

November 2016: RAP response to questions from INF Members concerning the INF Rules of Netball, 2016 Edition

Which netball rule does it relate too?	Question raised	Response given
Playing the Ball	<p>is there any rule that disallows a shooter from touching the ring/hoop when shooting (similar to dunking in basketball)?</p> <p>Rules 9.4.1 (vi) states A player may not use the goalpost to regain balance or as a support to recover the ball.</p> <p>Whilst I am sure the intention of the rules does not allow for a 'dunk' shot - the wording does not specially address this issue.</p>	<p>Rules 9.4.1 (vi) A player may not use the goalpost to regain balance or as a support to recover the ball.</p> <p>The pole, ring and net are all part of the goalpost.</p> <p>The intent of the rule is to ensure that a player does not gain an advantage through using any part of the goalpost.</p> <p>'Dunking' involves an action of grabbing or holding the ring in order to gain an advantage and ensure a shot will be successful. The player often 'hangs' off the ring to re-gain body alignment (balance) before dropping and landing in a safe manner. In this case the use is for 'support' and it would therefore be penalised.</p> <p>'Touching' implies an action where there is only momentary contact and thus such an action would not infringe this rule.</p> <p>The player is not using the goalpost to "regain balance" or as a "support" so this would not be penalised.</p>
Conditions for Penalty Pass	<p>On page 33 of the rules book Sanctions in rule 7.1.3 it clearly states in (i) (a) (b) and (c) the conditions for a penalty pass. However later on in (iv) it states that the player may choose to play the ball immediately or wait for the infringers to be out of play. Does this apply in the circle as some interpretation taken is that players have to stand out of play on court everywhere except the circle as mentioned in 7.1.3 (iii). I think part (i) and part (iv) seem to causing some confusion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The interpretation quoted in the question is not correct. • The same rules apply to a penalty pass in the goal circle as anywhere else on the court (GS or GA may pass or shoot when a penalty pass is awarded in the GC). • Point (iii) referenced above is not relevant to the question. <p>Rule 7.1.3 (i) and (iv) are not in conflict. Rather (iv) allows the non-infringing team to use the situation to its advantage (the infringer still has a responsibility to move to the infringement position). Waiting for the infringer to 'stand out', however, could allow the infringing team to reorganise its defence, to the possible disadvantage of the non-infringing team. For example, in the past, we have sometimes seen a deliberate obstruction to provide time for a team to reorganise ie GS obstructs GK when ball being cleared from goal circle. The obstruction can allow mid-court defence time to re-position etc (especially if GS is slow to get into position). Previously the non-infringing team was penalised if they did not wait.</p> <p>References: RULE BOOK: Rule 7.1.1 & 7.1.3 and Rule 13.2.1 (i) INF MATCH PROTOCOLS: Rule 7 and Rule 13</p> <p>When a penalty pass is awarded: (on the court including the goal circle)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule 7.1.1 A player from the team taking the sanction quickly moves to the position indicated by the umpire, and has the ball • Rule 7.1.3 (i) The infringer quickly moves to 'stand out' at this position <p>Note: Both players are expected to move quickly into position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule 7.1.3 (iv) Once the player taking the penalty pass is correctly positioned, this player may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o EITHER wait until the infringer is correctly positioned o OR play the ball (at any time) before the player is correctly positioned <p>Note 1: 3 seconds commences once both players are correctly positioned</p> <p>Note 2: If the player takes the sanction before the infringer is in position, it is deemed to have been 'taken' and will not be repeated unless the infringer has interfered with it [Rule 7.1.3 (iv)(b)].