back three fingers for longer backswings, the butt of your cue will start to rise as the length of the backswing increases.

If this occurs, delivering the cue in a straight and level line becomes difficult.

Notes

The Basics

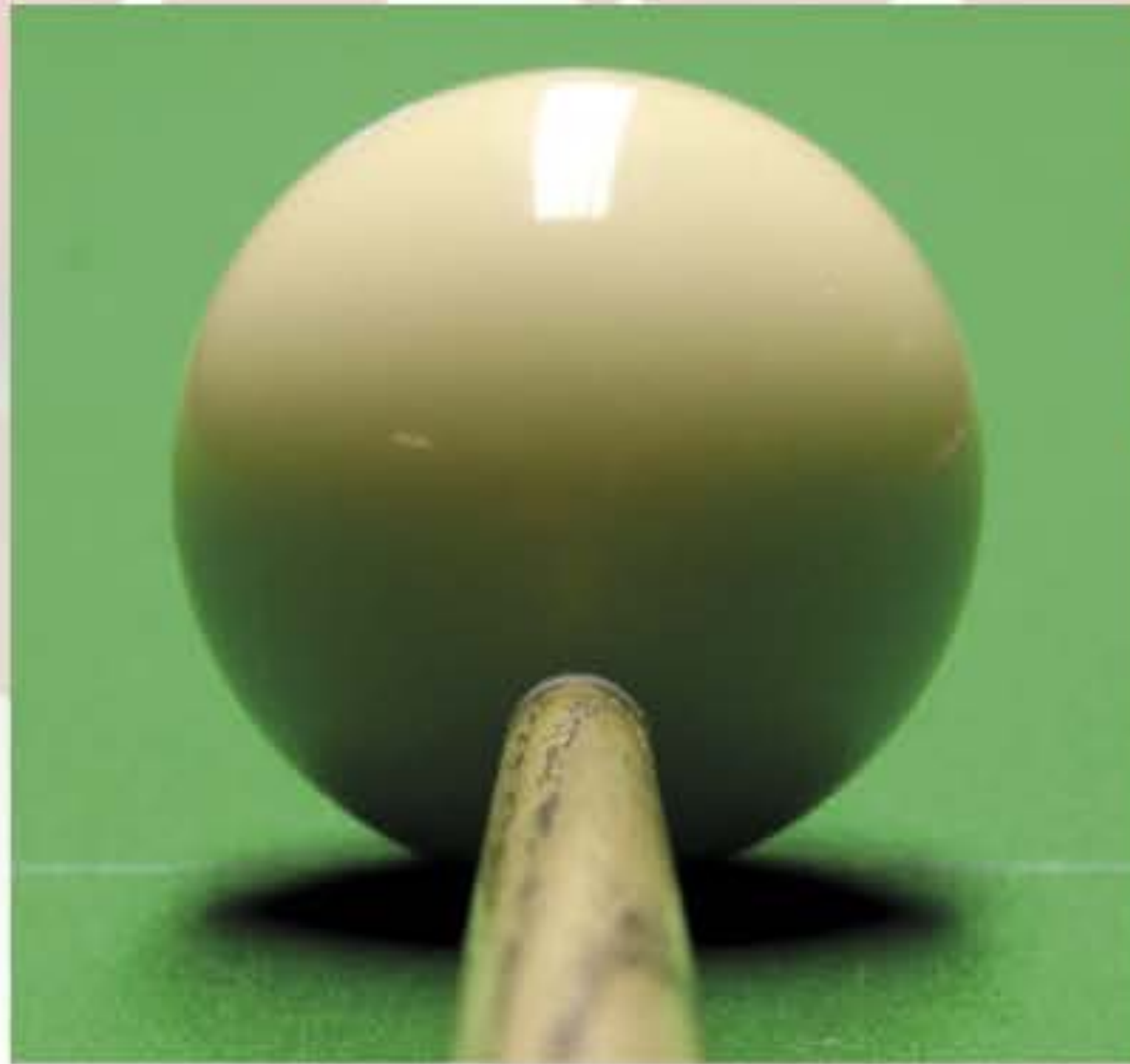
Spins

There are 3 main types of spins needed to control the cue ball topspin, stun and backspin. There are variations of each of these 3 spins. (Sidespin should not be attempted until you can hit the cue ball in a straight line consistently.)

To impart **topspin** you should strike the cue ball as high as possible with a straight level cue action. The cue ball will accelerate forward after making contact with the object ball. The amount it accelerates depends on the timing of the delivery as well as the pace you deliver the cue. The cue should be travelling at its fastest as it strikes the cue ball not at the start of the delivery. A follow through of 10 -13 cm is recommended.



To impart **backspin** you must strike the cue ball at the bottom to make the cue ball accelerate backwards after striking the object ball.



Stun is more complicated in that you can strike the cue ball at a number of points between just above backspin to roughly the centre of the cue ball. With stun you can either stop the cue ball or almost stop it and then it follows through. Stun is used by the professional players a lot more than top and backspin.



All these spins take time to master and there is always a lot of trial and error to start with. If you want to start improving your positional play then mastering these three types of spins is a must.

Notes



A SPORTSMASTERS VENTURE



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