

OFFICIAL RULES

THE OHIO SHUFFLEBOARD ASSOCIATION

Revised – 2008, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2022, 2023 & 2025

Rules and Regulation Committee

ARTICLE I - GENERAL

1. The current Ohio Shuffleboard Rules govern all competitive contests conducted or sanctioned by the Ohio State Shuffleboard Association (OSSA). All tournaments played in Ohio must be played by Ohio State Shuffleboard Association rules.
2. It is essential that the Rules and Regulations be fully understood and carried out. It is the duty of all the officials to enforce the rules, with mandatory penalties assessed whenever observed.
3. True sportsmanship is vital to the enjoyment of the game. Indifference to the rules is inimical to true sportsmanship. If a player engages in berating or belittling of a partner, other players, any officials, any board member or officer, he or she may be subject to action by the Board of Directors up to and including being barred from shuffling in any tournament sanctioned by the Ohio State Shuffleboard Association.

ARTICLE II - STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

1. The following State Championship Tournaments are conducted annually by the Ohio Shuffleboard Association:
 - a) The Ohio State Singles Championship Tournament (Open Men's and Women's Division)
 - b) The Ohio State Doubles Championship Tournament (Amateur - Any) (Open Men's and Women's Division)
 - c) The Norma Faris Ohio State Junior Singles and Doubles Tournaments (Divisions determined by tournament director)
 - d) The Norma Faris Ohio Pre-Teen Singles and Doubles Tournaments (Divisions determined by tournament director)

ARTICLE III - STATEWIDE TOURNAMENTS

1. Member clubs wishing to conduct Statewide Tournaments or renew presently scheduled annual tournaments must submit to the state President on or before July 1 in the year preceding the proposed tournament date. A statement showing the tournament title,

proposed dates, classes of play, and any other information is required for approval and publication.

2. The state President or his appointed representative coordinates dates and prepares a proposed schedule of tournaments to be held the next season. It is presented to the Board of Directors for approval at the Annual Meeting in the year preceding the Tournaments. The list of tournaments as approved will be furnished to each of the member clubs.
3. Eligibility:
 - a) To be eligible to participate in Open or Amateur Tournaments, players must be a member of a club affiliated with the Ohio Shuffleboard and must be at least 16 years of age on the first day of the Tournament. Players in the Junior tournaments must be less than 16 years of age on the first day of the tournament and players in the Pre-Teen tournaments must be less than 13 years of age on the first day of the tournament.
 - b) Each player is responsible for entering only tournaments for which he is eligible in accordance with Article III, 3a above and with Article IV. If the player enters tournaments for which he/she is ineligible, he is to be disqualified as soon as the fact is discovered. If that is after the tournament, the player forfeits any prize won and, in either case, is ineligible for the next statewide tournament.
4. The entry fee for adult tournaments shall be \$5.00 per player, which shall be distributed as follows: \$.75 to the Ohio Shuffleboard Association, \$.75 to the host club and \$1.00 to the tournament director. The rest of the entry fee shall go towards prize money. The entry fee for junior tournaments shall be \$.50 per player.
5. Ohio does not allow open-toed shoes on the courts, unless a doctor's release is presented, as long as it doesn't interfere with any club or city rules. One copy of the doctor's release shall be submitted to the State Tournament Director and one copy shall be submitted to the President of the Ohio State Shuffleboard Association at the beginning of the season or before you can play.
6. The Bill Slyh Doubles and all age 16 or older National Tournaments are expected to last at least 2 days. All other Ohio tournaments are scheduled for one day, weather and time permitting.
7. Ohio Masters Tournament:
 - a) The Ohio Masters Tournament will be the final tournament of the year.
 - b) At the Annual Meeting, the location and date for the subsequent year will be selected.
 - c) The divisions will be Men's and Ladies Non-Walking Singles.
 - d) No Roll of Champions Points are awarded for the Ohio Masters.
 - e) The 8 men and 8 ladies who earn the most Roll of Champions points during the season will be invited to participate. If a player declines to participate then the 9th place player will be invited and so on until the 8 player field is complete. In case of a tie, the first tie-breaker will be points earned during the Ohio State Singles Championships. The second tie-breaker will be points earned during National Singles held in Ohio. The third-tie-breaker will be a coin flip performed by the Ohio President or delegated representative.
 - f) The 8 men and ladies who earn the most Roll of Champions points during the season earn Roll of Champions recognition.

