

Supporting narrated video (NV) demonstrations, high-speed video (HSV) clips, technical proofs (TP), and all of my past articles can be accessed and viewed online at billiards.colostate.edu. The reference numbers used in the articles help you locate the resources on the website.

This is the fifth article in a series dealing with the “[Video Encyclopedia of Eight Ball \(VEEB\)](#),” a five-disc instructional-DVD set I recently created with fellow *Billiards Digest* columnist Bob Jewett. VEEB teaches all of the skills, knowledge and strategy one needs to excel at 8-ball. Topics include offensive and defensive strategy, position play, shot types, safety play, advanced shots, and run-out planning. An outline of the entire VEEB series along with video excerpts from each DVD can be viewed online at: dr-dave-billiards.com/8-ball.

This month, we look at how to come into the line of blockers when playing safeties to increase the margin for error in cue ball (CB) speed control. **Diagram 1** shows an 8-ball situation, shooting solids, where a safety is a good option, assuming we play it smartly. We could be aggressive and attempt to bank the 3 cross corner. However, if we are not confident to make this shot and get position on the 1, a better approach is to play safe by hiding the CB behind the 1 and 8. Here, the “safety zone” hiding area is quite large; and, fortunately, the natural 3-rail path off the 3 ball heads straight into the long dimension of the area. This direction is along the “line of blockers” between the 11 ball and the center of the blocking 1-8 cluster. In cases like this, the margin for error with speed is huge. We can come up well short (at CB positions C-2, C-3 or C-4) or go clear to the blocking balls (at C-1) and still snooker our opponent. Also, if we can leave the 3 in the path to the 11, as shown, we will take away a jump shot possibility in case we don’t leave the CB very close to the blockers.

