

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

Rule	Number	Heading	Question	Answer
		Umpire technique	<p>In the regional webinars, it was stated that there is a reduction of the various whistles used by an umpire.</p> <p>Should different whistles still be used, and if so, which ones and for what?</p>	<p>Reference to different whistle rolls had been removed from the Rules Book because it is not a "rule" to use different whistles, but rather an umpiring technique. The only differentiating whistle needed is for holding time (where the roll is used) and all other whistles for decisions should be the same (unless sharpened or lengthened to change "tone" for purposes of communication / game management).</p>
1	1.9	Technical Specifications	<p>The rule states that only the on-court players and umpires are permitted in the field of play. But Rules 3.16.c and 10.11 refer to extreme circumstances where player safety is endangered a Primary Care person may enter the court while play is in progress and additionally 10.11 refers to the Independent Concussion Observer as well. Are the rules contradictory and could this represent a risk to the safety of everyone involved given the dynamic nature of the sport? The rule further states, umpires will immediately hold time. Wouldn't this be awkward depending on where play is at the time?</p>	<p>These provisions are intended to cater for exceptional cases where a player is considered by the relevant medical professional to be in imminent danger and immediate action is required. These considerations supersede "where play is at the time" as player safety is the paramount concern. In such circumstances, the umpire would be expected to react to the scenario by stopping play straight away, again bearing in mind player safety as the paramount concern. We note similar mandates are provided in many other sports and these personnel operate in this way without issue. We also note, the co-umpire should see this occurring and should be able to stop play immediately and therefore minimise any additional risk.</p>

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

Rule	Number	Heading	Question	Answer
3	3.2	Team	<p>In the following scenarios who stands out of play for the Penalty?</p> <p>Rule 3.2 A minimum of five and a maximum of seven players from a team may be on court at any one time. If the additional player/s delay leaving the court, the umpire will penalise the team for delaying play.</p> <p>Rule 3.6 If a team does not have five players present at the start of a period of play, the umpires will wait up to 30 seconds. If the infringing team takes the court within 30 seconds the team is penalised for delaying play.</p> <p>Rule 3.7 If a team delay taking the court after a stoppage when requested by the umpires.</p>	<p>As the infringing player/s in this instance are the additional player/s, no one is required to stand out of play. There is no "infringer" under Rule 6.4 rather an "infringing team" (both defined).</p> <p>As the delay is due to the lack of additional players, no one is required to stand out of play. There is no "infringer" under Rule 6.4 rather an "infringing team" (both defined).</p> <p>As the infringement involves the team and not an individual player (refer "Late Players" - Rule 3.8), no one is required to stand out of play. There is no "infringer" under Rule 6.4 rather an "infringing team" (both defined).</p>
3	3.6	Team	<p>Rule 3.6 states that 5 players must be available. When play is ready to start and if 4 players are on court and one is coming on court is the match awarded to the other team?</p>	<p>No. The match is not awarded to the other team. The late player will be penalised for delaying play (award a penalty pass which is advanced).</p>

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

Rule	Number	Heading	Question	Answer
3	3.12	Team	Rule 3.12 What adornments are allowed to be worn?	The key point to emphasise is that no adornment can be worn if it would endanger the safety of any player. Any adornment worn must be securely covered with tape and / or padding.
3	3.13	Team	Rule 3.13.f – The on-court captain must wear identification as specified by the event organiser (for example an arm band or patch on their playing uniform). Are the dress/player numbers sufficient for identification purposes for the on-court captain considering the tactical changes and the need for speed of the process?	The type of identification to be worn by the on-court captain is as specified by the event organiser [Rule 3.13 f]. The umpires must be able to visibly identify the on-court captain without stopping play and referring to the score bench. To this end, an arm band or a Velcro patch should not be problematic as it could be changed along with the bib and dress/player number are not sufficient.
3	3.16	Team	Rule 3.16 c provides for a primary care person or independent concussion observer respectively to enter the court when play is in progress. Does this create a risk to the safety of other players?	This measure, which is to be used only in exceptional circumstances, has been adopted after careful consideration and in consultation with WN Medical Advisory Panel, with player safety as the paramount consideration. The process of notifying the reserve umpire to have time held is covered by the Rules [Rules 3.16 e and 10.10]. In ordinary situations, it would be sufficient for the reserve umpire to alert the on-court umpire to hold time at the first practicable moment. The recommended process is that the next time the umpire is positioned in front of the reserve umpire, the reserve umpire will tap the umpire and advise them. This has been the previous process used in competitions around the world and has worked effectively.

