

## **Explanatory notes for the rewrite of Section 3 Rule 16 and Section 2 Rule 14.**

The Rules Committee has recently been approached and made aware of the fact that it was still somewhat confusing to deal with Section 3 Rule 16 and, in certain situations, could give an unfair advantage to the offender.

The anomaly in the 'old' Rule was that all balls that were intentionally moved or picked up by the striker were considered Forced Off the Table (Section 2 Rule 14) and the Rulebook dictates different as to what happens when Reds, colours or the cue-ball are forced off the table.

To avoid possible unfair play, Section 3 Rule 16 needed to change.

In order to do this and create a Rule with simple, fair options for the non-offender, The Rules Committee also needed to change the definition of Section 2 Rule 14, Forced Off the Table.

The newly written Rule:

### **Section 2**

#### **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.

[END]

By taking out the wording '... A ball is also forced off the table if it is moved or picked up by the striker....' means that, even if the ball is picked up by the striker, it will only be considered 'forced off the table' if it does not come to rest on the playing area.

By using this new definition, the Rules Committee could now simplify Section 3 Rule 16 and still keep it in line with other Rules and their requirements.

The newly written Rule:

### **Section 3**

#### **16. Ball Intentionally Moved**

Other than *striking* the *cue-ball* to make a *stroke*, or contacting a ball during a *consultation period*, if any ball is intentionally moved or picked up by the *striker* from the playing area, the referee shall call FOUL.

- (a) In a situation where a stationary ball is intentionally moved or picked up, the non-offender may then;
  - (i) elect to play themselves or request their opponent to play from the position left. For this situation, any ball that did not come to rest on the playing area will be considered *forced off the table*.
  - (ii) elect to have all balls replaced to their original position and play themselves or request their opponent to play again. In the latter case the *ball on* shall be the same as it was prior to the *infringement*, namely;
    - (i) any Red, where Red was the *ball on*;
    - (ii) the colour *on*, where all the Reds were off the table;
    - (iii) a colour of the striker's choice, where the *ball on* was a colour after a Red, or a *free ball nominated* as a Red had been potted.

If the above situation arises during a sequence of FOUL AND A MISS calls as described under Section 3 Rule 14(d) and the request is made for the offender to play

again, any Warning concerning the possible awarding of the *frame* to their opponent shall remain in effect.

- (b) In a situation where a moving ball is intentionally moved or picked up, the referee shall make the best possible decision in the interest of fair play.
- (c) If the *striker strikes* the *cue-ball* to make a *stroke* as an act of Unsporting Conduct, they may be Warned as described in Section 4, Rule 1 and the non-offender will have the options as described under (a) and (b) above.

A *consultation period* starts when the decision is made to replace the ball(s).

[END]

With this rewrite, the options for the non-offender are a lot clearer i.e.

- they play from the position left or let their opponent play from the position left.
- They have all balls replaced and play themselves (ball on is Red if Reds are on the table) or let their opponent play (ball on is the same as it was prior to the foul)
- only balls that did not come to rest on playing area are considered 'forced off the table' and therefore, if elected to play again from the position left, they stay down (if Red), get spotted (if colour) or become in-hand (if cue-ball). All other balls that have moved will either stay where they are (if played from position left) or will be replaced (if requested to replace).

The Rules Committee is satisfied that this rewrite has delivered a Ruling that is now fairer, without interpretation and much easier to understand and implement.