</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the infringer is slow to move to the correct position (or fails to make any effort to do so), they are penalised for delaying play [Rule 13.2.1 (i)] <p>Note 1: The sanction for delaying play is a penalty pass which is advanced (unless the non-offending team is disadvantaged) and the player is cautioned. After a player has received a caution any further occurrence would lead to an 'official warning' (under Rule 13)</p> <p>Note 2: when issuing a caution, the umpire should hold time and state: 'caution – you are delaying play'. The umpire may usefully add 'move into position more quickly' (or a similar statement) [refer INF Match Protocols Rule 13(ii)]</p> <p>Note 3: In the event that several players from the same team are slow to position and more than one player has been cautioned, the umpire should speak to the captain and advise that an official warning will be given for any further breaches by any team member</p> <p>Additional information: if the player taking the penalty pass takes up the wrong position, this may be because of lack of clarity regarding the correct position. If necessary, the umpire will instruct the player to reposition correctly (this may include re-taking the penalty pass if the ball has been played, especially if an unfair advantage was gained eg a shot closer to the goalpost or pass taken in wrong third). In the event that the player deliberately disregards the umpire's instruction regarding the correct position, this may be deemed as 'delaying play'.</p>
Playing the Ball	<p>Whistle is blown for the centre pass. Blue Centre realises no one to pass to because of good defence so puts the ball down in the centre circle.</p> <p>Blue GD quickly picks up the ball and throws it back to the Blue Centre that has found ground in the centre third.</p> <p>Is this allowed?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Placing the ball on the ground is deemed to be a throw/pass and play should continue.</p> <p>A similar example: if a player has possession of the ball and then drops it. She has released the ball for another player to collect and she has not broken any rule.</p> <p>Rule 9.4.1 (ii)</p> <p>A player who has possession of the ball may throw or bounce it in any direction to another player with one or both hands.</p> <p>(d) After releasing the ball, may not replay the ball until it has been touched by another player or it rebounds from the goalpost.</p> <p>This rule has been clarified previously (in old version of the rules) and the revision of the Rules has not changed this situation.</p>

Requirements for Taking a Shot	What terminology should an umpire use when a ball is deflected on its downward flight towards the ring?	Interference with shot In the new Rules book, RAP has standardised hand signals and terminology to be used and where these are available then they should be used. However the rules book does not cover terminology for everything and where this has not been provided then a suitably brief and descriptive term should be used.
Conditions for Penalty Pass	Given this is a massive part of our game I am seeking your assistance to ensure I understand this rule (and all of the varying scenarios) thoroughly: P33 Rule 7.1.3 Conditions for Penalty Pass (iv) Once the player taking a penalty pass is in the correct position, the player may choose either to play the ball immediately or to wait for the infringer to stand out of play. If the player chooses to play the ball immediately : (a) and (b) apply INF Rules RAP response to Conditions for a Penalty Pass The intention of the rule is that the player taking the penalty pass may, once in position, choose to play the ball at any time before the infringer is correctly 'standing out'. The RAP response is very clear in it's intent, and makes the application of Rule 7.1.3 easy to understand and apply. The scenarios below assume that the infringing player is not delaying play in moving out of play. My understanding is that the player taking the penalty may be standing in the correct position for varying lengths of time (possibly 6/8/10 seconds depending on the scenario) waiting for the infringing player to be out of play, with the option of passing the ball at any time while the player is moving out of play. The player taking the penalty may also look like they are 'playing the ball' by lifting arm to pass the ball, possibly pivot on foot, however they may change their mind and not pass the ball until the infringer is out of play (or any time before that). Can you please confirm that this is correct? Three seconds starts when the player is out of play.	The INF Rules RAP response should be used as the interpretation of 'Conditions for a Penalty and this was sent to all member countries by INF secretariat. Any time means any time until the infringer is correctly 'standing out'. The scenarios stated are totally correct and three seconds starts when BOTH players are in position. Until they are BOTH in position, then the 3 seconds count does NOT start.