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

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				<p>Where there is no reserve umpire, the relevant medical professional should inform the non-controlling umpire of the need to stop play at the first practicable moment.</p> <p>The additional provisions in Rules 3.16 c and 10.11 are intended to cater for cases where a player is considered by the relevant medical professional to be in immediate danger and immediate action is required. These considerations supersede concerns about 'where play is at the time' as player safety is the paramount concern. In order to carry out their roles, both the primary care person and independent concussion observer must be qualified in sports medicine (refer definitions) which would include safe access to the field of play in the case of serious injury. It is noted that similar mandates are provided in many other sports and these personnel operate in this way without issue.</p> <p>In such circumstances, the umpire must be expected to react to the scenario by stopping play straight away, again bearing in mind player safety is paramount. The co-umpire would also see this occurring and, if needed, could also be able to stop play immediately to minimise any additional risk.</p>

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

Rule	Number	Heading	Question	Answer
4	4.12	Match Officials	<p>Rule 4.12 If a sanction or action is awarded in the co-umpire's half, the co-umpire resumes control once the sanction or action has been set.</p> <p>Does this mean that if an umpire advances a sanction into the co-umpire's half, the umpire is responsible for ensuring the sanction is set?</p>	<p>Yes, that is correct.</p> <p>If an umpire advances a sanction into the co-umpire's half, the umpire is responsible for ensuring the sanction is set in the correct place. Once the sanction is set, the co-umpire then takes control.</p>
5	5.8	Match Officials	Where does the independent concussion observer sit?	The event organiser determines where the independent concussion observer sits and this must be within easy access to the playing enclosure.
5	5.9	Technical and event officials	Rule 5.9 In a local match if there is no event organiser can the umpire decide to abandon a match?	Yes. In community netball where there is no event organiser present then the umpires may make the decision whether to abandon a match.
6	6.10 – 6.14	Sanctions and Actions	<p>Conditions for Throw-In</p> <p>Given a player is no longer required to wait for all players to be on court for a Throw In, can they choose to wait for players to be on the court? Such as an opponent who retrieves the ball from beyond the field of play, or will they be penalised for held ball, if all other conditions for the Throw-In are met [Rule 6.18].</p>	The Throw-In is 'set' once the player is in position with the ball, so that is when the three seconds starts. They cannot choose to wait as this could be considered as delaying play.

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

Rule	Number	Heading	Question	Answer
6	6.16 & 6.17	Sanctions and Actions	<p>Are there effectively 2 types of possession now?</p> <p>Rule 6.16 A possession call that's linked to mutual infringements that does have a whistle</p> <p>Rule 6.17 Where opposing players collect the ball in quick succession, the umpire just says possession, and there is no whistle?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>In the case of simultaneous and mutual infringements, the whistle will be blown and possession will be awarded to the team who last had possession of the ball immediately prior to that infringement, where the ball was when play stopped.</p> <p>If two opposing players gain possession of the ball in quick succession during play, the umpire may allow play to continue by calling 'possession' and indicating the team and playing position of the player who gained possession first so they can play the ball. In this scenario there is usually no whistle (although it may be used to gain player attention if further clarification is required).</p> <p>Note also Rule 12.2. If two players from the same team gain possession of the ball in quick succession, the player who gained possession of the ball first must remain in possession and the hands of the player who gained possession of the ball second must be removed, otherwise this will be deemed a short pass.</p>
7	7.1 – 7.5	Advantage	<p>On the webinars, it was said that when playing the advantage, you can't pass sideways or backwards. Why?</p>	<p>The webinar and the rule do not say this. You can pass sideways or backwards if the team chooses to do so. Umpires need to decide if this is a tactical choice or whether the player was put under pressure to play sideways or backwards, in which case a whistle and a penalty may be more advantageous to the non-infringing team.</p>

