

The Break

Lag for the first break and alternate breaks thereafter.

The Lag

Each player should use balls of equal size and weight. With the balls in baulk, one player to the left and one to the right of the table, the balls are struck simultaneously to the rack cushion and back to the baulk end of the table. The player whose ball is the closest to the innermost edge of the baulk cushion wins the lag.

The lagged ball must contact the rack cushion at least once. Other cushion contacts are immaterial, except as prohibited below.

It is an automatic loss of the lag if:

- (1) the ball crosses into the opponent's half of the table,
- (2) the ball fails to contact the rack cushion,
- (3) the ball drops into a pocket,
- (4) the ball jumps the table,
- (5) the ball touches the side cushion,
- (6) the ball rests within the corner pocket and past the nose of the baulk cushion, or
- (7) the ball contacts the rack cushion more than once.

If both players violate automatic-loss lag rules, or if the referee is unable to determine which ball is closer, the lag is a tie and is replayed.

If one player strikes the ball, the other player has to strike his ball before the opponent's ball reaches the rack cushion in order to have a simultaneous lag. If this is not the case and the referee feels that the player who played second wanted to get an advantage out of that, then the lag has to be replayed.