Player Outside the Court	Can I request additional information be provided from RAP Can RAP please specify the Rule which is to be stated when the captain requests clarification on a decision that involves a player leaving the court but remaining in the court surrounds i.e. The umpire awards a penalty pass to the non offending team when the player re-enters the court, if the player has moved from the court, but remained in the court surrounds (Rule 8.3.2(ii) states they are allow to do), but has taken a drink etc.	8.3.2 Player outside the Court (iii) A player having no contact with the ball may move outside the court provided the player remains within the court surround Note: players are expected to be on the court, but may move outside the court – for example to take up a better playing position. (v) A player who leaves the field of play without the permission of the umpire may not be replaced. If the player is the Centre, one player must immediately move to play as Centre. The player may, after first reporting to the umpire, return to the court immediately after: (a) A goal has been scored (in this case the player must play in the vacant position) (b) A stoppage for injury/illness or (c) An interval. So in response to your question the rule reference is 8.3.2 (iii) and (iv)
Player Outside the Court	We have been asked several times by the umpiring community for clarification of rule 8.3.2 (ii): • A player having no contact with the ball may move outside the court provided the player remains within the court surround. We therefore seek clarification of the question: • May a player receive a drink, medication, attention, coaching etc whilst standing in the court surround?	• The game is played on the court. • During play it is expected that players will be on the court or, if they have entered the court surround they will return to the court as quickly as possible. A player should be on court during play and not standing in the court surround. A player without the ball may move outside the court into the court surround during play to get into a better position / to move away from an opponent. A player may not go into the court surround for any other reasons. A player may not go into the court surround for a drink, medication, attention, coaching etc. A team official or bench player may coach provided they are positioned at the team bench so this may be provided, however a player moving to the edge of the court surround to receive individual coaching would not be acceptable.
Variations For Other Levels of Play	Countries are allowed to modify rules below International games. However our concern is what impact will this have on the testing of IUA's. The current guidelines for test games state: 1.1 Test game A test will consist of one match (minimum of 60 minutes play). The match must be a fast, competitive game of a standard that will test the umpire's skill level and indicate his/her ability to control international matches. As a guideline, the match standard is defined as being between two teams ranked in the top ten in the world, provided it meets the above requirements. This extends to include some 'approved events' (see Section 5.4). It is the responsibility of the testers to determine if the match provides a suitable standard of play or not. 5.4 Scheduling of Tests • Although it is desirable that umpires are tested in their own country, this is not a requirement. • Where umpires are officiating regularly in events of a suitable standard it is likely tests will be arranged on these events. [This would include matches in the ANZ Championships (ANZC) as well as selected matches in the English Superleague (ESL) and other leagues of a similar standard.] • For other umpires, INF will locate suitable international games (usually as part of a test series or tournament). • A test may be scheduled at any time up to eighteen months before or after the expiry date of the previous test pass. This doesn't say the game must involve the International Rules. However I presume that would be the intent. If the modification is say 2 or 3 point goals added then this does affect positioning, vision etc of an umpire but in many ways enhances their umpiring as they have to be even more alert to reading the game. It would indicate their ability to control international matches in my view. Should it be that if INF have approved the modifications then the game can be used for testing? Or should it be the game cannot be used for testing? What is your view on this?	The intent of the current IUA testing criterion is that the match is played to International Rules. Scheduling of tests states: • Where umpires are officiating regularly in events of a suitable standard it is likely tests will be arranged on these events. [This would include matches in the ANZ Championships (ANZC) as well as selected matches in the English Superleague (ESL) and other leagues of a similar standard.] • For other umpires, INF will locate suitable international games (usually as part of a test series or tournament). The assumption is that ANZ championship and English Superleague matches will be played to international rules. The INF rules book states: Variations to rules may be made for matches that are not for international play. An IUA award indicates that an umpire is competent to control any international match to which he/she is appointed. Hence an IUA assessment requires an umpire to be tested on a match that will indicate whether their knowledge and application of the Rules of Netball is such that, if passed, they would meet this criterion. There would be problems if we approve variations for International assessment: Example: • hand signals would be different in the 2 or 3 point goal case, while techniques would be different (vision, movement, positioning) For international consistency we should stick to no variation of the 'on court' playing rules. We could allow variations that do not vary the 'on court' play: Example: • different lengths being used for the half-time interval as this does not directly affect play on the court. The highlighted statement below should be added to the requirements for testing so it is clear. IUA tests may not be taken on matches where the Rules regarding play on the court have been varied.

