

THE RED BARON SPEAKS

January 2011 ó Larry Creakbaum

I survived Houston in good shape, but it was a sixteen hour adventure on the airlines from Hobby to Indianapolis .I left the hotel about 8:00 for a 10:50 AM departure to Atlanta and a connection to Indianapolis with a scheduled arrival Time of 4:26 PM. We boarded and the flight left Hobby as scheduled. About thirty minutes into the flight the captain announced that we had a malfunctioning valve in the bleed air system which controls the pressurization and the deice systems of the aircraft and we were going to divert to Intercontinental for repairs. We deplaned the aircraft and my walker was brought up from the baggage compartment as I gate check it at the aircraft door and use my cane to get to my seat. About an hour later we reboarded for flight continuation as it was supposedly fixed. At the end of the runway the captain announced it still did not work and the flight was cancelled and to go to the ticket counter for rebooking.



Having to wait for my walker put me last in line with one little counter agent trying to rebook seventy passengers, although I think several passengers did not reboard the first time and several more went someplace else the second time we returned. The average rebooking was about ten minutes and about three hours later I was fourth in line. The little gal in front was being returned to Hobby the next morning to start over, had no money, and was given vouchers for a cab, meals, and a hotel room which she did not no how to use. Forty five minutes of explanation later she went on her puzzled way. In the middle of this I finally spoke up and said I was a õnonrevö and could they do something. We had been asked earlier to move our line over so they could board a Detroit flight. The agent on that flight was still there and she looked at him and said õroll him over.ö I was put on a flight to Memphis and arrived in Indianapolis after 11:00. At Indianapolis I discovered the brake handle on my walker missing which I know was there at Memphis as I use it to steady myself on the jet way, but that is another story.

I have spoken about the rules from time to time and I think the time has come for a long discussion. A year ago at Houston I had asked where the rules were and was told they are in the computer. This year at Houston I saw the rules laying on the sign in table, asked for a copy, and they were promptly provided. Thank you director. I also discovered a set on the internet for the Texas open and also American Shuffleboard.

Rules for new players and when a board is installed at a new location are very necessary. I have seen very few arguments over the years on rules, but when they occur they are humdingers. Rules are not needed for players who have played for years, or are they.

One argument I heard about was when a player with both feet behind the deuce line per the rules reached and placed the weight across the foul line. The other player called him for an illegal shot. After the two had temporarily calmed down the second player did the same not keeping both feet behind the deuce line and the argument resumed. According to the rules, both players shot an

illegal shot as all the rules state the weight must be released before the foul line and cross the foul line with its own momentum.

The Shuffleboard Federation (SF), Table Shuffleboard Association (TSA), Houston Holiday Open (HHO), and the Texas Open (TO) have published rules available. There are probably more out there but this is enough to identify what I consider as the major differences between the rules. I have tried to analyze each and bring out the major differences. If you're a nit picker do not read because I know I missed a lot of little things. I would like to see agreement on one set and then if and event promoter wants to change something they may do so in either their flyer or by a written addendum at the beginning of the event.

I guess we could call the TSA the rules and the program and rules book put out at Reno the notification of change but is it realistic for every player to go a day early to read thru the program every year looking for changes? A date on the cover or front page to date the rules and then when a change is made a date on that page of the rules along with the cover page would work.

Following is my review except for American Shuffleboard is not included because they fail to cover a lot of things. I use TSA rules as a base and state the differences of the other rules. I used TSA as they are written for all events and not one location. The numbers are the paragraphs in the TSA rules so you need to go to the TSA web site at tableshuffleboardassociation.org, scroll down a half a page, click on the rules, and print them out. SF puts out a program rules book every year and HHO is available but not on a web site that I have found.

None of the rules except American say if the penalty points are subtracted from the offender or added to his opponent. American says subtracted from the offender.

1.2 SF Separates physical and verbal penalties. Physical, immediately disqualified and verbal two point penalty but is it subtracted from the offender or added to his opponent's score?

TO---makes no mention for continued violation

HHO- #17-One warning, 2nd time penalty point, no mention of continued violation.

1.7 SF--Removed from SF in 09

TO has the pre 09 wording.

HHO Wording is different in #8 but I guess you could say it means the same thing.

2.0 TSA & SF says about the same thing but are organized different. All the sub points read the same but the order could be reworked to be the same.

2.1 Only TSA has the board length and width specified. I seem to remember measuring some boards in my career and they ran from 19 to 22. This does not include the 15, 16 & 34 board I have played. Adding the word approximately would allow for shrinking or expanding as necessary. It also be stated in an addendum to a particular location.

2.7 Waxing the board by container could be made a specific rule of the event. It will not be easy to retrain the whole country in something they have been doing for years. This is the most violated rule there is. If used, there should be a holder on each end of the board for the container and players should insure they are full at start of the game.

Waxing by hand from the trough needs some definition. There is definitely a difference between a pinch between the forefinger and the thumb and broadcasting a triple hand full that gets in a spectator's beverage two tables from the boards. In large events it is not a problem, but in local events the owner needs to insure the trough is cleaned of old powder the morning of the event

TSA states by a method designated by the officials while TO, SF, & HHO say use a container.

3.0 & 4.0 Roll call and substitutions are not part of shuffleboard rules and are specific to each event

5.0 Minor differences. Looks like we could agree.

6.4 SF has 6.4 & 6.5 reversed but both TSA & SF say if you throw the first weight out of turn you loose the hammer. HHO says the third weight and TO say the third weight and you clear the board and start over. This is why an event needs written rules. I have seen arguments start on this one. By the way American says first weight.

On a different subject none of the rules say what to do if you throw your opponents weight. American states you replace it with the correct weight which is the common practice.

7.0 Again the paragraphs are organized different but 7.4 for TSA, SF & TO state you do not have to allow your opponent to use the other half of your weights where HHO in rule 20 states your opponent has the option to use your weights.

8.1 TSA states any weight may be called only at the end of a frame. SF & TO state a leading weight is called at end of a frame but is not clear on if a 2 or 3 may be called in the middle of a frame. HHO does not indicate when a call can be made.

9.0 The second most violated rule of the game. The whole section needs to be rewritten. The way it is now only and official with a stop watch can call it.

10.0 Lots of different wording and paragraph organization make it difficult to compare.

10.4 (10.5 SF & TO) All state the weight must be released before the foul line. HHO also adds the hand may never cross the foul line (22). All the rules say the weight must cross the foul line.

11.0 This rule causes a lot of discussion at events. The TSA & HHO rules clearly state if a weight made safe is shot at and falls off before being hit, the weight comes back on the board and the shot replayed. SF & TO make no mention of this.

12.0 Team events have many sheets with different rules at different locations. All I can say is you better get a copy of the sheet and read it before the match starts as in the middle of the match is a poor time to read it.

Now that I have totally confused the issue, have fun. Some day we need one set of rules with every location putting out an addendum for their location. I am tired of hearing "we play by my rules" or "they are in the computer".