

## LEAGUE RULES OF PLAY

### REFERENCE AUTHORITY:

The current rules of snooker as published by the "International Billiards and Snooker Federation" will prevail with changes as in the Section 7.02 below. The "to call or not to call" demonstration videos hosted by John Horsfall also serve as primary guidelines and interpretation of league practices. The Referee-in-Chief and/or his standing committee and the Executive will make final decisions re: rules of play during the season.

**LOCAL RULE ADAPTATIONS:** It is recognized that the two groups (leagues) do not necessarily have to follow the identical playing rule adaptations. Motions to amend the playing rules may be made by either group and subsequently debated and voted upon exclusively by the delegates of the league involved.

1. "Table size to be 5' x 10"
2. End of Frame, Game or Match "Section 3, subsection 4, paragraph (a)" to now read: - "When only the black is left, the first score or foul ends the frame. If the scores are then equal the frame is declared a tie."
3. It is recommended that all centres provide "crystallate" balls.
4. Communication (conferring) of any kind between partners shall cease when the striker literally strikes the cueball on his/her first shot of each turn. (Both players may approach and read the table and either player may reconsider after the striker approaches the table to strike; thus they may confer once again (one time only).)
5. The Foul and Miss rule will be simplified and "misses" will be called in the following situations:
  - A miss on an open ball. i.e. "Failure to hit a ball on when there is a clear path in a straight line from the cue ball to any part of any ball that is or could be on"
  - Coming up short. (Snookered or not.) i.e. "Failure to strike the cue ball with sufficient strength (for its intended path) to reach a ball that is or could be on."
  - When there is no possible route to the object ball, if the cueball is struck with sufficient effort to reach the object ball then the "Foul and Miss" rule will not apply.

### Clarification/interpretation of simplified foul and miss rule:

The International Rules of Snooker section 3 paragraph 14 state that "The striker shall, to the best of his ability, endeavour to hit the ball on. If the referee considers the Rule infringed, he shall call FOUL AND MISS.." The purpose of this rule is to prevent a player from deliberately committing a foul by missing a "ball on" in order to "play safe". This could be done in a wide variety of ways and it is the referee's judgement call whether a serious attempt was made or not. In the Video Demonstrations with John Horsfall, he stressed the importance of the rule in scenario stated above, which has broad implications and which is interpreted strictly by referees. For example if a player pots a red then has no obviously pottable colour but has a clear path to strike part of a ball that could be on, he should nominate that ball. If he does not; that choice would then cause an automatic FOUL AND MISS (if he fails to strike his chosen ball) because he had a clear path to a part of a ball that "could have been on" even if that ball was not a "full ball or open ball" according to our league definition. He must nominate and attempt the easier most direct hit AND if he fails to strike it, it will not be deemed to be a "miss". (Common sense in exercising judgement is expected in this case ie: if only a sliver of a possible ball on could be seen then he could nominate another ball.) The LMSSL SIMPLIFIED FOUL AND MISS RULE will NOT AWARD a frame if a player commits three "misses" on an open ball nor will the difference in scores be considered. Our rules apply at all times. The replacing of balls will be done according to the original rule. It is our intention to avoid too much subjective judgement regarding "ability or skill".

**For B league only;** when balls are accidentally moved or touched, only Cue and Rest/Bridge Fouls will be called (a ball touched by any part of the cue or rest/bridge). Balls moved accidentally by the hand, arm or clothing, etc, may be replaced as close to their original locations as possible or left in the new locations at the option of the opposing pair. After the opposing pair have indicated their choice then the striker may complete his first shot or resume his break. Common sense and fairness should be used for the application of this rule.