

BLACK OR YELLOW COURT?

Why are courts called black, or yellow?

Usually, this has to do with the court drift, or the thing that causes the drift which is the tilt or slant of the court.

Most courts, because of settling, wear or construction, lean one way or the other. The differences can be small, maybe just a fraction of an inch, but they are there. Some courts have large drifts like courts 20-24 at Betmar or courts 14 and 16 in Lakeland. Fortunately, most ZSC courts have small drifts.

When our disc, traveling from end to end, enters an area of the court that slopes, it slightly alters course and slips downhill a bit.

Shufflers call this a drift or curve. It becomes more pronounced when the disc is slowing and about to stop. Also the faster the court, the more the drift shows up. Fast or hard shots hardly drift at all.

Ok, so why is a court, called black or yellow?

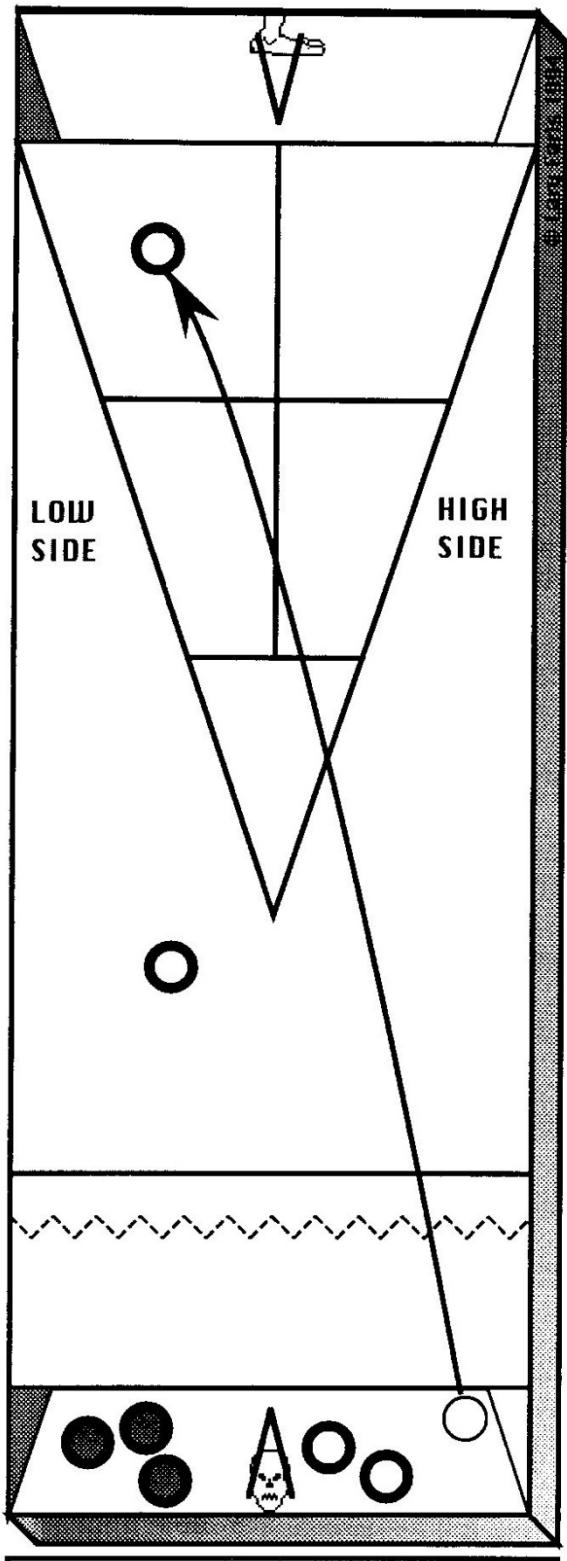
Much of shuffleboard strategy requires hiding scores. A player, shooting first in a frame usually sets a Tampa or St. Pete pilot and then tries to hide behind it on their next shot.

So if yellow is trying to hide behind a Tampa, they shoot from the yellow side toward the yellow's scoring area. When attempting to shoot behind a St. Pete, (diagram) yellow shoots to the black side scoring area. Now if there is some drift, it may help or hinder the hiding.

For example, if yellow is trying to hide, they're shooting from right to left on the court. The angle for going behind a cover disc is often pretty tight, requiring precision shooting close to the cover disc to pass by it. If the court slopes in, the yellow disc will curve or drift a little to the left towards the center line. That drift will make it easier for yellow to hide and makes it much harder for black to hide. The court favors yellow in this case.

So like magic, a court becomes a yellow court – at least in the eye of shufflers. When the drift is in the opposite direction, it favors or becomes a black court.

Many players chart or map courts and keep court cards with the court numbers and a notation of black or yellow drifts for each end of the court. It helps if you have a head start on knowing the court drifts before the pre-game shots start.



A YELLOW COURT

