

# Finishing League Play on Time



As a general reference, 8 Ball play should take no longer than 3 1/2 hours from start to finish and 9 Ball play should take no longer than 3 hours. Many teams start on time and still don't finish until well after midnight.

These rules are enforced during higher level tournaments. We are asking teams to please follow the guidelines during weekly league play to help make weekly league play more enjoyable.

**#1. Time Saver** —> Split tables (Rule: You must split tables if not in the 4th match 2 hours after scheduled match time, unless no 2nd table available or both teams agree not to split.) Time saved: as much as 1-2 hours.

Still think you're stuck with late nights when it's not possible to split tables? Wrong! You may be surprised to see how much time you save just by following the rules.

**#2. Be ready to play** —> Be ready to play. (Rule: Continuous play.) Eat, drink, use the restroom, go outside, put cues together, practice, make calls, etc., before you're called. Time saved: 5 min. per match for 3 of 5 matches. Total saved = 15 min.

**#3. Put players up quickly** —> (Guideline: 2 min. to put up a player.) There's no reason the team putting up 1st can't make that decision before the end of the previous match saving an additional 2 minutes per match. Total saved = 20 min. (If each team takes 3 min., that's 2 extra minutes per match.)

**#4. Go to the table when it's your turn** —> (Rule: Continuous play) Seconds may not seem like much, but it adds up. After team acknowledges who is playing, be ready to go to the table when it's your turn. Total saved = 30 min.

**#5. Timely shots** —> (Guideline: 20 seconds per shot, on average.) Remember the average shot takes 20 seconds, with the average time between shots to be 15 to 30 seconds (max.) A difficult shot should not take more than a minute.

**#6. Limit time-outs to 1 min.** —> (Guideline: Coaching/time outs should not exceed 1 minute.) All teams should follow the 1 minute coaching rule and make sure coaching does not exceed 1 minute.

**Now add up all the time you saved!**

**Remember, practice makes perfect... it's up to you how long you stay out!**