

Rules Committee Opinion 1-2013
(Roquet of Line Ball)

Question: If a striker attempts to roquet a line ball and roquets that ball out of bounds, is the striker entitled to take the shot over if the striker believes the line ball was not properly marked in from the line?

Answer: No, unless both players are certain that the croqueted ball was not properly marked in at the time of the roquet and the outcome of the shot would have been different.

Discussion: Rule 8.3a requires that all balls that are less than 9 inches from the line at the end of shot be marked in 9 inches, except for a striker ball that has made a roquet or is entitled to a continuation shot. Rule 11.6b provides that if a shot is played with a relevant ball misplaced and the misplacement is discovered within the applicable limit of claims, the balls are replaced and the shot is replayed.

It is possible that a properly marked line ball may no longer be 9 inches from the boundary due to the readjustment of the boundary line, wind or other factors. When a striker is preparing to attempt a roquet on a line ball, either the striker or opponent may check the position of the line ball before the shot is taken. However, once the shot is made and a roquet is made, there is no way to verify whether the line ball was properly marked, even if either the striker or opponent has some reasonable basis to believe so (for example, an adjacent line ball that is not properly marked). Therefore, the placement of the line ball has effectively been condoned by both players unless both players are certain that the line ball was not properly marked in at the time of the roquet and that outcome would have therefore been different (for example, the boundary line was moved by a spectator while the shot was in progress and as a result the roqueted ball would not have ended up out of bounds), in which case the shot should be replayed.

This opinion applies not only when it is believed the line ball was marked in less than 9 inches, but also when it is believed the line ball was marked in more than 9 inches. When a roquet of a line ball is attempted but missed and it is subsequently discovered that the line ball was not properly marked in, the shot is not replayed, since the misplacement is incidental and did not affect the outcome of the shot.