

IBSF Adopts Updated Rules for Snooker
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The IBSF has adopted the changes to the rules of Snooker and English Billiards announced by the WPBSA in 2011. These rule changes come into effect immediately, and will be used for all future IBSF Championships.

The full listing of the updated rules can be viewed by clicking the following links for [Snooker](#) and [English Billiards](#), however the significant amendments are listed below:

SNOOKER
SECTION 2:

5. Striker and Turn

The person about to play or in play is the striker and remains so until the final stroke, or foul, of his turn is complete and the referee is satisfied that he has finally left the table. If a non-striker comes to the table, out of turn, he shall be considered as the striker for any foul he may commit before leaving the table. When the referee is satisfied that the above conditions have been met, the incoming striker's turn begins. His turn and his right to play another stroke ends when:

- (a) he fails to score from a stroke; or
- (b) he commits a foul; or
- (c) he requests the opponent to play again after his opponent has committed a foul.

6. Stroke

- (a) A stroke is made when the striker strikes the cue-ball with the tip of the cue.
- (b) A stroke is fair when no infringement of Rule is made.
- (c) A stroke is not completed until:
 - (i) all balls have come to rest;
 - (ii) the striker has stood up, in readiness for a succeeding stroke, or leaving the table;
 - (iii) any equipment being used by the striker has been removed from a hazardous position; and
 - (iv) the referee has called any score relevant to the stroke.
- (d) A stroke may be made directly or indirectly, thus:
 - (i) a stroke is direct when the cue-ball strikes an object ball without first striking a cushion;
 - (ii) a stroke is indirect when the cue-ball strikes one or more cushions before striking an object ball.
- (e) Following the final stroke of the opponent's turn, if an incoming player plays a stroke/strikes the cue-ball before the balls have come to rest, he shall be penalized as if he were the striker, and his visit to the table shall end.

SECTION 3:

8. Touching Ball

(g) If a stationary object ball, not touching the cue-ball when examined by the referee, is later seen to be in contact with the cue-ball before a stroke has been made, the balls shall be repositioned by the referee to his satisfaction. This also applies to a touching ball which later, when examined by the referee is not touching, the balls shall be repositioned by the referee to his satisfaction.

13. Play Again

Once a player has requested an opponent to play again after a foul or requested the replacement of ball(s) after a Foul and a Miss, such request cannot be withdrawn. The offender, having been asked to play again, is entitled to:

- (a) change his mind as to:
 - (i) which stroke he will play; and
 - (ii) which ball on he will attempt to hit;
- (b) score points for any ball or balls he may pot.

14. Foul and a Miss

(b) If the striker, in making a stroke, fails to first 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, the referee shall call FOUL AND A MISS, unless:

- (i) any player needed penalty points before, or as a result of, the stroke being played; (see (b) (ii))
 - (ii) before or after the stroke, the points available on the table are equal to the points difference excluding the value of the re-spotted black;
- and the referee is satisfied that the miss was not intentional.

(d) After the cue-ball has been replaced under this Rule, and the striker fouls any ball, including the cue-ball while preparing to play a stroke, a miss will not be called if a stroke has not been played. In this case the appropriate penalty will be imposed; and the ball on shall be the same as prior to the last stroke made, namely:

- (i) any Red, where Red was the ball on;
 - (ii) the colour on, where all Reds were off the table; or
 - (iii) a colour of the striker's choice, where the ball on was a colour after a Red had been potted;
- and
- (iv) the next player may elect to play the stroke himself or ask the offender to play again from the position left; or
 - (v) the next player may ask the referee to replace all balls moved to their original position and have the offender play again from there; and
 - (vi) if the above situation arises during a sequence of miss calls, any warning concerning the possible awarding of the frame to his opponent shall remain in effect.

(e) All other misses will be called at the discretion of the referee, unless, before or after the stroke, the points available on the table are equal to the points difference excluding the value of the re-spotted black.