COMMON RULE QUESTIONS
Consult the Official CSI Rules for more details.

Obvious Shots

A shot in which the non-shooting player has no doubt as to, or does not question, the ball and the pocket. A shot in which the cue ball has a clear path to the object ball and the object ball has a clear path to the pocket. The following types of shots are exceptions and are defined as being "not obvious":

a. bank shots
b. kick shots
c. combination shots
d. shots that include caroms, kisses or cushion contacts that are not incidental
e. any shot judged as not obvious by a third-party referee.

Calling Ball and Pocket

1. You must designate the called ball and the called pocket before each shot. You may make the designation verbally or by a clear, unambiguous gesture. You are not required to call obvious shots. You are not required to indicate incidental kisses and caroms, or incidental cushion contacts that do not constitute bank shots or kick shots. Not all kisses, caroms and cushion contacts are incidental.

2. If you are not certain what shot your opponent is attempting, it is your responsibility to ask. You must ask before your opponent is down on the shot.

3. When calling shots defined as not obvious, you are only required to designate the called ball and called pocket. If shooting a combination shot, you do not have to say the word “combination”, or state which ball will be struck first or the sequence of balls. When shooting a bank shot or kick shot you do not have to say the word “bank” or “kick” nor specify which cushions will be involved in the shot.

4. If you do not call a shot defined as not obvious and you pocket any ball on such a shot, your inning ends. It is not a foul. The incoming player accepts the table in position. See next rule regarding the 8-ball.

5. Though it is encouraged, you are not required to call the 8-ball shot if it is obvious. If you pocket the 8-ball on a shot defined as not obvious but fail to call the shot, it is a loss of game.