The 30° Rule
by Dr. Dave, from the book: “The Illustrated Principles of Pool and Billiards”

billiards.colostate.edu

If you let one finger stay,
The other finger points the way.
Peace.

If you don’t know the 30° rule yet, learning it can truly transform your game. The 30° rule helps you predict the path of the cue ball after impact with an object ball. This is a very important skill to have for helping you prevent scratches, plan break-up and avoidance shots, and execute carom and billiards shots. It is also critical in being able to play precision position … the skill that separates the great players from the good ones.

When the cue ball is rolling when it hits the object ball, and when the cut angle is between a 1/4-ball and 3/4-ball hit, the cue ball’s path will be deflected by approximately 30°.

You can use a relaxed but firm peace sign (V-sign) to visualize and apply the 30° rule:

For more information, see the April-July '04 and Feb-June '05 instructional articles and the following video demonstrations on the website:

NV B.66 – The 30-degree rule, from VEPS I
NV B.75 – 30-degree rule natural-angle examples, from VEPS III