Umpire Procedures	<p>There seems to be a contradiction in the Technical Officials Manual regarding the use of umpire alerts.</p> <p>On Page 22 it says: It is recommended that an audible sound is used by the timekeeper to indicate the end of each period of play e.g. air horn, with umpire alerts used as a backup in the event of a malfunction. (It is fair to assume that the umpire alert would not be pressed until the malfunction which is not at the same time that time elapses)</p> <p>Further down the page in bullet point 2 it says: As there is usually a time lapse the alerts must always be activated 2 seconds before the time is due to elapse. We actually did this at the weekend in the pre season ANZC games but were told we should be pressing them at the same time as the visible clock was due to go off (the audible sound) so that if the umpire doesn't hear it they will feel the umpire alert. This will be 2 seconds after time has elapsed and therefore extra playing time. This is what the first statement is interpreted as. Can you please clarify this for us?</p>	<p>Protocols: Rule 6 (v) (a)</p> <p>RAP felt that it was desirable to move away from the use of alerts (which were not always reliable and humid, damp conditions affected performance) to a system where players and umpires were advised simultaneously. It was RAP's considered view that the most sensible way forward was to use an electronic signal (siren) to indicate the end of playing time (which would be heard by players as well as umpires). However, some form of back-up system would be required to cover the possible malfunction of the central system and one option was for alerts to be used for this purpose. If alerts are used, it is important that they are activated simultaneously with the siren. An alternative back-up system would be to have a hand-activated air horn used immediately the failure was recognised (this was the previous back-up system). Hence the recommended practice for ending play would be to use an electronic signal (siren) to indicate the end of playing time with either of the following used to cover any possible malfunction: • at the same time as the siren is activated, the umpire alerts are activated or • immediately it is realised the siren has not activated, a hand-held air horn is activated</p>
Suspension	<p>Related to the suspension of a player. For the timing of the two minutes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is this to be playing time – that is – does the timekeeper stop the 2 minute time during a hold for umpire time/stoppage during the two minutes? - Or is it just a straight two minutes of time including any umpire time/stoppages etc. - We note that the time is held during an interval and carried into the next quarter so in line with this it seems it should be 2 mins of playing time. <p>Clarification of this would be appreciated.</p>	<p>The answer to the question is that Suspension time is 2 minutes Playing time. During the suspension the Timekeeper will stop time for any stoppage or held time and intervals.</p>
Conditions for Penalty Pass	<p>Rule 7.1.3 (iv) does the defender have to make their way back to the contacted player? I know the player have the option of passing or shooting or waiting for the defender.</p>	<p>Refer to rule 7.1.3 Conditions for a Penalty pass The infringer must stand out of play. This means the infringer must: (a) Move quickly to the position indicated (b) Stand beside and away from the player taking the penalty pass so as not to impede that player (c) Remain in this position and not move or take part in play (including verbal comments) until the ball has been released. Sanction: A further penalty pass is awarded (which may be advanced if it is judged to be delaying play). If it is judged to be delaying play, then Rule 13.2.1 (i) will apply A player may not intentionally waste time or delay play. Sanction: Penalty pass which is advanced (unless the non-offending team is disadvantaged) and the player is cautioned</p>
Conditions for Penalty Pass	<p>Can we please have clarification of Rule 7.1.3 (iv)</p> <p>Once the player taking the penalty pass is in the correct position the player may choose to play the ball immediately or to wait for the infringer to stand out of play.</p> <p>Does this mean there are just two options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immediately - Or wait for infringer to stand out of play and nothing in between? <p>If it is required to be either immediate or wait then what is the sanction should the non-offending team choose to pass in between immediately and when the infringer is standing beside. We believe if it is the case then it could be difficult to apply. We also believe that allowing play at any time is the intention so that the non-offending team has full advantage of the Penalty Pass. However we seek clarification to ensure that is correct.</p>	<p>The intention of the rule is that the player taking the penalty pass may, once in position, choose to play the ball at any time before the infringer is correctly 'standing out'. Refer: Explanatory notes drawn up by the RAP Panel ('What's New in the New Rules') - these indicate that 3 seconds is measured from the time that BOTH players are in position.</p>
