



The cue-ball cannot be snookered by a cushion. If the curved face of a cushion obstructs the cue-ball and is closer to the cue-ball than any obstructing ball not on, the cue-ball is not snookered.

This has nothing to do with the definition of a Miss which can be found in Section 2 under rule 21. It is concerned only with whether the cue ball is prevented from striking both extreme edges of a ball on.

If you consider diagram 1 you will see the only 'ball on' after a foul is the red ball tight to the cushion. A free ball cannot be awarded by the referee here even though the striker is unable to hit both extreme edges of the ball.

This is equally true for the situation in diagram 2, he is unable to strike both edges. The difference lies in the possible awarding of a Miss after any foul by the striker.

In the first example the striker has a straight line path to the 'ball on' and must cause the cue ball to make first contact with it or a call of "Foul and a Miss" is obligatory by the referee if all other criteria in rule 14 are met.

In the second example no such straight line path is available to the striker and any call of "Miss" by the referee is entirely dependent on his opinion of whether a good enough attempt had been made to strike the 'ball on'.

The rule specifically states (14 b) that a Miss must be called if the striker has a clear path in a straight line, not 'a Miss must be called if he isn't snookered'.

In either case it is the awarding of a free ball or not that is at issue in this rule not Section 3 Rule 14, the Foul and a Miss rule.

