

Q1. The white ball striker plays from in hand and hits the yellow and red simultaneously the red bounces off the cushion and knocks the white in. What score does the referee call?

A1. The striker gets 4 points. Hitting both balls simultaneously scores 2 points (Cannon) and hitting the red is not a factor prior to the cue ball going in off for a further 2 points.

Section 3 – Billiards - Rule 4 Scoring

Points are awarded as follows:

(d) When an *in-off* is combined with a *cannon*, the *in-off* shall score (additionally to *cannon*)

(i) three points if the Red was struck first by the *cue-ball*;

(ii) two points if the *object ball* (White, Spot White or Yellow) was struck first; or

(iii) two points if both *object balls* were struck simultaneously.

Q2. How does the referee deal with a touching ball in billiards differently to a referee in a snooker match

A2. In Snooker the referee does not have to consult the players prior to declaring a touching ball. In Billiards the referee must consult both players but his decision is final if agreement is not reached. As in Snooker however a player not interested in the situation can be disregarded.

Section 3 – Billiards - Rule 13. Touching Ball - Billiards

(a) When the *striker's* ball remains touching another ball, the referee shall state TOUCHING BALL and, following the agreement of both players, Red shall be placed on the Spot, the non-*striker's* ball, if on the table, shall be placed on the Centre Spot, and the *striker* shall play from *in-hand*.

(b) 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 re-positioned by the referee to his satisfaction.

(c) The *striker* is entitled to be told upon request whether the *object balls* are touching.

Section 3 – Snooker – Rule 8 - Touching Ball - Snooker

(a) If at the completion of a *stroke* the *cue-ball* is touching a ball or balls *on*, or that could be *on*, the referee shall state TOUCHING BALL and indicate which ball or balls *on* the *cue-ball* is touching. If the *cue-ball* is touching one or more colours after a Red (or a *free ball nominated* as a Red) has been *potted*, the referee shall also ask the *striker* to DECLARE which colour he is *on*.

(b) When a *touching ball* has been called, the *striker* must play the *cue-ball* away from that ball without moving it or it is a *push stroke*.

(c) Providing the *striker* does not cause any touching *object ball* to move, there shall be no penalty if:

(i) the ball is *on*;

(ii) the ball could be *on* and the *striker* declares he is *on* it; or

(iii) the ball could be *on* and the *striker* declares, and first hits, another ball that could be *on*.

(d) If the *cue-ball* comes to rest touching or nearly touching a ball that is not *on*, the referee, if asked whether it is touching, will answer YES or NO. The *striker* must play away without disturbing it as above but must first hit a ball that is *on*.

(e) When the *cue-ball* is touching both a ball *on* and a ball not *on*, the referee shall only indicate the ball *on* as touching. If the *striker* should ask the referee whether the *cue-ball* is also touching the ball not *on*, he is entitled to be told.