

A History of Shuffleboard

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According to old English History, Shuffleboard was started around the 14th century. It was a means of passing the time in the long, dreary English winters. Almost every castle had a long banquet table, about 30' long, 5' wide. A line was painted on the table 6' from each end and was sprinkled with a fine sand. Discs were made of iron weighing about a pound. Play was much as we play today, singles and doubles. Each player had two discs he slid along the table with a sidewise motion.

In the beginning, the game was played only by the nobles. As time went on, it was taken up by the army. It became so popular that Henry VIII ordered it banned because the men were neglecting their war games such as jousting and archery. For a long time after, no records are to be had. Suddenly the game popped up aboard ships. A rectangle was laid out with a series of boxes which signified a court. Iron or hardwood discs were used and a pronged wooden stick was a means of propulsion.

In 1913, a Florida hotel owner was taken with the game and built a walk in front of the Linhurst Hotel, lined and used for the court. The hotel was located at Daytona Beach. The first discs were made of maple, 8' diameter and 1 1/2' thick. The World War slowed the game. In 1931, the Florida Shuffleboard Association was organized. It received its Charter in 1937 and adopted a standard rules of play. The National Association received its charter in 1937 and was organized for the purpose of establishing organized play throughout the United States.