

Blood Management

Rules interpretation

Questions have been raised to RAP relating to blood management – rule (9.3.1) and match guidelines for managing blood.

RAP has consulted with the World Netball medical group and event consultant and the following interpretation is provided by RAP, which should be used with **immediate effect**.

WN rules (2020 edition):

- Rule 9.3.1 clauses (i) to (ix) below replace clauses (i) to (ix) in the WN rules of netball (2020 edition).
- The existing clauses 9.3.1 (x) and (xi) remain the same

9.3.1 Injury/illness or blood

- (i) The umpires hold time when:
 - (a) They notice blood on a player, the ball, the court or equipment
or
 - (b) An on-court player requests time for injury/illness or blood (on a player, the ball, the court or equipment). In extreme circumstances, the umpires may hold time without a request being made.
- (ii) The injured or ill player concerned or players who are bleeding must leave the court within 30 seconds and receive any treatment off the court. The timekeepers advise the umpires when 10 seconds remain.
- (iii) Only primary care person/s are permitted on the court to assess the players' medical condition and to assist the player from the court.
- (iv) In the event that the primary care person/s advise the umpires that the player concerned cannot be removed safely within 30 seconds, the umpires will extend the time for the player to leave the court.
- (v) The umpires may authorise other persons (including team officials) to assist the player to leave the court if needed.
- (vi) Any blood on the ball or the court or equipment must be cleaned before play restarts. The umpires may extend time to allow for this cleaning to take place and should ensure play restarts as soon as possible.

- (vii) Any players with blood on them and/or their clothing must leave the court within 30 seconds and have the blood-stained clothing replaced and blood cleaned off their body and must remain off court when play restarts. They may return to the court as a substitute [Rule 9.1(i)] or to fill a vacant position [Rule 9.3.1 (xi)] and may only take the court after being checked by the umpire.
- (viii) During the stoppage both teams may make substitutions and/or team changes, provided these are completed within the time allowed for the stoppage by the umpires.
- (ix) If no substitutions are made for the injured/ill player or for the players who have left the court with a blood injury or with blood on them or their clothing, play may resume with the position/s left vacant. If one of the players is the centre and no substitution is made, a player must move to play as Centre to allow the match to continue.
- (x) If the position has been left vacant the player concerned or a substitute may not enter the match while play is in progress.

Sanction: The player is sent from the court until the correct time for entry.

Penalty pass where the ball was when play was stopped and a player from the infringing team allowed in the area stands out of play for the penalty.

- (xi) If the position has been left vacant the player concerned or a substitute may subsequently, after advising the umpire, take the court immediately after one of the following:
 - (a) A goal has been scored (in this case the player or a substitute must play in the position left vacant).
 - (b) A stoppage for injury/illness or blood.
 - (c) An interval.

Note: If a team has less than 5 players available at a blood stoppage

During a stoppage for blood, if a team has less than 5 players available to take the court when play is ready to restart, the umpires should refer this to the nominated event manager where the matter will be dealt with. This may include implementation of the Event Delay, Postponement and Cancellation protocol.

Note: Extending time

During a stoppage for injury/illness or blood, if the umpire extends time, the following procedure will be used:

- No whistle is required as time will already been held for the stoppage
- The umpires will advise the co-umpire, the technical officials and team officials of both teams of the extension and the length of the extension
- The umpires will decide whether the extended time requires the players to return to their team benches or remain on court.

Scenarios blood management

The following additional information is provided for further clarification.

1. Blood-stained clothing must be cleaned or replaced.

(i) Where do players go to replace blood-stained clothing?

Players may go to their team bench and/or move to an area near court for greater privacy.

(ii) Are players allowed to leave the playing enclosure to replace blood-stained clothing?

Yes; this is similar to a player departing to use the bathroom during a match and event security measures will be applied as required.

2. If the umpire sees blood on a player or players clothing, they hold time and ask that player to leave the court.

(i) What if the player who has blood on them is not the player who is actually bleeding?

The principle to be applied to the rules around blood are the presence of blood on players, equipment or court etc. Therefore, it is not relevant if the player is not the one actually bleeding if they have blood on them this must be attended to and they must leave the court.

(ii) How does the umpire determine who is bleeding?

Where the umpire notices or has reported to them by a player that there is blood present on players, equipment or the court etc, they act accordingly by holding time and addressing the issue. If it is a player, they leave the court. If it is equipment or the court, this is referred to the event management personnel.

(iii) Are umpires expected to search players for blood?

This is not the role of the umpire. However, in the event that blood appears on the ball or court or equipment and it is not clear where it has come from, it may be necessary to hold time and ask the players to check themselves.

3. All other players with blood on them or their clothing must leave the court and have the blood-stained clothing replaced and blood cleaned off their body, before play restarts.

(i) There could be multiple players from both teams with blood on them or their clothing. How is this managed in relation to restarting play?

If there are multiple players from either or both teams who are showing blood it may be advisable for the umpire/s to hold time and move into an emergency

time management to allow the blood to be addressed across both teams and all the players before re-starting the game.

4. Any blood on the ball or the court must be cleaned before play restarts (the ball may be replaced).
- (i) Is this the responsibility of the event team, and will they have received adequate training for dealing with blood?

Yes. The relevant event management personnel will use the blood kit or other cleaning materials to address blood on the ball, equipment or court. The umpire will need to allow sufficient time for this cleaning to take place and should ensure play restarts as soon as possible.