



Union Mondiale de Billard

UMB REFEREE RULES

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Article 1 - APPLICATION OF THE RULES

01. The international referee rules are applicable at all international World Championships, World Cups and all other intercontinental competitions which are organized or recognized by UMB. With regard to 5 Pins billiards some other or contrary rules are applicable, which are determined in specific regulations -appendix 1
02. Cases which are not settled with these rules or cases of force majeure will be bindingly settled by the official UMB-delegate or by his substitute on the spot of the event, after that one has consulted with the official delegate of the organizing federation and with the tournament director.

Article 2 - RESPONSIBILITY

01. It is incumbent on the federation where the competition is taking place to take all necessary measures in order to place the required and competent UMB, confederal and/or national referees at the organizer's disposal and in order to guarantee the exercise of the office of the referee according to the UMB rules.
02. Before the referee takes on his task, he controls the balls and makes sure if the tables are cleaned and are correctly drawn in. If necessary he will carry out this work or will arrange for this. He checks as well if all necessary utensils exist. If the tables, the cloths, the balls and the lightening are in good order and are authorized by UMB.
03. The match begins as soon as the referee has put up the balls for the cushion stroke. At this stage no sportsmen is allowed to touch a ball other than with the cue-tip and according to the rules.

Article 3 - DIRECTION OF THE MATCH

01. A sportsman cannot oppose the naming of a referee by the tournament direction.
02. The referee directs the match by himself, each other person is excluded. A second referee or a person who is writing is responsible for the filling in of the playing report and the operating of the score-board. In case that one is playing with time limits, the person who is writing (the second referee) or the referee himself -in that case only with a remote control -has to operate the clock.
03. The task of the referee begins at the moment at which the tournament direction is inviting the sportsmen to come to the billiard table for the pushing in, till the handing over of the playing report which has been signed by the sportsmen and the referees to the tournament director.
04. The referee has to provide for that, that no unauthorized interference from the outside or from the sportsmen concerned appears.
05. The referee provides for that, that the sportsmen are keeping a correct and loyal attitude and do not make any gestures or noises which are disturbing the opponent.

Article 4 - CONDUCT OF THE REFEREE

01. The referee does not have to show any feelings. He is also prohibited to give the sportsman support in any way.
02. The referee is explicitly prohibited to draw the attention of a sportsman to a game mistake which he is going to make. Apart from that the referee is not allowed to show the player his playing ball at the inning or in the course of a series, except that that one is asking that from the referee. He is, however, bound to announce the position of the balls in the Partie Libre and in Cadre, even if with this announcement the position of the playing ball will automatically be announced.

03. The clothes of the referees is determined by the organizer and has to be the same for all referees. The referees are permitted to wear advertisements of the organizer (not more than 80 square centimeters) in an appropriate manner. All referees have to wear the same advertisement at the same place.
04. During the carrying out of their office the referees are not allowed to neither smoke nor drink alcoholic drinks.

Article 5 - CHANGE OF THE REFEREE

With regard to matches who are lasting more than one hour it is recommended to change the referee halfway of the match. This change is not allowed to take place during a series, but only with the change of the playing sportsman.

Article 6 - ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE REFEREE

01. The referee does all announcements prescribed according to the rules with a loud voice.
02. The referee has to carry out the official announcements in the French language according to these regulations. The counting of the points must be done in an official UMB language
03. The referee announces to the sportsman, when that one has to play "pour cinq", "pour quatre", "pour trois", "pour deux" points till the end of the set or till the end of the match, respectively. With regard to three cushion the referee makes these announcements only for the last three points. In case that a running series will be interrupted, the last announcement will not be repeated at the resumption. The last carom of a set which has to be made will be announced as "point de set" the last carom of the match as "point de match".
04. In case that the sportsman brings his game to an end on account of a mistake or on account of the end of the set or the match, the referee will clearly say the name of the sportsman followed by the number of points (also zero points) which have been achieved by this sportsman. The person who is writing (as a rule the second referee) confirms this announcement clearly perceptible.
05. In case that the referee depending on the discipline has to make several announcements he will keep the following order:
 - 1) the points achieved
 - 2) the announcement "pour..."
 - 3) the position of the balls in consideration of the prohibited areas
 - 4) the position of the balls in consideration of the anchors
 - 5) in case that the playing ball is lying in contact with another ball or a cushion: the announcement "contact avec....."
06. The referee announces the committed mistake, if he thinks that this is necessary or if the sportsman is asking him for that.
07. The referee has to use the French language for the announcements which are provided in the World rules and in these regulations.
08. The referee has to check the number of points and the number of innings, as well as the activation of the clock according to the rules in a game with time limit as well as the concluding match playing report. The score-board has to be installed well visible for the sportsmen, referees and spectators. The display of the points and of the innings has to be kept up to date. In case of a difference between the score-board and the playing report the referee has to clarify this immediately and has to decide this bindingly.

