

# Memorandum

**To:** Member Organisations Umpire Development Managers, High Performance and Emerging Talent Umpire Program umpires, High Performance Umpire Pathway coaches

**Date:** Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**From:** Ian Rutledge, Head of Netball Workforce Development

**Cc:** Melonie Lowe – Executive General Manager – Sport

**Re:** 2020 Rules of Netball – Summary and Clarifications

**The purpose of this memo is to provide a summary and additional clarification where required, of the main changes to the International Netball Federation Rules of Netball (2020 Edition).**

For further information or clarification please contact: [rules@netball.com.au](mailto:rules@netball.com.au)

What	Change/Update	Additional Clarification
<b>Definitions – New and Modified</b>		
Failure to take the court	A team has less than 5 players present at the start of a period of play or a team delays taking the court after a stoppage	
Late Player	A player who is not ready to take the court at the start of a match or when the match is to be restarted after a stoppage or interval.	
Major infringement	Infringement of the Contact or Obstruction rules, when the goalpost is moved by a defending player so as to interfere with a shot at goal, when a defending player deflects a ball on its downward flight towards the ring, when a player enters the court at an incorrect time or infringement of the foul play rule.	
Pass	Action of a player throwing, batting or bouncing the ball to a player, dropping the ball or <b>putting the ball on the ground and removing their hands.</b>	This is not a change from the original definition, rather a clarification. This definition seeks to clarify actions of playing the ball in the <b>course of play</b> . A player placing the ball on the ground to set a sanction or handing/passing the ball to a teammate for a sanction is not to be considered a 'pass' under this definition as the ball is <b>not</b> considered in play. As such, players should not be penalised.

Penalty Pass	Sanction for a major infringement. A Goal Shooter or Goal Attack taking a Penalty Pass in the goal circle may either pass or shoot for goal.	
Pivot	A movement where the player with the ball swivels either on the heel or on the ball of the landing foot while this maintains contact with the ground.	
Reckless	Without thinking or caring about the consequence of an action.	
Shot	A Goal Shooter or Goal Attack directs the ball towards the ring in an attempt to score a goal.	
<b>Match Duration</b>		
Match length	If a team is awarded a Penalty Pass in its attacking goal circle before the timekeeper signals the end of play, the umpire will blow the whistle to end the period of play and advise the players that time is being extended for the Penalty Pass to be taken.	<p>Upon notification from the timekeepers that play time has ended, the umpire is to immediately blow their whistle to indicate the end of play. Players are then advised that time is being extended for the penalty to be taken.</p> <p>If the shot is successful, the umpire uses the appropriate hand signal to indicate a goal. If the shot is unsuccessful, no whistle or hand signal is required and play ends.</p>
<b>Match Personnel</b>		
Scorers	Record any caution, warning, suspension and ordering off	
<b>Match Procedures</b>		
Procedures during Play	The umpires - When penalising an infringement, blow the whistle, state the infringement using the correct terminology and hand signal, state the sanction given and indicate where the sanction is to be taken.	
Procedures for Game Management	<p>The controlling umpire will ensure the co-umpire is aware of the action taken and the reason for it. If necessary the umpire may hold time to inform the co-umpire of the reason for the action (for Caution, Warning, and Suspension).</p> <p>When giving a warning, suspension or ordering off, the controlling umpire may hold time to confer with the co-umpire before deciding on the action to be taken.</p>	<p>This is not a new procedure, but simply clarifies the former procedure (“The umpires may confer before deciding on the action to be taken”).</p> <p>This procedure is optional and should only be used in cases of necessity (for example, (umpire unsighted for the action involved).</p>

Sanctions		
Types of Sanctions	More detail has been added to some sanctions to state where the sanction is taken, to provide clarity.	
Controlling Play		
Failure to take the court	<p>If a team fails to take the court, the sanction is: <b>Penalty Pass which is advanced</b> (unless the non-infringing team is disadvantaged). The whistle is blown to start play then the infringement is penalised. The <b>captain is cautioned</b> and the <b>Centre stands out of play</b> for the Penalty Pass.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sanction may be advanced up to half a third (this may be to inside the goal circle if play was due to restart in the goal third).</li> <li>The Centre stands out of play at the new position. If this is in the goal circle the Centre moves to the edge of this area.</li> </ol>	This clarification was needed to make the penalising of delay consistent with 13.2.1(i) in terms of needing to advance as a Penalty Pass and have someone out of play, and needing to caution.
Centre Pass	<p>At a Centre Pass, before the whistle was blown to end the quarter/half, the Centre Pass will be ruled not to have been taken if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ball is still in the Centre's hands and no player from that team has been penalised.</li> <li><b>The ball is knocked out of the Centre's hands by a player from the opposing team.</b></li> <li><b>An intentional infringement by the opposing team has been penalised and the Penalty Pass has not been taken</b></li> </ol>	B and C are new additions to the 2020 Rules of Netball. This change is aimed at actions of opposing teams attempting to prevent the attacking team from maintaining their Centre Pass at the commencement of the next interval.
During the Match		
Late Players (previously late arrivals)	<p>If a player is late for the start or restart of a match and enters the court at an incorrect time the sanction is:</p> <p>The player is sent from the court until the correct time for entry. <b>Penalty Pass</b> to the opposing team where the ball was when play was stopped and an <b>infringing team player allowed in the playing area stands out of play for the penalty.</b></p>	The rationale for this was to prevent the situation where the non-infringing team might be disadvantaged by receiving a free pass (ie – while shooting for goal). Applying advantage to allow play to continue was not deemed possible because of the need to remove the late player from the court immediately. This results in the need to put another player from the offending team out of play.

