

Attention All Players

Slow Play / Shot Clock

Recently the league coordinator and some of the board members have been asked about slow play and the ability to place a player/team on a shot clock. The board has looked into this question believing this was written under ALSEL rules/policies. After reviewing it has been discovered this rule has either been accidentally removed or was never a written rule for the league rather than a understanding of slow play would not be tolerated. As everyone knows the league tries to maintain the same rules underlined in the official BCA handbooks with of course some revisions to some of the conditions and how these rules are interpreted.

When a rule is not written under the ALSEL rules we must adhere to the BCA handbook as best as we can. The board has done some research on slow play/shot clock and it is a rule within the BCA handbook, however it really speaks to tournament play and allows for a longer period between shots. After discussion amongst the board we have determined to inform the players of this rule and the ability to apply this rule during a match. The time frame between shots has also been discussed and the board agreed that a **25 second** clock is adequate time for league play. Therefore we wanted to inform every one of the rule and how it can be applied during the season. This will also be added to the ALSEL rules/policies as a written part of our continuing rules.

In the event you do come across a time where you determine a shot clock would be the right thing to do please follow these steps to enforce the request:

1. There is normally no time limit for you to take a shot. However, a player may implement a shot clock if they judge that you are delaying a match unnecessarily or in an unsportsmanlike manner, or if the match is just taking a very long time to complete.
2. If after a reasonable amount of time has passed and it is determined that slow play is occurring you may ask to have the player/team placed on a shot clock. **This can be done before or during the game at the table. If requesting a shot clock the player and the captain must be informed of the request.**
3. If a shot clock is asked for and used, it always applies to all players at that table. This can also be requested for an entire team if needed. If you are placed on a clock by any request this will apply to you and your opponent(s) for the remainder of the match. This means you cannot be asked to be placed on a clock just for one game unless of course it is the last game of your match.
4. The shot clock will be for 25 seconds for each shot. This clock should be kept by both players and an observer or captain when available. A 10 second warning must be verbally given prior to the time expiring by just calling out 10 by whoever is keeping the clock. **ONLY** if the player is not already down on the shot.
5. If a player is already down on the shot at the ten-second mark, no announcement is made. The shot clock will pause at ten seconds and the player may exceed the **25- second** limit provided they do not stand up off the shot. However, if the player stands up off the shot, the referee will immediately announce "ten", the shot clock will resume. If the player does not strike the cue ball within ten seconds, it is a shot clock violation. **(BALL IN HAND FOR YOUR OPPONENT)**
6. For timing purposes, "down on the shot" means the player is in a customary shooting position as it relates to their bridge hand and grip of the cue, or, if using a mechanical bridge, the bridge has been placed for the shot and the cue placed in the bridge's groove with the player's grip hand on the cue.
7. The clock starts from the time a shot has completed and all balls on the table stop rolling. At this point the clock will start again.
8. A shot clock violation is a foul.
9. The shot clock does not apply to the first shot after the break in any game.

Again a shot clock is **NOT NORMALLY** used during league play, however each player has always had the right to request and place any player/team on a clock if they believe slow play is occurring. We ask that everyone remembers this league is for the sport of billiards and for fun. Trying to place everyone on a clock only takes away the ability to learn the sport and enjoy the game. It is understood sometimes this request is appropriate and the ALSEL board will stand behind those request when those request are valid. The board would like to inform every one as well it is not intended for this rule to be abused just as any other rule or policy we all must play under.

Thank You
A.L.S.E.L. Board