

KINDLY SPONSORED BY THE 'THE NORTHERN SNOOKER CENTRE'



THE 'FOUL & A MISS RULE'

- The world governing body the WPBSA made amendments to the rules of Snooker (& Billiards) to take effect from **12th August 2014**.
- With the changes, whilst the WPBSA have felt the need to re-print a new rule book, a local rules official, has commented that most of the changes are mere clarification of existing rules.
- **That said, the major change affects the 'Foul and a Miss' rule so that now, if either player should touch any ball in play when being consulted as to its position, they commit a seven point penalty – (previously the higher value of the ball 'on' or the ball 'concerned')**.
- In addition however, the 'Foul and a Miss' rule has been re-written, but, in the words of the same local rules official, *"in essence remains the same, however many of the cross references have changed position"*.
- **In other words, there are still 3 basic elements to the 'Foul and a Miss' rule – SEE BELOW!**
- Below in the left hand column boxes, is how the rule is now written exactly in the rule book since 12th August 2014 – (note - words underlined have specific definitions at section 2, and words in **orange** have been **added / changed**).
- In the right hand column boxes, is the exact wording of the full rule as from September 1995 (at least), and with additions in 2011 until 12th August 2014, taking note that:-
 - Text in **blue** has **changed position**,
 - Text in **red** has been **deleted** altogether,
 - Text in **orange** has been **added / changed**, &
 - Text in *(brackets and italics)*, was added in September 2011.
- Down both columns, text in **bold** (any colour) has been highlighted for effect only.

AS NOW	AS WAS
From 12/08/14	From September 1995 (at least) <i>(...italics....) – added September 2011</i>
Section 3 - Snooker	Section 3 - Snooker
Rule 14 – Foul and a Miss	Rule 14 – Foul and a Miss
	<p>The striker shall, to the best of his ability, endeavour the ball on. If the referee considers the Rule infringed, he shall call a FOUL AND A MISS unless only the black remains on the table, or a situation exists where it is impossible to hit the ball on. In the latter case it must be assumed the striker is attempting to hit the ball on provided that he plays, directly or indirectly, at the ball on with sufficient strength, in the referee's opinion, to have reached the ball on but for the obstructing ball or balls.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOW SEE 14(a)</p>

14(a) -:

The striker shall, to the best of his ability, endeavour to hit the ball on or a ball that could be on after a Red has been potted. If the referee considers the Rule infringed, he shall call FOUL AND A MISS unless:

- (i) any player needed penalty points before, or as a result of, the stroke being played;
- (ii) before or after the stroke, the points available on the table are equal to the points difference excluding the value of the re-spotted black; and the referee is satisfied that the miss was not intentional.
- (iii) a situation exists where it is impossible to hit the ball on.

In the latter case it must be assumed the striker is attempting to hit the ball on providing that he plays, directly or indirectly, at the ball on with sufficient strength, in the referee's opinion, to have reached the ball on but for the obstructing ball or balls.

14(b) -:

After a FOUL AND A MISS has been called, the next player may request the offender to play again from the position left, or at his discretion, from the original position **with all balls being replaced**, in which latter case the ball on shall be the same as it was prior to the last stroke made, namely:

- (i) Any Red, where Red was the ball on;
- (ii) the colour on, where all Reds were off the table; or
- (iii) a colour of the striker's choice, where the ball on was a colour after a Red had been potted.

14(c) -:

If the striker, in making a stroke, fails to first hit a ball on when there is a clear path in a straight line from the cue-ball to **any part of any ball** that is or could be on, the referee shall **always** call FOUL AND A MISS unless **as described under paragraph (a)(i) and (a)(ii)**.

1. 'ANY PART OF ANY BALL ON'**14(a) -:**

After a Foul and a Miss has been called, the next player may request the offender to play again from the position left or, at his discretion, from the original position, in which latter case the ball on shall be the same as it was prior to the last stroke made, namely:

- (i) any Red, where Red was the ball on;
- (ii) the colour on, where all Reds were off the table; or
- (iii) a colour of the striker's choice, where the ball on was a colour after a Red had been potted.

NOW SEE 14(b)**14(b) -:**

If the striker, in making a stroke, fails to first hit a ball on when there is a clear path in a straight line from the cue-ball to **any part of any ball** that is or could be on, the referee shall call FOUL AND A MISS, unless: **NOW SEE 14(c)**

- (i) any player needed penalty points before, or as a result of, the stroke being played; *(see (b)(ii))*
- (ii) *(before or after the stroke, the points available on the table are equal to the points difference excluding the value of the re-spotted black) – added Sept. 2011;*

and the referee is satisfied that the miss was not intentional. **NOW SEE 14(a)**

1. 'ANY PART OF ANY BALL ON'**14(c) -:**

After a miss has been called under paragraph (b) above when there was a clear path in a straight line from the cue-ball to a ball that was on or that could have been on, **such that central, full-ball, contact** was available (in the case of Reds, this to be taken as a full diameter of any Red that is not obstructed by a colour), then:

