

Pool hall opening checklist

Tick each step as you go. Full guide with costs and explanations: pooltrips.com/pool-hall-business/how-to-open-a-pool-hall

PLAN & MONEY

- ☐ Choose room size and table mix (9-ft and 7-ft)
- ☐ Decide the food plan: simple menu or full kitchen
- ☐ Build a start-up budget by category
- ☐ Set aside 3–6 months of working capital
- ☐ Check income minus costs and rent leaves enough for payroll and you
- ☐ Review the plan with a hospitality accountant

BUILDING & LEASE

- ☐ Allow 300–350 sq ft (28–33 m²) per 9-ft table
- ☐ Check floor load, ceiling height, power, parking
- ☐ Favour open floors with few columns
- ☐ Negotiate a multi-year term with capped increases
- ☐ Have a lawyer review the lease

LICENCES & PERMITS

- ☐ Apply for the liquor licence early
- ☐ Building and occupancy permits
- ☐ Health department approval for kitchen and bar
- ☐ Fire inspection (hood, exits, capacity)
- ☐ Business licence and any amusement or game permits

FIT-OUT

- ☐ Electrical drops above every table position
- ☐ HVAC sized for busy league nights
- ☐ Carpet tile around tables
- ☐ Acoustic panels or ceiling baffles
- ☐ Raised spectator seating
- ☐ Restrooms, office and storage

TABLES & EQUIPMENT

- ☐ Keep 5 ft (1.5 m) clear around every table
- ☐ Order tables, new cloth, balls, cues, racks
- ☐ Book an experienced table mechanic
- ☐ Install shadow-free LED lights over each table
- ☐ Ball washer and daily cleaning kit

BAR & KITCHEN

- ☐ Confirm hood type with local code (Type 1 or Type 2)
- ☐ Bar counter, draft system, walk-in cooler
- ☐ Easy menu that players can eat at the table
- ☐ Opening stock of drinks, food, chalk, tips

TECH & SECURITY

- ☐ POS with table timers and light control
- ☐ Set table rates, specials and member pricing
- ☐ CCTV over tables, bar and till
- ☐ TVs and multi-zone sound

BEFORE OPENING DAY

- ☐ Hire staff and train service around players
- ☐ Write and post your house rules
- ☐ Test every table timer and light
- ☐ Soft opening with friends and local players

GET FOUND

- ☐ Set up your Google Business Profile
- ☐ Claim your PoolTrips page: tables, photos, hours
- ☐ Contact local league organisers
- ☐ Announce your grand opening