

Supporting narrated video (NV) demonstrations, high-speed video (HSV) clips, technical proofs (TP), and all past articles are available online at [drdavepoolinfo.com](http://drdavepoolinfo.com). Reference numbers used in the articles help you locate the resources on the website.

Do you want to practice important skills and get paid to do it? Enter the Billiard University (BU) Playing Ability Exam Draw and Follow Drill online Challenge. The Challenge was recently announced and described in detail in online video [NV L.127](#). Money prizes ranging from \$100-\$500 will be awarded to 10 different people for a total purse of \$3,000, so there is a good chance to get in the money. And even if you don't place, simply participating earns you a 25% off coupon code at [DrDaveBilliardTshirts.com](http://DrDaveBilliardTshirts.com). Visit the Challenge page ([drdavepoolinfo.com/challenge/bu-draw-follow-challenge/](http://drdavepoolinfo.com/challenge/bu-draw-follow-challenge/)) for all details and the current standings. Be sure to enter before September 30 to be eligible for the prizes. You can enter for free as many times as you want.

The Challenge drills are two new additions to the BU Exams, which are a collection of scored drills that assess and give you practice with all important pool skills. There are eight different Exams to test you in different areas. As shown in **Image 1** from the online video, your total score on Exams I and II (the “BU Score” in the first column) can be used to rate your level of play relative to FargoRate (third column) and other common player rating systems (the remainder of the table). See the [ratings resource page](#) at [drdavepoolinfo.com](http://drdavepoolinfo.com) for more information.

