

## Don't Get Snookered Again

# Strategies for Three-Reds-Only Snooker

By Abbie Tamber

Learning the rules of Snooker is hard enough, but figuring out what strategy to use in order to qualify is a bit more mystifying. Some time ago, I found myself in just such a predicament when Steve Medved saved the day by giving me the chart shown on the left side of the card. The chart is small enough to be carried in a wallet and the one he handed me was laminated.

The important information abbreviated on the card is: finishing the closing sequence is worth 27 points. A second chart that I added on the back of my card (see the right side of the card) indicates the point value if you conclude your closing sequence at a particular numbered obstacle. These charts can help you make wiser decisions when looking at ways to accumulate the needed 37 points to qualify (not for a Super-Q though) on any Snooker course that has only three reds.

When deciding on a strategy, you need to look at two things:

1. Whether your dog can make it through the closing sequence—performing those obstacles correctly and in time
2. What your options are in the opening

For example, if you know that your dog can complete all the obstacles in the closing sequence, you will earn 27 points:  $2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7$ . That means all you need is 10 points in the opening.

If you cannot do the closing sequence all the way through, however, the back of the card gives you the total points you will earn as you complete each closing obstacle.

**Example 1:** Suppose you want to try two 2-point obstacles and one 3-point obstacle in the opening sequence. What must you do in the closing to qualify?

- Two 2-point obstacles ( $2 \times 2 = 4$ ), one 3-point obstacle ( $1 \times 3 = 3$ ), and 3 reds ( $1 \times 3 = 3$ ) makes a total of 10 points in the opening.
- Completing #2 through #7 ( $2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7$ ) earns 27 points in the closing.
- Your total is 37 points.

**Example 2:** On the other hand, if you take all 7-point obstacles in the opening, to qualify you only have to make it through #5 in the closing.

- Three 7-point obstacles ( $7 \times 3 = 21$ ) and 3 reds ( $1 \times 3 = 3$ ) makes a total of 24 points in the opening.
- Completing #2 through #5 ( $2 + 3 + 4 + 5$ ) earns 14 points in the closing.
- Your total is 38 points.

I hope this helps others who get stressed in Snooker as well as those who are mathematically challenged. Don't let yourself get snookered again! 🐾

*Here's your own wallet size Snooker card. Make a copy of it then cut to size and fold in half.*

### Snooker Scoring

Need 37 points to qualify  
Closing sequence = 27 points

Opening	Closing	Total Value
10 pts.	Through #7	= 37 pts.
17 pts.	Through #6	= 37 pts.
23 pts.	Through #5	= 37 pts.
28 pts.	Through #4	= 37 pts.

Super-Q: Top 15%

### Closing Sequence

#7	= 27
#6	= 20
#5	= 14
#4	= 9
#3	= 5

Abbie Tamber and her JRT, MicroBurst, attained their ADCH in 2002 and have been named to the USDAA/USA team to compete at the second IFCS Agility World Championships. Abbie owns and operates Dogs on the Run, LLC in Oxford, New York and can be reached at [tambere@ascenet.net](mailto:tambere@ascenet.net).