- g) The Ohio Shuffleboard Association Secretary is responsible for extending invitations to the qualifying players.

ARTICLE IV - EXPERTS AND AMATEURS

1. EXPERTS

- a) An expert is a player who has won 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th place twice in any main event (not consolation) of a National tournament held in Ohio, or expert division of a State Championship or Statewide tournament, or by qualifying under the provisions of 2(a) or 2(b) of this article.
- b) An expert who competes in two or more expert tournaments each year for 2 years and fails to place once in the main event may return to amateur status by submitting a written request to the Ohio President, and having said request acted upon by the Board, before the beginning of the following season, when the new status shall become effective.
- c) Experts may not compete in any amateur event.

2. AMATEURS

- a) Starting with no points in 1990, amateurs must advance to expert, effective the following season, if they have accumulated five move-up points. If an amateur places in the top four positions of the main event of any tournament, they will be awarded one (1.0) move-up point. If an amateur places in the top four positions of the consolation event of any tournament, they will be awarded one-half (0.5) move-up point. At the start of each season, the 5th year column will be dropped and current year column will be added. Let the tournament director know when you achieve a total of 5 points.
- b) Amateurs may enter and play in expert tournaments, but if they place 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th in the main event two times, they must be classed as experts immediately and may no longer compete in amateur events, except as provided in 1(b) of this article.
- c) Players have the same status in Ohio as they do in any other state, i.e.; if they are expert or pro in another state they must play as experts in Ohio. A player who is a current State Champion in a single division state may not enter amateur events in Ohio.
- d) Players may accept cash prizes without losing Ohio amateur status.
- e) An amateur who lost on the first day of a Statewide tournament is permitted to enter and play in the expert division starting the second day of the tournament. A player may not forfeit in the amateur division in order to play in the expert.

ARTICLE V - TROPHIES AND PRIZES

1. Trophies and prizes for the State Championship Tournaments are decided upon at the Annual Meeting of The Ohio Shuffleboard

Association and the awards committee shall act accordingly.

2. Prizes awarded in Statewide Tournaments are to be cash for experts and may be cash or trophies for amateurs. The value of awards need not exceed entry fees collected, but may be more if so decided by the host club. In amateur tournaments 4 main and 4 consolation places will be awarded. If less than 8 players, all will be awarded points. (6-2-05)
3. Traveling or revolving trophies may be donated by clubs or individuals for awards in State or Statewide events. These are normally retired after having been won three times by the same player or team. The donating party may stipulate special provisions subject to approval of the host club and the State Board of Directors. Perpetual trophies are sometimes offered which may not be retired.

ARTICLE VI - OSSA PLAYING RULES

A - MATCHES

1. For all Statewide Tournaments, the member club hosting the tournament may elect one of the following match play plans:
 - a) Best two of three games in one of the following formats:
 - 1) Singles:
 - a) 75 Points OR
 - b) 12 frames (each player would have a total of 6 hammers) or 75 points, whichever occurs first OR
 - c) 16 frames (each player would have a total of 8 hammers) or 75 points, whichever occurs first
 - 2) Doubles:
 - a) 75 Points OR
 - b) 12 frames or 75 points, whichever occurs first OR
 - c) 16 frames or 75 points, whichever occurs first
 - 3) In all Best Two of Three Game formats:
 - a) The third game may be the same as the first two games with color choice determined by lagging for color as described in Article VI, A, 2d) OR
 - b) The third game may be a frame game consisting of 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 or 16 frames played on each color with the score carried over on color change for both singles and doubles. Players start a third frame game on the same color they played in the first game.
 - b) OR one game consisting of 12 or 16 frames played on each color with the score carried over on color change for both singles and doubles.
 - c) Member clubs shall inform the OSSA President and Webmaster prior to May 1 of the season so formats can be posted on OSSA website.
 - d) Player or team with lowest line number will play the first game with Yellow discs, change color and play the second game with Black discs.
 - e) Consolation matches shall be played in the same format as the main event.
 - f) All singles in Ohio can be either WALKING or NON-WALKING. A minimum of 8 players are required for WALKING or NON-WALKING.

