

Section 2 Rule 12

This rule deals with nominating a ball, which always means a coloured ball after potting a red. It is never necessary to nominate a red. It is also unnecessary to nominate the colours during the final sequence when no reds are left and a stroke has been played, or a foul committed, after potting the last one.

The rule states that the striker must declare, OR indicate to the satisfaction of the referee which ball he intends the cue ball to hit with first impact.

Of course the striker may declare with every stroke he makes but this is not really necessary.

There are two ways to indicate which ball a striker intends to hit.

1. By stating it verbally, and
2. By cueing in the obvious direction of an isolated ball on.

The striker can also point to his intended target with his cue, but this is not advised even though there is no rule against it, as the possibility of fouling is increased with such an action.

If a ball on is in a clear area of the table and the striker is cueing in its direction this is taken to mean that he is nominating that particular ball and the referee will not ask him nominate verbally. (nor should he need to if he is in the correct position).

If there is the slightest possibility in the mind of the striker that the referee could misconstrue his intentions he would be best advised to make them known to him.

If there is the slightest doubt in the mind of the referee he MUST ask the striker to declare and the striker MUST comply as demanded by the second clause of this rule.

Please also bear in mind here that an unnecessary request for nomination by the referee to the striker could upset his concentration and would be unfair. Get into the correct position behind the striker's arm and most times such a request will be unnecessary.

There is also one instance when it could be obvious which direction he intends to send the cue ball, but where the referee MUST ask the striker to declare and the striker MUST comply.

This is when the cue ball is touching a coloured ball after the striker has potted a red.

The referee will state "Touching ball, nominate please" to which the striker MUST reply. (See Section 3 Rule 8a - Touching Ball) He can of course nominate the touching

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ball if he so desires and play away to a safe area. He could also nominate any other coloured ball to either play safe or continue his break.

The referee however, cannot know what is in the player's mind and must call a foul if he fails to declare. (This is one of the six fouls not involving the Black that is penalised by 7 points)

The referee also has a duty to the players, which is to ensure that no misconceptions are in place in the strikers stated intentions. This can be facilitated by the referee repeating the nomination verbally, back to the players.

In the case of nominating a Free Ball, it has become the practice to do this verbally. The rule regarding nomination is exactly the same in this situation, of course but I believe that it is a good idea to speak in this instance as the Free Ball must be struck first or first simultaneously with a ball on and failure to do so, even if a ball on other than the Free Ball was struck first, a foul has been committed.