

OFFICIAL RULES OF THE NATIONAL SHUFFLEBOARD ASSOCIATION, INC.

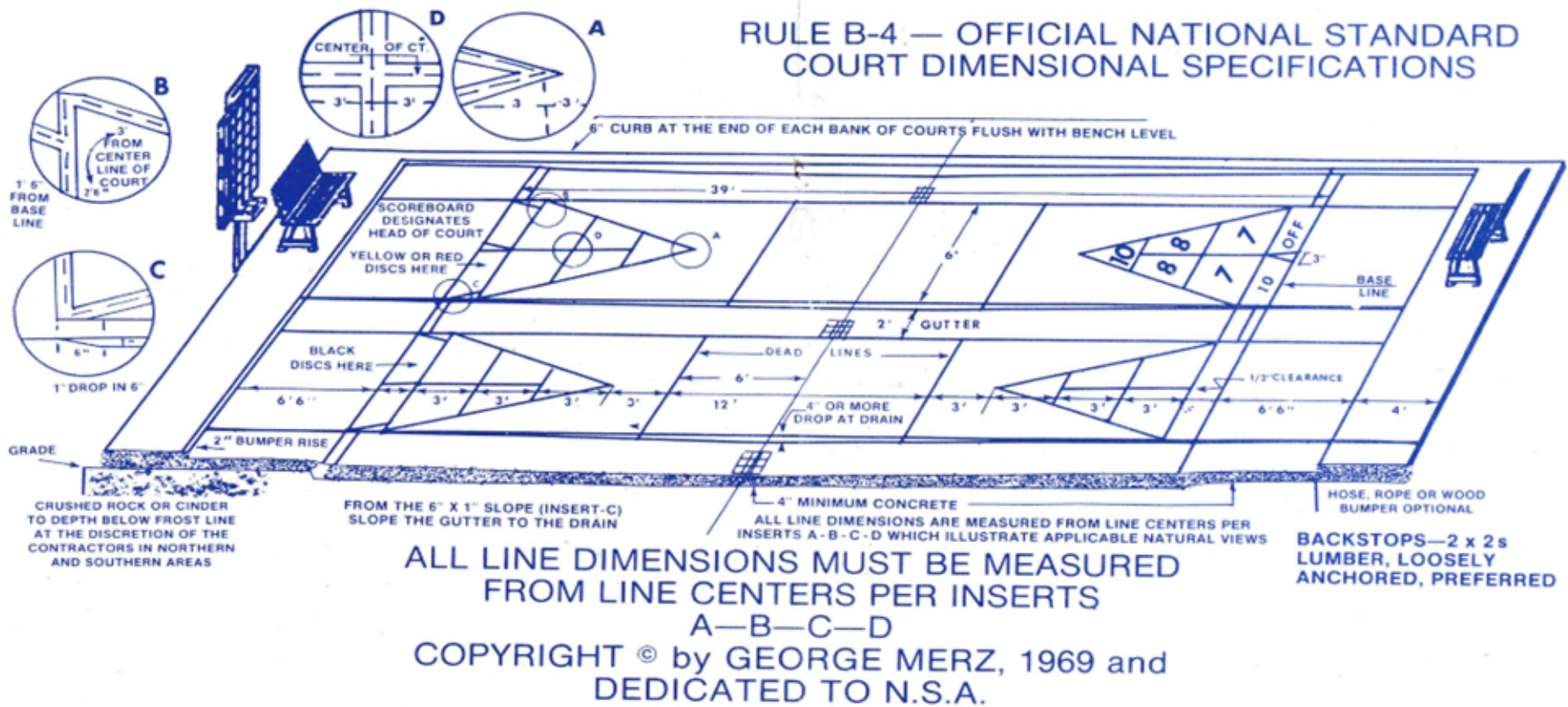
Revised 1997, Updated January 2005, January 2023, and January 2025

A - GAME

1	The game of shuffleboard is played by: two (2) persons (called singles), or by four (4) persons (called doubles).
2	The object of the game is to propel discs by means of a cue on to scoring diagram at opposite end of court--to score, to prevent opponent from scoring, or both.
3	A player must be 18 years of age or older to play in a National Championship Tournament, unless it states otherwise in the hosting state's shuffleboard rules.