Sanction	<p>Does a player taking a free or penalty pass have to wait for all players to be on court?</p> <p>An example where this might occur is if a player going for a ball flies out of court and across the signage. The ball is retrieved quickly and returned to court but the player is still gathering themselves together to get back on court. Or a player may have gone off court to retrieve a ball, returns it to the court where the player taking the penalty pass catches it. Should she wait for the player to be back on court? We recognise that at a throw in all players must be back on court.</p>	<p>A commonsense approach should be adopted. i.e. if a player is unable to return to the court immediately for good reason (e.g. they have collided with signage and require time to regain their footing) or they have gone off the court to retrieve the ball, the sanction should not be taken until the player is back on the court. However, if the player has gone off the court for no particular reason, there is no requirement for the sanction to be held.</p>
Hand Signals	<p>Is there a signal other than whistle to indicate the end of a period of play i.e. end of quarter?</p>	<p>No – the umpire distinguishes this by using a distinct whistle for the end of a quarter. This rule has not changed.</p>
Hand Signals	<p>Is one of the umpires required to call the team with the centre pass or is it just indicated with a hand signal now?</p>	<p>Both umpires are required to signal the direction of the next centre pass but there is no requirement for them to call the team.</p>
Injury/Illness or Blood	<p>Can you explain the action of the umpire if time is called for blood on White WA back of her leg. The umpire holds time, ask the player to leave the court, WA looks at her leg and as she leaves court she tells the closest umpire she is not bleeding it must be someone else's. She goes off to get cleaned up. In the meantime both umpires check all the players on court as well as the ball. If another player is bleeding she will be asked to leave the court as the player who is bleeding. Inform bench officials of who is the bleeding player. Original player for whom play has stopped can come back on if she is cleaned of blood. If no other player is found to be bleeding original player stays off court as the blood must have come from somewhere. Restart the game.</p>	<p>Both players are considered to have blood issues and must leave the court. They may be substituted or either position may be left vacant and filled subsequently by the player or another substitute. In the event that several players are affected, the umpires may use commonsense and take the action they consider most appropriate to resolve the situation.</p>

Positioning of Players for Centre Pass	<p>8.2.1 Positioning of Players for Centre Pass</p> <p>Under 8.2.1 9(iii), 'all other players are in their respective goal thirds and are free to move but must not enter the centre third until the whistle has been blown to start play'.</p> <p>Question: How does an umpire manage a player or players who haven't made it back into their respective goal thirds prior to the whistle being blown for the centre pass? Is the sanction awarded a Free pass and if so, what is the umpire's verbal call, e.g. what do they say the infringement is? Or are they penalised under delay, in which case a penalty pass would be awarded, advanced and then the player cautioned?</p>	<p>There is no change from the previous rule. The umpire should not blow the whistle for the centre pass until all players have been able to return to their appropriate thirds. If they appear to be slow to do so, the umpire can instruct them to hurry up and, if necessary, penalize them for delaying play (especially if they have already been advised to hurry up).</p>
Injury/Illness or Blood	<p>9.3.1 Injury/Illness or Blood</p> <p>Clarification is required around the management of blood.</p> <p>Is it the bleeding player who must leave the court or is it the player who had blood on them? The rule book and protocols document are not clear in this area. For example, the umpire or a player may notice blood and time is called. However, this player is not the original source of the blood. Does that mean that this player has to leave the court, or is the umpire to identify who the bleeding player is? Or do all players with visible blood on them need to leave the court? If it is the bleeding player who must leave the court, and time is extended to clean up any remaining blood on any additional players on court, what happens if the player who is off court is fixed up prior to the extended time being applied. Do they still have to wait for one of the scenarios outlined in 9.3.1 (ix) (a) to return to the court?</p>	<p>Any player with blood must leave the court for this to be cleaned up, covered etc. Hence both the player who is bleeding and a player with blood on them would need to leave the court. Time will not normally be given to clean up players on the court. However, in the event that several players are affected, the umpires may decide to take whatever action they deem to be appropriate.</p>
Short Pass	<p>We are seeking clarification on whether the intent of the rule has changed from previous versions of the rule book. The new rule now reads that a short pass may occur at any point the ball is in flight e.g. from the release to the catch. This is different to the previous wording, which used to indicate 'at the moment the ball is passed'. If so, are we correct in stating that at any time during the pass, if the distance between players does not allow for an intercept attempt then it is considered short?</p>	<p>The previous rule was based on where the hands of the thrower and the receiver were at the moment (instant) when the ball was released.</p> <p>The intent of the new rule is to ensure there is sufficient space during the transition of the ball (at any time during the pass) between the two sets of hands for an opponent to be able to intercept it during the transfer.</p>
