

Supporting narrated video (NV) demonstrations, high-speed video (HSV) clips, technical proofs (TP), and all of my past articles can be accessed and viewed online at billiards.colostate.edu. The reference numbers used in the articles help you locate the resources on the website. If you have a slow or inconvenient Internet connection, you might want to view the resources from a CD-ROM or DVD. Details can be found online at: dr-dave-billiards.com.

This is the eighth in a series of articles dealing with the Billiard University (BU). The mission of the BU is to provide assessment tools, a rating system, and learning resources to help pool players strive for and achieve excellence, and to officially acknowledge excellence through the awarding of diplomas (Bachelors, Masters, or Doctorate of Pool). Canadian instructor Randy Russell and I cofounded the BU with support from the following “dream team” of well-known and respected instructors: Jerry Briesath, Mark Finkelstein, Randy Goettlicher, Bob Jewett, Mike Page, Tom Simpson, and Mark Wilson. Online videos **NV D.1-D.6** explain every step of the BU process and demonstrate the BU playing-ability exams, which are available for free on the BU website: BilliardUniversity.org. **NV D.7-D.14** include excerpts from the 3-DVD BU Instructional Series that provides advice for improving your fundamentals, teaches useful aiming systems for various types of shots, and offers “hot tips” for how to do well on the exams. In the last two months, we looked at 8-ball and 9-ball run-out patterns for drills S3 and S4 in the Skills Exam (Exam II). This month, we’ll cover the safety drill S5.

Diagram 1 shows the setup for Drill S5 in the Masters level of Exam II. The goal is to hide the 1 ball from the cue ball (CB) using the cluster of nine balls as blockers. You are allowed to contact the rack of balls, but all of them must remain within or overlapping the rectangle target. A template for the target can be printed from the BU website. You get two attempts from each CB position. There are five different CB positions in the Masters version of the exam, for a total possible number of points of 10 (1 for each of the 2 shots at each of the 5 positions). There are fewer CB positions in the Bachelors version of the exam, and there are additional (and more challenging) CB positions in the Doctorate version.

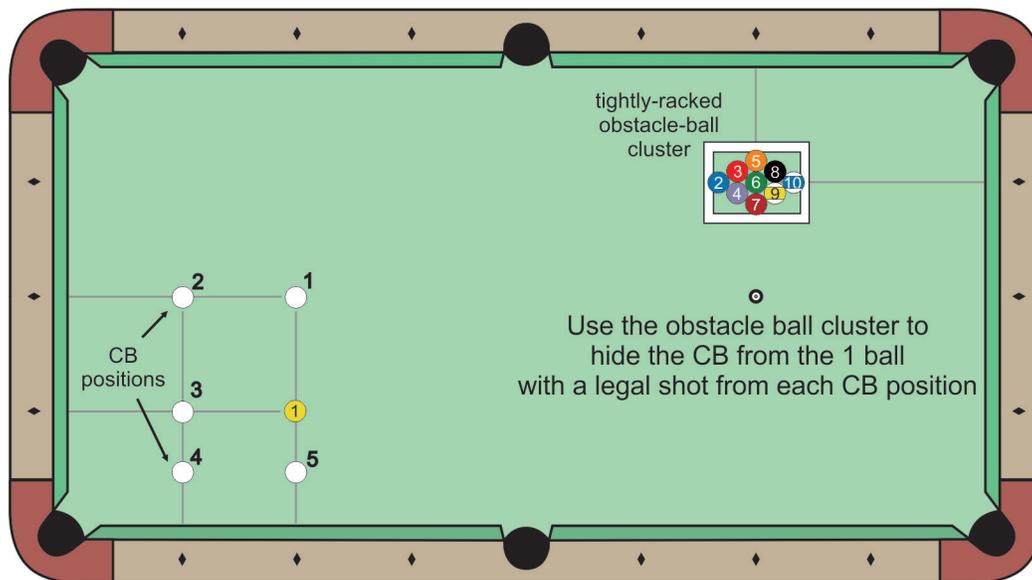


Diagram 1 S5 – Safety Drill

Diagram 2 shows the recommended shots for CB positions 1 and 2. The natural-english rolling-CB shot shown for CB position 1 is definitely the most natural approach. The thin cut on the second shot, with a significant amount of sidespin, might not be the most reliable for all people (especially those who don’t have much experience using sidespin), but it is also fairly natural. FYI, all of the shots recommended in this article are

demonstrated in Youtube video youtu.be/PRC-jFHQaf4, which is a recent attempt of mine at the complete Exam II. Check it out. I wasn't perfect on the safeties, but I did fairly well.

