

Beginner Shuffleboard Lessons – Topics

1. Newbie Orientation to Shuffleboard

Give a new player the complete first-day orientation: court and equipment terms, beads and court safety, starting positions, head and foot, opponent and partner, Yellow-out sequence and hammer, scoring and lines, scoreboard use and the 16-frame flow, dead discs, court/cue conduct, and the shooting demonstration: disc setup, runners, handhold, body position, aim-before-shot, two-step weight transfer, pendulum swing, full extension, and swing-speed control. Use the included Newbie Orientation reference guide as the lesson patter.

2. Control Speed Before Chasing Accuracy

Give beginners a usable range of speeds and the ability to reproduce them with the same smooth motion before demanding precise placement.

3. Learn the Two Basic Guards and Hide Behind Them

Enable beginners to place and recognize St. Pete and Tampa guards, identify the protected space, and make a simple hide behind each guard.

4. Clear Open Scores and Guards

Help beginners learn that removing an opponent score or guard can be more important than adding a score of their own.

5. Score the Hammer

Make routine hammer conversion a dependable foundation of beginner strategy.

6. Know When to Stay Off the Board

Teach beginners that 'more points' is not always the same as 'better strategy,' especially when protecting a lead.

7. Introduction to Kitchen Play and Kitchen Danger

Give beginners respect for kitchen play without encouraging risky kitchen attempts merely because the shot is available.

8. Play Simple Percentage Strategy

Teach beginners to compare the game need, realistic success, failure consequences and current conditions before choosing a shot.

9. Use Tournament Practice Shots to Learn the Court

Build the habit of using every practice disc permitted by the event rules to learn court speed, drift and disc behavior.

10. Doubles Teamwork and Tournament Communication

Build doubles habits that keep both ends working toward the same goal while respecting the communication and coaching rules in effect.

11. First Tournament Habits: Rules, Pace, Sportsmanship, and Reset

Make the first tournament feel familiar enough that rules, pace, sportsmanship, score awareness and emotional reset do not overwhelm shooting and strategy.