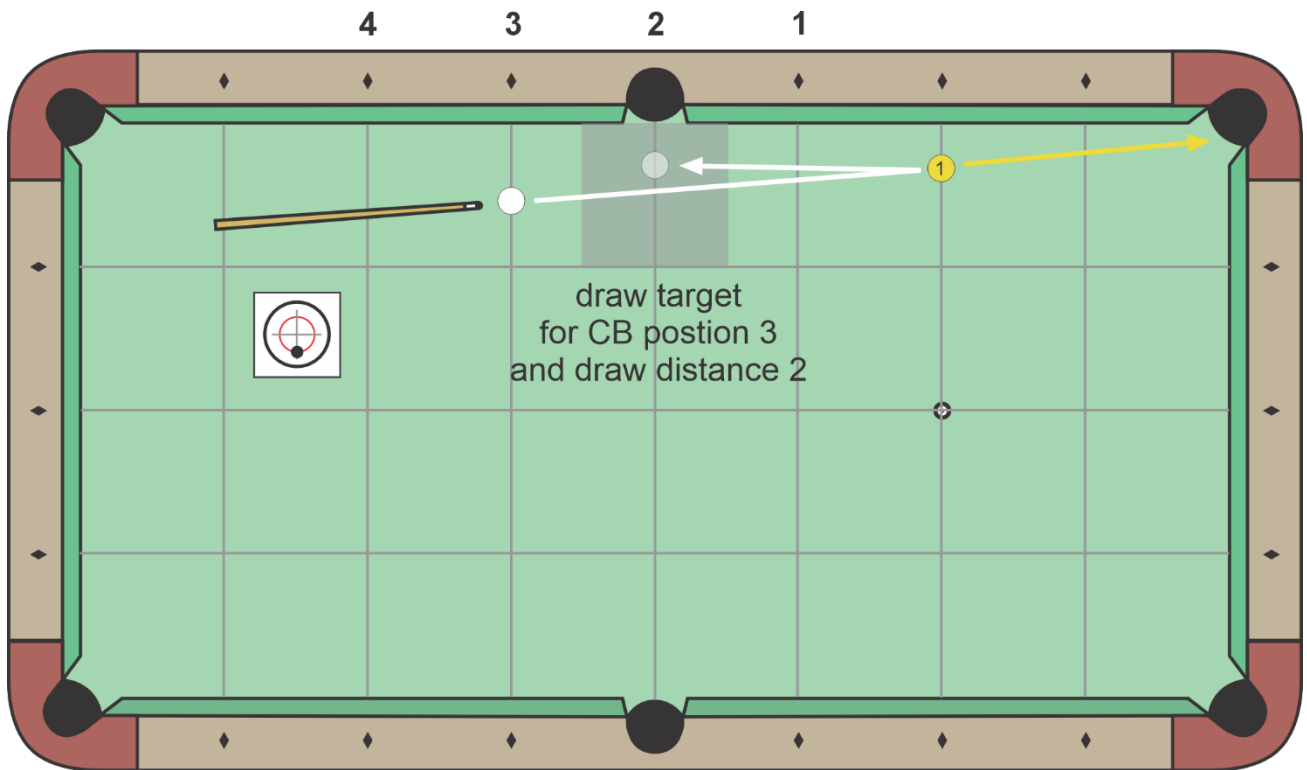
BU Rating Comparisons											
BU Score	Player Level	Fargo Rate	ABCD Rating	Alt ABCD	RDS Level	ARS (AZ)	APA 8-ball*	APA 9-ball*	BCAPL,VNEA 8-ball*	Compusport CSR*	BCAPL 9-ball*
185-200	world class pro	> 770	A++ / AAAA	Master	16	10-2	7	9	10	> 2050	10
175-184	semipro / pro	730-769	A+ / AAA	Master	15	10-1	7	9	10	2000-2049	10
165-174	upper shortstop	690-729	A / AA	Master	14	10, 10-1	7	9	9, 10	1950-1999	9, 10
155-164	lower shortstop	650-689	A- / A	Master	13	9, 10	7	9	9, 10	1875-1949	9, 10
140-154	upper advanced	600-649	B+	AA	12	8, 9	7	9	8, 9	1825-1874	8, 9
125-139	mid advanced	550-599	B	AA, A	11	7, 8	7	8, 9	8, 9	1750-1824	6, 7
110-124	lower advanced	500-549	B-	A	10	7, 8	6, 7	7, 8	7, 8	1700-1749	4, 5
95-109	upper intermediate	450-499	C+	B	9	6, 7	5, 6	6, 7	7, 8	1625-1699	2, 3
70-94	mid intermediate	400-449	C	B, C	8	5, 6	4, 5	5, 6	6, 7	1550-1624	1, 0, 1
55-69	lower intermediate	350-399	C-	C	7	5, 6	4, 5	4, 5	5, 6	1500-1549	-2, -3
40-54	upper beginner	300-349	D+	C	6	4, 5	3, 4	3, 4	4, 5	1425-1499	-4, -5
30-39	mid beginner	250-299	D	C	5	3, 4	3, 4	2, 3	4, 5	1350-1424	-6, -7
20-29	lower beginner	200-249	D-	D	4	2, 3	2, 3	1, 2	3, 4	1300-1349	-8, -9
0-19	novice	<200	D--	D	1, 2, 3	1, 2	2	1	2	<1299	-10

[BilliardUniversity.org](http://BilliardUniversity.org)

\* These ratings can vary quite a lot among leagues and regions depending on the level of competition.

**Image 1 BU Ratings Comparison Chart**

The Exams pertinent to this Challenge are the Exam VII Draw Matrix Drill, and the Exam VIII Follow Matrix Drill. The first tests draw control at four different cue ball (CB) – object ball (OB) distances and four different draw distances. An example shot (for CB position 3 and draw distance 2) is shown in **Image 2**. “Matrix” is in the drill name because there is an array of shots, as shown by the scoresheet in **Image 3**. You take three shots at each CB position and draw distance for a total of 48 shots. You place the CB and OB anywhere you want along the diamond lines within one diamond of the side rail, with the OB on the foot string for all shots. You must pocket the OB and draw back so the center of CB is within a ½ diamond of the target distance. The CB can come off the side rail, but the center of the CB must remain within one diamond of the side rail.



