

## EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE 2019 REWRITE OF THE RULEBOOK



The wording throughout all Rules and Definitions are now gender neutral.

### RULES OF THE GAME OF SNOOKER

#### Section 1 Equipment

All measurements and tolerances are now standardised, and Bottom and Top Cushions are now described and named.

#### Section 2 Rule 5 Striker and Turn

In this definition it is now much clearer when a player's turn starts and finishes. Throughout the Rulebook it is now easier to use the term 'turn' more widely.

#### Section 2 Rule 7 Potting and Pocketing

The much-needed addition to this definition of the word pocketing makes it clearer throughout the Rulebook that potting is legal and pocketing is not.

#### Section 2 Rule 9 In-hand

In paragraph (b)(ii) the Rule now states that the cue-ball remains in hand for the next stroke when an infringement is committed that does not involve the cue-ball. After the cue-ball is pocketed, the normal practice is that the referee places the cue-ball on the table (against the Bottom Cushion). Any infringement now without the cue-ball will mean that the cue-ball is still in-hand contrary to the old Rulebook where it would have been in play. The added Rule 16 in Section 3 explains this also.

#### Section 2 Rule 15 Infringements, Fouls and Penalties

The Rulebook now clearly defines the difference between a foul and a penalty. More instances are now included where a player concedes penalty points without affecting the order of play.

#### Section 2 Rule 17 Snookered

The Rule where the curved face of the cushion took priority over a ball not on in determining whether the cue-ball was snookered or not has been removed.

The cue-ball can only be snookered by balls that are not on.

#### Section 2 Rule 19 Push Stroke

A much clearer definition.

#### Section 2 Rule 20 Jump Shot

A much clearer definition.

#### Section 2 Rule 21 Miss

Paragraph (b) was added to ensure that the referee may call FOUL AND A MISS if a player fails to first hit their nominated free ball but still hits a ball on with the first impact of the cue-ball.



### **Section 2 Rule 22 Consultation Period**

This definition is added to clear up when a consultation period starts and finishes and in which situations it is implemented.

### **Section 3 Rule 3 Mode of Play**

Paragraph (f) clarifies that, when a player leaves any object on the table and the next player plays a stroke, the striker will be fouled if any ball contacts that object.

Paragraph (k) clarifies that the non-striker cannot be fouled for committing an infringement while the striker is in a break. The non-striker will now incur penalty points without affecting the striker's turn.

### **Section 3 Rule 7 Spotting Colours**

Paragraph (b) now clarifies what happens when a colour that is spotted in error is potted again.

Paragraph (c)(i) now clarifies up to which point a colour that was missing can be spotted.

Paragraph (d) is added to clarify the procedure when a Red is spotted instead of a colour. An amendment to the wording since first publication on August 12 now ensures that first the Red will be removed and then the colour will be spotted. Also, in situations where the colour was already spotted due to previous oversight and in a later stage of the frame it was discovered that this was because a Red was spotted, the situation is now condoned and the Red will not be removed anymore.

In paragraph (j) the words 'by hand' are removed to accommodate players who have difficulties in spotting colours in games when there is no referee.

### **Section 3 Rule 10 Fouls**

Paragraph (i) is rewritten to make it clearer as to what options are available when the striker fouls any ball prior to playing a stroke.

### **Section 3 Rule 11 Penalty Values**

In this Rule there is now a clearer difference as to which are fouls and which are penalties.

Paragraph (b)(x) is added.

Paragraphs (e), (f) and (g) are added to define that these acts are penalties.

### **Section 3 Rule 12 Snookered After a Foul**

Paragraph (b)(ii) is rewritten to clarify that it is not a foul when no Reds are on the playing area and a player uses a nominated free ball to pot the ball on and then leaves the cue-ball snookered behind that nominated ball for their stroke on the next colour.

Paragraph (f) clarifies that a free ball option becomes void when a player is requested to play again from the original position.



### **Section 3 Rule 14 Foul and a Miss**

In paragraph (a), the previous option of calling a FOUL AND A MISS when, before or after a stroke, the points available on the table are equal to the points difference excluding the value of the re-spotted Black is deleted. The referee may now call FOUL AND A MISS in this situation.