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

Rule	Number	Heading	Question	Answer
8	8.5	Centre Pass	<p>Rule 8.5 If both umpires are signaling the centre pass in the same direction but to the wrong team, what will happen?</p> <p>Rule 8.5.c An on-court player may appeal the centre pass. How would an umpire deal with excessive appeals should a team use it to slow down a quick re-start?</p>	<p>There are safeguards in the rules to cope with this scenario.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The scorers notify the umpires by electronic and/or audible means prior to the centre pass being taken. 2. On appeal from an on-court player prior to the centre pass being taken, the umpires will check with the scorers and confirm the correct team to take the next centre pass. <p>Note: Once the centre pass has been taken then no further action can be taken to correct any mistakes.</p> <p>This could either be addressed as delaying play [Rule 19.2] or actions contrary to good sporting behaviour [Rule 19.10] depending on the game context.</p>
8	8.14 & 8.16	Centre Pass	<p>Rule 8.14 and 8.16 Why is "untouched" used for the terminology when the ball has been touched or caught?</p>	<p>The ball must be touched or caught by a player who is standing wholly in, or has landed wholly in, the centre third. If the ball has not been caught or touched by a player in line with these requirements, it is considered "untouched", hence the terminology. It is further noted that this is not new terminology, but was used in previous versions of the rules for this scenario.</p>

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

Rule	Number	Heading	Question	Answer
8	8.16	Centre Pass	Rule 8.16 b. If a player touches or catches the ball in the air then lands either wholly or partly outside the court in the centre third why is the sanction a free pass?	The first infringement is the centre pass not being caught or touched by a player who is standing or who lands wholly in the centre third [Rule 8.14] and the sanction applied is the sanction applicable to that infringement which is a free pass in goal third by the transverse line where the player was in contact with the ground in the goal third.
9	9.1 – 9.7	Scoring a goal	Rule 9.1-9.7 Can a layup still be used?	Yes, provided no contact is made with the goalpost. Note: In addition, a player may not jump into the air and land on a stationary player who is defending from the correct distance.
9	9.2	Scoring a Goal	Rule 9.2 At a shot at goal in the old rules there was difficulty for the umpire to decide whether the ball had completely passed through the ring. And we have now moved this judgement to the release of the ball. Does that make it any easier?	This change was based on feedback from members that this amendment was necessary and preferred. This is more capable of accurate assessment in terms of release from the hands given that the umpire will be viewing this shot and viewing the defence of the shot, and viewing the players around the shot. It was felt that this is more capable of accurate assessment rather than looking up at the ball going through the ring.

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

Rule	Number	Heading	Question	Answer
10	10.1	Stoppages	Rule 10.1 Does the player requesting the substitution/team changes have to come off the court?	<p>In the case of injury/illness/blood there is no change here to the previous rule. A player who has injury/illness/blood must be substituted. However, a player may request time to be held for another player in their team who has injury/illness/blood and it is the player who has the injury/illness/blood who must come off the court.</p> <p>Note: For tactical changes no one is required to leave the court and players may change playing positions.</p>
10	10.2	Stoppages	<p>Rule 10.2 Tactical Change.</p> <p>On a centrally timed match where time cannot be held for tactical changes, what should the umpire do if a team makes a request in the last minutes/seconds of a match, and this would effectively prevent the opposing team from having an opportunity to score?</p>	<p>It is exactly this situation that is envisaged in providing that the umpire may decline a request made frivolously (and this would include a request made for reasons contrary to good sporting behaviour).</p> <p>The rule allows both for the request to be declined if made inappropriately, and for any delay in making the changes to be penalised [Rule 19.1 and Rule 19.2]. For centrally timed competitions the organiser may wish to emphasise this to the teams and the umpires. It is noted that such requests may already be made in centrally times games for injury or illness with the same potential effect, and similar process and judgement should be used in handling tactical changes as is already used here.</p>