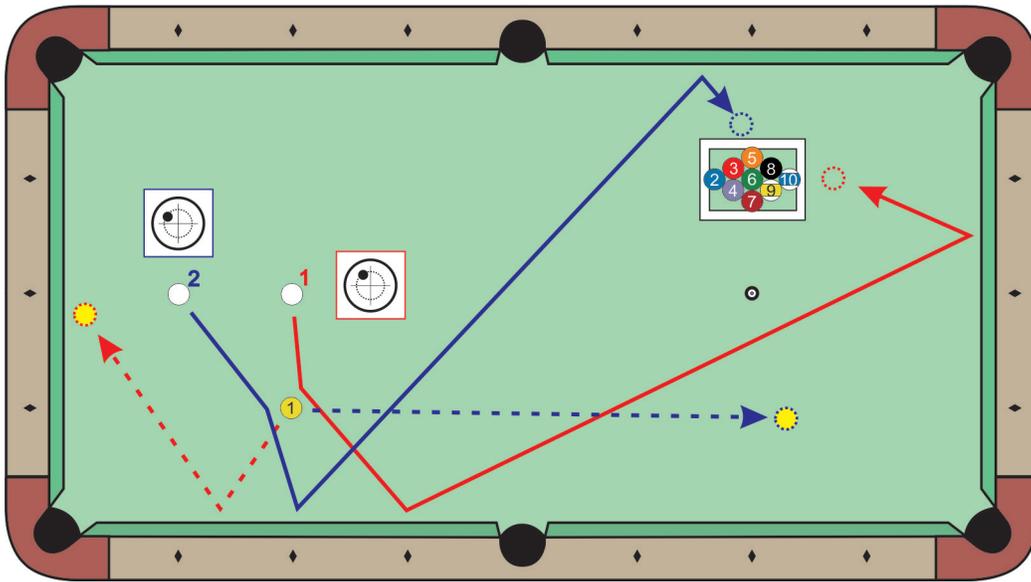


Diagram 2 Recommended shots for CB positions 1 and 2

Diagram 3 shows the recommended shots for CB positions 3 and 4. These are both natural-angle rolling-CB shots. All you need to control and focus on is the shot speed, which is often the case with safety shots. The shot from position 3 requires about a 1/4-ball hit to get the best angles and ball-speed proportions.

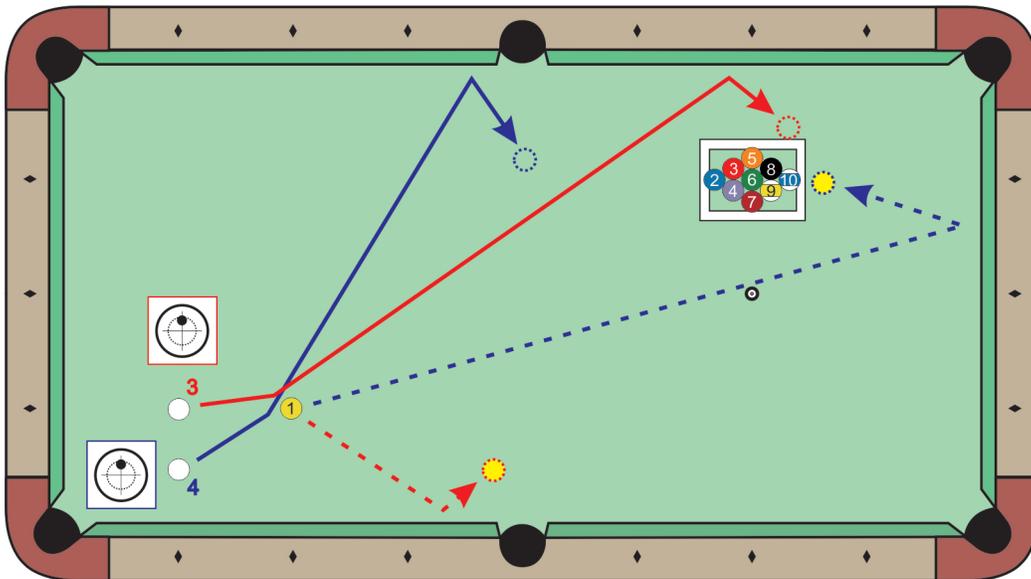


Diagram 3 Recommended shots for CB positions 3 and 4

Diagram 4 shows the recommended shot for CB position 5. Here, you don't want the CB to be rolling completely, because if it were it would head in the 30° rule direction. Here, the CB must swing out wider than the natural-angle direction to hide behind the ball cluster. An above-center hit is required, but not high enough to create full CB roll. The cut is about a 1/2-ball hit. If you are not familiar with the 30° rule, see the [30° rule resource page](#) in the FAQ section at billiards.colostate.edu. This is a very-important and easy-to-apply principle of pool.

