

MORE ON THE “FOUL AND A MISS” RULE

The following points offer items of interest on the often discussed Foul and a Miss rule.

The correct call when this rule is applied is “Foul and a Miss” and not as is often heard as “Foul Miss”. The call is both for a foul and additionally a miss, hence the importance of the ‘and a’ part of the call.

When a “Foul and a Miss” call is made, the referee should immediately move to the scoreboard, adjust the score and await further instruction. It is undesirable for the referee (official or otherwise) to remain at the table staring at the players etc rather than the preferred method above.

This rule was created/changed to prevent the ‘Professional Miss’ rather than to milk a situation when a player is simply not good enough to hit a ball on.

There are no mandatory “Foul and a Miss” calls when playing out of a snookered situation. Playing a swerve shot and missing a ball on does not mean an automatic Foul and a Miss call will be made.

Playing from a snookered situation in ‘B’ grade pennant, the Foul and a Miss rule should be rarely used and in ‘C’ grade it should be exceptional and hardly ever seen!

Both players in a match are required to indicate to the referee that they are happy with the positions of any balls replaced under this rule. Please help the referees with this.

Referees are encouraged to replace the cue ball only after a Foul and a Miss call whenever possible. Only balls considered an integral part of the stroke should be additionally considered.

A Foul and a Miss call can not be made when either player needs a snooker at the time of the stroke or as a result of the penalty points being applied.
Note; the reverse is not the case.

After having the balls replaced after a Foul and a Miss call the striker can play at any ball ‘on’ including changing his/her mind on colour selection.

It is not essential for the referee to consider both players to have equal ability when applying this rule. Quite often they do not.

When the cue ball after potting a red ball is totally snookered by red balls, the following applies. To prevent a Foul and a Miss from being called the player must play a direct or indirect stroke towards the nominated colour with enough force such that the cue ball would have struck the nominated ball had it not been obstructed.

A warning prior to a third Foul and a Miss call can only be given when a full ball contact of a ball ‘on’ is available to the striker.

A player can not lose a frame in this manner unless the warning has been given.

Cuff fouls or fouls when the striker is not attempting a stroke are not be called a Foul and a Miss.

Miscueing is not to be confused with this point and can be called a Foul and a Miss.

After or during consultation on the positioning of any ball during the Foul and a Miss rule application, the decision of the referee is final.

Players are not permitted to touch any ball during a Foul and a Miss sequence and must be penalised accordingly to rule if such should occur.

If a player requests, he/she must be told by the referee which balls will be replaced if the decision is made to replay the stroke. The position of the balls will not be declared or discussed.

Referees not familiar with this rule should seek advice rather than guess at a decision.

When doubt exists about applying the Foul and a Miss rule the benefit should be given to the striker ... but consistency must be maintained during the match.

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