

# 2024 RULES UPDATE

## PLAYING THE BALL FAQ

Playing the ball – no, it hasn't turned into Basketball!

It's important to remember that this rule hasn't been changed. These are things you've always been able to do to gain possession of the ball, and to play the ball legally. The reason behind the refresh was to make things clearer for everyone, because the rule was not being correctly applied.

CHECK OUT THE RESOURCE HUB



EXPLAINER  
VIDEO



RULES OF  
NETBALL APP



NETFIT NZ  
APP



## TO GAIN POSSESSION A PLAYER MAY:



### BAT THE BALL ONCE THEN CATCH IT

A "bat" is where a player hits the ball into the air with one or both hands to control its direction.



### BOUNCE THE BALL ONCE THEN CATCH IT

A "bounce" is where a player directs the ball with one or both hands towards the ground, causing it to rebound.



### TOUCH THE BALL IN AN UNCONTROLLED MANNER ONCE OR MORE THAN ONCE & THEN CATCH IT

- In looking at whether the touch is controlled, the umpire must judge whether the player was able to control the **direction** of the ball.
- The umpire must also take into account the **skill level of the players** and the **conditions** (such as wet weather).

## 2 TOUCHES

An easy way to think about replay is that a player is allowed two, but not three, **controlled** touches of the ball:

- Two bats or bounces in any combination
- A bat and a catch; or
- A bounce and a catch.

However, this is different where a player has **uncontrolled** touches.

After having one or more than one uncontrolled touch of the ball, a player is allowed **only one** controlled touch – a catch, or a bat, or a bounce to another player.



INCORRECT PLAYING OF THE BALL  
HAND SIGNAL

## WITHOUT POSSESSION A PLAYER MAY:



### BAT OR BOUNCE the ball to another player



### BAT ONCE then bat or bounce to another player



### BOUNCE ONCE then bat or bounce to another player



### UNCONTROLLED touch once or more than once, and then bat or bounce the ball to another player

# 2024 RULES UPDATE

## REPOSSESSION FAQ

After having possession and releasing the ball, a player may not touch the ball again before it touches another player, or it rebounds from the goal post.

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[EXPLAINER VIDEO](#)



[RULES OF NETBALL APP](#)



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### POSSESSION:

is where a player holds the ball with one or both hands, or has one or both hands on the ball while it is on the ground.

To be penalised for repossession, the umpire must judge that the player had possession of the ball in the first place.



### UNCONTROLLED

A player who is fumbling for the ball in an uncontrolled way and then picks it up,

**SHOULD NOT BE PENALISED**

### OTHER BODY PART

A player who catches the ball after it has touched a part of their body other than their hand,

**SHOULD NOT BE PENALISED**

But remember, a player cannot kick the ball or fall on the ball to gain possession.



**REPOSSESSION HAND SIGNAL**

The umpire will need to consider the skill level of the players and the conditions of the game, to ensure this assessment is made fairly.