

## SHUFFLING IN FLORIDA/SHUFFLING IN ARIZONA COMPARISON OR CONTRAST??

We have now been in Arizona for 2 months, just about long enough to find our "way to the courts"!! However; I thought it may be appropriate to comment on some of the similarities and some of the differences between the approach to the sport in Arizona and Florida. Since I have shuffled in FL for about 5 years, and in AZ for just over 5 weeks, my reference point must be my experience in FL. Further, the observations I will offer on AZ shuffling are based on my experience in Tucson, AZ~~I cannot attest to the applicability of my observations in other areas of AZ.

**Nuts and Bolts:** Terminology; **Courts in Florida equals Boards in Arizona; Cues in Florida equals Sticks in Arizona; Discs in Florida equals Pucks in Arizona; Beads in Florida equals Wax in Arizona. A kitchen in Florida is 10 Off; in Arizona it is 10 Down. In Florida you almost never have a match with either a referee or a scorekeeper; in Arizona you almost never have a match without both a referee and scorekeeper! ((I understand that this has changed.))**

**Speed of the Courts/Boards:** Let me say that the **Arizonians strive for and achieve a speed on the courts/boards which would be considered undesirable for the Floridian player!!** I will offer some examples of the normal behaviour of discs/pucks: In preparation for shooting, on many courts/boards it is impossible to keep the discs in your area of the 10 off/down area. It is impossible because the court is so smooth that the most minute imperfection in the surface allows the disc/puck to slide left or right or forward or back, which it regularly does. The AZ Rules allow the "parking" of the discs/pucks to the side or back. These imperfections, coupled with a highly cleaned, polished, and waxed surface, guarantees gyrations and motions from the disc/puck, which are almost beyond

explanation!! You may think you have a 10, you make think you have an 8~~just wait a few seconds and the counter may turn into a non-counter OR of course the reverse!!

**Let me make an observation at this point. To one who has grown accustomed to the relative predictability of the Florida courts, this "unusual" activity of the disc/puck is both confusing and frustrating.** It follows that the FL Player is likely to come to the conclusion that such action is undesirable. However; let me assure all, that the AZ Players view these oscillations, view these reversals of counting to non-counting, as an added challenge, a challenge that many have worked diligently to overcome.

It is my observation that fewer points are scored in a given duration of play. (I have avoided the use of terms here, hopefully to provide greater clarity). This may explain in part, the reason for frame games only in Arizona. **For our Arizona users, the standard match in Florida is 75 points~~first team or single to reach~~And, not a single game to 75 points, but rather a match is best 2 out of 3 75 point games. The standard in Arizona for a match is 1 16 frame game, 8 frames on one colour and 8 on the other.**

There are other difference/similarities which I will explore in subsequent articles. Do hope you will stay tuned, do hope that you will send me an email if you believe that I have erred, that I have been unfair, OR if you would like to suggest another area worthy of discussion. Send your email to [stanistheman\\_200@yahoo.com](mailto:stanistheman_200@yahoo.com) (Reporter Stan)

***The article above, although not dated at time of writing, was written on 2004 01 07.***