In paragraph (e) a change is made from the 2014 Rule book in which it was stated that, when asked to play again from the position left or the original position, the ball on was always the same as it was prior to the last stroke made (options (i), (ii) or (iii)). In the 2019 Rule book there is now a difference as to what the ball on will be depending on the non-offender's request to let their opponent play from the position left or from the original position.

### **Section 3 Rule 16 Ball Moved Other than In a Stroke**

This Rule is added to clarify situations when a ball or balls are moved without a stroke being played.

### **Section 3 Rule 17 Stalemate**

The procedure when a stalemate is reached during a re-spotted Black is added to this Rule.

### **Section 3 Rule 18 Four-handed Snooker**

Paragraph (f) is added. This to clarify that the striker's partner cannot deliberately change the order of play.

### **Section 3 Rule 19 Six Reds Snooker**

This form of Snooker is now formally incorporated in the Rules.

Paragraphs (b) and (c) clarify that the sequence of five FOUL AND A MISS calls only counts if the offender is requested to play again from the original position.

### **Section 3 Rule 21 Interpretation**

In this Rule the mention of words implying the masculine gender is deleted. The wording throughout these Rules and Definitions are now gender neutral.

## **Section 4 THE PLAYERS**

This Section has undergone a complete revamp.

Unsporting Conduct and Time Wasting are now separated entities.

## **SNOOKER SHOOT OUT COMPETITION RULES**

The Rules of the Snooker Shoot Out Competition have undergone a complete revamp.

## RULES OF THE GAME OF ENGLISH BILLIARDS



### Section 1 Equipment

All measurements and tolerances are standardised, and Bottom and Top Cushions are now described and named. Also, a better description of the Balls.

### Section 2 Definition 4 Cushion Faces

Flat face and curved face are now defined.

### Section 2 Definition 6 Striker and Turn

#### Section 2 Definition 7 Stroke

These definitions are now consistent with the Rules of Snooker.

### Section 2 Definition 8 Pot and Pocketing

Pocketing is now defined.

### Section 2 Rule 18 Running a Coup

The line "or if the cue-ball enters a pocket after hitting the curved face of a different pocket" is added to ensure that the following scenario is not deemed 'Running a Coup':

The striker is in hand with no balls out of Baulk and decides to attempt to play off a curved face of a centre pocket to come back into baulk to disturb the balls. In doing so, the cue-ball goes straight into a baulk pocket (or any pocket) without disturbing the balls.

### Section 2 Definition 21 Push Stroke

This definition is now consistent with the Rules of Snooker.

### Section 3 Rule 2 Start of Game

Procedure when starting a game out of turn added.

### Section 3 Rule 8 Baulk-line Crossing

Rewritten for added clarification.

### Section 3 Rule 15 Fouls

Paragraph (t) added.

### Section 4 THE PLAYERS

This Section has undergone a complete revamp.

Unsporting Conduct and Time Wasting have now been included and necessary procedures must now be adopted.

### Section 5 THE OFFICIALS

Description of Timekeeper added.

## RULES OF THE GAME OF SNOOKER

### Section 2

#### 6. Stroke

(d)(iii) any ancillary equipment being used by the *striker* has been removed, or the referee is satisfied that the *stroke* is completed.

This is added to make sure that, when the striker plays two consecutive strokes with ancillary equipment, and therefore doesn't remove it, the referee decides when the previous stroke has ended, and the next stroke starts.

#### 9. In-hand

(b)(ii) a *foul* is committed involving the *cue-ball* while it is not in the *striker's* possession.

Changed the wording to make a ruling on every possible scenario. Basically now, if the striker is in control of the cue-ball i.e. while touching it with part of their body or equipment, and commits a foul with the cue-ball, the cue-ball remains in-hand.

#### 12. Nominated Ball

(a) A *nominated ball* is the *object ball* which the *striker* indicates to the satisfaction of the referee, or declares (*states verbally*), they undertake to hit with the first impact of the *cue-ball*.

Swapped the wording to put more emphasis on the fact that nominating does not always have to be verbally.