B - EQUIPMENT

1	Discs shall be made of composition not less than 9/16" and not more than 1" in thickness, 6" in diameter, and not less than 11 1/2 ounces in weight. New discs shall weigh 15 ounces. Four (4) discs shall be colored yellow, four (4) colored black. These eight (8) discs comprise a set. (Other colored combinations may be used.) Care should be taken that all discs in a set shall be uniform in weight and thickness.
2	The cue shall not have overall length of more than six feet, three inches (6'3"). No metal part of cue shall touch playing surface of court.
3	Players shall not be required to play with discs, new or old, that are not in satisfactory condition. Defective discs will be replaced by good discs, if available. Any change of discs must be made before practice rounds begin. New discs are not to be used in tournament play, unless thoroughly broken in.
4	Official National Standard Court Dimensional Specifications and court construction guidelines are on pages 2-3.



Building a Court:

Any good home mechanic, experienced in cement work, and having acquainted himself with the above diagram, can build his own shuffleboard court. The specifications, as to size, materials, dimensions and recommended procedures, are there stated for you by the National Shuffleboard Association. Actually, it is rather like laying a sidewalk, with extra attention given to leveling and smoothing. You could proceed in this manner.

Choose a level, well drained site. Strip away all sod and get down to firm soil. Level this and tamp or roll to correct grade. In northern climates this must be below frost line. If this is the case, then use crushed rock or cinders to fill back up to ground level.

Building a Court (Continued)

Set in securely a form made of strong lumber. Forms should be 2" x 6" Redwood or western cedar, selected for straightness, and oiled, well secured to resist any movement after establishing levels, and positioned so as to allow for a 4" thick concrete slab. It is especially important to position forms so as to assure a maximum tolerance of 1/32" from level across the 6 ft. width of the court. Make sure that it is level.

Place crushed rock or cinders to a depth below frost line and on this a layer of building felt. Reinforcing shall consist of seven (7) 1/2" rods placed lengthwise and 3/8" rods crosswise on 12" centers, all placed in center of slab.

You are now ready to pour a four inch concrete slab. The NSA recommends two layers: the first layer is 3-1/2 inches of 3000 psi concrete. After it is poured and leveled, wait forty-five minutes and pour a top coat of 1 part cement to 2-1/2 or 3 parts of sand. Test again for level with a straight edge. This will detect high or low spots to be eliminated. Trowel the surface to a fine and finish. Colors should be added to the finish layer. Green is, by far, the most popular color for courts today. The concrete must "cure" slowly to prevent cracking. Burlap sacks or sand put on the surface and kept wet for several days will accomplish this.

When it is cured for about seven days, carefully and lightly stone the surface with a "rubbing brick" (available from building supply companies) to remove sharpness and loose grit. This will provide a surface free from sharp edges so that the discs can move freely.

After about a week of drying, clean the court and apply the markings. Exterior white latex concrete paint is recommended for the marking of the lines on green or other dark colored courts. It may be applied by brush, sprayed or with a felt applicator. Care should be taken to apply as thin a coat as possible and yet have strongly visible lines. For light gray courts, black liquid shoe dye applied with a felt applicator is recommended for high contrast. This dye is water thin and need not be thinned further. 3/4" to 1" wide lines are standard, lines to have sharp edges; all line dimensions are measured from line centers. (See courts layout specifications on page 2.)

After line markings are dry, shuffleboard wax can be applied or loose glass beads can be sprinkled on the court in order to provide a slick surface for the travel of the discs. For bumper strips, National rules recommend 2" x 2" lumber loosely anchored to prevent excessive rebound of discs; 1" rope may be substituted. Live rubber hose is not recommended unless a suitable size steel rod is placed inside to prevent rapid rebound of the discs.

C - PLAYING RULES

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| 1 | The official playing rules of the State that hosts any type of National Tournament shall be followed, without exception. Each hosting state shall supply a copy of its official playing rules to the USA NSA President. Said official playing rules will be included on the USA National Shuffleboard Association website. |
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D – EXPERT, PRO, OR AMATEUR STATUS

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| 1 | If a player is classified as an expert or pro in any member state, they are ineligible to play in any National Amateur Tournament. Each player is responsible for entering all tournaments for which they are eligible. If they enter a tournament for which they are ineligible, they shall be removed from that tournament as soon as the error is discovered. If that happens after the tournament is completed, they will be requested to return any prizes won to the Tournament Director. Any points won will be forfeited. |
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E – DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

