



# RULES, INTERPRETATIONS AND INFORMATION

by

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## RULE C-10 – REPLAYING THE HALF-ROUND

All Tournament Directors and most players are aware that severe penalties may be imposed under this rule for moving a live disc and that the half-round is to be replayed. What most players and some Tournament Directors miss is the exception to the rule. The Rule reads, in part, “The opponent’s good discs shall be credited to the opponent’s score, except any 10-Offs, and the half-round shall be played over, *unless the game point has been reached by the offender’s opponent.*” That means that, if the points awarded to the offender’s opponent raises that his or her score to 75 or more points, the game is over, and the half-round (frame) is not replayed. Several factors likely contribute to the misinterpretations of this rule.

1. By convention, we add those scores and penalties as a subscript to the bottom of the previous score and add them to the score when the replayed frame is completed. That practice leads some to believe that those points are not counted until after the frame is replayed. That practice (and it is a practice, not a rule) cause some to believe that the points cannot be added until after the replay. However, we use subscripts only to keep the posted scores in the correct rotation on the scoreboard. The rule clearly states that the points are added before the frame is replayed.
2. Others contend that no frame can be over until all 8 discs have been shot and, therefore, the frame must be replayed unless all 8 discs have been played. However, if all 8 discs have been shot and have come to rest, the frame is over (Rule C-3(a)) and the disc are no longer live, unless a disc is under appeal, in which case Section F would apply, not Section C.

The rule was written this way to prevent a player from taking unfair advantage of the replay rule. For example, Team “A” has a posted score of 68 with a well protected 7 on the board while Team “B” has a posted score of 64 with no counting discs on the board. Without the exception to the rule, it would be to the advantage of Team “B” to move a live disc, thus causing replay of the frame and, potentially, stealing the game.

Proper interpretation of the rule means that:

1. Points and penalties resulting from a violation of this rule are immediately credited to the relevant scores, regardless of how that annotated on the scoreboard.
2. Replay of the half-round occurs only if the offender’s opponent has not reached game point by the addition of those points.

This interpretation was affirmed by the F.S.A. general board on March 17, 2018.

## DISCS ON OR NEAR THE LAG LINE

Several recent inquiries have involved what happens to discs on or near the lag line.

1. A shot disc has come to rest touching the far lag line. Rule C4b tells us that that disc is in play and must remain there. But what happens if a subsequent shot bumps that disc backwards so that it is no longer touching the lag line? It should then be treated as a dead disc and removed from play just as though it never reached the lag line.

2. The same rule tells us that a shot disc which does not reach the lag line is a dead disc and should be removed, unless it is not called dead and not removed, in which case it is considered a live disc for the remainder of the frame. But what happens if your opponent disregards the call and shoots another disc before it can be removed? In that case, Rule C19 would come into play. That rule states that a Tournament Director will insure that the offender gains no advantage from the improper action (i.e., the disc will be removed) and impose a 10-Off penalty.

### FAILURE TO RETURN

There are times when it becomes impossible to return to play the second or third day of a tournament. That is unfortunate, but understandable. However, common courtesy dictates that you notify the host club or tournament director as soon as you know that you will not be returning. Failure to do so causes undue delay in the tournament and, often, an unnecessary hardship on those who needlessly travel back to the tournament location to play those non-returning individuals. If you find yourself in that position, please be courteous enough to make that call or send that email.

Similarly, those tournament directors who become aware that individuals or teams will not be returning the following day should make an effort to notify the affected players if they would be returning for just the finals.

### SLOW PLAY

We all recognize that slow play by certain individuals has become detrimental to the sport. We often see players in the semi-finals or finals who forfeit a match due to the frustration of waiting on slow players. That, in turn, results in the slow players winning a position that they may not have earned. However, we also recognize that there are at least three factors that may contribute to an unusually long match.

The first situation involves a very close match between players of like ability where everyone is playing expeditiously but scores are not advanced due to good play. Little can be done under those circumstances beyond encouraging the players to expedite the game.

