

11. FAULTS

11.1 Definition

A fault is an act prohibited by Rule [11.2](#) that is committed by a player playing, or intending to play, a stroke during the [striking period](#). Committing a fault also constitutes playing a stroke with the ball that the player intended to strike (see Rule [6.3.3](#)).

11.2 Types of fault

Subject to Rule [11.3](#), a fault is committed by a player who, during the [striking period](#):

11.2.1 touches the mallet head with a hand (but see Rule [11.3.2](#)); or

11.2.2 strikes a ball by kicking, hitting, dropping or throwing the mallet; or

11.2.3 strikes a ball with any part of the mallet other than an end-face of the head, either deliberately in any stroke or accidentally in a stroke that requires special care because of the proximity of a hoop or the peg or another ball; or

11.2.4 strikes a ball with the mallet more than once, or allows a ball to retouch the mallet; or

11.2.5 maintains contact between the mallet and a ball; or

11.2.6 causes a ball, while still in contact with the mallet, to touch a hoop, the peg or, unless the balls were in contact before the stroke, another ball; or

11.2.7 strikes a ball when it lies in contact with a hoop upright or the peg other than away therefrom; or

11.2.8 touches any ball, other than the ball that the player intended to strike, with the mallet, or touches any ball with the player's [body](#); or

11.2.9 moves or shakes a stationary ball by hitting a hoop or the peg with the mallet or the player's [body](#); or

11.2.10 causes damage to the court surface inside the [boundary](#) with the mallet that, before the court surface is

repaired, is capable of significantly affecting a subsequent stroke played over the damaged area.

11.3 Declaration of faults

11.3.1 A fault is to be declared if the player (or a referee or other observer asked to watch the stroke) believes that it is more likely than not that the relevant event occurred.

11.3.2 A fault under Rule [11.2.1](#) is committed only if the mallet head is touched during the final forward swing of the mallet.

11.3.3 When the mallet strikes a ball that is in contact with another ball before the stroke is played, the following faults may be declared only if the observer, assisted by nothing more than spectacles, contact lenses or a hearing aid:

(a) under Rule [11.2.4](#), sees a separation between mallet and ball followed by a second contact between mallet and ball; or

(b) under Rule [11.2.5](#), sees or hears a contact between mallet and ball that is materially longer than that which necessarily occurs in a stroke of the same type.

11.3.4 In other cases, the commission of a fault may be deduced from other observations, including sound and the movement of balls.

11.4 Action after a fault

11.4.1 Subject to Rule [6.3.6](#), if a fault is committed but play is not *forestalled* because of the fault before a stroke, whether lawful or unlawful, has been played by either side, there is no remedy for the fault and play is to continue as if the fault had not been committed.

11.4.2 Otherwise, the non-offending side is to decide whether the balls are left where they stopped or are *replaced*. The non-offending side is to announce its decision promptly (see Rule [16.2.8](#)) and may not change that decision.

[Handicap play: see Rule [20.8](#)]

11.4.3 If the balls are left where they stopped, only a point scored for the non-offending side is counted. If the balls are replaced, no point is scored for any ball.

11.4.4 Subject to Rule [10.7](#), play continues by the non-offending side playing the ball next in colour sequence.

11.5 More than one fault in a stroke

If a player commits more than one fault in a stroke, there is no additional penalty.