

Section 2 Rule 19.

Push Stroke.

In all other walks of life pushing is, at best rude and at worse dangerous unless you're trying to start a mate's car. In Snooker it is a foul.

There are two ways of invoking the ire of the referee into awarding a foul for this offence. The first is the obvious one where the tip of the cue remains in contact with the cue ball after it has started its forward motion.

A player playing a hesitant stroke, possibly softly rolling up to a ball to snooker his opponent, or playing a stroke from under a cushion, is always in danger of offending. The first example may cause the striker to inadvertently keep the tip of his cue in contact with the cue ball longer than is allowable. The second example has the danger of the cue tip rolling over the cue ball as only the top of it may be struck and this too is considered a push. The referee is advised to be extra vigilant in either of these two instances.

The second type of push stroke is when the cue ball and the intended target are very close together but

not touching. If the cue tip, the cue ball and the nominated ball are in contact at the same moment a foul must be called with the proviso that if a very fine edge of the object ball is contacted by the cue ball it shall be called fair, and a judgment of this may be made by assessing the speed and movement of each ball when the stroke is played. Striking the cue ball in the direction of an adjacent object ball with anything but minimal force is almost always a push, but again, the referee needs to be extra vigilant.

If the cue ball and object ball are touching then the striker already has them in contact and must then break that contact by playing the cue ball away from the object ball without causing it to move. If the touching ball is a ball on and is nominated then he will be deemed to have struck it fairly and if it is a ball not on he will be deemed not to have struck it.

The referee also needs to be careful in this situation and also to keep in mind that if the object ball is on or near one of the spots or a flaw in the cloth, it could move after the stroke has been played by “falling” off that spot or into the flaw. If this were to happen it would be unfair to penalise the striker. Section 3, rule 8 (f) states that if the referee is satisfied that any movement of a touching ball at the moment of

striking was not caused by striker, he will not call a foul