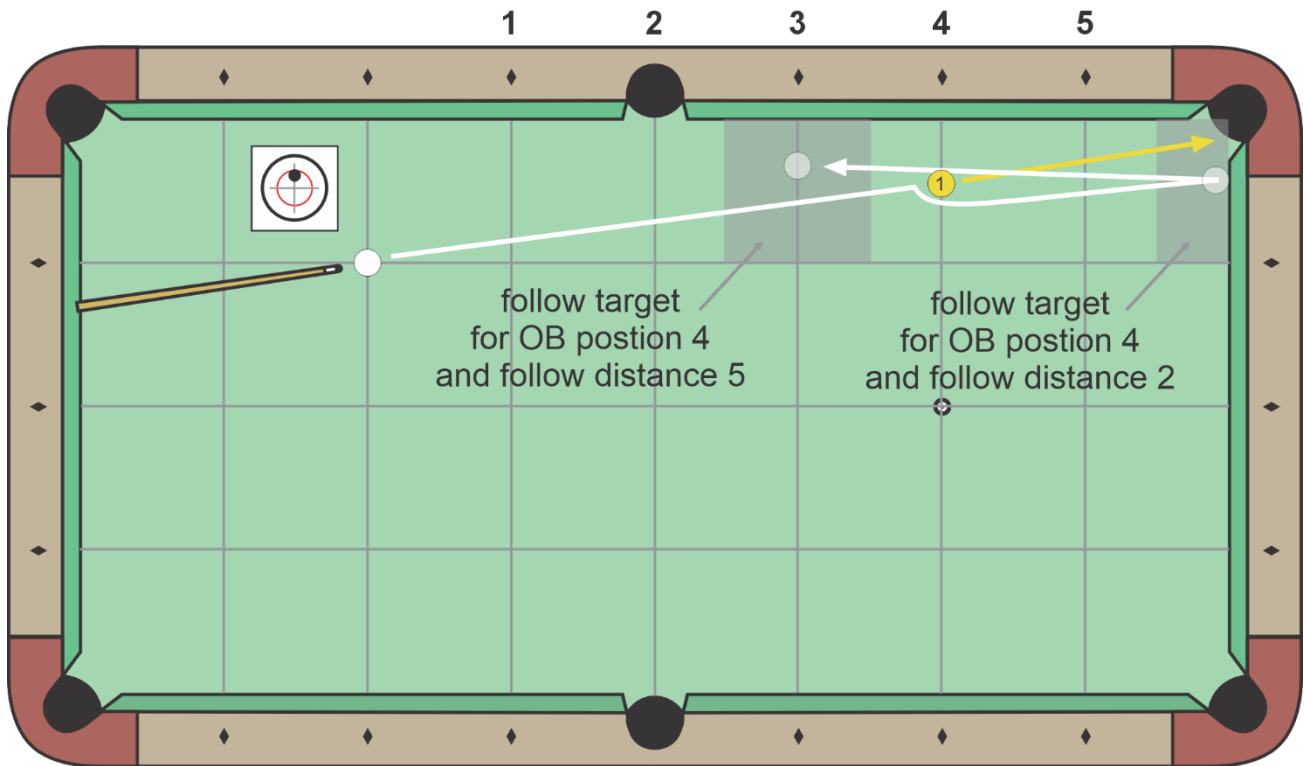
**Image 2 Draw Matrix Drill**

DRAW MATRIX DRILL									
CB Distance From OB (diamonds)	Target Draw Distance (diamonds) - must be within 1/2 diamond								
	1		2		3		4		
1									
2									
3									
4									
TOTAL SCORE (max: 100): _____ points x 25/12 = <input type="text"/>									