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

Rule	Number	Heading	Question	Answer
10	10.3	Stoppages	Rule 10.3 If undue time is taken by either team to complete substitutions and/or team changes, the infringing team will be penalised for delaying play [Rule 19.1] and [Rule 19.2]. Who stands out of play?	No one is required to stand out of play, as the infringing player/s in this instance are the additional players who must leave the court. There is no "infringer" under Rule 6.4, rather an "infringing team" (both defined).
10	10.4	Stoppages	What does frivolous mean and is this down to the umpire judgement?	<p>The use of the word frivolous means the plain English definition 'not having any serious purpose or value'. In determining whether a request for tactical changes is frivolous, the umpires may consider not just the number of requests made but their timing and frequency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A key reason for the tactical change format is to allow teams to make multiple substitutions and/or team changes at the same time rather than having to make repeated changes to manoeuvre players into positions. • A team can request tactical changes after a goal, meaning that a request received near the end of a period of play in a close game may require scrutiny as a time-wasting tactic, particularly in a centrally timed match. <p>For these reasons it was considered that umpires should retain discretion to make this determination rather than a 'blanket rule' being imposed.</p>

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

Rule	Number	Heading	Question	Answer
				All participants in the game, including coaches and players, have an obligation to play in accordance with standards of good sporting behaviour and to use the rules ethically.
10	10.7	Stoppages	Rule 10.7 a states: For a stoppage for injury, both umpires remain on their respective side lines. If the injury time is extended does one umpire move across to the other side line to assist in observing and managing the team benches?	As per Rule 10.7 the umpires would remain on their respective side lines during an injury. If the stoppage time is extended then the umpires need to work together and in conjunction with the event organiser to decide where to stand to best manage the team benches.
10	10.10	Stoppages	Rule 10.10 If an independent concussion observer requests an extension of injury time for the concussed player to leave the court, do we treat this in the same way we do when it's the primary carer who asks for an extension?	Yes, it is managed in the same way as for primary care person/s (which includes a team doctor) requesting an extension of injury time so the player can be safely removed from the court.
10	10.22	Stoppages	Rule 10 If a centre has left the court for injury and no substitution is made and the WD moved to play centre to allow the match to continue, Rule 10.22 states that at the next break in play the Centre, when ready, can go back into the Centre position and WD back to WD. Do they have to return to original positions or can the Centre go on in the WD position?	Rule 10.22 states that the umpire will hold time so the player can return to the Centre position, which is mandatory language ("will" and "can" rather than "may"). So yes, they must return to original playing positions.

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

Rule	Number	Heading	Question	Answer
10	10.25	Stoppages	10.25 If the court has moisture on it, shouldn't the umpires have to stop play for the paramount safety of players?	The rule refers to "incidental moisture", meaning moisture that does not materially interfere with play and does not pose a safety issue. If there is a genuine player safety concern, play can be stopped. A practice has developed of inappropriate holding of time in situations where it has not been requested by players, often when players have fallen over due to dangerous or reckless contact, as an alternative to formal game management which would be the proper course of action. The provision has been used to address this in light of the focus on player safety as paramount, as the failure to appropriately address late or reckless contact poses a far greater risk.
12	12.1	Short Pass	Rule 12.1 Can a player still screen an opponent so they can't get their hands to the ball	Yes. The rule is not trying to prevent legitimate tactical actions such as screening, provided that no other rules are infringed. As long as there remains sufficient space for any defending player (and not specifically the defending player being screened) to deflect or intercept the pass, it will be legal.

