

ROVING REFEREE.

The Rules of Snooker, Section 3, Rule 21b states.

"Where there is no referee, the opposing player or side will be regarded as such for the purpose of these rules".

The duties of a roving referee are to assist those opposing players who are acting as the referee in self adjudicated matches. Their primary role is to help in situations where the rules are not known or not known fully by the players and who ask for that assistance. If there are any disputes the roving referee is expected to quickly resolve those disputes to allow play to proceed in a timely manner.

It is also the duty of the roving referee to alert the acting referee (opposing player), if fouls are missed or wrong decisions are made, without waiting for a request and if they are observed.

Please remember that if a foul is committed and a subsequent stroke is played without the foul being called or claimed, it is condoned. (Colours incorrectly off the table must be spotted). Section 3, Rules 10 c) & 10 d).

Advice may also be sought whenever a player is snookered and where a miss may be called.

Providing that the roving referee is alerted by the players before the stroke is made, advice may be given to the opposing player acting as the referee on what the correct decision should be after the stroke. That opposing player must make the decision of whether or not to call a miss with the roving referee then either confirming or correcting the decision, but only if asked or if there is a dispute and that there was a call by the players to oversee the stroke before it was made. If the roving referee is or was not consulted and there is no dispute the decision made by the opposing player must stand.

As it is the goal in all tournaments to finish within a designated time the roving referee must stay alert and be in the vicinity of the tables so that players are not craning necks and waiting arms in search of assistance and thereby holding up play.

In cases of self-refereed matches as in all other matches there can only be one referee and any decision by that person shall be considered the final decision, with the roving referee available only for advice. The golden rules apply. Rule 1 - the referee is always right. Rule 2 - if the referee is wrong, refer to rule 1.

It is the usual practice to have one roving referee in charge of four tables although this can change during the middle of the day for short periods to allow one or other a break for lunch.