

Six basic steps to successful tournament shuffleboard.

1. There is no single type of play which will assure 100% winning success. There is however one type which will assure you a 60 to 70% chance of winning.
 - a. An absolute clearing game in your hammer frames.
 - b. A cluttered/close the door game in frames when your opponent has the hammer.
 - c. No kitchen shots.
 - d. No combination shots over 1 foot him.
2. Games are not won by relying on your ability to kitchen, make long and complex combinations, make difficult scoring shots, tap-ins, suicide Lane scoring, or trying for high eights or high tens. Most above average players develop about the same degree of ability to make the shots so reliance upon this type of will play gives you absolutely no advantage over your opponent. Luck decides the outcome.
3. Instead games are won by making conservative shots decisions coupled with your ability to execute, and well, (a) clearing shots, (B) scoring shots to an open board, (see) hit and stick scoring shots, and (D) setting protective blocks.
4. Clearing game. Success requires 98% clearing success. This involves considerable clearing practice something most players will not do. If you will do it. You will have a capability which 90% of your opponents do not possess.
5. Remember these important shot decisions:
 - a. in your hammer frame, score only behind a perfect block. If it is not perfect clear it out.
 - b. Never be reluctant to shoot your own disk off the board if it contributes to keeping the board clean on your hammer frame.
 - c. An offsetting score is exactly the same as knocking out on opponents score and can often be more effective. Clearing a score from behind your opponents hide only gives him a chance to hide another disk.

- d. Never leave yourself exposed on your seventh shot (his hammer frame).
 - e. On your seventh shot to an open board never tried for dirty eights or dirty tens always block 6 inches in front of the tip.
 - f. On your six shot to an open board (your hammer frame), shoot it off the board, any other decision can lead to trouble.
 - g. If you stick on a clearing shot and he scores behind the hide, join him with a score in the eighth. Even if you stop on the line between the eights then play cat and mouse (even on your hammer frame).
 - h. If you stay with conservative shots. Your opponent will make errors. Games are won by making fewer errors than your opponent. Conservative play keeps your potential errors to a minimum.
 - i. Watch the scoreboard constantly, you cannot win at shuffleboard with out knowing exactly what the score is at every moment. Decisions rely on this knowledge.
6. If you can perfect only the following shots, and think, you will win at least 60% of your games. Clearing -- open board scoring -- hit and stick scoring.