

Section 2 Rules 5 (Striker & Turn) & 6 (Stroke)

If we take these two rules and compare them to each other we see that there is a distinct difference between the two as to when each is complete.

Rule 5 states that the strikers turn and his right to play another stroke ends when he either fails to score from a stroke, or he commits a foul, or he asks his opponent to play again after a foul. Section 3 Rule 3 (i) also states that 'if the striker fails to pot a ball, he must leave the table without delay'

So as soon as it is certain that the striker is not going to score from his last stroke, even if a ball or balls are in motion, or if he fouls, again regardless of any balls not at rest, then his turn has come to an abrupt end.

This is very different from rule 6 which states that a stroke is not complete until all balls have come to rest, the striker has stood up to either leave the table or play another stroke, all equipment has been removed from any hazardous position and any relevant score has been called by the referee.

The incoming or incumbent striker will foul if he plays whilst any of these conditions remain.

Rule 5 addresses when the incumbent striker must stop playing. Rule 6 addresses when the incoming striker may start.

When it is obvious that the stroke just played is going to result in either no score or a foul, the striker must leave the table and return to his non-playing position or seat. This becomes an added necessity to the referee if he has to view any possible free ball, touching ball or snookered situation. To have the outgoing player, the incoming striker and the referee all trying to see where the balls will, or have ended up, can sometimes resemble an episode of the Keystone Cops, especially in a room that has more than one table with little space between them and players and officials on the next table also in the way.

The outgoing player does not need to remain at the table, getting in the way. He will find out soon enough what the outcome of his stroke is when the referee makes, or fails to make, any call.

Many players, after using the rest will remain rooted to their position waiting to see the outcome of the stroke still clutching the rest, with the referee behind him waiting to replace it on its hooks. More time is being wasted here and the referee frustrated in his attempts to assist the striker and then to be in the correct position for the next stroke.

The only time that a player should be at the table when he is not the striker is if he is invited to give his opinion on the position of any balls to be replaced after he has asked his opponent to replay a stroke upon a call of 'Foul and a Miss' .