

5. Section 3 Rule 14 a, b & c.

Foul and a Miss.

O.K., time to revisit the referee's delight, rule 14. This week I would like to deal with what needs to happen after the call of Foul and a Miss has been made.

The incoming striker has the right to request that the offender plays the next and a new stroke with the position of the balls remaining where they are after they all come to rest. In which case the referee has no other duties to perform.

He also has the right to play the next stroke himself which would also leave the referee with nothing more to do.

These, as you should know, are the normal options after any foul. The difficulty comes if the non striker should exercise his third option if a Miss is called, namely to have the balls replaced and the offender asked to REPLAY his original stroke.

If the third option is chosen then the offender must play as if the previous stroke had not happened. The ball on is the ball or balls that is, or were on before the foul, whether it was a red, or a colour of his choice (he still has that choice), or a colour in the correct

sequence in the final stages of the game with no reds left.

That deals with 14a, 14b now goes on to admonish the referee to be mindful of the scores.

If any penalty points were required by either player to win the frame, totally disregarding the possibility of a re-spotted black. Then a Miss may not be called. This is true if the situation arose before the stroke was played or after and because of it.

There is however, a proviso to rule 14b which states that if the referee is confident that the miss was intentional then he is at liberty to call it.

14c now goes on to deal with the situation of a Miss being called twice for the same offence and the offender being asked to replay the stroke for a third time . The referee now has to consider whether the offender has available to him the opportunity to strike a ball on centrally with full contact regardless of the proximity of balls not on (not both extreme edges as in a free ball but just full central contact).

This being the case it is his duty to now warn the player that a further miss will result in him forfeiting the frame. The referee can only award the frame in

this way if he has delivered this warning. Which is the same as saying that the offending player can only lose the frame this way if he is called for missing subsequent to a warning from the referee, regardless of how many strokes were played and Misses called before any such warning was delivered.

As soon as this sequence of events is under way the referee must then disregard 14b as it is now irrelevant in the context of 14c.

To summarise this, if a Miss has been called after a foul then both players must still be able to win the frame without a re-spotted black. If a subsequent Miss is called and full central ball contact is available, then that possibility must be disregarded and is no longer to be a consideration.

An example would be if one player was 30 points in arrears and in the situation described in 14c with just one red left to be potted and is called for missing. A second call of Miss may be made because even though he might now be 34 points adrift, there are still 35 available. Any further call of Miss by the referee must now be made and the warning given, even though he would now be at least 38 points behind and in need of penalty points.

Nothing can stop this sequence except the non striker exercising his rights as described above, even if a cuff foul is called during it. The warning is still in place as is the possibility of forfeiting the frame with a further Miss.

If full central ball contact is not available to the striker then the referee is at liberty to continue to call a miss after each subsequent foul as many times as he feels is necessary up until the time that he is of the opinion that a fair attempt to strike a ball on had been made or that penalty points were required to win the frame.

One other point regarding this rule that I must make, is to dispel the misconception that this, or any other rule for that matter, changes in any way once all the reds have been potted. ALL THE RULES ARE VALID FOR THE COMPLETE DURATION OF EVERY FRAME.