

6. Section 4 Rule 1

Conduct.

Section 4 contains all the rules concerned with the players themselves.

Rule 1 is the specific instruction regarding conduct.

It is well to remember that these instructions are rules of Snooker just as much as all the other rules that are so familiar to us.

It addresses time wasting, both in the execution of any stroke as well as in the selection of any stroke and tells us that the player can be admonished or penalised by the referee without redress for either.

This is relevant now to all pennant snooker players who should be mindful that willful time wasting, especially nearing the end of the designated time allocation for each game, when in a winning position is not just ungentlemanly conduct but tantamount to cheating.

It also states that only the opinion of the referee is needed for him to act. Not the opinion of the player nor his opponent nor the marker nor the director of referees nor the president nor---well, you get the drift.

The form of this admonishment can only be given as a warning that the player will forfeit the frame if he persists, or the whole game if the seriousness warrants it. It is also unnecessary for the referee to make the warning public or to repeat it.

The referee is not at liberty to award penalty points for slow play or to give the opponent equal opportunity to increase his stroke or playing time or any other form of redress he can think of, only to warn the offender of imminent forfeiture.

The rule also goes on to say that after any such warning has been given the referee is duty bound to enforce the consequences and also goes on to warn the player that this decision is irretrievable and cannot be overturned on appeal.

It is also well to remember that any pennant player acting as a referee for any frame has the full weight of the rule book and by that, the full backing of all governing bodies behind him. He is the referee and is as free to make any decision FOLLOWING THE RULES, as the highest qualified referee in the world.

The last word here is that the rules need to be known if they are to be followed and if anyone is unsure they must seek clarification either from the highest

qualified referee in attendance at the venue or the rule book.