

# SeriousPool.com: Pool Etiquette

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*Good pool etiquette boils down to being honest, courteous, and respectful while trying to give your opponent the best environment in which to play his or her best.*

The following is not all-inclusive, but will help guide you to being an opponent with which other SeriousPool players enjoy competing.

1. Sit still and quiet when it is not your turn at the table. Stay as still and quiet as possible while the opponent is down over the shot, especially when you are in the peripheral vision of your opponent. Some common examples of what not to do are:
  - a. Turning quickly to or from a TV
  - b. Reaching for your drink
  - c. Reaching for a cell phone
  - d. Talking on a cell phone
  - e. Texting
  - f. Surfing the web
2. No GIMMIES! Let your opponent shoot until the game is over. It is very common in casual play for opponents to say, "That's good" when the shooter gets to the last ball or two of an easy layout. There are a few problems with this:
  - a. It is important for a player to be able to focus all the way through to the end
  - b. It is a SHARK MOVE. If a shooter receives, "That's good" a few times during a match, the shooter will start wondering whether the opponent is going to blurt it during future critical final shots. This causes A LOSS OF FOCUS and could lead to a missed shot that would have otherwise been pocketed.
  - c. Many tournaments issue penalties. For instance, the shooter may be awarded two games or the sitting player may have one game deducted.
3. At the end of a game, do not touch ANY BALLS IN PLAY until ALL BALLS have come to a complete stop. Too many times, the shooter will pocket the last ball and then grab the cue-ball or redirect it with the cue-stick prior to the cue-ball coming to a complete stop. That is actually a foul. The sitting player should receive BALL IN HAND (or whatever the rule for the particular game dictates).
4. If you need to leave the table for any reason, do so during YOUR turn at the table. There is a common misconception that a player should take a break during the opponent's turn as to not hold-up the opponent. There are a few problems with that:
  - a. It is distracting to the shooter for the opponent to not be present
  - b. You may walk back up while the shooter is on a critical shot and cause distraction
  - c. Both players should be present during the entire match
  - d. It is disrespectful to not watch your opponent play
  - e. It breaks Etiquette #1, above.

5. Take extra care to provide the straightest and tightest rack possible for your opponent. You may also want to place the brightest balls (1/3/5) where you think your opponent is likely to need to focus.
6. While your opponent is racking for you, wait on your opponent to be seated before breaking.
7. If you think your opponent "**gets ALL THE ROLLS,**" just keep it to yourself.
8. If you want to provide commentary on your opponent's shots, wait until your turn to do so. Make sure the comments are only positive.
9. Blow smoke away from the table and away from your opponent.
10. Place the chalk cube right-side up on the rail. Placing it upside-down leaves chalk residue.
11. If you must use powder on your hands, make sure it does not get on the table and the balls.

*Richard P. Andrews*