1	<p><u>Conduct: National Tournaments:</u> Any conduct before, during, or after a National tournament considered to be unsportsmanlike, illegal, or contrary to the USA National Shuffleboard Association’s Objects and Purposes as outlined in Article III of the USA NSA Constitution should then be reported to a directing official, board member, or officer and then must be reported to the USA NSA President.</p>
2	<p><u>Upon Report of Misconduct at a National Tournament:</u> The USA-NSA President or the Tournament Director where the National Tournament was held will first decide whether the action constitutes gross misconduct. If the misconduct is not gross and the member has not been reprimanded for misconduct during the previous year, then the USA-National President must contact the accused member who may have engaged in misconduct (the “Violating Member”) and have an informal discussion regarding the complained of misconduct and remind the Violating Member of the USA NSA’s rules relating to sportsmanship and the USA NSA’s purpose. If the Violating Member refuses to accept the previously mentioned informal discussion or has been reprimanded for misconduct during the previous calendar year, then the Violating Member’s misconduct will be treated as gross misconduct. If the misconduct is considered gross, then the matter will be turned over to the USA NSA President who will initiate an investigation into the alleged incident giving rise to the complaint.</p>
3	<p><u>Investigation:</u> The USA NSA President shall convene the Executive Board which will interview the known witnesses of the alleged misconduct. If the majority of the Executive Board determines the complaint has merit, then the Executive Board must give written notice to the Violating Member within sixty (60) days of the determination and proceed with the USA NSA’s disciplinary procedure as follows below.</p>
4	<p><u>Disciplinary Procedure: Notice:</u> Notice that there has been a complaint regarding the Violating Member’s conduct must be given to the Violating Member via U.S. Certified Mail. Within this notice, the Violating Member must be given</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) notice that the Violating Member has been reported for alleged misconduct, (2) the date on which the alleged misconduct occurred, and (3) be invited to present a written response and present evidence at a disciplinary hearing as outlined in section 5 below.

E – DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES (continued)

5	<p><u>Disciplinary Procedure: Hearing:</u> A disciplinary hearing will be held via Zoom on a date and location as decided by the USA NSA President. At this hearing, witnesses to the event, written statements, testimony of the Violating Member, and other evidence may be presented to the Executive Board for consideration. Such hearing shall be at least thirty (30) days after written notice of the hearing. This is to give the Violating Member sufficient time to prepare a defense.</p>
6	<p><u>Disciplinary Procedure: Determination:</u> Upon the conclusion of the hearing referenced in section 5 above, the Executive Board will hold a vote to determine whether the preponderance of the evidence indicates that the Violating Member engaged in the reported misconduct. If the Executive Board determines that the Violating Member engaged in the reported misconduct, then it will vote, by a simple majority, whether to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) issue a written warning to the Violating Member; (2) place the Violating Member on probation for a period not to exceed two (2) years; (3) suspend the Violating Member for a period not to exceed one (1) year from the date of the suspension; (4) suspend the Violating Member for a period exceeding one year from the date of the suspension; or (5) expel the Violating Member permanently from the USA NSA. <p>If (3), (4) or (5) above are assessed, the USA NSA President will advise the President of the State the Violating Member resides of the action taken by the Executive Board. The Tournament Director of the National Tournament where the misconduct occurred will also be advised of the action taken.</p>

E – DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES (continued)

7	<p><u>Appeal:</u> A Violating Member who has been the subject of discipline may make a written appeal to the USA NSA Board stating the reason for the appeal and the requested relief sought. This written appeal shall be placed on the agenda as an item for the next meeting of the USA NSA. The penalty under appeal shall be held in abeyance pending the result of the appeal process. The written appeal will be read aloud by a board member of the Violating Member’s choosing or a board member willing to read the statement. Following this reading, a member of the Executive Board will make oral statements regarding the Violating Member’s misconduct, the investigation, the hearing, and the determination. Immediately upon the conclusion of these statements, the USA NSA Board will vote on whether to accept the Violating Member’s appeal. No further consideration of the Violating Member’s appeal will be brought before the USA NSA’s Board by motion or other means.</p>
8	<p><u>Recusal:</u> Any member involved, either directly or indirectly, as a complainant, witness, or other interested party in a complaint of misconduct shall be excused from participation in these disciplinary procedures. The USA NSA President shall name a temporary replacement for themselves and/or any member of the Executive Board so involved.</p>
9	<p><u>Other Types of Biased or Improper Conduct:</u> Any written or verbal communication within a public forum, including online, which accuses the USA NSA, or its members, of biased or improper conduct shall be reported to the USA NSA President for immediate consideration and/or action. The same procedures contained in sections 2 – 8 will be followed.</p>