09. In case that the match will be played with a limitation of innings the referee will announce before the sportsmen are coming for the last inning "name of the sportsman -dernière reprise".

Article 7 - RESPONSIBILITY OF THE REFEREE

01. It is exclusively the referee who watches over the observance of the regulations during the match and within the scope of these regulations he will take measures which are lying in his authority and he will put through the observance of them. The referee will warn the sportsman who disregards the rules. He will inform the tournament direction about that. In case of grave offence against the rules the referee can interrupt the match even if the sportsman who is behaving against the rules has still not been warned. Then a final decision will be taken in connection with the tournament direction and the UMB delegate.
02. In case that a sportsman which has been warned is repeatedly behaving against the rules, the referee can break off the match, the game will be lost for this sportsman. As soon as the game is interrupted the referee will make a report to the tournament direction.
03. On application of one sportsman, but only if he also thinks that this is necessary, or on his own initiative the referee can at any moment of the match clean/have cleaned the balls and the billiard table. In case that a ball is in contact with or is very close to a cushion or another ball, no cleaning will be effected. A cleaning action will be effected in the shortest time. The cleaning has to be in an appropriate proportion. In case that it is a matter of delay by the sportsman and the referee cannot objectively recognize any reason, he can refuse the cleaning and can call upon to the further playing.
04. Only the referee has the right to hold the balls in his hands in order to put them on the marked points or on the right place or to clean them. In case of cleaning he will conscientiously mark the position of the balls before he is taking them away. With the new putting up he will convince himself that each ball is staying in the correct, preceding position.
05. The sportsman has always to play with his playing ball. In case that there will be a mix-up at the (re)putting up of the balls by the referee the responsibility will even though be with the sportsman and will not be with the referee.
06. The referee will not release the billiard table for the opponent before all balls have come to rest. In case that a sportsman touches a ball beforehand, this has to be valued as a mistake.
07. In case that a sportsman touches one or several balls and changes the run-out or the normal position of them, after his inning has been finished, the referee will place the balls for the opponent as good as possible in the probably taken position. The same is valid if a changing of the running or of the position of the balls occurs by external effects - independent of the point in time of the match.
08. In case that one is playing with a time-limit, a clock has to be set up at each table, well visible for the sportsmen, the referee and the spectators. That one will be used under the control of the referee according to the following rules:
- Limit to, for example, 50 seconds (by preference in a count-down order) with a lightning warning system after 40 seconds
 - penalization-signal -end of the time limit -should be done as far as possible in a sonic way. If not, the breakup of the inning takes place by indication/announcement of the referee. After breakup on account of an exceeding of the time limit the balls will be put up for the opponent as the match initial ball
 - one time-out for each set is possible; a time-out can be utilized at all times during the time-limit. Does the sportsman announce a time-out, the original time-limit will be doubled (for example in case of 50 seconds the time will then be 100 seconds). Not used time-outs expire after the ending of the set. The time-out which has been taken, used has to be shown well visible on the scoreboard for the sportsmen, the referee and the spectators.

- For the cleaning of the balls or of the table or by distracting influence of outside factors the referee interrupts the ongoing time-limit. After the release of the game the remaining time will carry on running. At the use of a device (bridge etc.) or of a cue extension the ongoing time will not be stopped.

For all competitions without time-limit the following is valid:

In case that it seems that the sportsman needs a longer time of reflection for a position or that the sportsman for any other reason is delaying the game, the referee can grant the sportsman from his own initiative an appointed period of time of 15 seconds for the carrying out of the stroke.

In case that the sportsman has not played during this set period of time, the opponent comes to the game (announcement "pas joué") and the balls remain in their position or the opponent can demand the putting up of the balls for the initial ball.

