



# BALL IN HAND FOULS

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**The following are a list of the most common fouls resulting in “Ball in Hand”:**

1. Anytime the cue ball goes in a pocket.
2. Failure to hit your object ball (if you are shooting at stripes, you must hit a stripe first). In general, the shooter has the advantage in such situations unless his opponent has asked an outside party to watch the hit. Protect yourself. If you think your opponent is getting ready to shoot a shot that could possibly be a bad hit, stop them from shooting and get someone to watch the shot. Potential “bad hit” situations are usually fairly obvious and protests and disputes over these close situations can almost always be avoided if someone is asked to watch the shot. Teams involved in repeatedly calling bad hits without outside party verification may be subject to penalty points for disruptive unsportsmanlike behavior.
3. Failure to hit a rail after contact. A rail must be hit by either the cue ball or any other ball after the cue ball contacts the object ball. A pocketed ball counts as a rail. A sentence that should answer many questions is: “ANY ball must go to a rail AFTER LEGAL contact unless your ball is made.”
4. The object ball is “frozen” to a rail and the player is contemplating playing a “safety” (see Rule Book). In order for the following “frozen ball” rule to be in effect, the opponent must declare that the ball is “frozen” and the player should verify. Once it is agreed that the ball is “frozen” then the player must either drive the object ball to another rail (of course, it could hit another ball, which in turn hits a rail) or drive the cue ball to the rail after it touches the object ball. If the latter method of safety is chosen, then the player should take care that he obviously strikes the object ball first. If the cue strikes the rail first or appears to hit both the rail and the ball simultaneously, then it would be a foul unless either the cue ball or object ball went to some other rail.
5. It is illegal and a foul to jump a cue ball over another ball by miscuing it up in the air on purpose. Accidental miscuing is not a foul unless other rules in this section are violated.
6. Anytime the cue ball goes off the table or otherwise ends up off the playing surface.
7. Receiving illegal aid (coaching from person(s) other than the coach) during the match. It is not considered illegal aid to remind a player to mark the 8-ball or to tell a player a foul has occurred; anyone on the team may do so.
8. Causing even the slightest movement of the cue ball, even accidentally, is a foul. It is not a foul to accidentally move any other balls (including the 8-ball) unless, during the process of shooting, a player moves a ball and it in turn strikes the cue ball. Even dropping the chalk on the cue ball is a foul. Any balls moved accidentally during a shot will be replaced by the opponent after the shot is over and all balls have stopped rolling. If it occurs before the shot, it will be replaced before the shot is taken.
9. If, during the course of a shot, the cue ball does not touch anything.
10. Exercise caution when placing the cue ball on the table. The cue ball is always “LIVE” and if the cue ball or the hand holding or moving it touches another ball, it is a cue ball foul and your opponent will receive “ball in hand”. Be especially careful when you are placing the cue ball in a tight spot.