Short Pass	<p>I just have a question in relation to one of the new interpretations that has been included around the Short Pass – specifically in relation to playing the ball off the goal post from a throw in. I was wondering whether it would be possible for you to please seek a response from RAP in relation to the below?</p> <p>The example we are seeking specific clarification on is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is where the player taking the throw in throws the ball into the post, reground on court and catches the ball: According to the guidance, there needs to be enough room for a player to attempt to intercept before the player catches the ball on the court, otherwise it is a short pass. But the crucial part missing in this analysis is the timing of when this is measured, which is "when (the) player passes the ball" (Rule 9.5.1(i)). At the time the ball is passed in the example, the hands of the thrower and the receiver are in exactly the same place, because the same player is both thrower and receiver (according to the guidance). So - is it always a short pass when a player takes a ball after it comes off the post? This interpretation has greater implications for a goaler rebounding her own shot. Are we correct in assuming that the words "as it moves..." in the body of the rule justify the situation? If this is the intention, unfortunately it creates confusion as to when the passing distance is meant to be measured. Why have "when the player passes the ball" if that is not when it is measured? Wouldn't you just have the reference to the need for sufficient space "as it moves" if the intention is for the measurement to be assessed during the flight of the pass? 	<p>Rule 9.5.1 (i) makes it clear that it must be possible for an opponent to intercept the ball as it 'moves from the hands of the thrower to those of the receiver'. The notes in 'What's New?' should be read as applying within this context. Hence 'as it (the ball) is passed' does not refer to a single point in time but rather it applies to the period of time between the throwing and receiving of the ball.</p> <p>It would be acceptable to amend 'as it is passed' to read 'as the ball moves from ... to...'. If this assists in educational sessions.</p>
Rules Review	<p>I'm a journalist here in South Africa and I'm doing an article about the new netball law changes. Would you please give me an indication how often law changes takes place and when the last changes happened before the latest ones? I just want to make sure; can netball rules only be reviewed every seven years?</p>	<p>As per the INF regulations the INF FULL rules review is 7 years after the previous full review implementation. However, if required a rule may be changed during this period with approval of INF board and members</p> <p>The last full review was 2007 with some rules changed in 2011 (as agreed with the Board and members at congress). The 2007 review was implemented from 1 Jan 2008 so another full review was 2015 for implementation from 1 Jan 2016. The next full review will be 2023.</p>
Match Personnel	<p>5 Match Personnel (v) (c) the umpires may request the captain speak to any on-court player/s whose behaviour is causing concern</p> <p>This is not stated in Rule 13 Game management so when would this be used.</p> <p>When will this take place? At the time of the incident or at a break? Will time be taken to do this?</p>	<p>The umpires will use their discretion as to when and how this would be actioned if required.</p>
Scorers	<p>Rule 5.3.1 (ii) (f) Notify the umpires if a wrong centre pass is indicated</p> <p>How will they indicate this and is the umpire required to act on it? What if both umpires agree with each other but different to Bench? Are they obliged to take action? Who is responsible for official Centre Pass?</p>	<p>It should be noted that the Rule refers to both umpires indicating the pass incorrectly. However, if at any time there is a difference between the umpires and the scorer, good practice would be for the pass to be checked by the benchside umpire. Ultimately the umpires are responsible for all decisions relating to play. Suggestions about how such notification could be made are included in the protocols.</p>
Game Management	<p>13 Game Management 13.1 (a)</p> <p>give some examples of the type of caution that is encouraged so that a specific behaviour must change</p>	<p>Any question such as this must be placed in a match context. However, all umpires should be able to draw on a range of experiences that would provide possible examples as it is a practice already in use.</p>
Game Management	<p>13.1.(ii)</p> <p>what is the process for conferring</p>	<p>The umpires do this in the way they consider appropriate – however, time should be held while this is done.</p>
Hand Signals	<p>The hand signal for contact 19 is now one generic one. Explain how the player knows what part of the body was used to contact so they can tidy it up? Is the umpire encouraged to talk more or add other signals?</p>	<p>This is addressed in the protocols (the umpire may add a brief verbal descriptor to indicate the nature of the contact ie contact - knees, contact - on ball).</p>