



INTERNATIONAL EIGHTBALL POOL RULES

(Revision of rules – Guide Sheet – May 2023 version 2c)

This document is for organisations/individuals to see in a little more detail why or what changes have occurred.

Change descriptions are in **red**.

Small changes are in **Bold**.

Additional notes are in *Blue*.

Change: The stalemate rule and guidance was vague doesn't offer a way to judge what a stalemate is.

Old Rule:

6g Stalemate situation

If any situation arises whereby a 'legal shot' (see Rule 6e(12)) cannot be played, it is a player's responsibility to ask for a stalemate. If the referee (or opponent – if no referee) confirms a stalemate, the frame shall be restarted with a re-rack. The player who originally broke will restart the re-racked frame. If no stalemate is confirmed, the players must continue their visit.

Rule changed to:

6g Stalemate situation

If any situation arises whereby a 'legal shot' (see Rule 6e(12)) cannot be played, it is a player's responsibility to ask for a stalemate. In other words, if there is not a path 'out' for the cue ball or not a path 'into' the ball 'on', in the first instance the player must ask for a stalemate if they believe a 'legal shot' cannot be played. A decision on whether a stalemate exists will be at the referee's discretion. A referee will disregard a player's ability when making a stalemate decision.

If the referee (or opponent – if no referee) confirms a stalemate, the frame shall be restarted with a re-rack. The player who originally broke will restart the re-racked frame. If no stalemate is confirmed, the players must continue their visit.

Change: There is some confusion surrounding the cue ball after a foul has been committed, in terms of whether or not the cue ball has to be picked up or can be played in situ (without being picked up). The current rule is very suggestive that the cue ball can be 'in hand' and moved but doesn't have to be. This needs to clear 100% in terms of what can and cannot be done with regards the cue ball after a foul has been committed.

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Old Rule:

6e Standard fouls

Shall be called by the referee as soon as they occur, the fouling player is in control until all balls from that shot come to rest. The referee awards a cue ball in hand, which can be placed anywhere on the playing surface with one visit to the opponent.

Rule changed to:

6e Standard fouls

Shall be called as soon as they occur, the fouling player is in control until all balls from that shot have come to rest. The incoming player is awarded one visit and a cue ball in hand, which can be:

- a) Played from its current position, or
- b) Placed anywhere on the playing surface.

The only exception to (a) is if the cue ball has come to rest and is touching an object ball and therefore must be repositioned.