

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE 2019 REWRITE OF THE RULEBOOK**



The wording throughout all Rules and Definitions are now gender neutral.

### **RULES OF THE GAME OF SNOOKER**

#### **Section 1 - Equipment**

All measurements and tolerances are now standardised, and Bottom and Top Cushions are now described and named.

#### **Section 2 Rule 5 - Striker and Turn**

In this definition it is now much clearer when a player's turn starts and finishes. Throughout the Rulebook it is now easier to use the term 'turn' more widely.

#### **Section 2 Rule 7 - Potting and Pocketing**

The much needed addition to this definition of the word pocketing makes it clearer throughout the Rulebook that potting is legal and pocketing is not.

#### **Section 2 Rule 9 - In-hand**

In paragraph (b)(ii) the Rule now states that the cue-ball remains in hand for the next stroke when an infringement is committed that does not involve the cue-ball. After the cue-ball is pocketed, the normal practice is that the referee places the cue-ball on the table (against the Bottom Cushion). Any infringement now without the cue-ball will mean that the cue-ball is still in-hand contrary to the old Rulebook where it would have been in play. The added Rule 16 in Section 3 explains this also.

#### **Section 2 Rule 15 - Infringements, Fouls and Penalties**

The Rulebook now clearly defines the difference between a foul and a penalty. More instances are now included where a player concedes penalty points without affecting the order of play.

#### **Section 2 Rule 17 - Snookered**

The Rule where the curved face of the cushion took priority over a ball not on in determining whether the cue-ball was snookered or not has been removed.  
The cue-ball can only be snookered by balls that are not on.

#### **Section 2 Rule 19 - Push Stroke**

A much clearer definition.

#### **Section 2 Rule 20 - Jump Shot**

A much clearer definition.

#### **Section 2 Rule 22 - Consultation Period**

This definition is added to clear up when a consultation period starts and finishes and in which situations it is implemented.



### **Section 3 Rule 3 - Mode of Play**

Paragraph (f) clarifies that, when a player leaves any object on the table and the next player plays a stroke, the striker will be fouled if any ball contacts that object.

Paragraph (k) clarifies that the non-striker cannot be fouled for committing an infringement while the striker is in a break. The non-striker will now incur penalty points without affecting the striker's turn.

### **Section 3 Rule 7 - Spotting Colours**

Paragraph (b) now clarifies what happens when a colour that is spotted in error is potted again.

Paragraph (c)(i) now clarifies up to which point a colour that was missing can be spotted.

Paragraph (d) is added to clarify the procedure when a Red is spotted instead of a colour.

In paragraph (j) the words 'by hand' are removed to accommodate players who have difficulties in spotting colours in games when there is no referee.

### **Section 3 Rule 10 - Fouls**

Paragraph (i) is rewritten to make it clearer as to what options are available when the striker fouls any ball prior to playing a stroke.

### **Section 3 Rule 11 - Penalty Values**

In this Rule there is now a clearer difference as to which are fouls, and which are penalties.

Paragraph (b)(x) is added.

Paragraphs (e), (f) and (g) are added to define that these acts are penalties.

### **Section 3 Rule 12 - Snookered After a Foul**

Paragraph (b)(ii) is rewritten to clarify that it is not a foul when no Reds are on the playing area and a player uses a nominated free ball to pot the ball on and then leaves the cue-ball snookered behind that nominated ball for their stroke on the next colour.

Paragraph (f) clarifies that a free ball option becomes void when a player is requested to play again from the original position.

### **Section 3 Rule 14 - Foul and a Miss**

In paragraph (a), the previous option of calling a FOUL AND A MISS when, before or after a stroke, the points available on the table are equal to the points difference excluding the value of the re-spotted Black is deleted. The referee may now call FOUL AND A MISS in this situation. In paragraph (e) a change is made where the ball on now shall only be the same prior to the last stroke made when the offender is requested to play from the original position.

### **Section 3 Rule 16 - Ball Moved Other than In a Stroke**

This Rule is added to clarify situations when a ball or balls are moved without a stroke being played.



### **Section 3 Rule 17 - Stalemate**

The procedure when a stalemate is reached during a re-spotted Black is added to this Rule.

### **Section 3 Rule 18 - Four-handed Snooker**

Paragraph (f) is added. This to clarify that the striker's partner cannot deliberately change the order of play.

### **Section 3 Rule 19 - Six Reds Snooker**

This form of Snooker is now formally incorporated in the Rules.

Paragraphs (b) and (c) clarify that the sequence of five FOUL AND A MISS calls only counts if the offender is requested to play again from the original position.

### **Section 3 Rule 21 - Interpretation**

In this Rule the mention of words implying the masculine gender is deleted. The wording throughout these Rules and Definitions are now gender neutral.

### **Section 4 - THE PLAYERS**

This Section has undergone a complete revamp.

Unsporting Conduct and Time Wasting are now separated entities.

## **SNOOKER SHOOT OUT COMPETITION RULES**

The Rules of the Snooker Shoot Out Competition have undergone a complete revamp.

## **RULES OF THE GAME OF ENGLISH BILLIARDS**

### **Section 1 - Equipment**

All measurements and tolerances are standardised, and Bottom and Top Cushions are now described and named. Also, a better description of the Balls.

### **Section 2 Definition 4 - Cushion Faces**

Flat face and curved face are now defined.

### **Section 2 Definition 6 - Striker and Turn**

### **Section 2 Definition 7 - Stroke**

These definitions are now consistent with the Rules of Snooker.

### **Section 2 Definition 8 - Pot and Pocketing**

Pocketing is now defined.

### **Section 2 Definition 21 - Push Stroke**

This definition is now consistent with the Rules of Snooker.

### **Section 3 Rule 2 - Start of Game**

Procedure when starting a game out of turn added.



### **Section 3 Rule 8 - Baulk-line Crossing**

Rewritten for added clarification.

### **Section 3 Rule 15 - Fouls**

Paragraph (t) added.

### **Section 4 - THE PLAYERS**

This Section has undergone a complete revamp.

Unsporting Conduct and Time Wasting have now been included and necessary procedures must now be adopted.

### **Section 5 - THE OFFICIALS**

Description of Timekeeper added.