

Guidelines for Administering the 'Miss' Rule

Official definition of a 'Miss'

"A miss is when the cue-ball fails to first contact a ball on, and the referee considers that the striker has not made a good enough attempt to hit a ball on."

Further to this, Section 3 of the official rule book, sub-section 14 describes the 'foul and a miss' rule, thus:

'The striker shall to the best of his ability, endeavour to hit the ball on or a ball that could be on; if the referee considers the rule infringed, he shall call Foul and a Miss'.

The key wording here is 'to the best of his ability'; that is to say that to administer this rule fairly, as the referee of any game, when a player fails to escape from a snooker, please ask yourself this: Is that player based on his ability expected to have got closer to hitting the ball on; if your honest assessment is, No; then you should Not call 'Foul and a Miss'.

Some hints for administering the Miss Rule

When a striker 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 should call 'foul and miss'; unless snookers were already required prior to the shot being played.

When escaping from a snooker, if the cue-ball falls short, (does not reach the ball on) the referee should call 'foul and miss'; unless snookers were already required prior to the shot being played.

When failing to hit a declared colour (the yellow for example) after first potting a red, when it is quite evidently easier to hit a different colour (the black for example) the referee should call 'foul and miss'; unless snookers were already required prior to the shot being played.

Please understand that these hints and tips are meant only as a guide and are by no means designed as exhaustive.

Most important of all is to remember this:

The Miss Rule is designed to ensure that players make a genuine attempt, a best effort based on ability, to hit a ball on; if you honestly assess that a player has done this, then it is unfair on the player to call a 'Foul and a Miss'

I can only ask that everybody refereeing matches is honest and fair minded when administering this rule.