2. For all Statewide tournaments, the following order of play shall be followed:
- a) Before practice round begins, each player may shoot two (2) discs only to check the speed of the court.
 - b) Tournament director will announce practice protocol prior to the start of the tournament. Standard practice protocol is two full rounds of practice (eight discs) on your assigned color prior to playing that color for the first time in the match. Alternate protocol is to shorten practice to one full round (4 discs) on your assigned color prior to playing that color for the first time in the match.
 - c) In doubles, players may change ends once immediately at the conclusion of the practice rounds before the first game begins. Teams assigned to the Yellow discs must decide first whether to change ends or not, and the decision stands for the match, after which the team assigned to the Black discs must decide whether to change ends or not, and the decision stands for the match.
 - d) In shooting for color choice, player must shoot from the head of the court. To determine the color choice, two opposing players (one from each side) each shoot four (4) discs to the far deadline. The players shoot alternately: first Yellow, then Black, then Yellow, etc. The first three discs of each player are for practice and are removed progressively: the last disc of each player is left on the court. As between these last two discs, the disc nearest the line determines who shall have color choice. The measurement is from the center of the disc to the center of the line. If the last Black disc shot touches or moves the last Yellow disc, the color choice goes to the player of Yellow.

B – RULES OF PLAY

1. To start a game, the Yellow disc is shot first. Play alternates - yellow, then black - until all discs are shot. Yellow shall always be played from the right side of the head of the court, and left side of foot of the court.
 - a) **ERROR IN COLOR LEAD OR WRONG COLOR PLAYED:**
 - (1) Error in color lead or wrong color played shall be corrected if discovered before the half-round is completed; and the halfround shall be played over. If the half-round is completed, the scoring shall be credited to the players making the score, regardless of the color shot, and play continues in order started at the beginning of the game. (The HALF-ROUND is completed when the eighth disc is shot and all discs come to a stop.)
 - b) **SHOOTING OPPONENTS DISC;** Player shooting opponents disc; If live disc is not touched, PENALTY 10-Off, and opponents disc shall be returned to the starting position and play continued as before the infraction. If a live disc is touched, PENALTY 10-Off; plus any 10-Off s offender had on the court; good disc of the offender does not count. Opponents good disc shall be credited to opponents score (excepting any 10-Offs) and the half-round shall be played over. The penalties will be annotated on the scoreboard; however, the half-round is not complete until the eighth disc has been shot by the correct player.
 - c) In **DOUBLES**, after all discs are played at head of court, play starts at foot or opposite end - Yellow leading, Black following. Color lead does not change until both ends have been played (a **ROUND**).
 - (1) The second game is started by Yellow at the head of the court.
 - (2) The third game is started by Yellow at the head of the court.
2. Players shall place their four (4) discs within and not touching lines of their respective half of 10-Off area, PENALTY 5-Of f. Penalty not applied to a player until he/she has played a disc.
 - a) Disc must be played from the clear from within the respective half of the 10-Off area. If disc played touches front or back lines, PENALTY 5-Off.
 - b) If disc played touches side line or triangle, PENALTY 10-Off; offender's disc removed, and opponent credited with any of his/her disc displaced. All displaced disc shall be removed from the court immediately after scoring of opponents displaced discs. Any 10-Offs the offender had on the court that were displaced will be removed before further play and also be deducted from the offenders score.
 - c) **DISC TOUCHING LINES:** It is common practice with players to jockey or slide the playing disc backward and forward to see if there is sand which might interfere with disc sliding evenly. NO PENALTY is to be called on this practice if lines touched or

crossed while jockeying. Disc in motion may cross outside diagonal line.

