

WSSA Sport Stacking Rules Q&A



The World Sport Stacking Association (WSSA) has developed a comprehensive Sport Stacking Rule Book that serves as the ultimate resource for sport stacking rules. This document is available online at www.theWSSA.com. Familiarity with the WSSA Sport Stacking Rule Book is prerequisite to becoming an official judge in a WSSA sanctioned tournament and should be the first point of reference for Tournament Directors when questions arise. Below are some of the more common scenarios that a judge might face in a competition.

Common Questions

1. What constitutes a warm-up?

A single up stack of any type constitutes a warm-up. If a fumble occurs during a warm up, the stacker cannot start over. No more than two warm ups are allowed, and they must be completed before the first try (cannot be done in between tries). Simply separating or rearranging cups in a stack is not considered a warm up.

2. Can cups touch the Timer during a stack or be touching the Timer at the completion of a stack when the Timer is stopped?

Yes. The Timer is considered part of the stacking surface.

3. What happens when one of the single cups (to the right or left of 10 stack) falls during the up stack of 1-10-1? Do you have to down stack the 10-stack, correct the fumble and start the 10-stack again?

Yes. This fumble must be fixed just as any other in the up stacking phase. (See "Fumbles" on page 4 of WSSA RuleBook.)

4. If during Prelims, there is potential interference (i.e. a disruption from an adjacent stacker on the table) when a stacker's hands are on Timer, may that stacker take hands off the Timer and wait until disruption is over?

Yes. The judge should use common sense to gauge the interference and allow the stacker to remove their hands until the disruption is over.

5. If a stacker has hands in place to activate timer then notices his/her cups are configured incorrectly (i.e. 2-7-3), can the stacker reset the Timer, correct the stack and start over?

Yes. This is the responsibility of both the stacker and the judge to confirm cups are in correct configuration before a particular stack.

6. How do you judge a fumble "between" up stacking and down stacking?

If cups are fumbled prior to beginning the down stacking phase, they must be fixed in the proper sequence before starting to down stack that first stack. If, during the 3-6-3, a stacker hits the upper cup of a 6-stack with hand and it falls down, before beginning to down stack the first 3, stacker must go back and down stack the last 3, up stack the 6, then up stack the last 3. Once in the down stacking phase, fumbled cups need not be rebuilt, but simply down stacked into nested columns.

7. In Doubles, if one or more cups fall from table to the floor and one stacker runs to get these cups, may the other stacker continue down stacking in the meantime?

No. Each individual stack of cups, in both the up stacking and down stacking phases, must be handled by both stackers. One stacker can only continue to down stack until the time the other stacker must also handle that stack.

8. May a stacker (whether in an Individual or Doubles timed event or the last stacker in a relay) retrieve a cup that has fallen to the floor and put it in the correct position from the other side of the table and stop the timer from there to save time?

Yes. There is nothing in the Rule Book that states a stacker must return to original stacking position to fix a fumble or stop the timer. This would also apply to a stacker in a relay who has to leave the table to retrieve a cup and fix a fumble. They may do that from the opposite side of the table then run to tag the next stacker without having to return to the original stacking position given the stack was fixed and finished properly.

9. May a stacker down stack any two stacks of the 3-3-3 or 3-6-3 stack simultaneously, or only the last two stacks, as long as he/she uses both hands to down stack the first two stacks?

Yes. Any two stacks may be down stacked at the same time as long as the "Down Stacking" rule is followed on page 2 of the RuleBook.

10. In the Cycle stack, may a stacker down stack two stacks simultaneously in all down stacking phases.

Yes, the same rule applies to all three stacks and all three phases of the Cycle stack. Here's the rule: Two stacks may be down stacked at the same time. All stackers must use both hands to begin down stacking the first stack in any sequence before beginning to down stack the second stack, and must use both hands to begin down stacking the second stack before beginning to down stack the third stack. The third stack may be down stacked with one hand. As far as the 6-6 in the Cycle, when going from the 6-6 to the 1-10-1, all stackers must use both hands to begin down stacking the first six stack and may begin down stacking the second 6-stack anytime thereafter.