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

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12	12.2	Passing Distances	Short Pass off the post. Although this is not between the hands of the thrower and the hands of the receiver, is this action considered a pass with no opportunity to make a genuine attempt to defend and therefore is considered a short pass?	The interpretation of a short pass when the ball is passed onto the post by a player, and then caught by the same player, has not changed from the current rules (2020 edition) except for the definition of passing distance under the new rule 12.1. As the player is both passer and receiver, there must be sufficient space on the court (which is important to remember when this is used at a throw in) for an opposing player to be able to deflect or intercept the ball, as it moves from the hands, to the post, and back to the hands of the same player again.
13	13.3	Footwork	Rule 13.3 Should a player who is holding the ball and falls to the ground and then regains footing to pass within 3 seconds, be penalised for footwork, unless their landed foot stays in contact with the ground the entire time?	Correct. The previous rule was confusing and inconsistent with all other aspects of the footwork rule related to grounded foot (which did not allow the player in possession of the ball to reground the grounded foot).
15	15.7	Out of Court	Does this cover that if a player is defending someone whilst they are off court they will be penalised?	“Repositioning back onto court” does not incorporate actively defending an opponent who is out of court. A player who leaves the court and defends an opponent who is out of court will be penalised under Rule 15.7 as they have not left the court for an authorised purpose. As long as a defending player remains on court, they may prevent an opponent from re-entering the court. The situation of a player who leaves the court to defend a player who is on the court, whether or not they have the ball, is separately addressed under Rule 15.10

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

Rule	Number	Heading	Question	Answer
16	16.2	Obstruction	Rule 16.2 Lifted player. Which player is required to stand out of play on the penalty? Is the infringer the opposing player whose nearer foot is in contact with the ground, or are both players infringing?	Under Rule 16.7, the infringing player in a lift situation could be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the player who is lifted if they are within 0.9m (as this would be an effort to deflect or intercept the ball, or defend the player with the ball) the player who does the lifting if they are within 0.9m both players, if they are both within 0.9m at the time of the lift. It will depend on the circumstances, but any of these outcomes are possible.
16	16.7	Obstruction	Rule 16.7 Can the defender who is within 3 feet of the player with the ball, deflect or intercept the ball once it has left the throwers hands.	Apart from the addition of the reference to lifting another player, Rule 16.7 does not represent a change to the previous Rules of Netball. Once the ball has left the thrower's hands, the restrictions imposed by the rule no longer apply, and the defending player may attempt to intercept or deflect the ball.
16	16.9	Obstruction	Rule 16.9 If an opponent is obstructing a player not in possession of the ball by preventing movement, what is the correct terminology? Is it obstruction, or do we say preventing?	The rules book now has green text listed for the infringement and that is the correct terminology to use. In this scenario the terminology would be Obstruction, with Umpire Hand Signal 19 – player not in possession of the ball.
18	18.6	Game Management	What conditions apply for a suspended player during the suspension period? Are they able to speak, or would this be considered as taking part in play?	A suspended player can take no part in play [Rule 18.6 d] other than to join their team at an interval [Rule 18.3]). They cannot take part in any play but they may rehydrate.