(1) A disc is played when it is completely in the 7 area; but, when a disc stops between the farthest deadline and the 7 area, it is a dead disc and shall be removed before further play. If a disc is touching farthest deadline, it is in play.

3. Player shall not step on or over baseline of court, or extension of baseline, except to gather and place their disc, PENALTY 5-Off for this offense when not in the act of executing a shot. No penalty until player has shot his/her first disc.
 - a) Players must not touch a foot, hand, knee, or any other part of their body to the court on or over the baseline or extension of the baseline at any time while executing a shot, PENALTY 10-Off.
4. Players may stand behind baseline in the alley between the courts before or while shooting, but not on adjoining court, PENALTY 5-Off.
 - a) The area between the baseline of the court and on imaginary line, even with the back of the bench, and bounded on the sides by the farthest line of each adjoining alley, should be considered part of the court.
5. In doubles, players must remain seated when play is to their end of the court until all disc are shot, score announced, and official has called PLAY or signaled, or otherwise authorized them to do so, PENALTY 5-Off. In singles, player must not cross the baseline to proceed to the other end of the court until official has called PLAY or signaled, or otherwise authorized them to do so, PENALTY 5-Off.
6. Players must not leave the court during a game without permission; EXCEPT to gather disc at the end of half-round, PENALTY 10-Off.
 - a) No penalty if player leaves court between games. Player may not be gone more than ten (10) minutes, PENALTY 10-Off. A game is concluded when the referee announces the score, the score is recorded on the scoreboard, and the scores are recorded on the players card. The Referee on the court shall start the time when the game is concluded. Additional penalties may be awarded for further infractions. See rule C-20.
7. Players shall not stand in the way of, or have a cue in the way of, or interfere with opponent while he/she is executing a shot, PENALTY 5-Off.
 - a) Player after shooting a disc, shall step to the rear of his/her portion of the shooting area with his/her cue in a vertical position in order not to disturb his/her opponents play, PENALTY 5-Off.
8. Players shall not touch live disc at any time, PENALTY 10-Off, plus any 10-Off s the offender has on the board. Other good disc of offender shall not count. Opponents good disc on the court shall be credited to opponents score, except any 10-Off, and the half-round shall be played over, unless game point has been reached by offender's opponent.

9. Players must not talk or make remarks to disconcert opponents play, PENALTY 10-Off.
10. Any remark or motion to partner which indicates coaching his/her play is prohibited, PENALTY 10-Off.
11. Player shooting before opponents disc comes to rest, PENALTY 10-Off, offender's disc removed, and opponent credited with any of his/her disc displaced. All displaced disc shall be removed from the court immediately after scoring of opponents displaced disc. Any 10-Offs the offender had on the court that was displaced will be removed before further play and also be deducted from the offender's score.
12. For intentional delay or stalling, PENALTY 5-Off.
13. A cue slipping from a player's hand which touches or displaces any live disc, the player is penalized. 10-Off and opponent credited with any of his/her disc displaced, and the half-round shall be played over, UNLESS game point has been reached by offender's opponent. If cue does not touch or displace any live disc, no penalty.
14. NO HESITATION SHOT ALLOWED. Forward motion of cue and disc must be continuous or accelerated. Any 10-Offs the offender had on the court that was displaced will be removed before further play and also be deducted from offender's score.
15. NO HOOK SHOT ALLOWED. The shot must be delivered in a straight line with continuous motion of cue and disc, PENALTY 10-Off; offender's disc removed, and opponents credited with score of any of his/her disc displaced. All displaced disc shall be removed from the court immediately after scoring of opponents displaced disc. Any 10-Offs the offender had on the court that were displaced will be removed before further play and also deducted from offender's score.
 - a) Regarding a hook shot, hesitation shot, shooting off from the line, there will be no appeal, as there is only one person who can tell if you have shot off the line or made a hook or hesitation shot, and that is the referee. That is strictly a judgment call by the referee, and once he or she has made that call, it will stand. The only time a divisional should be called is if the referee isn't sure of the penalty or gives wrong penalty, then the player will make an appeal.
16. Any player shooting two consecutive discs, PENALTY 10-Off, plus any 10-Offs offender may have on court. Other good disc of offenders will not count. Opponent credited with all good discs on court before second disc was played (except 10-Offs) and the half-round played over unless game point has been reached by offender's opponent.
17. In case of improper action of a player not specifically covered by the rules, or in a match to which a court referee has not been assigned, the tournament director will ascertain the facts and may assess a penalty. He/She also must insure that the offender's gain no advantage from his/her improper action and, in addition impose a 10-Off Penalty.

