

Bob Jewett



Judgement Calls

Do you have what it takes to be a good referee? Give it a shot.

Are you a good referee? Do you know the rules, and how to apply them? Here is a quiz involving some of the more difficult situations you may face as an official or just an opponent. Take a stab at the following questions and send in your answers to Bob Jewett-Tech Talk, c/o Billiards Digest, 122 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1506, Chicago, IL 60603. The winner receives a free one-year subscription.

For each of the 10 questions, think how you would handle the situation, first as "Fred's" opponent in an unrefereed match, and then as the referee in a league final:

SCENARIO 1

In a handicapped 8-ball league, you're going to seven games while Fred, a raw beginner and a new player in the league, is going to two. He's ahead 1-0 after you pocketed the 8 on an unintended combo. You play a great safety and leave the cue ball stuck behind three of your balls. Fred plays a three-rail kick to hit his ball. The cue ball comes off the last rail with just enough speed to roll up to his ball and freeze. Fred pumps his fist in the air and says "Yes!" What now?

SCENARIO 2

At 9-ball, Fred plays a smash shot on the 2 ball, and in the chaos, the 9 finds its way to a pocket. The cue ball is rolling up to the end rail as shown in Diagram 1. It looks like it might hit the 8 ball and still have enough speed to reach the pocket afterwards. In his exuberance, Fred sweeps all the object balls down to the front of the table for you to rack. Your call?

SCENARIO 3

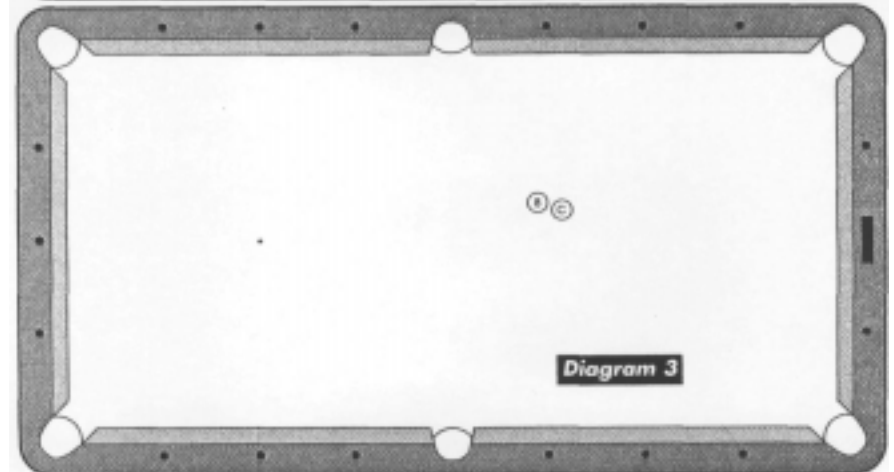
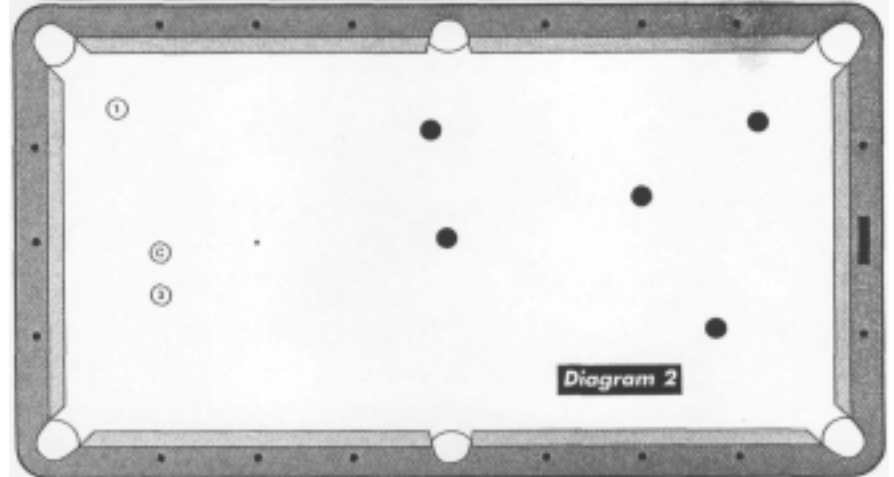
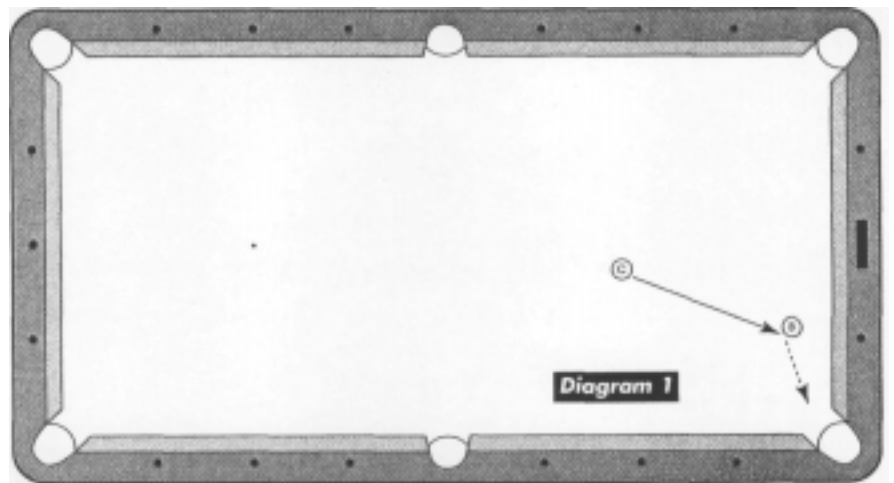
The situation is the same as above, but there is no 8 ball to deflect the cue ball into the pocket, so the scratch appears impossible. Fred grabs the cue ball before it stops rolling. Your call?

