

No. 12. Answer

Section 3. Rule 10 d.(ii) Penalties, tells us that to use any object to measure gaps or distances is a foul that carries a penalty of 7 points.

This situation however, shows the striker to be measuring an angle rather than a gap or a distance and as such is not a foul.

The action itself is contrary to the behaviour expected of the players who should immediately be warned that they must desist and that any further such action will result in the loss of the frame on the grounds of ungentlemanly conduct. This ties in with the ethical prohibition of leaving chalk blocks on the rail which can be construed as an aiming reference but where a foul and penalty points cannot be awarded.

This is yet another example of how referees must be vigilant at all times to apply, not only the rules as they are written, but to also use common sense to ensure that fairness in the dealings with both players is seen to be a primary function.