



## Tips for winning in 8 Ball.

8 Ball will often be won by the person who played better strategy, not necessarily the player who is the better shot maker. 8 Ball is a chess game and is often about “putting your pieces in place for the knockout punch”. It is also about knowing how to properly assess risk vs reward of a given shot and knowing when to play safe.

When you have “ball in hand”, you should ask yourself “Do I have a reasonable chance to run the remainder of my balls and the 8 ball in this inning?” If “yes”, start with your “trouble ball” as your first shot. Know your abilities and if the only way you will “get out” is to play with precision cue ball control, it’s probably not going to happen... especially if you are a lower handicap. If “NO”, DO NOT run all of your balls until you only have one “trouble ball” on the table. If you do this, YOUR OPPONENT WILL NOW HAVE THE ADVANTAGE. It is often a good idea to leave 1 or 2 balls close to pockets without making them until the time is right. The reason for this is

- A. Those balls can usually be made from just about anywhere that the cue ball is positioned. These are “insurance balls” and are named so because they provide a measure of insurance for when you get out of position or for when your opponent tries to safe you.
- B. They will often be blocking a pocket which only makes it more difficult for your opponent.

So if the answer is “NO”, you must have a plan that involves thinking about which balls to make and when to play your safe. IF YOU DON’T DO THIS, YOU WILL LIKELY BE PUTTING YOUR OPPONENT IN POSITION FOR THE WIN.