The second situation involves overt acts to delay the game which are covered and penalized under Rule C-14

The third situation involves a player or players who are just too slow in the execution of the steps necessary to the play of the game, for example: taking an unnecessarily long time to complete their practice rounds, failing to get up and gather the discs quickly after a half-round is completed, checking multiple drift charts before executing a shot, constantly taking an excessive amount of time in contemplation and execution of a shot, etc. The FSA has given tournament directors wide latitude under Rules C-19 and E-2 to address this issue. For example, tournament directors may advise the player(s) to pick up the pace of their play, assign a referee to the court if necessary to insure compliance, penalize players for failure to comply, etc. Hopefully, these measures will help to speed up play to the betterment of the sport. (10/12/13)

### SITTING BETWEEN SHOTS

Rule C-9a requires a player, after shooting a disc, to step to the rear of their shooting area with his/her cue held in an upright position. This rule has, in some cases, been interpreted to mean that the non-shooter may not sit while his/her opponent in shooting or preparing to shoot. However, it is the opinion of the F.S.A. board that the intent of the rule is simply to prevent interference between the shooter and his/her opponent. If the non-shooter can sit in a manner that does not interfere with the shooter, then sitting is permitted. I would also emphasize that the entire shooting area belongs to the shooter and the non-shooter, whether standing or sitting, is obligated to position them self in a manner that does not interfere with the shooter at any time. (10/12/13)

### POINT BUYING

The following rule will go into effect on January 1, 2014. The delay is to ensure that everyone is aware of the rule before implementation.

1. Any person accused of buying or selling F.S.A. Tournament Points or Move-Up points shall be notified to appear at a hearing before the F.S.A. Board to answer the allegation.
2. Anyone so notified, who fails to appear, shall be deemed to have waived their rights to be present at the hearing.
3. After such hearing, anyone who is found to have participated in the buying or selling of Points shall have their accumulated points reduced by 10.
4. Any person so penalized will also forfeit automatic selection to the F.S.A. Hall of Fame. Instead, having amassed two hundred (200) officially recognized points, the individual may petition the F.S.A. Board for inclusion in the Hall of Fame.
  - a. Such discussion and election shall be in a closed session with only the Board and Secretary present.
  - b. Persons failing to achieve selection by the Board may petition again in subsequent years.

(10/12/13)

### TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR FEE

Effective January 1, 2014, tournament directors for F.S.A. tournaments will be receive a \$100.00 fee. (10/12/13)

### TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE

Effective January 1, 2014, the F.S.A. tournament registration fee will be increased to \$6.00 per player. This will require an update to the F.S.A. Financial Report for State Tournaments. A new form will be posted on the F.S.A. website before the effective date. (10/12/13)

### JUDGING A DISC

Rule D-2 states that when judging a disc, we are to “sight DIRECTLY DOWN.” In the past, that has been fairly clear. However, the new Air Discs do not have vertical edges, but slant inwards from the larger top of the disc to a somewhat smaller base. That has led to much discussion as to the proper method for judging a disc. Of the two possible sight lines shown below, the vertical (A) shows a false representation of the base of the disc, while B, down the edge, shows the correct way to judge the disc. After consultation with the FSA President and Rules Committee, we are in agreement that the rule should be interpreted to mean that,

when judging a disc, we are to look directly down the edge of the disc. “Down the edge” works equally well for both ARCO and Air discs.



### TOUCHING THE COURT

I was recently asked if touching the court while removing debris from the court surface constituted a rules infraction. Although that is a frequently held notion, the answer is NO. The only rule that mentions touching the court is Rule C-5 which states, “Players must not touch a foot, hand knee, or any other part of their body to the court on or over the baseline or extension of the baseline at anytime while executing a shot.” The last four words hold the key to this question. It tells us that it is only a violation to touch the court while executing a shot. It is not prohibited at any other time, so long as you are not altering the condition of the court. Be warned, however, that while removing a leaf that has fallen onto the court is not a violation, using your hand, foot, etc. to redistribute loose beads could be considered to be altering the court under Article 11(a).

### 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 dis-qualification 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.

### 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 that the 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 its 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 co-operation from others. Most other clubs share similar problems. All we can ask is that each club does 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)

### 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 second 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.

### 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.