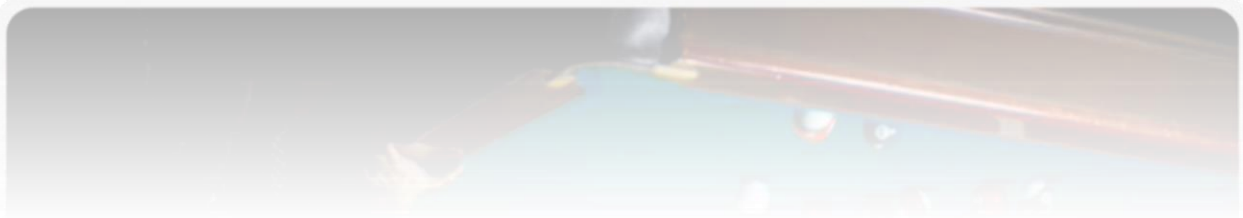


BILLIARDS GAME



1. Overview of Billiards

Billiards is a popular game that involves **cue sports**, played with a **cue stick** and **balls** on a rectangular table. The primary objective varies based on the version of the game, but it generally involves **scoring points** by striking the balls into pockets or performing specific shots according to the rules of the game.

Billiards can refer to multiple types of cue sports, and it is often used interchangeably with terms like **pool** or **snooker**, though these have distinct rule sets. However, traditional **billiards** refers to the classical version of cue sports, which can be classified into different variations.

2. Different Types of Billiards Games

Billiards has multiple popular variations. The most common include:

2.1. Carom Billiards

- **Objective:** In carom billiards, players try to score points by hitting the **cue ball** so that it contacts both the **object balls** (usually two) in a specific manner, often called a "carom."
- **Equipment:** Played on a table without pockets, typically with **3 balls**: 1 white cue ball, 1 yellow cue ball, and a red object ball.
- **Scoring:** Points are scored each time the cue ball makes contact with both object balls (carom) in one shot.

2.2. English Billiards

- **Objective:** A hybrid of carom billiards and pocket billiards (pool). Players score by performing a **carom** (contacting two object balls) or **potting** the object ball (pocketing it into one of the table's pockets).
- **Equipment:** Played on a rectangular table with **3 balls**: 1 white cue ball, 1 yellow cue ball, and 1 red object ball. The table has **6 pockets**.
- **Scoring:** Points are scored by performing a **carom** (3 points), potting the object ball (1 point), or making a "cannon" (a type of carom). The game can involve a mix of these techniques.

2.3. Pool (American Billiards)

- **Objective:** In the pool, players attempt to put balls into pockets using the cue ball. Pool games are typically played with **15 object balls** (numbered 1-15) plus the **cue ball**. Popular pool games include **8-ball**, **9-ball**, **straight pool**, and **10-ball**.

- **8-Ball:** The player must pot either the solid balls (1-7) or the striped balls (9-15) and then pot the 8-ball to win.
- **9-Ball:** Played with balls numbered 1-9. The player must pot balls in numerical order, and potting the 9-ball wins the game.
- **Straight Pool (14.1 Continuous):** Players attempt to pot any ball, and the game continues until a pre-determined score is reached.

2.4. Snooker

- **Objective:** Snooker is played with **15 red balls** and **6 colored balls** on a rectangular table with 6 pockets. Players score points by potting the red balls first, then a colored ball, and continue in this sequence.
- **Scoring:** The red balls are worth 1 point each, and the colored balls have varying point values: yellow (2), green (3), brown (4), blue (5), pink (6), and black (7). The goal is to accumulate more points than the opponent by potting the balls in a specific order.

3. Billiards Table

- **Dimensions:**
 - **Carom Billiards Tables:** Standard dimensions are **10 feet** (3.05 meters) long by **5 feet** (1.52 meters) wide.
 - **Pool Tables:** Standard dimensions are **8 feet** (2.44 meters) or **9 feet** (2.74 meters) long for home play; tournament tables are usually 9 feet.
 - **Snooker Tables:** Standard dimensions are **12 feet** (3.66 meters) long by **6 feet** (1.83 meters) wide.
- **Surface:** Tables are usually made from **slate** with a cloth covering, commonly **woolen or nylon** for smoothness and durability.
- **Pockets:** Pool and snooker tables have 6 pockets, while carom billiards tables do not have any pockets.