#### 14. Forced Off the Table

A ball is *forced off the table* if it comes to rest other than on the playing area or in a pocket. A ball is also *forced off the table* if it is moved or picked up by the *striker* as described in Section 3 Rule 16.

Slightly reworded to make the reference clearer for when the striker intentionally moves or picks up a ball.

### Section 3

#### 3. Mode of Play

(c) The first player plays from *in-hand*, the *frame* commencing when the *cue-ball* has been placed on the *playing area* and contacted by the tip of the cue either:

(i) as a *stroke* is made; or

(ii) while addressing the *cue-ball*.

Changed 'table' into 'playing area' to avoid the question; If a player, at the start of a frame, puts the cue-ball on top of the Bottom Cushion and plays from there, has the frame started? i.e. can the player be fouled?

#### 5. Playing from In-hand

To play from *in-hand*, the *cue-ball* must be contacted by the tip of the cue from a position on or within the lines of the "D", but it may be played in any direction.



- (a) The referee will state, if asked, whether the cue-ball is properly placed (that is, not outside the lines of the “D”).
- (b) If the *cue-ball*, while *in-hand*, is contacted by the tip of the cue while outside the “D”, it is considered as improperly played from *in-hand*.
- (c) If the tip of the cue should touch the *cue-ball* while positioning it, and the referee is satisfied that the *striker* was not attempting to play a *stroke*, then the *cue-ball* is not *in play*.

Changed the word ‘struck’ into ‘contacted by the tip of the cue’ to make sure that the Rule book now actually covers the fact that feathering the cue-ball while *in-hand* is a foul. This situation was only covered for the opening stroke of a frame (in 3.3(c)) but not for situations during a frame.

Paragraph (b) is added to make sure that the Rule book now actually covers the fact that feathering the cue-ball while *in-hand* and placed outside the “D” is also a foul.

## 10. Fouls

- (j) If an *object ball in play* is disturbed by the *striker* while the *cue-ball* is *in-hand*, the referee shall call FOUL and the *cue-ball* will remain *in-hand* for the next *stroke*, unless the foul is committed involving the *cue-ball* while it is not in the *striker’s* possession.

This paragraph was originally in 3.16(a) but because of the complete rewrite of 3.16 it is now moved to Rule 10. The last line was added to make sure of the exception.

## 11. Penalty Values

- (b)(vii) contacting a ball *in play* with the *cue-ball*, while the *cue-ball* is *in-hand*;

This paragraph was added.

We discovered that, since the rewrite, the Rule did not cover the situation anymore where the *striker*, while *in-hand* and placing the *cue-ball* in the “D”, contacts a ball *in play* with that *cue-ball*.

It is added under (vii) because we feel it is best suited under Rule (vi).

This means that ‘original’ paragraphs (vii) to (x) will move down one and become (viii) to (xi).

- (b)(viii) causing a ball *in play* to contact any object or equipment left at or on the table during the *turn* or from previous *turns*;

This was originally paragraph (b)(vii). The words ‘any ball’ are changed to ‘a ball *in play*’ to make sure that it is not an infringement if the *cue-ball*, while *in hand*, should contact an object or any equipment.

- (f) seven points if any player contacts, with any part of their person, attire or equipment, any ball on the playing area during a *consultation period*.

Added the words ‘on the playing area’ to make sure that the only time a player will get penalised is if they contact a ball that is on the playing area. Also deleted ‘or a device used to mark a ball’ because during a *consultation period* you would not replace a ball marker but you would replace the ball.

## 16. Ball Intentionally Moved

This Rule has undergone a complete rewrite.

With the previous heading ‘Ball Moved Other than in a Stroke’, the Rule did not cover any situation where a ball is intentionally moved while a stroke is still in progress. By changing the heading of the Rule, it was possible to move the old paragraph (a) to Rule 10 (Fouls).

The new version also makes it much clearer as to what options there are for the non-offender when the intentionally moved ball was a stationary ball. The Rule now allows the non-offender to choose what option they think is best, rather than the referee making a decision based on interpretation.

The opening paragraph clearly defines the two exceptions to this Rule.

The references to this Rule in 2.14, 2.22 and 3.3(i) have now been amended.