

OUT OF ORDER FOULS (FOUR-HANDED SNOOKER)
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Order fouls set-up and Scenarios:

First team: #1 and #3 odds Second team: #2 and #4 evens.

Order of play: 1 > 2 > 3 > 4 .

The over-riding principle which makes out-of-order fouls easy to understand and easy to determine the outcome and penalties as well as who shoots next is controlled by Rule 11 c) in Section 3 of the IBSF Rules of Snooker which states that: if a foul is neither awarded by the referee nor successfully claimed by the non-striker before the next stroke is made, it is condoned.

Remember that out of order fouls must be called in a timely fashion because when another shot is made it “condones” or legalizes the prior shot. There is no going back after someone else shoots or the striker takes another shot. It is always the last shot that is out of order.

The following scenarios will illustrate how this principle applies.

Scenario 1

#1 finishes his turn and #4 gets up and shoots. First Team calls an Order Foul immediately.

Ruling

An order foul was made because #2 follows #1. First Team awarded 4 to 7 points depending on the ball struck. It is now #3's turn and #2 has “lost” his turn. The applicable post foul options apply: #4 may be requested to shoot again; #3 may take the shot or if snookered #3 may nominate a free ball. If #4 is requested to play again (the player who committed the foul must be the one to shoot again), it is still #3's turn next. Normal order is resumed and #2 has lost a turn.

IE #1 plays, #4 plays (order foul called) #4 plays (shoot again), #3 plays (correct order), #4 plays, #1 plays, now #2 gets to play

Scenario 2

#1 shoots and #4 gets up and shoots as in Scenario 1. No Order Foul is called this time. #1 gets up and shoots. The Second Team calls an order foul.

Ruling

No Order Foul was called when #4 played OUT of ORDER. #1 follows #4 in the order of play. Once #1 makes the first stroke of this turn or fouls while approaching the first stroke of this turn; the First Team has “condoned” the stroke made by #4. Therefore #4 is deemed to have played in order. Since #1 follows #4 in the order, NO ORDER foul can be called.

Scenario 3

#1 shoots and #4 gets up and shoots and goes in off. NO ORDER FOUL is called. #3 states "shoot again" #4 plays again. #1 gets up and shoots. The Second Team calls an order foul. Ruling. Neither team can call an Order Foul. When #4 was told to shoot again, no order foul had been called on his initial shot which had been out of order. The First Team condoned the original Order Foul by #4 when they had #4 shoot again without calling an Order Foul. #1 follows #4 so #1 is playing in order. Normal order is resumed and in this case both #2 and #3 have lost a turn.

Scenario 4

This situation occurs more often than we would like to think...

Standard order: First team: #1 and #3 odds Second team: #2 and #4 evens.

Order of play: 1 > 2 > 3 > 4 .

#4 steps up and plays in #2's turn then since #3 would normally shoot next in this turn or slot, he steps up and shoots and now #2 feels that it must be his turn soon so he steps up and shoots followed by #1 who hasn't shot for a long time.....The new incorrect order is : #4 > #3 > #2 > #1. This scenario can continue for an extended period of time. i.e.. five to fifteen minutes..... In actual fact this can continue until all the balls are potted..... game ends no fouls called and all is OK. However, usually someone remembers or notices that something is not quite right. Remember that every time someone begins his turn he "condones" the prior shot. So all the pots and shots are legal except for the last shot or pot. Let's say that #1 realizes that he shouldn't be shooting after #2 then the next time that #2 shoots #1 calls an order foul on him because he followed #3 and it should be #4 that follows #3. The foul is correct and four points scored for the "odds" pair. And the last legal strike was made by #3 because his stroke was condoned by #2's order foul. So who shoots next? This can seem confusing.....remember that the last legal shot was made by #3 and #4's turn was used incorrectly by #2 then the next striker is #1 because #4 "lost his turn" which was used up by #2.

Scenario 5

Let us consider an extension to Scenario #4 above.....What if player #1 realizes the out of order situation while #2 is on an extended high break..... he has potted three blues and two blacks and another and is now nominating the pink. #2 has now scored 35 points and if #1 calls the foul before #2 shoots the pink. What is the score???? The last red potted is considered foul and the 35th point does not count. So the high break is 34, the odds pair is awarded 4 points for the order foul on a red and the next striker is #1 as explained in Scenario 4 above. Let's say that #1 is slow in calling the foul and #2 pots the pink and then the foul is called. Now the points are different..... the red ball pot counted and the break was 35 but now the foul penalty is 6 points for the "odds" pair. And of course #1 is still the next striker as determined above.