SCENARIO 4

Fred has an easy shot at the 1 ball, except for the 3 ball that is six inches from the cue ball as in Diagram 2. Fred says something about "cue-ball fouls only" and places his bridge hand down on top of the 3 ball. What do you say?

SCENARIO 5

Fred breaks at 9-ball and then announces he's pushing out. He plans to move the cue ball just an inch or two so there will be a tough shot on the 1 ball. He taps the cue ball at just the right speed with the side of



his stick. What now?

SCENARIO 6

Fred is struggling in a 9-ball match. With an easy run in view, he jaws the 6 ball, leaving an even easier run for you. Acting on his frustration, he sweeps up the object balls, saying, "It's yours. I can't do anything right today." Did Fred just do something else wrong?

SCENARIO 7

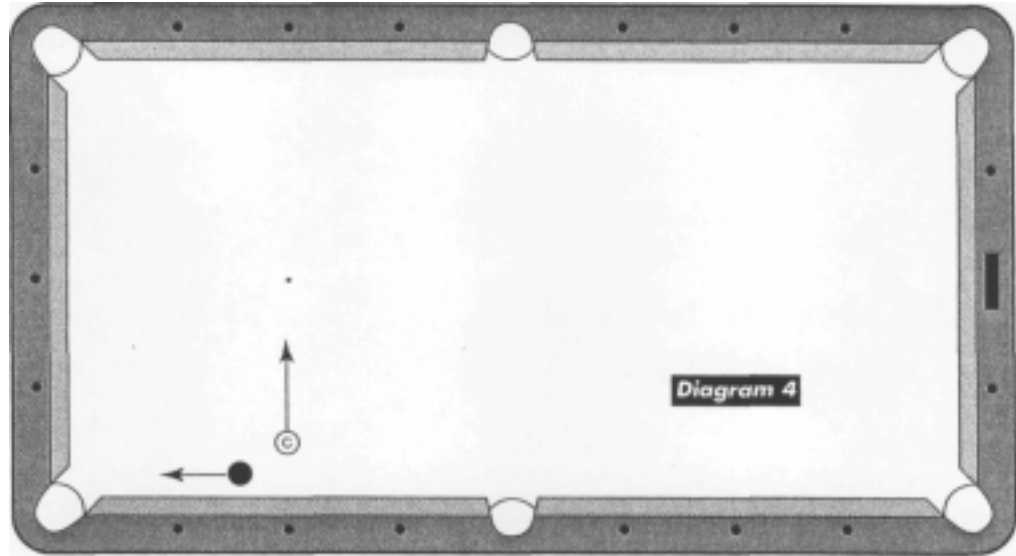
At 8-ball, Fred tries a draw shot on the 3 but miscues, and the cue ball flies over the three and softly bumps up against the five that was frozen on the rail. What's your call?

SCENARIO 8

Fred is trying a new breaking technique that begins with warp-speed warm-up strokes. On one of the warm ups, he barely nudges the cue ball. While he stops to chalk, he says, "I better hit it harder than that." Do you say anything?

SCENARIO 9

Fred has left himself straight in on the 8 ball, but only half an inch away from it as shown in **Diagram 3**. He elevates the stick about 30 degrees and aims for draw. The



cue ball follows the 8 to about the middle of the table, but quickly pulls to a stop as the draw takes. What's your call?

SCENARIO 10

Fred is snookered and has to play a two-rail kick to his last ball, which is an inch from the cushion. From your position, you can't see the ball because Fred's in the way. At the end of his shot, you can see the object ball moving parallel to the rail while the

cue ball rolls slowly away from the cushion, as in **Diagram 4**. The balls never reach another cushion. What do you say?

If you would like to get training as a referee, contact the Billiard Congress of America about the course they will conduct this month at the National 8-Ball Championships in Las Vegas. For more information, call the BCA at 319/351-2112.