



RULES, INTERPRETATIONS AND INFORMATION

by

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FORFEITING A MATCH

Rule C-25 states, “Any team that forfeits or is forfeited in a game or match, up to and including the quarter-finals, is DISQUALIFIED from the tournament. The question becomes, when does the disqualification take effect. If the forfeit occurs before the deciding game of a match is completed, the current match is forfeited. If, however, the forfeit occurs after the deciding game has finished, the forfeit applies to the next scheduled match. No person or team is allowed to complete a game or match then declare that game or match to be forfeit.

HARD SHOOTING

Q: Can a player be penalized for hard shooting even though Rule C-20c is currently suspended?

A: Yes. If, in the opinion of the tournament director, a player's hard shooting is endangering other players, they can advise the player of that determination and warn them against continued excessively hard shooting. If the player refuses to comply, either by word or deed, with the request to desist, a 10-off penalty may be imposed under Rule C-19. This penalty should not be automatically imposed without prior warning and should be reserved for severe cases. The mere fact that a disc goes over the backstop is not proof of excessively hard shooting (one reason why C-20c is suspended). Many other factors, including the slope of the gutters, nature of the backstop, and contact with other objects, can contribute to a disc escaping the playing area. (3/12/2011)

PRACTICE FOLLOWING A RAIN DELAY

Q: Is practice allowed before the start of the third game of a match which resumes after a rain delay.

A: That depends. Rule H3 states, “Practice after a rain delay is to be as follows: If play can restart on the same day, there will be two (2) speed shots and four (4) practice discs. If play restarts the following day, there will be full practice, including two (2) speed shots.” If play resumes with the start or during game three, then practice is permitted as stated above. If, however, play resumes with game one or game two, then Rule C1b applies and no practice is allowed before the start of game 3. Some players argue that they may not have played with the discs of their color choice before on that day and should, therefore be allowed to have practice before game 3. However, they will have played with those discs either that day or the preceding day and Article 3(b) was written specifically for this purpose. It requires discs or their carriers to be numbered and used on the court with the same number, thus insuring that the players have exactly the same discs on the same court that they had before the rain delay.

PLAY STARTING AFTER 4:00 P.M.

Q: Must a tournament director allow a match to start after 4:00 P.M. if all players agree?

A: No. Article 7(b)3 permits the tournament director to allow a match to begin after 4:00 P.M. with the agreement of all players but does not require the tournament director to allow it. There are many other factors which weigh on the decision, including the desires of the host club and its volunteers, lighting, weather, facilities requirements, etc., not to mention the fatigue of the tournament director. Remember, he or she has probably been on site and working hard since 8:00 A.M. and that match that started at 3:55 P.M. may well run until 7:00 P.M. or later and the tournament director must remain on site until it's conclusion. Please be understanding when you request to start a match after 4:00 P.M. and accept the tournament director's decision.

SMOKING ON OR NEAR THE COURTS

Q: Article 12 states, "There is to be no smoking on or near the courts." Just how far is near the courts?

A: Defining "near" is relatively easy, however enforcement of the rule is problematic. "Near" includes any area under the control of the host club from which smoke enters the playing area. It does not, however, cover anyplace, regardless of how close, that the club does not reasonably control, including public areas around the courts, public sidewalks, nearby private property, designated smoking areas, etc. For example, Lakeland's courts are located in a public park. The courts are surrounded by parking lots and sidewalks that are shared with the general public. The club has no authority to restrict smoking in those areas. To make matters more difficult, the recreation complex housing the courts is shared with a lawn bowling club that allows its members and guests to smoke. The only course of action open to the Lakeland club is to post "No Smoking" signs in the area under its exclusive control and to ask for cooperation from others. Most other clubs share similar problems. All we can ask is that each club do what it can to minimize smoke on the courts. (11/02/10)

CHANGING CLUB AFFILIATION

Q: I have changed shuffleboard clubs. Won't the Keeper of Records be notified if I write my new club on the Registration and Entry Form?

A: No. Article 8(f) requires that, before any change of club will be recognized by the F.S.A., the player must notify the affected club and the K.O.R. of the F.S.A. in writing. Remember, the K.O.R. never sees the Registration and Entry Form and won't even know that you have played unless you place in the tournament. (10/31/10)

RULE CHANGE—C26

Today, at the FSA Fall Meeting, Rule C26 was amended as follows:

"Unauthorized use of cells phones is prohibited on courts. PENALTY: 5-Off.

Explanation: While it is not a violation to possess a cell phone on the courts, use of a cell phone, including ringing, audible sounds, conversations or text messages, etc., is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the tournament director. Such authorization should be for a legitimate, urgent need and is valid for only that tournament. Persons so authorized must place their phone on vibrate or silent mode and the phone shall not be answered until the player has removed him/herself

from the area of the courts. Further, I would recommend that authorized players notify their opponents prior to the start of play to avoid misunderstandings. (October 16, 2010)

NOTIFYING OPPONENT WHEN WAXING DISCS

Q: Is it necessary to notify your opponent when having your discs waxed between games?

A: There is no requirement in the FSA rules for such notification to be made. It is a customary courtesy, but not a requirement.

SUBMITTING TOURNAMENT RESULTS

In order to speed the posting of tournament results and to reduce the workload of the Keeper of Records, all FSA tournament results should be submitted electronically via the form found on the FSA website or by email if using the TnMation program. Tournament directors without access to the internet are asked to have another person submit the results on their behalf.

MEASURING DISCS ON THE LAG LINE

Measuring discs not touching the lag line is quite simple. You simply measure the distance from the edge of the disc nearest the line to the edge of the line nearest the disc. However, when the discs are on the line, the task becomes far more difficult. Rule C-2c tells us to measure from the center of the disc to the center of the line, but that is virtually impossible since it is impossible to see the center of the disc and center of the line at the same time and finding the center is still another problem. The best method of making the measurement is to place a straightedge against the edge of the disc farthest from the line, then, after measuring to be sure the straightedge is parallel to the lag line, measure the distance between the straightedge and the closest edge of the lag line. The disc with the shortest measurement is the winning disc.



LUNCH TIME

The FSA rules do not stipulate how long players have for lunch. Instead, it is governed by past practice, which, at least in the Central District, is 20 minutes. However, I learned that it is not necessarily true everywhere when a player from another district failed to appear on the court after lunch until the third call. It turns out he had left the property expecting to have thirty minutes for lunch. The point of this message is to ensure that all players are familiar with your expectations.

WAXED DISCS AND SPEED SHOTS

FSA rules do not required that speed shots be taken before the discs are waxed for the 2nd game. However, Rule C-1a and C-2a clearly limit the number of speed shots to two (2). Therefore, if a player or team elects to have their discs waxed before taking their speed shots, they would still be entitled to use them afterward. If, however, the player or team takes their speed shots before having the discs waxed, they are not entitled to taken them again. Under no circumstances is any player to be allowed more than a total of two speed shots and 8 practice shots before game 1 or 2 of a match begins.

SITTING BETWEEN SHOTS

I was asked if sitting down while your opponent shoots violates Rule C-9 or C-9a. The answer is NO. The intent of these rules is to prohibit interference with the shooter. They do not prohibit the non-shooting player from sitting down, so long as the act of sitting does not cause interference with the shooter.

READING THE RULE

The FSA Board has determined that all Tournament Directors, when rendering a decision on the rules, shall be prepared to read the relevant rule to the concerned player or players upon request. It is not necessary to read the rule unless it is requested by the concerned player.