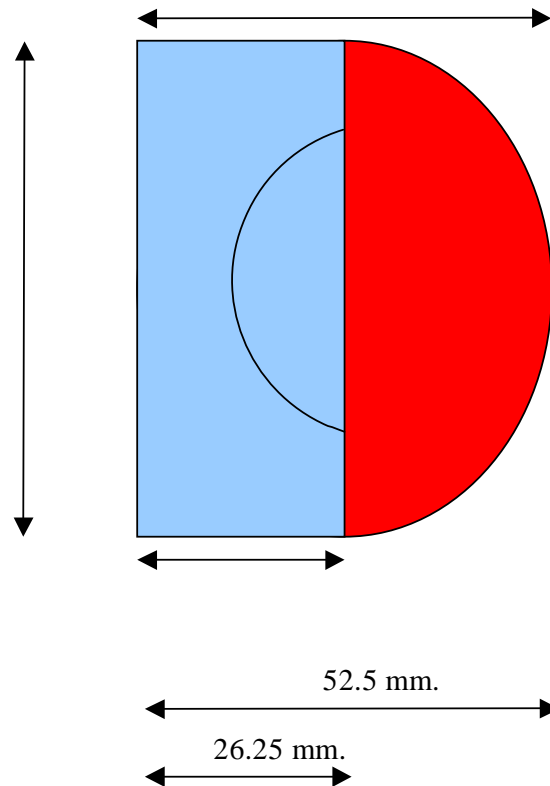


USING YOUR BALL MARKER



As is shown in the diagram your marker is exactly the same dimension of a snooker ball along its length and exactly half the dimension of a snooker ball along its width. With this knowledge you can turn your marker from a simple positional device for cleaning the balls into a precision measuring device when trying to judge free balls, whether a ball can be respotted or if a ball is snookered.

When cleaning a ball I find it easiest to place the edge of my hand on the table beside the ball to be cleaned and then to hold the ball with my thumb. I then slide my marker up to the ball, roll it away and then pick it up. To replace the ball I hold the positioned marker firmly, being very careful not to move it, and then roll the cleaned ball into position again with my thumb, remove the marker and then release the ball.

Use your marker to judge if a ball will re-spot. Hold the marker in the upright position so that the 26.25mm edge is on the table and slide the marker directly over the spot towards the ball that is possibly obstructing until the marker is as close as possible without touching. If at least half the spot is visible then the ball will spot. Remember that for a ball to be correctly spotted it cannot be left touching another ball and if it does the spot is then deemed to be occupied.

Use your marker to judge free balls. To do this I like to use my marker as a ball. I would place my marker on the table directly facing the cue ball on its long 52.5mm edge this time, again slide it up as close as possible without touching to the object ball or the ball or balls on. I would then come back to the cue ball, leaving the marker in position and look to see if the striker was able to hit the marker fully. In other words is the whole of the marker visible past the snookering ball or balls. If it is then it is not a free ball. I would only use this method when the decision is hard to judge, when it is obviously a free ball situation then using the marker in this way is just time wasting by the referee and should be avoided.