

CHAPTER II A VARIETY OF GAMES AND HOW THE SCORES ARE POSTED

The rules of the National Shuffleboard Association recognize two kinds of games classified as to the method of winning. They are known as the point game and the frame game.

THE POINT GAME

In this game there is a scoring level, set prior to the start of the game, that is called game point. The first player, or partners, to attain game point at the end of a half round is the winner. Officially, the games can be played with a game point of 50, 75, or 100 points.

When game point has been reached by one of the players before all eight discs have been shot, the play must continue until all of the discs have been shot in that half round. If both players happen to score at game point or above at the end of a half round, the player with the higher score is the winner even though both players' scores exceed the game point.

A shuffleboard game never ends in a draw. The tied score must be played off. "If a tie game results at game point or over, play is continued in regular rotation of play until one full round in singles or two full rounds in doubles are completed. At that time the side with the higher score wins, even if it has less than 75 points or the number of points specified as game point. If the score is tied again, play continues as above outlined."¹ This arrangement gives each player an equal number of hammers (last shots) in the play off.

Although it is not specifically stated in the national rules, this rule on drawn games is applied by general usage to frame games also.

THE FRAME GAME

The national rules authorize games of 8, 12, or 16 frames; but the rules do not offer a definition of the word frame. Although no one seems to have any difficulty determining when a frame game comes to an end, there are, nevertheless, diverse ideas as to the meaning

of frame. The author of this work has attempted to formulate a definition of frame from the context of this word in shuffleboard literature, and believes that the following discussion is logical and in agreement with the use of the term as it is applied to the game in general.

In this work, the word frame will be used with two meanings: 1. One of the squares on the scoreboard in which a score is written will be designated as a frame. This is in agreement also with the use of the word in other sports as, for instance, in bowling. 2. It follows, then, that an 8-frame game must be a game in which each player will have eight entries on the scoreboard. At the end of an 8-frame singles game, there will be sixteen scores on the scoreboard; at the end of an 8-frame doubles game, there will be thirty-two scores on the scoreboard. Hence, the definition: A frame is that portion of a game of shuffleboard, begun at the head of the court, that gives each player one entry on the scoreboard. In other words, a frame is that part of a game in which each player has shot four discs.

OTHER FORMS OF THE GAME

Four different games, classified as to the number of players, are regularly played. They are:

1. Doubles: Four players in the game and four players on the court;
2. Nonwalking singles: Two players in the game and four players on the court;
3. Walking singles: Two players in the game and two players on the court;
4. Round robin: Three players in the game and three players on the court.

The first three of these games can be played either as a point game or a frame game; round robin is a point game. Games 1 and 3 are the only ones that are recognized in the national shuffleboard rules.

SCORING A DOUBLES GAME

In a doubles game there are four players on the court, two opponents at each end. The part-

¹ Rule E-4, National Shuffleboard Association.

ners play on the same side of the court at opposite ends and shoot the same discs back and forth.

In the first half round of play, Yellow and Black at the head of the court shoot alternately four discs each. Yellow shoots first. Assume their scores to be Yellow 0 and Black 8. Their scores are posted at the top of the first two columns. Notice these details in Figure 5:

	Y	B	Y	B
Y	0	8	7	16
B	14	24	22	24
Y				
B				
Y				
B				
Y				
B				

Figure 5

	Y	B	Y	B
Y	0	8	7	8
B	7	16	15	8
Y				
B				
Y				
B				
Y				
B				

Figure 6

1. The two yellow areas at the top of the scoreboard indicate that the scores of the players of the yellow discs will be posted in those columns.

2. The yellow areas at the left of the alternate rows of frames indicate that the players of the yellow discs will shoot first when playing those frames.

3. The black areas at the top and the left of the scoreboard give similar information about the players of the black discs.

Now at the foot of the court, Yellow and Black will play the next half round, also shooting alternately four discs each. Yellow shoots first at the foot also in the first round of play. Their scores, Yellow 7 and Black 8, are added to their partners' scores and the sums, 7 and 16, are posted in their respective columns as shown.

Since each player has scored once up to this point, it is correct to say, if this is a frame game, that one frame has been played. If this is a point game, it is correct to say at this time that one round has been played.

Now the players at the head will begin the

second frame or round. Notice that the second row of frames on the scoreboard is beside a black area; therefore, Black plays first this time at both the head and the foot.

Assume that the scores at the head of the court are Yellow 7 and Black 8. These scores will be added to the total scores for the game; and the sums, 14 and 24, will be posted in the first two frames of the second row as shown. The scoreboard also shows that the partners at the foot of the court scored Yellow 8 and Black 0, giving a total of 22 to 24 at the end of the second round of play. The scoring of the game continues in this manner.

SCORING A NONWALKING SINGLES GAME

The nonwalking singles game consists of two different singles games on one court. One of these games is played at the head; the other, simultaneously, at the foot. This is the only form of shuffleboard in which a game can start at the foot of the court. This game is not recognized in the national rules; but, because it affords an efficient use of court space, it is a very popular form of the game, especially in league play. League tournaments for both men and women are often held in which nonwalking singles games are played. In the nonwalking singles, all the applicable rules for doubles as well as singles are enforced.

Since there are four players on the court when nonwalking singles are being played, a spectator cannot distinguish these games from a game of doubles, unless he follows the postings on the scoreboard. The sequence of plays and the scores might be exactly the same in two nonwalking singles games as those in the doubles game that was discussed above, and in these particular games we shall assume that they are the same. Compare figures 5 and 6. The difference is that in the nonwalking singles games the players at each end of the court are playing independently of each other, and their scores are not added together. Although each player's scores are kept in the same set of frames on the scoreboard as before, each score is added to the score directly above rather than to the partner's score.

There is a difference, too, in the numbering of frames and rounds. The scoreboard shown in Figure 5 shows two frames or two rounds of play in a doubles game. In Figure 6 the scoreboard shows two frames or one round of play for each of the singles games. If this seems confusing, compare with the following game, walking singles.

SCORING A WALKING SINGLES GAME

We shall use Figure 6 to illustrate the scoring in this kind of game also. In this game only two players are on the court; consequently, there are only two columns of scores. The scores will be posted in the two left-hand columns.

The players shoot their first frame or half round from the head of the court, Yellow shooting first. The score is Yellow 0, Black 8, as shown. Then the players walk to the foot of the court and shoot the discs back, Black shooting first. Assume that their scores are Yellow 7 and Black 8. These scores are added to the previous scores, and the sums are posted as Yellow 7, Black 16. And now, two frames or one round has been played, depending on whether it has been a frame game or a point game.

This may clear up any confusion that may seem to exist in the numbering of the rounds of a nonwalking singles game. One simply remembers that, as far as the scoreboard is concerned, the nonwalking singles game is identical to the walking singles game.

THE ROUND ROBIN GAME

Round robin (not to be confused with a form of tournament by the same name) is an interesting fun game for three players. This game is not so competitive as the doubles or singles games, but it gives the odd player a chance to participate when a foursome is not available. The scores are kept individually in three columns with the player's initials at the head of each column. It is a point game, with game point usually set at 75.

The game begins with two players at the head and one at the foot of the court. Yellow always plays first at both ends of the court. After eight discs have been shot from the head of the court, Black posts the scores while Yellow walks to the foot where he will shoot the yellow discs again against the player at the foot.

After eight discs have been shot from the foot of the court, the lone player at the head posts the scores while Black walks to the head of the court where he will shoot the black discs again. The players continue to change positions in a counterclockwise direction until the score of one of the players reaches game point.