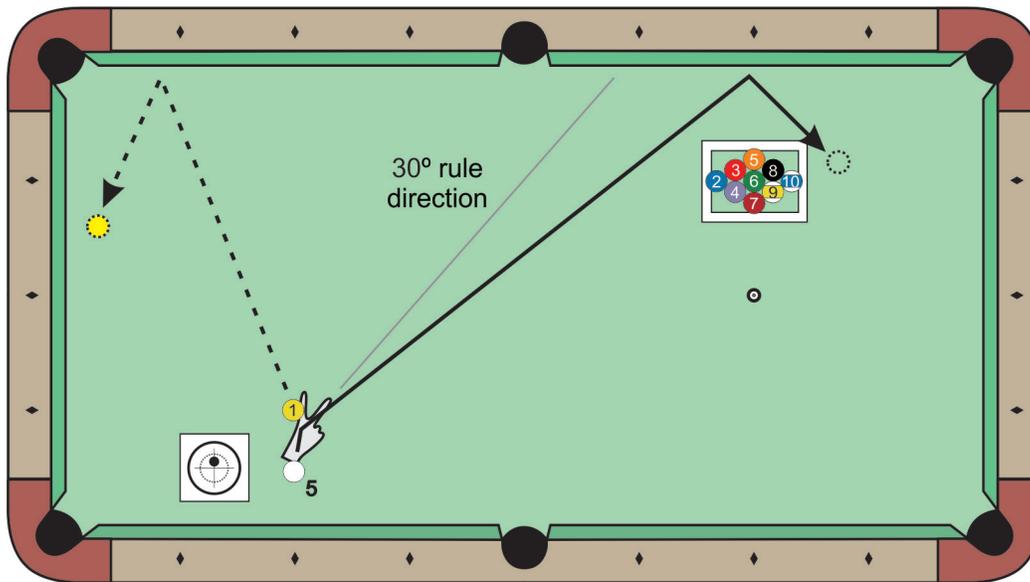


Diagram 4 Recommended shots for CB position 5

You should try different options for each shot to determine which might be more reliable and consistent for you. And if you are ready for an additional challenge, try the Doctorate-level CB positions. Online video **NV D.12** demonstrates several options for each shot in each version of the exam. Try them all, and try to think of alternative approaches. This will help you improve your safety skills along with the decision-making judgment required in defensive game situations.

If you haven't taken the BU playing-ability and rating exams yet, give them a try. They provide a fun, challenging, and efficient pool workout to help you develop and improve the full range of pool skills necessary to be a good player. Everything you need to prepare for and take the exams is available for free at BilliardUniversity.org. It's time to see where you rank so you can set a goal to graduate your game to the next level.

Good luck with your game,
Dean Dave

- [NV D.1](#) – BU - Part 1: Introduction - overview of the BU process for earning a pool diploma
- [NV D.2](#) – BU - Part 2: Table Setup - preparing to practice and take the BU exams
- [NV D.3](#) – BU - Part 3: Video Recording - recording official exam runs for online submittal
- [NV D.4](#) – BU - Part 4: Exam I Overview - demonstrations and scoring of the Fundamentals Exam
- [NV D.5](#) – BU - Part 5: Exam II Overview - demonstrations and scoring of the Skills Exam
- [NV D.6](#) – BU - Part 6: Submittal and Wrap Up - applying for a BU diploma online
- [NV D.7](#) – Pool Fundamentals - The Stance - from Vol-I of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.8](#) – Stun Shot Drill - from Vol-II of the Billiard University instructional DVD series
- [NV D.9](#) – How to Aim Pool Shots - from Vol-II of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.10](#) – Draw Shot Trisect Aiming System - from Vol-II of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.11](#) – Cue Ball Control Target Pool Drill - from Vol-II of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.12](#) – Safety Drill - from Vol-III of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.13](#) – Kick Shot Aiming Systems - from Vol-III of the BU instructional DVD series
- [NV D.14](#) – Pool Break Technique Advice - from Vol-III of the BU instructional DVD series



PS:

- If you are a pool instructor and are interested in becoming involved with the BU, check out the “[Instructor How-To Guide](#)” in the instructor section at BilliardUniversity.org.

- Every July, we hold a BU Summer School Boot Camp in Colorado. If you want to raise your game to the next level, consider attending. Details are available at BilliardUniversity.org. I hope to see you there.
- I know other authors and I tend to use lots of terminology, and I know not all readers are totally familiar with these terms. If you ever come across a word or phrase you don't fully understand, please refer to the [online glossary](http://online.glossary) at billiards.colostate.edu.

Dr. Dave is author of “[The Illustrated Principles of Pool and Billiards](#)” book and DVD, and co-author of the “[Video Encyclopedia of Pool Shots \(VEPS\)](#),” “[Video Encyclopedia of Pool Practice \(VEPP\)](#),” and “[Billiard University \(BU\)](#)” instructional DVD series.