18. A disc or discs returning or remaining on the playing area of the court, after having struck any object outside the playing area, shall be removed before further play; it is called a dead disc.
- a) If a dead disc rebounds and touches a live disc, or causes another dead disc to touch a live disc, the half-round shall be played over and a 10-Off Penalty to the player shooting the offending disc causing the replay. EXCEPT if it was the result of the last disc, which is the eighth disc, played in the half-round, then the half-round is not relayed, a 10-Off Penalty is assessed, and any score that was on the board immediately before the rebound shall be counted.
 - b) If a dead disc coming from another court moves or displaces a live disc, that half-round shall be played over, with no score credited to any player. A 10-Off Penalty to the player on another court shooting the offending disc causing the half-round to be played over.
 - c) Each member club sponsoring a tournament may elect to enforce a hard-shooting rule in their tournament. If the member club elects to enforce a hard-shooting rule, a violation shall be called and a ten-point penalty assessed if the object disk or the shooting disk travels over the backstop or beyond the approach areas of the adjoining courts.
19. Any disc that clearly leaves the court beyond the farthest baseline or goes off the sides of the court is a dead disc.
20. A disc that stops less than eight (8) inches beyond the farthest baseline shall be removed.
21. A disc that is leaning over edge of court and touching the alley shall be immediately removed.
22. A match will be forfeited after the third call of 5 minute intervals, total 15 minutes.
23. Any team or individual that forfeits or is forfeited in a game or match, up to and including the quarter finals, is disqualified from the tournament. No points or prize money will be awarded to anyone failing to return for a SCHEDULED MATCH on a second day. If a club or individual is part of the sponsor for that tournament, the forfeited money should go back to the club or individual, if so desired. If no club or individual is the sponsor, then the money goes to the tournament director. The money is not to go to the players once the payoff is posted.

C - SCORING

1. SCORING DIAGRAM - one 10-point area; two 8-point areas; two 7-point areas; one 10-off area.
2. After both players have shot their four (4) discs; SCORE ALL discs on diagram within and not touching lines; separation triangle in 10-off area are not considered.

- a) JUDGING DISC: When judging disc in relation to lines, the official shall position himself/herself with the disc between his/her and the line and sight DIRECTLY DOWN.
 - b) A MOUNTED DISC, or disc resting on top of disc, happens sometimes when players use excessive force in shooting. Each disc shall be judge separately according to scoring rules.
3. Play continues until all discs have been shot in that half-round, even if game has been reached.
 4. If a tie game results at game point or over, play is continued in regular rotation of play, until two full rounds in doubles or one full round in singles are completed. At that time the side with the higher score wins, even if it has less than 75 points or the number of points specified as game points. If the score is tied again, play continues again as above outlined.
 5. In tournament play, the winner of a match must sign the score card, thus approving the record entered thereon.
 6. If an error occurs in the scoring of a score on the scoreboard at the end of a half-round and is discovered before the next half- round is completed, the error must be corrected. Otherwise the score as scored on the scoreboard must stand, unless both sides are agreed on the correction. All matches played in Ohio, in which there are Open and Closed divisions, the Closed Division will be restricted to players 65 years or older. Ohio has a rule that Smoking is prohibited on the courts during tournament play.
 7. No match is to be called before 9 a.m.
 8. The Tournament Director, in his or her sole discretion, shall determine the number of matches to be played in a given day and the timing of those matches.

