

# Ask Allison

by Allison Fisher



**H**i, everyone. This month I am going to answer questions that I have received through my website. If you have any questions concerning pool for me to answer, just e-mail me at [askallison@allisonfisher.com](mailto:askallison@allisonfisher.com), and I'll try to answer the most interesting and insightful ones in this column each month.

What do you mean by good technique?

I am referring to being proficient with your mechanics. Players who have great habits at the table become very consistent. Also, if you repeat everything you do on each shot (pre-shot routine), you can generally find reasons why you may be missing certain shots. Conversely, if you are aware of what you are doing, you know how it feels when everything is good.

How can you learn to see the angle at pool?

I have a few ways that I teach this.

- Use the ghost ball method. You imagine a ball behind the object ball in line with the intended pocket and aim your cue ball at the contact point.
- Imagine a line going from the cue ball to the point on the object ball where you want to contact it.
- Personally, as I sight down my cue, I imagine the part of the cue ball I want to cover the part of the object ball, so I am looking at where the two balls will collide. I can visualize a line from the point on the cue ball that will make contact to the contact point on the object ball.

Why do you have your chin on the cue?

From a very young age I learned the importance of keeping your head still during and after the shot. I overdid it at first to the point that I was barely able to move the cue (very painful and not recommended). I am not actually aware that it touches the cue until someone points it out. In my Snooker training, we learned to have our chin on the cue to help with sighting. It is

much like looking down a rifle barrel. It gives me clearer vision of the whole shot ahead, from the shaft to the tip and cue ball to the object ball.

How do I find out about the WPBA? I may want to someday play in events.

There is a website where you can get more information:

[www.wpba.com](http://www.wpba.com). There are regional tours across the country, and I recommend that you try to qualify to play in a professional event. With any sport it is important to work your way up the ladder. I started by playing people in a local club, and then I joined a league when I was 13 years old. I played league Snooker for three years whilst entering national events. Once I outgrew league events, I wanted to progress to tournament play. I started out on a national level and then gradually went to international tournaments. The good thing about working your way up is that you grow in confidence every step of the way. If I had gone from being a beginner to try-

ing to qualify for professional events, I may have had my confidence taken away. There are some people, however who like to stay in their comfort zone but it is hard to get better that way. This is why some players never progress.

Can you explain the pendulum stroke?

Your cueing forearm should be at a 90-degree angle to the cue when addressing the cue ball. This allows you to take a back swing, contact the cue ball at the 90-degree angle and continue accelerating through the ball with a good follow through to finish the stroke. It is the same in many sports where we take a back swing, contact the ball in a sweet spot, and continue the delivery beyond the contact of the ball.

*Continued on page 92*



Allison Fisher demonstrates the correct way to shoot a ball from off the rail.

How do you improve at hitting the cue ball when it is frozen to the rail? Do you adjust your stance and bridge?

If I have the cue ball frozen to the rail, I do make adjustments. First, I move my stance in a little toward the table. The reason is that my bridge hand is closer to the cue ball. Then I move my rear hand further forward on the cue, as my front hand is closer to the ball. I try to still create my 90-degree angle I mentioned in the last question. I also like to lean my weight forward toward the table by bending my front left arm raising the butt of my cue slightly to avoid miscuing. Because the rails on a Diamond table are slightly different than the rails on a Brunswick Gold Crown, you must raise the butt a little higher on the Diamond table.

Thanks for reading and I hope these tips help your game. ♦

*Considered by many to be the leading lady in women's pool today, Allison Fisher started her illustrious pool career by winning the World Snooker Championship at the age of 17. She continued playing snooker and living in England for the next ten years, accumulating a stunning array of titles. In 1995, Allison relocated to the U.S., where her domination continues on the women's pro tour. She currently resides in Charlotte, NC, and has recently become a BCA-certified instructor. Her countless collection of awards, titles, and championships have made Allison one of the most popular and well-respected players in the game today.*

cue ball control.

There are four different draw strokes: The follow-through draw, the snap-back draw, the snip draw, and the bounce-back draw. Each stroke moves the cue ball to a different location. There will be times when you will win or lose depending on which draw stroke you use. You must master each of these draw strokes.

If you have not successfully completed Stage Two of your journey, you should see your house pro and get some help with the four strokes of pool. Make sure you acquire all the tools necessary to assure a safe and peaceful journey towards pocket billiards excellence. Pass through The Monk's Four Stages of pocket billiards and meet me in the finals. ♦

*Tim Miller, known all over the world as "The Monk," has authored several books and is considered one of the industry's elite instructors. Tim's instructional columns have been featured on many of the pool world's top websites. He is currently traveling through the U.S. with his revolutionary "Monk 101" tour, which consists of a series of workshops designed to help players of all levels improve their game.*

**See why you are missing!**

Answers  
To A  
Pool Player's  
Prayers

Richard Kranicki

**ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!**

Send \$29.95 plus \$3.00 shipping & handling to  
Richard Kranicki  
247 Dickinson Street • Philadelphia, PA 19147-6003  
[www.1stbooks.com/bookview/4727](http://www.1stbooks.com/bookview/4727)

**THE POOL SCHOOL™**  
JERRY BRIESATH  
ACADEMIC DEAN

**How many years have you  
been playing pool?  
In two days you can play 50%  
better.**

By now you probably know the occasional joy of playing pool somewhere near your potential. Ever said to yourself, "What I wouldn't give to play like this all the time"? Now you can.

Come to the New Pool School and work with one of the great teachers in the world. Stay for two to five days, whatever suits your schedule. Session enrollment will be limited to 4, so instruction can be best tailored to your individual needs. Previous students have claimed immediate improvements averaging 50%, often much higher.

Call or write for details. And find out, once and for all, how well you can really play.

**The Pool School**  
N. 2774 Summerville Park Rd., Lodi, WI 53555  
**608-592-4255**  
[thepoolschool.com](http://thepoolschool.com) or [poollessons.com](http://poollessons.com)