

## TRUE OR FALSE

A player is only allowed 3 attempts to try to make a legal break. If they cannot do so after 3 attempts, the “racker” becomes the breaker.

## FALSE

The only way the breaker gives up their turn to break is when an illegal break occurs – meaning A) 4 balls do not make contact with a rail **and** the cue ball scratches B) In 8Ball the 3<sup>rd</sup> row of the rack is struck **and** the cue ball scratches C) In 9Ball any ball other than the 1 ball is struck **and** the cue ball scratches D) The cue ball is placed **ahead** of the head string on the break (and before anyone can stop the breaker) **and** the cue ball scratches and E) Any other **illegal** break scenario you can come up with that also includes (say it with me...) “And the cue ball scratches.” There is **no** set number of times a player can **attempt** to break! If it takes the player **10 times** and never results in “and the cue ball scratches” they will continue to try to break.

## ASK THE LEAGUE OPERATOR

Usually, I have a question that a player has asked me in this section. In this issue, however, I have “Food For Thought” brought to me by a player that I haven’t been able to get out of my mind. As I have looked at each of your scoresheets for these first 4-5 weeks, I have identified certain teams/players that his reasoning for his conclusion certainly fit the bill.

We talk about “Sandbagging”, keeping our league fair, marking defenses for “Non-



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Performance” shots to combat players that are running up their innings in an attempt to keep their skill levels the same or to even lose so that they will go down. **Now**, let’s think about these actions (the running up of innings) combined with “Getting home by 11PM”. If every team has just 1 player taking part in this unethical behavior and let’s take it a step further, those players don’t play each other, that is two matches that are going to be drawn out, **exceeding** the time guidelines for an individual match. If this isn’t reason enough for encouraging all your players to play their very best, **each and every match**, I don’t know what is. Since we, the league operators, cannot be out everywhere it is up to **you** to call players on their bad behavior! The main complaint we work hard to overcome regarding the APA League (Nation Wide) is late nights. **Our** league purchased sandtimers and left them at all drop/pickup host locations for you to use in

timeout situations. Travel teams can request their own from us. We don’t see them utilized often. We also encourage you to split tables if you are not in your 4<sup>th</sup> match by 2 hours past the official league start time.

I say, now we work **hard**, as a league to call players on their attempt to add innings while it is happening! There is nothing “unsportsmanlike” in making a comment like, “Many more shots like that and we will be here past 11PM” or “Did you read Lee’s last local leaguer? I think she was talking about **you**.” You, the player, can be nice about it, the 1<sup>st</sup> and even the 2<sup>nd</sup> time as a warning if it continues, while you are **still** marking your defenses (“Non-Performance) shots also write “L.N.” in the defense box and I will **know** that this is a “Late Night” player and check it against the list I have already made.

Thank you to the player who submitted this to me. He wished to remain anonymous but he knows who he is.

## UPCOMING DATES

Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>- 9B Doubles 2<sup>nd</sup> half starts reg form due 9/24. See details on the All Doubles Tab [northalabama.apaleagues.com](http://northalabama.apaleagues.com)

Oct.12- Breast Cancer Awareness F/R @ Bumpers Flier with info later

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> – Halloween Tournament. Details to follow

Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> – Annual Captain/Co-Captain appreciation event