D - WET COURTS

1. If it starts to rain during any unfinished half-round of play, players will not be required to complete the half-round. All discs will be removed from the court to a dry place. In case of rain, players will write on back of scorecards the scores, color lead, and at which end of the court play will resume, if the Tournament Director decides that the game is to continue after the rain ceases, play will then be resumed at score and color lead where play ceased. (If half-round was not completed, then half-round will be played over.)
2. If Tournament Director deems it necessary to discontinue play on account of weather conditions, any unfinished game or match shall be resumed later at score and color lead when play ceased.

E - PERMISSION NEEDED FOR TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR TO ALTER COURTS

1. Any changes of court will be determined by the Tournament Director. Once a match begins, no changes in the court shall be made except as authorized by the Tournament Director in the event of extremely unusual circumstances which may have rendered the court unplayable; such decision to be made only by the Tournament Director.
2. A club that usually applies wax to disc for club play may do so when hosting a State Tournament.
 - a) Disc must be waxed before each match.
3. Following the first or second game, before the start of practice for the second game or immediately after the lag for color choice for the third game, the courts may be beaded, if all players agree. If all players do not agree, the Tournament Director may be requested to shoot a disc of each color, from both ends of the court, to determine whether the court is playable "as is" or requires beading.
4. All clubs must number discs according to courts.

ARTICLE VII - TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

1. Each club hosting a Statewide tournament may have to provide a qualified Tournament Director, Assistant to the Tournament Director, Divisional Referees and, if possible, Court Referees and Scorekeepers.
2. The Tournament Director or Manager has complete charge of the tournament and all details which enter into tournament play, subject to special instructions, if any, imposed by the host club with the approval of the State President.
 - a) For one day tournaments, the tournament director may use their discretion to enforce appropriate pace of play and adjust the format of the tournament to any format of their choosing at any time during the tournament, aiming to complete the tournament by 8pm.
3. The host club in State Championship Tournaments must provide a Tournament Director approved by the State President, who then conducts the tournament for The Ohio Shuffleboard Association, unless the state tournament director is present. The State President approves the arrangement of the chart and is formulated on such matters as weather delays, postponements, or unanticipated complications.

ARTICLE VIII - SEEDING AND CHART MANAGEMENT

1. In all State Championship and Statewide tournaments, all players draw their own line numbers for placement on the chart, without seeding.

2. Registration:

- a) Players register on the day of the tournament at 9:00 AM, at which time registration stops and the chart is arranged. All registered players then draw a line number for placement on the chart. No manipulation of line numbers is permitted.
- b) Any player who did not register by 9:00 AM may apply to the Tournament Director who may, at his discretion, place the player's name on the chart without benefit or draw. No player, having been assigned to a court, may be disturbed by such action after having started practice.

ARTICLE IX - CONSOLATION

Players losing their first match in tournaments may enter consolation. No player may enter consolation whose name has not been entered on the chart in the main event. In consolation there may be no substitutions.

ARTICLE X - AWARDING OF PLACES

In the Expert Division of all State Championship and Statewide tournaments, no less than four places in each division, and no less than places in consolation, must be awarded. The same applies in the Amateur Division unless there are fewer than eight entries. See Article V, Paragraph 2. Up to eight places may be awarded at the discretion of the host club in statewide tournaments. Roll of Champion points are awarded as provided in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENTS

Proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations should, if feasible, be tested in club tournaments. If considered successful, a proposal may be submitted to the Chairman of the Rules and Regulations Committee at least one week prior to the date of the next Annual Meeting, at which time, if approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee, it must then be submitted to the Board of Directors, which may authorize the change by majority vote. Proposals introduced at the Annual Meeting from the floor without prior approval of the R & R Committee require a 3/4 vote of those present.

Revised to incorporate changes made by the OSA Board of Directors, July 2025.

Authorized by:
Bob Jones Jr, President
The Ohio Shuffleboard Association