



by Bob Jewett

Test Time

THE BCA HAS begun an instructor certification program, which trains, tests and certifies pool instructors. The written tests, which are now being compiled, have sections on teaching, rules, equipment, etc. Having raised my hand at the right (or wrong) time, I'm doing the compiling, and I'm asking for your help.

Do you think you know enough about pool to teach it? Would you like to test yourself against the other readers? Try the questions below. Since there is no one to administer the test to you, consider it a take-home; you're allowed to use any reference available. You may find the 1993 *BCA Rule Book* helpful.

Write out the answers to any ten of the questions below and send them in. The three best sets of answers will receive a year's subscription to this magazine. Since the questions vary greatly in difficulty, you get more credit if you pick tougher questions.

You can get extra credit by sending in three new questions you feel should be on the test, but please include answers. One last rule: the judge's decisions are final and I'm the judge. Good luck, and keep your eyes on your own paper.

1. When a shot is played with side spin, several important effects are noticeable and may cause the shot to fail if not included in the planning for the shot. Name three of those effects, describe them, and describe how you demonstrate them to students.
2. What are the important factors in cue selection?
3. What are the basic goals of the stance (foot, arm, hand, and body position)?
4. What are some specific parts of a good stance that achieve those goals?
5. What is the "dominant eye" and how can you test for it?
6. What are some symptoms of incorrect eye alignment?
7. What conditions are necessary for the cue ball to stop dead at the instant it hits an object ball?
8. What additional condition is necessary for a stop shot (for the cue ball to remain in position after the instant of impact)?
9. Give three common things that

cause the cue ball not to stop dead on a stop shot.

10. Describe the "ghost" or "phantom" ball aiming system.
11. What other systems give equivalent aiming lines?
12. For roughly what length of shot is the simple phantom ball system too inaccurate on a half-ball cut shot?
13. What is required to get a lot of draw on the cue ball?
14. What is recommended but not actually required for lots of draw?
15. Describe some situations in which side spin is required to make a shot (not counting position requirements).
16. In damp conditions or on dirty cloth, draw dissipates rapidly. Why?
17. Describe aiming a half-ball shot. Neglecting throw, what is the cut angle for a half-ball shot?
18. Describe the simple "mirror system" for shooting bank shots, and at least three methods of lining shots up for that system.
19. Give three situations in which the simple mirror system is not accurate enough to aim bank shots.
20. How large is a pool ball?
21. With what tolerance?
22. Approximately what fraction of pool balls are not within tolerance?
23. How large is the playing surface on 4' x 8' and 4 1/2' x 9' tables, and how is it measured?
24. What is the required thickness of slate?
25. What are the allowed weight and dimensions of a cue stick?
26. What is the grace period before a match is forfeited for lateness?
27. What should a referee do prior to a match?
28. Is a "split hit," that appears to have been simultaneous contact on both a legal and an illegal object ball, a foul?
29. At 9-ball, a player is stroking, about to shoot, the 4 ball. A spectator shouts out, "Shoot the 3!" What should the referee do?
30. Is a miscue a foul?
31. At 9-ball, when does an object ball spot?
32. At 9-ball, a player plays the 1-7 combination, pockets the 7, but the 1 ball goes off the table. What happens?
33. A player "pushes out" with the side of his stick, and is warned not to

do so. Is there any penalty, and does it change for a second offense?

34. When calling a shot at 8-ball, what must be specified besides the ball and the pocket?
35. On an open break, how many balls must be driven to the rail if no ball is pocketed?
36. What is the penalty at 8-ball for failure to make an open break?
37. What is the penalty at 9-ball?
38. With ball in hand after a scratch on the break, what are the restrictions on cue ball placement at 9-ball?
39. At 8-ball?
40. Give four examples of how a player can foul during the other player's inning.
41. At 14.1, a player fails three times in a row to drive two balls to the rail on the opening break shot. What is the score after those three strokes?
42. What happens if a player unscrews his jointed cue stick?
43. While playing a bank shot, the player places the chalk where he wants to hit on the rail, then shoots. Is that a foul?
44. Describe a push shot.
45. What is the specific criterion used to judge double hits, when the cue starts very close to the object ball?
46. If a ball stops at the brink of a pocket, how long is it given to drop before it is considered not to have been pocketed?
47. May either player inspect the rack prior to the break?
48. If the cue ball is frozen to the object ball, what sort of stroke is permitted towards that ball?
49. At 8-ball, what happens if the 8 is pocketed on the break?
50. What happens in 9-ball if the 9 goes on the break?
51. At 8-ball, a player calls safe and then pockets an easy, obvious shot. What happens?
52. What happens at 9-ball for the same situation?
53. At 9-ball, the player pockets the 9, and cue ball is rolling slowly up the table towards the middle of the end rail. The player picks the cue ball up while it is barely moving and places it for the next break. Has he fouled?

Bob Jewett is a former ACU-I pool champion and a researcher at Hewlett-Packard.