

1. Section 3 Rule 8 (a) states that the referee will call 'Touching Ball' only if the cue ball is seen to be touching a ball on. Because the striker has just potted a red he cannot therefore be on one. **The referee should not indicate to the striker that balls not on are touching.**

2. The player can ask anything he wants but the referee is only allowed to answer 4 questions regarding play and this is one of them. Section 3 Rule 8 (d) goes on to say that if the cue ball comes to rest near enough to a ball not on so that it could be touching, **the incoming striker, should he ask, is entitled to be told if it is or isn't.**

3. Well, here we come to a bone of contention. The rule (Section 3 Rule 8 (b)) certainly states that **it is a foul if the player doesn't play away from the touching ball without moving it.** If the player is now in an impossible snooker situation, to avoid a call of 'Miss' from the referee, he must play directly or indirectly at a ball on with sufficient strength to reach that ball. He cannot avoid fouling but may choose the manner of that foul and if that means playing into the touching ball that is certainly one of his options.  
To simplify this answer, the player has to play away from the touching ball or it is a foul but may, or may not, be a miss.

4. As we have seen in the answer to question 3, yes, **it is deemed to be a push which is a foul.** Section 3 Rule 10 (a) (x).

The answers to the follow up questions with this further explanation of the sequence of events. - Given the situation stated, the striker when addressing to play the next stroke contacts the cue ball which then moves the touching ball, are:

1. **The referee must call a foul** with the penalty being the value of the ball on (the nominated ball) or the ball concerned whichever is the higher. Section 3 Rule 10 b (iv) In the event that the striker has not yet nominated which ball he is on before the foul is made the referee must award a penalty of 7 points to the non striker, Section 3 Rule 10 d (vii).

2. As in the answer to poser No. 2, there has been no stroke played and a **miss cannot therefore be called.**

3. The non offender may **play the next stroke himself** or, he can **ask the offender to play the stroke** from the new position(s) of the ball(s) with the choice of which ball is on (all the normal choices) or the next red or Yellow when no reds remain or he can **ask the referee to replace the balls to their original positions** with those choices remaining Section 3 Rule 11 i)