Article 8 - BREAKS AND THE SUPERVISION OF THEM

01. Breaks are only allowed at the places which are determined by the regulations and in the determined length. The referee supervises this and is not allowed to admit any breaks at other places or extra time.
02. The tournament director in agreement with the official delegate of the UMB can determine in case of compelling reasons another break regulation for the tournament or for single matches. These reason can be for example:
 - a) Extreme heat in the tournament place
 - b) Media reporting
 - c) Technical defects and the repair of them
 - d) Temporary illness or sanitary reasons
 - e) Urgently required change of a referee

Article 9 - DECISIONS OF THE REFEREE

01. In case that a sportsman is in doubt about a decision of the referee he can ask him to reflect on the decision (but only one time).
02. The referee has to comply with the request. He can, if he estimates necessary, consult the second referee or the tournament director before he will finally make his decision.
03. The decisions of the referee concerning the facts are final. Exception point 01 of this article.
04. The opponent can ask the referee as well, but also only one time, to reflect on the decision. In case that such requests increase and the referee recognizes that with that the opponent shall only be initiated he will warn the petitioner according to article 7.01 and 02
05. The opponent as well as the second referee and the person who is writing can intervene with the referee in the following cases:
 - a) the sportsman plays with the wrong ball
 - b) a wrong announcement has been made with regard to the position of the balls in the prohibited areas
 - c) mistake with the counting of the points

The intervention shall take place discreetly without disturbing the course of the other matches.

06. If the referee has unjustifiably adjudicated a point he has the right to revise his decision, however, on the prerequisite that one still has not played further.
07. In case that a sportsman makes a mistake and plays further before the referee would have had the opportunity or the time to make an announcement in order to thus prevent the further playing, the referee has to continue like that as if the sportsman who behaves incorrectly would have finished his inning at the time of the announcement according to the rules. After that the referee puts the balls as close as possible to the positions in which they would have been at the moment of the announcement according to the rules or according to special regulations which are determined by the rules of the various disciplines.
08. If during the game the referee states that the sportsman is playing with the ball of his opponent, that one has to quit immediately and the balls will remain at the place which they occupy -or they will be placed according to the special regulations which are determined by the rules of the various disciplines. The opponent plays further with his playing ball. The number of caroms or of points which have been achieved during the inning which is in the course till the moment in which the error will be detected, remain with the sportsman who has made the mistake.
09. Exceptional cases which are not provided in the present rules are left to the judgment of the referee. In this case a note about the decision which has been made has to be made on the playing report.

Article 10 - COMPLAINT

01. Each complaint concerning the application of the regulations has to take place in a discreet form at the referee at that moment in which the mistake is committed. In case that the referee does not comply with the query the sportsman is allowed to report on this query once again at the tournament direction until 15 minutes after the end of the match at the latest.
02. The tournament direction in cooperation with the official UMB delegate or in his absence with the president of the organizing federation or his representative is required to examine the complaint still at the same day. In case that the complaint is justified and in case that the mistake could have had influence on the result of the match, the match will be annulled and the tournament direction will have the match be repeated in the shortest possible time.
03. The UMB sports director will be notified about each complaint by means of a registration on the playing report.

Article 11 - ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MISTAKES

01. In case that a sportsman touches with the push off the playing ball more than one time with the cue tip the referee will make the announcement "touché" and the opponent will take the game over. The same is valid if the sportsman also touches his playing ball or other balls regardless of the manner or with what (with the exception of his playing ball with the cue tip).
02. If the sportsman uses for the stroke any other part of the cue apart from the cue-tip, the referee will make the announcement "procédé" and the opponent will take the game over.
03. If the cue tip of the sportsman is still in contact with the playing ball and that one is at the same time in contact with one or several other balls or the cushion, the referee will make the announcement "queutage" and the opponent will take the game over.
04. In case that after a regular break a sportsman will not be punctually at the billiard table for the recommencement, the referee will make at a time delay up to 3 minutes the announcement "faute retard -avertissement". In case of recurrence or in case of a time delay of more than 3 minutes the referee will make the announcement "interruption pour dépassement du temps" and will finish the match independent of the score to the favor of the opponent. The breaking off has to be recorded on the playing report.

05. In case that a sportsman leaves the billiard table without permission, point 04 of this article will be valid correspondingly.
06. In case that at the beginning of the match a sportsman does not participate at the appointed time, the referee will make at a time delay up to 3 minutes the announcement "faute retard - 'avertissement,'. This warning has to be treated like that, as if he would have received a warning during the match. After the exceeding of these 3 minutes the referee will make the announcement "interruption pour dépassement du temps" and will finish the match in favor of the sportsman who is present.

Article 12 -COMING INTO FORCE

These regulations come into force on January 1st 2011.