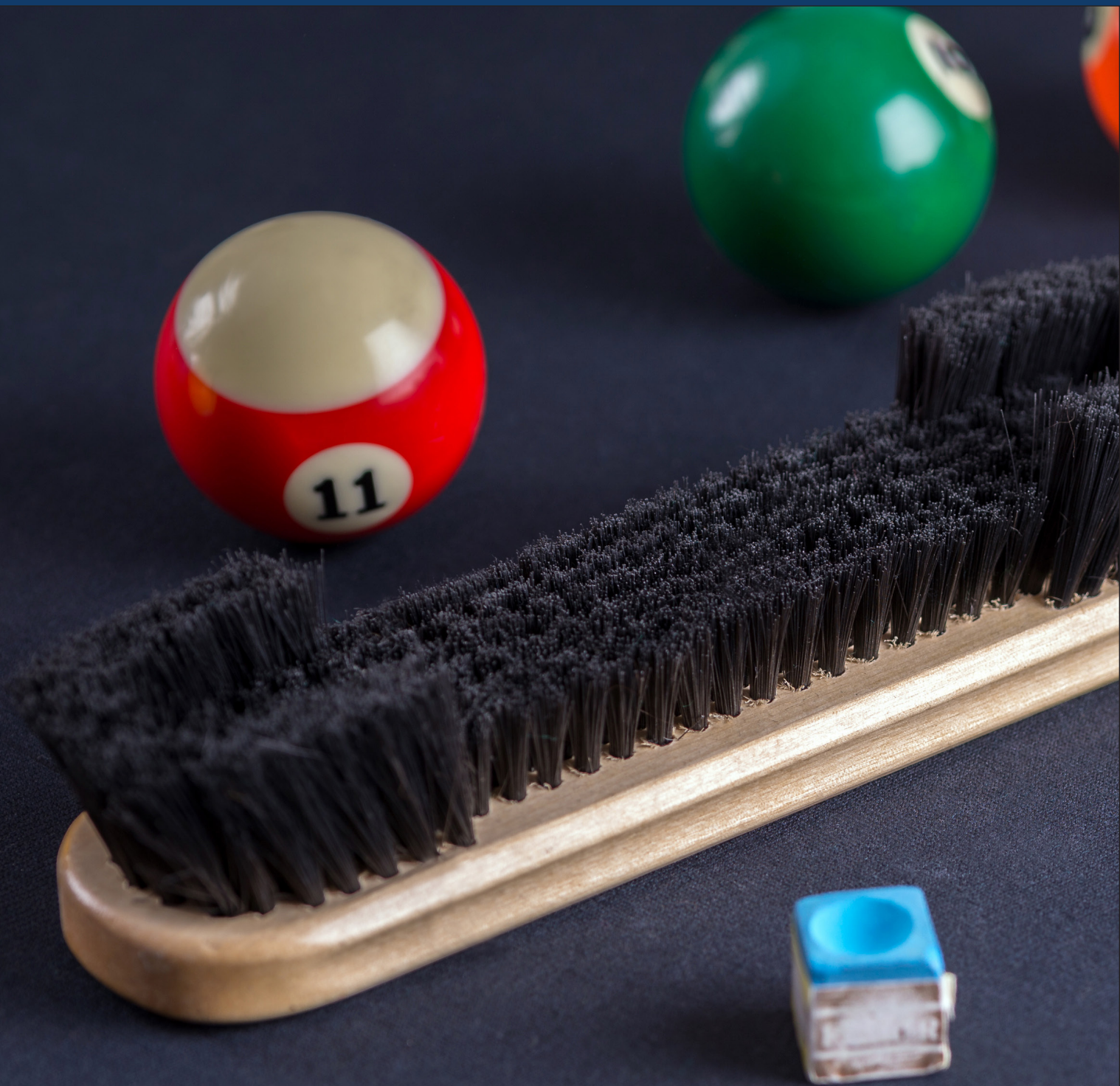


POOL TABLE CARE GUIDE

ENGLISH POOL



SAM
Leisure



1. An English pool table will likely have a wool, napped cloth. That is, a directional cloth, smooth running away from the baulk end and rough, against the nap on the way back up the table. It is essential this cloth is brushed with the nap, down the table. For American pool, forget about brushing the right way, ironing and marking the 'D'. The cloth is 'speedcloth'. It has a high nylon content and no 'direction' to the fibres. The balls run fast in every direction.
2. A daily brush and vacuum will reduce wear, chalk dust is sharp and cuts cloth. Because speedcloth has no nap, it does not shed fibres like wool cloth. Therefore stains will not reduce with brushing. However, the cloth will not wear out as quickly and will not cut and nick. Using the correct colour chalk will obviously help to reduce marking.
3. Within a short time, new speedcloth will show white spots. These are impact marks from dropped balls or cue stabs, or even melt marks where spinning balls heat to a high temperature. The cloth is not worn out. Over time these marks will become less evident. Wool cloth may 'pill' or go bobbly. More common with cheaper cloth, but a feature of all wool fabrics.
4. Regular use of a cloth cleaner will help with stains. After brushing, mist on the spray and wipe with a clean cloth. Sponging with water will generally only dilute and spread a stain.
5. English pool has a variety of rule sets, some require a baulk line other a 'D' as well. Always check what the house rules are!
6. Periodic cleaning and polishing the balls is advisable for both visual and practical reasons. Use a specialist ball polish like Diamond or Aramith.
7. Use the cue rack, cues lying on tables or leaning against walls look untidy and will warp. Check the tips are intact, removing damaged cues. Always roughen up a new cue tip with sandpaper to help it take chalk.
8. Inspect the canopy/lighting. Ensure all the bulbs are working, the light is cast effectively over the playing surface, and there is no evident damage that may detract from a player's enjoyment, or present any danger.