



FOCUS on the Rules

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FOCUS on the Rules continues with the antics of Snooki and Carom, two old dogs at the pool game, who play a lot with each other and against each other, but simply can never agree on the Rules.

SITUATION: Snooki is breaking, and this old dog hits em good. Five stripes are pocketed on the break, and even more amazing is that Snooki has a clear view of the two remaining stripes and the 8-ball. This has been a very close match, and Snooki is smelling a 10 - 0 and an ERO. Snooki calls the 9-ball in the corner pocket and makes it; HOWEVER, on his back stroke he accidentally hits the 3-ball with the butt of his cue and pockets the 3-ball. Carom who was looking at disaster immediately jumps to her paws and declares a foul. Snooki retorts that it is not a foul, and you are called Referee to the table. **You make the Call!!!!** The first part of this call is easy. Rule H. 8. applies (Local Rule book page 14, National Rule book, page 14). “ACCIDENTALLY moving or touching any ball is not a foul unless: (1) the moved ball is the cue ball or (2) a moved ball makes contact with the cue ball or (3) a moved ball that is jumped off the table or pocketed or causes any ball to be jumped off the table or pocketed”. Snooki accidentally moved the 3-ball and pocketed the 3-ball. It is a foul.

Of course now Carom wants to take stripes because there is only one stripe left, it wide open as well as the 8-ball. This will be an easy out. Carom calls the stripe in the side pocket, at which time Snooki tells Carom that he has the stripes since he pocketed the 9-ball in the called corner pocket, and that Carom has the solids.

Your are re-called to the table. **You make the Call!!!!** Snooki is already mad at you for declaring a foul, so he is really barking at you when you tell him that under Rule C (Local Rule book page 12, National Rule book, page 11) that “The choice of group is determined only when a player **legally** pockets a called object ball after the break shot”. A shot that one fouls on is not a legal shot. The group balls were not determined because Snooki fouled on the shot in which he pocketed the stripe. If it had been a legal shot, under Rule E.2. (Local Rule book page 12, National Rule book, page 11), Snooki could have continued to shoot. Carom can take stripes. Of course now Snooki is not just barking at you now , but growling as well. Then comes the call that causes Snooki to start growling at you with teeth bared. Carom wants to have the 3-ball re-placed on the table. This is a close match, Carom has an easy out, and if the 3-ball is re-placed on the table, it will be a 10 - 0 in her favor instead of a 10 - 1. Snooki now has his Rule Book out and is reading from Rule D. GAME. The last sentence provides that: “Any balls pocketed on a foul remain pocketed, regardless of whether they belong to the shooter or the opponent.” He pocketed the 3-ball, you as the Referee determined it was foul; therefore, under the Rule, it should remain pocketed. Carom retorts that under the Accidental Movement of the Ball Rule (Local Rule book page 14, National Rule book, page 14), that the Opponent always has the right to replace the ball moved as closely as possible to where it was. Carom elects to do just that. This is much more difficult because now each Shooter is quoting from the Rule Book provisions that seems to be just the opposite of each other. Generally, Snooki would be correct. However, a specific Rule application always takes precedence over a general Rule. The Accidental Movement of the Ball Rule is specific in giving to the Opponent the option to leave the ball where it rests or move it back to where is was as closely as possible. Carom can re-place the 3-ball. Snooki goes wild - and you start looking for the Referee who has the tranquilizer gun.

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