**Image 3 Draw Matrix Drill scoresheet**

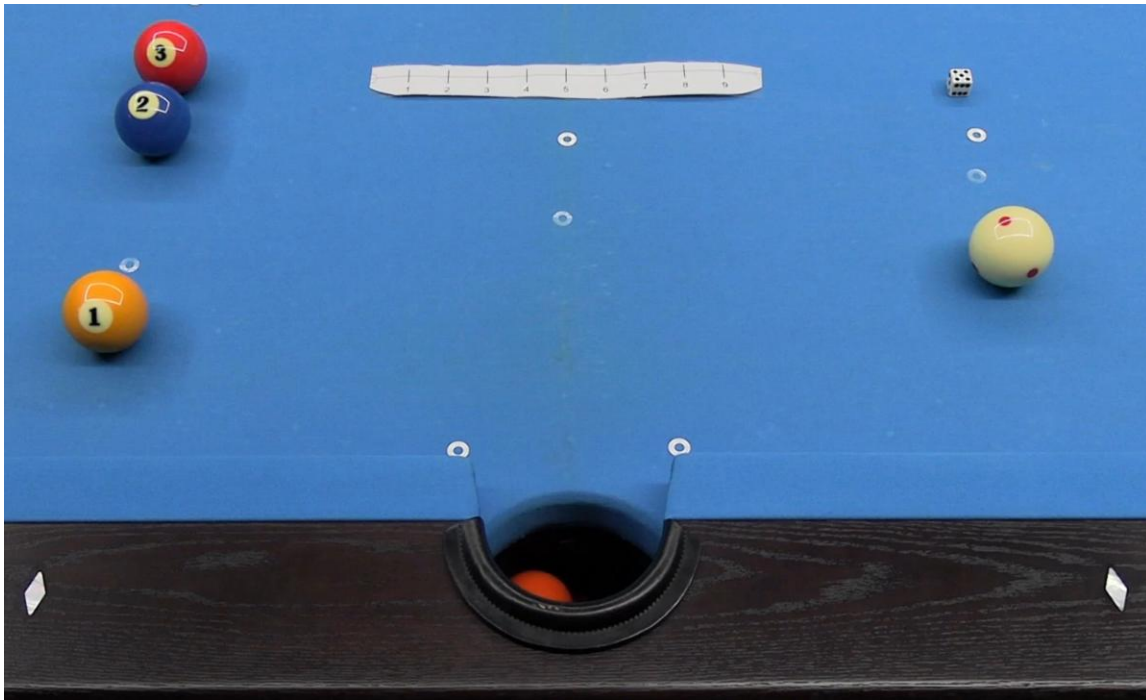
The Follow Matrix Drill tests follow control at five different CB-OB distances and five different follow distances. You take three shots at each OB position and follow distance for a total of 75 shots. Two example shots are shown in **Image 4**. You place the CB and OB anywhere you want along the diamond lines within one diamond of the side rail, with the CB on the head string for all shots. You must pocket the OB and follow forward

so the center of CB is within a ½ diamond of the target distance. The CB can come off the side rail, but the center of the CB must remain within one diamond of the side rail.



**Image 4 Follow Matrix Drill**

For each CB position and target draw or follow distance, always start with 3 OBs on the table for the three shots (see **Image 5**). For the draw drill, it is helpful to mark the current CB position with something like a die. For each drill, also mark the target distance with a strip of paper 1-diamond-width long. You always need to draw back or follow forward to within 1/2-diamond of the target distance. On a standard 9' table, the diamond distance is 12.5". You can use the [template](#) linked on the Challenge page to print and cut out the strip. On a common 8' home table, the diamonds are instead 11" apart; in which case, you can cut the strip from an 8.5"x11" sheet of paper. It is helpful to fold it in half to mark the middle point, so you can quickly mark the target distance for each shot, as shown in the video.



[Image 5](#) @@@

Be sure to check out online video [NV L.127](#) for all Challenge details and to see demonstrations of all shots required in both drills. I hope you decide to enter the Challenge for either or both drills. Again, it is free to enter and you can enter as many times as you like. Please visit the video and Challenge page ([drdavepoolinfo.com/challenge/bu-draw-follow-challenge/](http://drdavepoolinfo.com/challenge/bu-draw-follow-challenge/)) for all the details. Have fun with the drills! I hope they are as helpful to your game as they have been to mine.

Good luck with your game,  
Dr. Dave



[NV L.127](#) – \$3000 BU Exam Challenge – Draw and Follow Mastery – Enter Online for Free

PS:

- 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 do not fully understand, please refer to the [online glossary](#) at [drdavepoolinfo.com](http://drdavepoolinfo.com).

*Dr. Dave is a PBIA Master Instructor, Dean of the Billiard University, and author of the book: [The Illustrated Principles of Pool and Billiards](#) and numerous instructional DVD series, all available at: [DrDaveBilliards.com](http://DrDaveBilliards.com).*