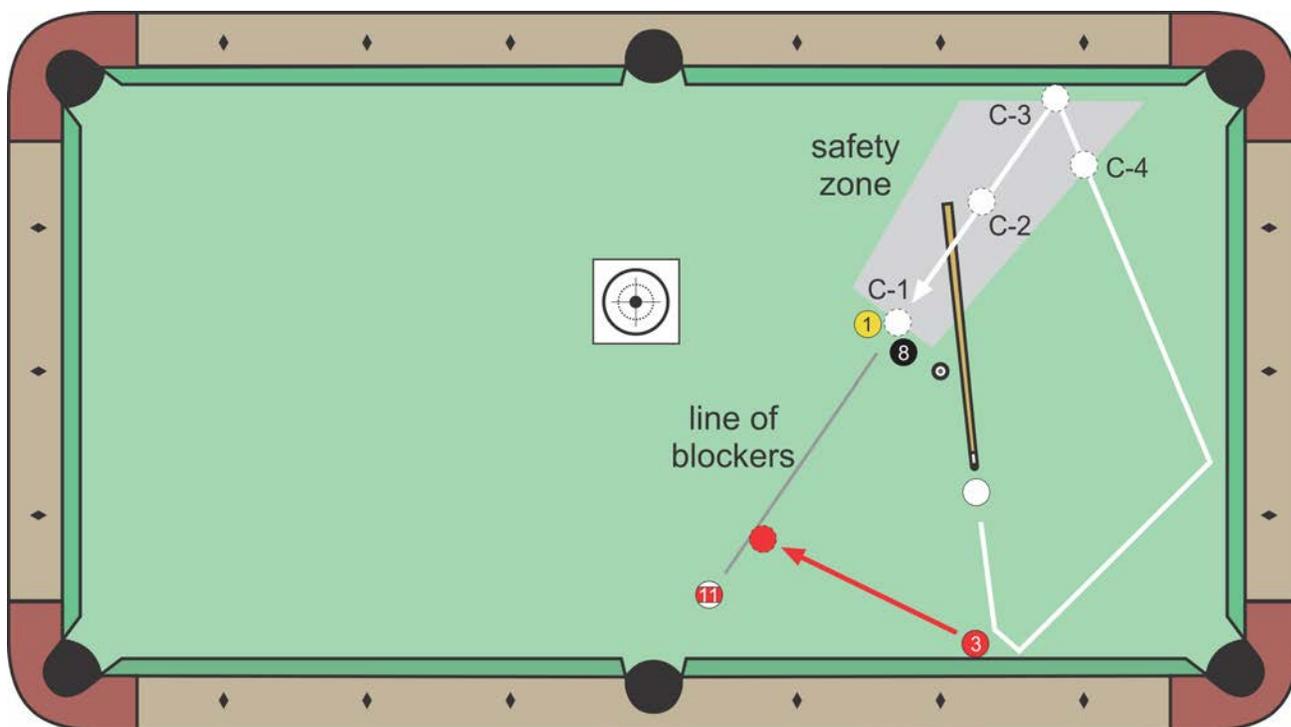


Diagram 1 Coming-into-the-line-of-blockers – Example 1

Diagram 2 shows another 8-ball situation, again shooting solids, where a smart safety is a good option. Here, we have a choice in the direction we can head to hide the CB. As shown by the solid lines in the diagram, we could go off the left side of the 1 and head across the “safety zone” hiding area. In this case, because the safety zone is so wide, a fairly large range of speeds will hide the CB. Ideally, we land close to the target at CB position C-1. However, if we come up a bit short (at CB position C-2) or go a bit long (at CB position C-3), we will

leave our opponent a look at, and maybe even a shot at, the 11. A much better option is to go off the right side of the 1 and come more into the line of the safety zone along the line of blockers. This approach is shown with the dashed lines in the diagram. This option gives us a much larger margin for error with speed. If we end up anywhere between CB positions C-4 and C-5, along the dotted line through the safety zone, we will snooker our opponent. The error margin with speed for this shot is much larger than with the first option. Making smart choices like this with safety play is one thing that separates the great players from the good ones. And the bad ones don't even think of the safety, and they attempt low-percentage offensive shots instead.