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

Rule	Number	Heading	Question	Answer
18	18.13 – 18.16	Game Management	Is proactive advice different to a quiet word?	Yes. Proactive advice is specific feedback given to a player to change their behaviour and is the first step in Game management actions.
18	18.13 – 18.16	Game Management	Do you give proactive advice for each infringement (for example, obstruction and then contact and then....)?	No. Proactive advice is given only once. If a player needs to be spoken to specifically more than once then this is treated as repeated infringing and the Game Management action is a penalty pass which is advanced [Rule 18.16].
18	18.17 – 18.22	Game Management	Rule 18.17 What would happen where a sanction is to be advanced but the infringement was right under the goal post?	If the infringement is under the goal post and should be advanced but there is not room to advance, then the umpire must make the player aware that Game Management action has been applied and they should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inform the player of the type of unfair play being penalised and state that 'this counts as an advanced sanction' If the player does not change their behaviour, then the umpire will issue a warning to the player.
18	18.21	Game Management	Rule 18.21 What does multiple mean? The rule talks about an individual player having multiple advanced and/or escalated sanctions and Rule 18.23 states that following proactive advice or an advanced and/or escalated sanction then a warning will be issued.	Multiple means more than 1. A player must be warned if they have more than 1 advanced or escalated sanction.

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

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18	18.21	Game Management	<p>If a player has had a sanction advanced for unfair play (e.g. intentional infringing) and this player intentionally infringes again, may the umpire penalise and advance again or is it expected that the umpire must warn the player?</p> <p>If the 2nd infringement was a different unfair play action (e.g. 1st was intentional 2nd was delay) what action should the umpire take?</p>	<p>Rule 18.21 provides that if an individual player has multiple advanced and/or escalated sanctions, the umpire must issue a warning. "Multiple" in plain English is read as "consisting of, including, or involving more than one." Therefore, the next instance of unfair play requires that a warning be given.</p> <p>Rule 18.21 refers to an individual player having multiple advanced and/or escalated sanctions and does not state that these must be for the same type of unfair play. The next instance of unfair play would require that a warning is given.</p>
18	18.22	Game management	<p>Rule 18.22 What does cumulative advanced and/or escalated sanctions for a team mean?</p>	<p>The plain English definition of cumulative is; 'increasing by successive additions'.</p> <p>This rule refers to a team rather than an individual receiving advanced and/or escalated sanctions. The application of this rule requires the umpire to consider both the number and type of infringements along with game context.</p>
18	18.23 – 18.42	Game Management	<p>Rule 18.23 When applying Game Management does the umpire have to say what the next steps are?</p> <p>For example: when giving a warning, does the umpire have to say 'and the next step will be a suspension'?</p>	<p>When giving a warning the umpire will advise the player that suspension will follow if the player continues to infringe any of the foul play rules [Rule 18.6 c]. For suspension or ordering off, the umpire does not state the next steps.</p>

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

Rule	Number	Heading	Question	Answer
18	18.27 – 18.35	Game management	Rule 18.27 If a player is suspended, when and where do they re-enter the court? How will the umpire know the time is elapsed? Does the umpire hold time if a player has moved to play centre and they need to move back to their original playing position?	Once the suspension period has been completed, either the suspended player or a substitute may return to the court at the next break in play which is defined as 'after a goal is scored, during a stoppage or interval or when a sanction or action is awarded'. The reserve umpire will be informed by the timekeeper that the suspension time is completed and the reserve umpire will inform the player concerned. The player concerned or a substitute may enter the court at a break in play. Yes, the umpire will need to hold time if a player has moved to play centre so they can move back to their original playing position.
18	18.38	Game Management	Do the same conditions apply to an ordered off player as for a suspended player, i.e. the ordered-off player takes no further part in play [Rule 18.38] and does this mean they cannot speak during the ordered off period and when they return to the team bench?	An ordered off player can take no further part in the match [Rule 18.6 e] other than to join a team at an interval [Rule 18.42]. During the 4-minute ordered off period the player sits at the umpire's bench under the supervision of the reserve umpire and they cannot take any part in play including speaking but they may rehydrate. At the end of the 4-minute ordered off period the player reports to the appropriate team officials on the team bench and they may not enter the field of play. Once on the team bench the player concerned may not take any further part in play but the player may talk to others on the team bench.

