

10. PLAYING A WRONG BALL

10.1 General

10.1.1 Subject to Rule [10.1.2](#), a wrong ball is played when any of Rules 10.3 to 10.5 apply.

10.1.2 If it is discovered after a stroke has been played in the fifth turn of a game that, in all the first four turns of a game, the balls were played in compliance with the colour sequence stated in Rule [1.2](#) but by the opponents of the balls' owners, the ownership of the balls during the remainder of the [match](#) is treated as indicated by the first four turns.

10.2 Forestalling play

10.2.1 If a player (or a referee, if present) believes that a wrong ball is about to be played, the player (or referee) is to [forestall play](#) and require that the correct ball is played.

10.2.2 If a player (or a referee, if present) believes that a wrong ball may have been played in the last stroke, the player (or referee) is to [forestall play](#) (see Rule [16.2.9](#)). If a wrong ball has been played in the last stroke, play is to continue by applying the first of Rules 10.3 to 10.5 that applies. Otherwise, play continues in colour sequence, all earlier strokes are treated as lawful and all points scored are counted for the owners of the balls that scored the points.

10.3 Playing when not entitled

10.3.1 A side is not entitled to play a stroke if the Rules state that the opposing side is entitled to play a stroke.

10.3.2 A side that has just played a stroke is not entitled to play the next stroke unless it is a stroke played or replayed in accordance with Rules 6 to 17.

[Handicap play: see Rule [20.5.1](#) for a further exception]

10.3.3 If a side played a stroke when not entitled to do so, a wrong ball has been played and the stroke is [annulled](#).

10.4 Previous stroke played with opponent ball

If the [previous stroke](#) was played with a ball that did not belong to the side that played it and the last stroke was played by the other side, a wrong ball has been played in both strokes and any points scored by those strokes are cancelled. Play continues by a [penalty area continuation](#).

10.5 Wrong ball played by striker's side

10.5.1 When played

A wrong ball has been played by the [striker](#)'s side in the last stroke if the [striker](#) played a ball other than the [striker's ball](#) or, in doubles, if the [striker](#)'s partner played any ball.

10.5.2 Striker's side played the partner ball

If the [striker](#)'s side played the [partner ball](#), the non-offending side is to decide whether to apply Replace and Replay (see Rule [10.5.5](#)) or Ball Swap (see Rule [10.5.6](#)). The non-offending side is to announce its decision promptly (see Rule [16.2.8](#)) and may not change that decision.

10.5.3 Striker's side played an opponent ball

If the [striker](#)'s side played an opponent ball, Replace and Replay applies (see Rule [10.5.5](#)).

10.5.4 Striker's partner played the striker's ball

If the [striker](#)'s partner played the [striker's ball](#), Replace and Replay applies (see Rule [10.5.5](#)).

10.5.5 Replace and Replay

If Replace and Replay applies:

- (a) all balls moved by the last stroke are [replaced](#);
- (b) any points scored by the last stroke are cancelled;
- (c) the [striker](#) then plays the ball that should have been played in the last stroke.

10.5.6 Ball Swap

If Ball Swap applies:

(a) all balls moved by the last stroke are left where they stopped, except that the positions of the ball played in the last stroke and the ball that should have been played in the last stroke are swapped;

(b) a swapped ball takes the actual or potential offside status of the ball with which it is swapped;

(c) any points scored by the last stroke are counted for the owner(s) of the balls that scored the points;

(d) the non-offending side then plays the ball next in colour sequence after the ball that should have been played in the last stroke.

10.6 Status of earlier strokes and points

10.6.1 When play is *forestalled* after a wrong ball has been played in the last stroke, all earlier strokes are treated as lawful if they occurred before the stroke specified below.

(a) If Rule [10.3](#) applies, the last stroke not *annulled*, unless Rule [10.4](#) applies to that stroke.

(b) If Rule [10.4](#) applies, the *previous stroke*.

(c) If Rule [10.5.1](#) applies, the last stroke.

10.6.2 Subject to Rule [7.9](#), all points scored in those strokes are counted for the owners of the balls that scored the points.

10.7 Wrong ball and fault in the same stroke

10.7.1 If Rule [10.3](#) applies, a fault in an *annulled* stroke is ignored (see Rule [6.3.6](#)).

10.7.2 If Rule [10.4](#) applies, a fault in the last stroke is ignored because play is to continue with a *penalty area continuation*. A fault in any earlier stroke is ignored under Rule [11.4.1](#).

10.7.3 If Rule [10.5.1](#) applies, a fault in the last stroke is subject to Rule [11](#) and the wrong ball is ignored. Play continues by the non-offending side playing the ball next in colour sequence after the ball that should have been played in the last stroke. A fault in any earlier stroke is ignored under Rule [11.4.1](#).