

Video Encyclopedia of One Pocket (VEOP)

Strategy Summary

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General

1. Always consider all shot options (and opponent replies) before deciding!
2. Try to accomplish as much as possible with every shot - play two-way and three-way shots when possible. But always give priority to the CB leave.
3. It is critical to know (based on your abilities) when to go for it and when to duck (defense vs. controlled aggression). Lean toward being aggressive/offensive in general to give yourself a better chance to win.
4. Be patient and be willing to play defensively. Patience, knowledge, and creativity are just as important as (or more important than) shot-making skill.
5. Be aggressive in general, especially when it is called for:
 - a. when your opponent has a big advantage in score and/or position (table layout).
 - b. when you are playing a better player since they probably have the edge with a long or tactical game.
 - c. when the shot is "free" with little or no risk.
 - d. when a good continuation shot is available.
 - e. when a miss is not too costly.
6. Be realistic and play the percentages within your skill level!!!
7. It is critical to know your opponent's capabilities to help guide your choices.
8. Always give special care to controlling the CB accurately!!! Every millimeter matters.
9. Try to create and maintain a favorable table "position" that favors you and presents threats to your opponent.
10. Don't force a "neat idea shot" you know if it isn't quite laying right.
11. Play the score:
 - a. know the score (i.e., pay attention concerning owed balls and spotting balls when required).
 - b. play conservatively and send balls out of play up table to protect a lead
 - c. be aggressive and keep or put balls in play when behind
12. Watch and learn from your opponent on every shot to predict future actions, notice results and weaknesses, and learn how the table responds (speed, roll-off, kick/bank angles, etc.).
13. On every shot you will have to balance risk and reward based on your own abilities and sometimes on the abilities of your opponent. If you consistently run into problems on certain kinds of shots, revise your strategy. And head to the practice table.

Offensive

1. Never pass up a chance to score, especially if the shot is "free," with little or no risk.
2. Don't take risky offensive shots. Balance the reward versus the risk.
3. When possible, offensive shots should have defensive components and a 2-way nature for the shot to have as much value as possible.
4. Don't be impatient and recklessly offensive, but always look for and take advantage of opportunities. You can't win without pocketing balls.
5. Move balls toward your pocket ... the nearer to the pocket, the better. Whenever you can safely move multiple balls toward your pocket, do it.
6. Use pocket speed to leave hangers in your pocket if you miss. A hanger is difficult for opponent to take out. A hanger also gives you a huge advantage for pocketing a ball while achieving something else.
7. Hit hanger combos to leave another hanger when possible.

8. Leave a ball on each rail close to your pocket to create a huge threat, especially if the CB is hidden.
9. Leave the CB in or behind the stack to protect balls in good position.
10. Use the stack to stop thin cuts, ideally to send balls to your side and to have a look at a ball (maybe an insurance ball) or to leave your opponent safe if you miss.
11. Bank shots with pocket speed are critically important in 1P, so you must practice them.
12. Bank a ball or kick into the stack to send ball(s) to your pocket and hide.
13. Kick balls toward your pocket, especially to move them from your opponent's pocket
14. Don't pocket a ball if the CB sends stack balls to your opponent's side.
15. When executing a tough bank, hide behind the stack so hopefully you have a follow-on shot and/or your opponent has no way to move the ball if you miss.
16. When the OB is near your opponent's pocket on the side rail, with the CB close to the end rail, go rail-first off the end cushion to bank the ball.
17. On any difficult offensive shot, try to protect the ball if it is missed by leaving the CB behind a ball or the stack.

Defensive

1. Almost any ball within a diamond of your opponent's pocket is an immediate danger. Remove it if you have no easy ball to pocket.
2. In very bad positions, you might need to accept a defensive shot that just gets you through the inning.
3. You can win without emphasizing offense, but your defense must be precise. Freeze the CB to a rail or a ball on every shot.
4. Before playing safe, always think about the best possible place to leave the CB for no good opponent reply.
5. Defensive shots should have offensive components (for example, maybe just moving a ball to your side) for the shot to have as much value as possible.
6. If your opponent is prone to get impatient and frustrated and take unnecessary risks, stick to defensive play and take fewer risks, not leaving anything for your opponent.
7. Smartly remove balls (especially multiple balls) from your opponent pocket area when possible.
8. Make it difficult for your opponent to reposition balls that favor you by leaving the CB behind the stack or behind other blocking balls.
9. Leave your CB on the head cushion to limit opponent options (e.g., draw), and to make shots as long and tough as possible; and in general, always try to leave the CB on any cushion to limit opponent options.
10. Leave the CB on an OB so your opponent must jack up to shoot a shot. This is even more effective than leaving the CB on a cushion.
11. Leave the CB behind balls in front of your opponent's pocket if you have no way to remove them.
12. Leave the CB in the stack to really limit opponent options.
13. If the balls have moved up table, try to freeze the CB on the foot rail for a safety making it hard for your opponent to get back there for a return safe.
14. Leave your opponent a long straight shot from the head rail that's guaranteed to leave you a shot if missed. This is a good pressure play.
15. Leave an open OB up table on your side to limit opponent offensive options.
16. Try to leave the CB frozen to (or very close to) obstacle balls.
17. Play an intentional foul if you have no good shot options, especially if you can leave your opponent tough.
18. Double up long combos to the opponent pocket as a safety up-table.
19. When your opponent has an advantage with balls close to his/her pocket, be willing to be risky in attempting to remove as many of those balls as possible to change the table position. Pay special attention to leaving the CB in a good place if you don't know where the removed balls will go, such as within a ball of your opponent's pocket.
20. If your opponent is weak in an area, such as banks or thin cuts, factor that in when playing safe.