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

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18	18.36 – 18.42	Game Management	Rule 18.36 Can an ordered off player take any part in warm ups etc.	No, an ordered off payer cannot take any further part in play [Rule 18.6 e] other than to join a team at an interval [Rule 18.36]. Once the 4-minute period has ended and they return to the team bench, Rule 18.44 applies.
18	18.36 – 18.42	Game Management	At the end of the ordered off period if a substitute is being made who indicates to the umpires that a substitute is going to come on and how? Does the reserve umpire do this?	The substitute will need to come to the side of the court and get the umpires attention before being allowed to take the court.
18	18.44	Game Management	If inappropriate behaviour by bench players and/or officials is penalised, who stands out of play for the penalty pass?	As was the case for the previous iteration of the Rules, no one is required to stand out of play as the infringing involves the team (bench officials/players) and not an on-court player.
19	19.1	Foul Play	Rule 19.1 Can an umpire hold time to advance a sanction for foul play - delaying, intentional, repeated, disputed, intimidation - particularly if this is used to gain a material loss of time i.e. near end of a quarter	Ordinarily time is not to be held to advance a penalty, however umpires may use their judgement in exceptional cases, remembering that time at the end of a quarter is no different to time at the start of the quarter. A practice has developed of time being held excessively and in situations where the proper course of action would be the application of formal game management procedures, and the provision has been introduced in the rules to address this, as it is undesirable and detracts from the game.

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

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19	19.2 & 19.4	Foul Play	Rule 19.2 If a sanction is against a team for delaying play or repeated infringements, the sanction is a penalty pass. Who stands out of play?	Where repeated infringements by a team is penalised, it will be triggered by the penalising of a particular incident involving an individual player as a member of the team. It follows that the individual player will stand out of play in connection with the incident, and that the communication by the umpire will indicate that the basis for the decision to advance/escalate is the cumulative infringing by the team. For delaying play by a team, no one is required to stand out of play for the penalty pass as there is no specific infringer. Refer to the definition for infringer: 'player who commits an infringement'.
19	19.11	Foul Play	Rule 19.11 Dangerous play includes head or neck contact. Does this include potential head or neck contact?	Dangerous play includes unnecessarily forceful, careless, reckless or dangerous play that could affect the safety of another player. In the situations of potential head and/or neck contact, dangerous play must be considered and if necessary appropriate action taken by the umpires.
19	19.11	Foul Play	Rule 19.11 Is incidental contact to the head classed as dangerous? Example: two players are attempting a rebound from a missed shot, and one player in gathering the ball brushes the head of an opposing player. Would this be considered as dangerous play, invoking suspension or an ordering off?	There must be an infringement before considering dangerous play. Incidental contact does not meet the threshold for interference, so there is no contact and the foul play rule is not applicable.

RULES Q&A

UPDATED MAY 10TH 2024 V1

Rule	Number	Heading	Question	Answer
20	20.1 –	Simultaneous and Mutual Infringements	Rule 20.1 Two opposing players gain possession of the ball simultaneously and one lands out of court. What is the decision?	The umpire will blow the whistle and award possession (to be taken on court) to the team who last had possession of the ball immediately prior to that infringement.
20	20.1 – 20.2 8.11	Simultaneous and Mutual Infringements	Rule 20.1 d. Doesn't stipulate that the two opposing players enter the centre third simultaneously. So, if it is not simultaneous, should this be penalised as breaking?	<p>Rule 20.1 d refers to 2 opposing players who enter the centre third before the whistle and one or both touch or catch the ball. In this case the umpire will award possession of the ball to the team who last had possession prior to that infringement.</p> <p>Rule 20.2 covers the situation where two opposing players enter the centre third simultaneously before the whistle is blown for a centre pass.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If neither player touches or catches the ball they are not penalised and play continues 2. If one umpire blows the whistle for a sanction and the other umpire indicates an advantage has applied, the sanction will stand <p>Rule 8.11 Covers the scenario where a player enters the centre third before the whistle has been blown to start play. A free pass would be awarded to the opposing team.</p>