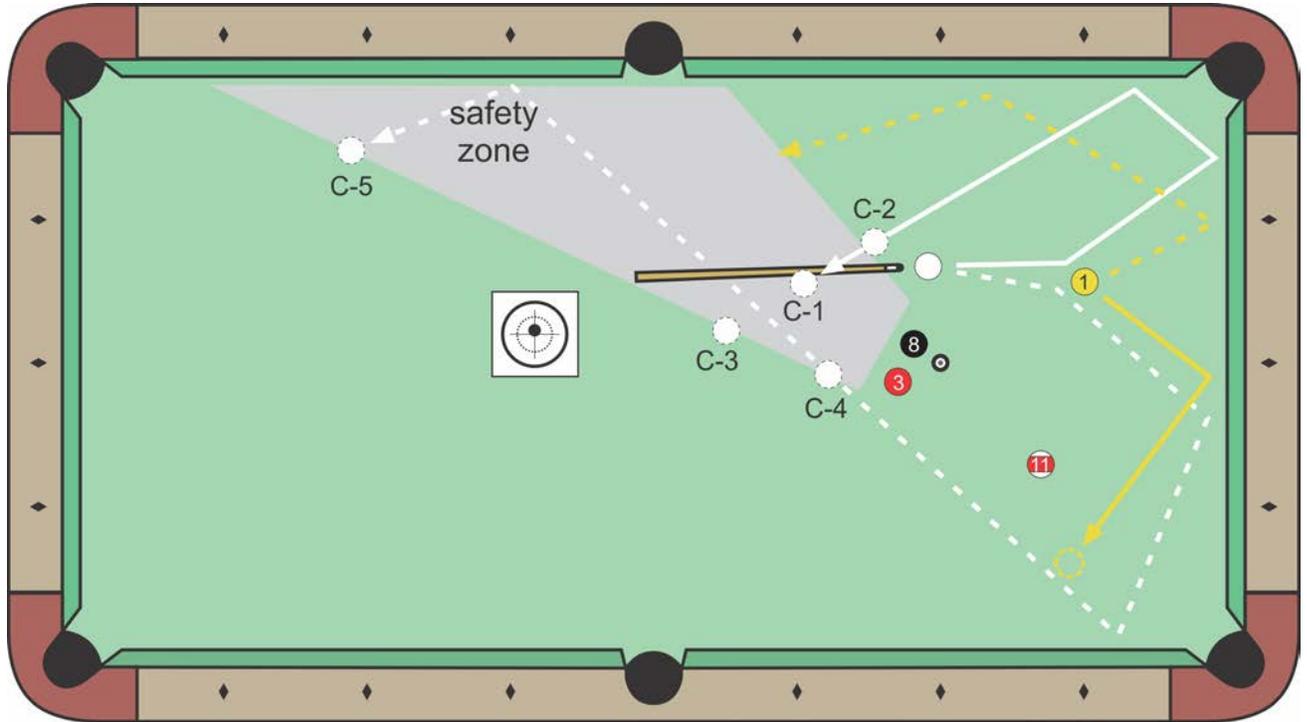


Diagram 2 Coming-into-the-line-of-blockers – Example 2

Demonstrations of all of the shots in this article can be viewed in online video [NV G.6](#), and the VEEB-III DVD includes many more game-situation examples dealing with defensive safeties, offensive safeties, safety replies, and ball-in-hand options. As always, you should check out the videos and try the shots yourself the next time you're at a table. Reading is good, and watching is better, but trying is best.

I hope you enjoy my series of articles dealing with the "Video Encyclopedia of Eight Ball (VEEB)." If you want to view video excerpts from the entire DVD set, check out online videos [NV G.1](#) through [NV G.11](#). Enjoy!

Good luck with your game,
Dr. Dave



- [NV G.1](#) – Video Encyclopedia of Eight Ball (VEEB) Overview
- [NV G.2](#) – How to Deal With Pocket Blockers in 8-ball, from Disc I of VEEB
- [NV G.3](#) – How to Select Key Balls in 8-ball, from Disc I of VEEB
- [NV G.4](#) – How to Use Cue Ball Drag to Enhance Sidespin in 8-ball, from Disc II of VEEB
- [NV G.5](#) – How to Use Spin-Induced Throw to Hold the Cue Ball in 8-ball, from Disc II of VEEB
- [NV G.6](#) – How to Come Into the Line of Blockers When Playing Safeties, from Disc III of VEEB
- [NV G.7](#) – Various Straight-In Shot Options in 8-ball, from Disc III of VEEB
- [NV G.8](#) – How to Deal with an End-Game Ball Tied Up with the 8-ball, from Disc IV of VEEB
- [NV G.9](#) – 2nd-Ball 8-ball Break, from Disc IV of VEEB
- [NV G.10](#) – Rack 8 Run-Out Example from Disc V of VEEB
- [NV G.11](#) – Rack 9 Run-Out Example from Disc V of VEEB

PS:

- I am happy to announce that my entire collection of instructional DVDs (23 total to date) is now available for streaming via YouTube. For more info, see: dr-dave-billiards.com/stream.html.
- 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 don't fully understand, please refer to the [online glossary](http://billiards.colostate.edu) at billiards.colostate.edu.

Dr. Dave is author of “[The Illustrated Principles of Pool and Billiards](#)” book and DVD, and co-author of the Video Encyclopedias of “[Pool Shots \(VEPS\)](#),” “[Pool Practice \(VEPP\)](#),” and “[Eight Ball \(VEEB\)](#),” and the “[How to Aim Pool Shots \(HAPS\)](#)” and “[Billiard University \(BU\)](#)” instructional DVD series, all available at: dr-dave-billiards.com.