4. Billiards Balls

- **Cue Ball:** The ball that the player strikes with the cue stick. It is usually **white** but may sometimes be a different color for specific games like **English billiards**.
- **Object Balls:** Balls that the player aims to hit or pocket:

- **In Pool:** Object balls are typically numbered from 1 to 15. Balls are divided into two groups: solids (1-7) and stripes (9-15), and the 8-ball is the black ball.
- **In Snooker:** There are **21 balls**: 15 red balls (worth 1 point each), plus the 6 colored balls (yellow, green, brown, blue, pink, black) with points assigned to them (2 to 7 points).
- **In Carom:** There are only 3 balls: a white cue ball, a yellow cue ball, and a red object ball.

5. Cue Stick

- **Cue Stick:** The tool used to strike the cue ball. It typically consists of:
 - **Wooden Shaft:** The long, tapered stick.
 - **Tip:** The soft, leather tip at the end of the cue stick that strikes the cue ball.
 - **Ferrule:** The collar that holds the tip in place.
 - **Butt:** The thicker end of the cue stick, often made from wood or synthetic material, which provides balance and weight.

6. Basic Rules of Billiards

6.1. Carom Billiards

- The primary goal is to make a successful **carom** by hitting both object balls in a single stroke.
- A **carom** occurs when the cue ball strikes one object ball, then bounces off the cushions of the table and strikes the second object ball.

6.2. English Billiards

- Players score in one of three ways: **carom**, **potting** an object ball, or **making a cannon** (a special type of carom shot).
- The game is usually played to a set number of points, with players alternating turns.

6.3. Pool

- In **8-ball**, players must first pot their designated set (solids or stripes), then pot the 8-ball to win.
- In **9-ball**, players must pot the balls in numerical order, and potting the 9-ball wins the game.

- **Straight pool** involves potting any ball to score points, and the game continues until a predetermined score is achieved.

6.4. Snooker

- Players must first pot a **red ball**, followed by a **colored ball**, and continue this sequence until all red balls are potted.
- After all red balls are potted, players must pot the colored balls in a specific order (yellow, green, brown, blue, pink, black).
- The winner is the player with the highest score at the end of the game.

7. Billiards Techniques

- **Stance:** Players must maintain a stable stance, standing in a way that allows them to move the cue stick in a straight line.
- **Grip:** The player should grip the cue stick firmly but comfortably to control the shot.
- **Bridge:** A "bridge" is the hand that supports the cue stick as it is moved. There are different types of bridges, including the **open bridge** and **closed bridge**, depending on the type of shot.
- **Cueing:** The act of striking the cue ball. Players need to control the power and spin of their shots, depending on their strategy.

8. Scoring and Winning

- **Carom Billiards:** Points are typically scored with each successful carom. The first player to reach a set number of points wins.
- **Pool:** Scoring varies by game:
 - **8-ball:** Players must pot their set of balls (solids or stripes) and then pot the 8-ball to win.
 - **9-ball:** Players pot balls in numerical order and the first player to pot the 9-ball wins.
 - **Straight pool:** Points are scored by potting any ball, and the first player to reach a set number of points wins.
- **Snooker:** Players score points by potting balls in a specific sequence. The winner is the player with the highest score at the end of the game.

9. Famous Billiards Tournaments

- **World Snooker Championship:** The most prestigious event in professional snooker.
- **Billiard World Championships:** A major event for carom billiards and English billiards.
- **World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA) World Nine-Ball Championship:** A top tournament for pool players, particularly in 9-ball.
- **Mosconi Cup:** An annual tournament in pool, often considered the "Ryder Cup of pool," featuring teams from the U.S. and Europe.

10. Notable Players

- **Ray Reardon:** A legendary snooker player known for his World Snooker Championship victories.
- **Steve Davis:** One of the most successful snooker players in history.
- **Efren Reyes:** A Filipino pool player considered one of the greatest in the history of the game, particularly in 9-ball.
- **Ronnie O'Sullivan:** A modern snooker player often regarded as one of the best of all time.