- (i) a further failure to first hit a ball on in making a stroke from the **same position** shall be called as a FOUL AND A MISS regardless of the

	<p>difference in scores;</p> <p>(ii) if asked to play again from the original position, the offender shall be warned by the referee that a third failure will result in the frame being awarded to his opponent; and</p> <p>(iii) if asked to play again from a different position, the Foul and a Miss situation starts again.</p> <p>NOW SEE 14(d)</p> <p>2. 'CENTRE BALL CONTACT'</p>
<p>14(d) -: After a <u>miss</u> has been called under paragraph (c) above when there was a clear path in a straight line from the <u>cue-ball</u> to a ball that was <u>on</u> or could have been <u>on</u>, such that central, full ball, contact was available (in the case of Reds, this to be taken as a full diameter of any Red that is not obstructed by a colour), then:</p> <p>(i) a further failure to first hit a ball <u>on</u> in making a stroke from the original position shall be called as a FOUL AND A MISS regardless of the difference in scores;</p> <p>(ii) if asked to play again from the original position, the offender shall be warned by the referee that a third failure will result in the frame being awarded to his opponent; and</p> <p>(iii) if asked to play from the position left, the FOUL AND A MISS situation starts again.</p> <p>2. 'CENTRE BALL CONTACT'</p>	<p>14(d) -: After the cue ball has been replaced under this Rule, and the striker fouls any ball, including the cue ball while preparing to play a stroke, a miss will not be called if a stroke has not been played. In this case the appropriate penalty shall be imposed and the ball on shall be the same as prior to the last stroke made, namely:</p> <p>(i) any Red, where Red was the ball on;</p> <p>(ii) the colour on, where all Reds were off the table; or</p> <p>(iii) a colour of the striker's choice, where the ball on was a colour after a Red had been potted; and</p> <p>(iv) The next player may elect to play the stroke himself or ask the offender to play again from the position left; or</p> <p>(v) The next player may ask the referee to replace all balls moved to their original position and have the offender play again from there; and</p> <p>(vi) if the above situation arises during a sequence of miss calls, any warning concerning the possible awarding of the frame to his opponent shall remain in effect.</p> <p>NOW SEE 14(e)</p>
<p>14(e) -: After the cue ball has been replaced under this rule, and the <u>striker</u> fouls any ball, including the <u>cue-ball</u> while preparing to play a <u>stroke</u>, a <u>miss</u> will not be called if a stroke has not been played. In this case the appropriate <u>penalty</u> will be imposed. The next player may then elect to play himself or ask the offender to play again from the position left or the original position. If being asked to play again, the ball <u>on</u> shall be the same as prior to the last <u>stroke</u> made, namely:</p>	<p>14(e) -: All other misses shall be called at the discretion of the referee, (unless before or after the stroke, the points available on the table are equal to the points difference excluding the value of the re-spotted black) — added Sept. 11.</p> <p>3. e.g. SNOOKERED</p>

<p>(i) any Red, where Red was the ball <u>on</u>;</p> <p>(ii) the colour <u>on</u>, where all Reds were off the table; or</p> <p>(iii) a colour of the <u>striker's</u> choice, where the ball <u>on</u> was a colour after a Red had been <u>potted</u>.</p> <p>If the above situation arises during a sequence of miss calls as described under paragraph (d), any warning concerning the possible awarding of the frame to his opponent shall remain in effect.</p>	
<p>14(f) -: When any ball is being replaced after a <u>miss</u>, both the offender and the next player will be consulted as to its position, after which the referee's decision will be final.</p>	<p>14(f) -: After a miss and a request by the next player to replace the cue ball, any object balls disturbed will remain where they are unless the referee considers the offending player would or could gain an advantage. In the latter case, any or all disturbed balls may be replaced to the referee's satisfaction and in either case, colours incorrectly off the table will be spotted or replaced as appropriate.</p>
<p>14 (g) -: During such consultation, if either player should touch any ball <u>in play</u>, he shall be penalised as if he were the <u>striker</u>, without affecting the order of play. The ball touched shall be replaced by the referee, to his satisfaction, even if it was picked up – Section 3.10(d)(iii). NEW PENALTY – 7 POINTS!</p>	<p>14(g) -: When any ball is being replaced after a miss, both the offender and the next player will be consulted as to its position, after which the referee's decision shall be final. NOW SEE 14(f)</p>
	<p>14(h) -: During such consultation, if either player should touch any ball in play, he shall be penalised as if he were the striker, without affecting the order of play. The ball touched shall be replaced by the referee, to his satisfaction, if necessary, even if it was picked up. NOW SEE 14(g)</p>
	<p>14(i) -: The next player may ask if the referee intends to replace balls other than the cue ball, in the event that he should ask for the stroke to be played from the original position, and the referee shall state his intentions.</p>