



WHAT IS ENGLISH BILLIARDS?



The Game

Billiards or English Billiards, as it is correctly known, is one of the oldest sports in the world. With its origins in the United Kingdom. It is played on a table with dimensions the same as a snooker table, 12ft x 6ft, and six pockets around the table. It's a cue sport played by two players that combines aspects of Carom billiards and Snooker. English Billiards is played with three balls—a spotted white cue ball, a spotted yellow cue ball and a red object ball.

The game begins with the 'String' and this determines which player gets to play first. The players place their cue balls on the baulk-line in turn from the 'D' and simultaneously hit their ball straight down the table to bounce off the top cushion, the player who's ball lands closest to the baulk cushion wins the string and has the choice of who breaks and with which ball. Having all the balls on the table is an advantage to most players, so they often choose to play second.

Using a different colour cue ball, each player tries to get more points than their opponent and reach the predetermined total or over a set period of time on a stop clock. The player with the most points wins.

Scoring

Players take shots and scores are awarded for pocketing the balls and cannons. In English billiards sport, players can score points in the following plays:

Cannon: Players score two points for hitting the object ball and the other cue ball in a single shot in any order.

Potting: Three points for potting the red, two points for potting the opponents ball (this then remains off the table).

In-off: Three points for going in-off the red, two points for going in-off the opponents ball.

Video on the basics



Rules of English Billiards



EABA Website



English Amateur Billiards Association

“To promote, develop and foster the game of English Billiards for the enjoyment and benefit of the players”