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SPECIAL EDITION: CUE TIP OF THE WEEK ETIQUETTE & GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

It is important to understand and adhere to the rules of etiquette when it comes to playing pool (or anything in life, really). Some of these rules might be obvious and others not so obvious – but a friendly reminder can be very helpful, especially during the holidays when tensions can rise a bit...

- Stay away from the table if it is not your turn. Do not walk around to look at the balls, do not go up and grab the cube chalk, and do not stand in your opponent's line of sight or walk across his or her line of sight.
- Watch the space around the table, too. Look behind you before you shoot to make sure you aren't going to back into another player or hit them with your cue stick. Do not walk behind someone who is taking a shot.
- Greet your opponent at the beginning of the match and shake his or her hand at the end of the match. Don't walk away bragging too much about your win or pouting too much because you are a sore loser.
- Volume control matters to some folks. We are all in a bar to have fun with our friends, so it might get a bit loud sometimes (and that is OKAY!); however, please pay attention, as it is not appropriate to scream suddenly when your opponent is on the 8-ball. Nor is it appropriate to say negative things about your opponents (especially if you are so loud that they can hear you) or cheer on a bad miss or a scratched ball.
- Don't waste time. Keep the matches moving by having your player ready at the very beginning of each set. Don't delay by going to smoke or get a drink or go to the bathroom when your opponent is ready and waiting to lag.
- Time outs should take no more than one minute. That's it, enough said!
- Your servers deserve some respect, too. Please speak to them kindly with "please" and "thank you" – and always tip them, even if it's just for water.
- Be a good sport. No matter what. We all want to meet people, play pool, and have fun. Don't take it too seriously. It's just a game.

EXCUSE OF THE WEEK! WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

"I couldn't see the table through all the tears." – Judy DeBos

Happy trails Judy. Safe travels and good luck with your new home in Florida!