Stoppages	If a player was in possession of the ball when time was held by the umpire for a stoppage, <b>any player</b> from that team allowed in the area may have possession of the ball for the restart of play.	The rationale for this is that the previous rule referred to “where the ball was when play stopped” and did not refer to the same player having to take the ball on the restart.
Injury/Illness or Blood	<p>After a stoppage for injury/illness or blood, if the position has been left vacant when the match is restarted, the player concerned or a substitute may not enter the match while play is in progress.</p> <p>Sanction: The player is sent from the court until the correct time for entry. <b>Penalty Pass</b> where ball was when play was stopped and <b>a player from the infringing team allowed in the area stands out of play for the penalty.</b></p>	<p>The sanction from this rule has changed from a Free Pass to a Penalty Pass.</p> <p>The rationale for this was to prevent the situation where the non-infringing team might be disadvantaged by receiving a free pass (ie – while shooting for goal). Applying advantage to allow play to continue was not deemed possible because of the need to remove the infringing player from the court immediately. This results in the need to put another player from the offending team out of play.</p>
Methods of playing the Ball	<p>A player may not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kick the ball</li> <li>Fall on the ball to gain possession</li> <li>Strike the ball with a fist</li> <li>Roll the ball to another player.</li> </ol> <p><b>Note: Deliberately has been removed.</b></p>	This was removed because it was considered unnecessary – a kick is of itself a deliberate movement and is distinct from a ball merely hitting a players foot inadvertently.
Passing distances	<p>When a player passes the ball there must be sufficient space for an opposing player on the court to be able to intercept the ball <b>with a hand</b> as it moves from the hands of the thrower to those of the receiver.</p> <p>Sanction: Free pass <b>where the thrower was standing.</b></p>	For this rule, the infringement is the act of passing the ball <b>when there is insufficient space</b> . As such, it is not dependent on the ball being received. This change means that there is no need to wait for the ball to be caught to penalise the infringement (as this is irrelevant to the infringement), and that <b>the sanction should be taken where the thrower is standing, as this is where the infringement occurs</b> . By awarding the sanction where the thrower is, the rule becomes consistent with other minor infringements by awarding the sanction where the infringement occurred, and not in another place.
Requirements for Taking a Shot	<p>A defending player may not: Cause the goalpost to move so as to interfere with a shot at goal.</p> <p><b>Note: And cause it to miss has been removed</b></p>	

## Obstruction

Obstruction of a player in possession of the ball

3 feet distance is measured on the ground from the nearest part of the landing foot of the player with the ball to the nearest part of the opposing player's nearer foot.

- (i) One foot landing by the player with the ball:
  - (a) If the player remains in the landing position: from the nearest part of the landing foot to the nearest part of the nearer foot of the opposing player.
  - (b) If the player lifts the landing foot: from the point where the nearest part of the landing foot was grounded to the nearest part of the nearer foot of the opposing player.
- (ii) Two feet landing by the player with the ball:
  - (a) If the player does not move either foot: from the nearest part of the foot that is closer to the nearest part of the nearer foot of the opposing player.
  - (b) If the player moves one foot: from the nearest part of the foot that remains grounded to the nearest part of the nearer foot of the opposing player.
- (iii) If the player with the ball pivots on the landing foot, the nearest part of the landing foot may change and the opposing player must adjust so that the nearest part of their nearer foot is not less than 0.9 m (3 ft) from the nearest part of where the landing foot is now grounded.
- (v) A defending player may be within 0.9 m (3 ft) of an opponent with the ball provided there is no interference with the throwing or shooting action of this player. The defending player may not make any effort to deflect or intercept the ball or defend the player with the ball.

<p>Obstruction of a player not in possession of the ball</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) A player who is within 0.9 m (3 ft) of an opponent (measured between the nearest part of the nearer feet on the ground) may stretch out arms to:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Catch, deflect or intercept a pass or a fake pass.</li> <li>(b) Catch, deflect or bat a rebound from an unsuccessful shot at goal.</li> <li>(c) Momentarily signal for a pass or to indicate the intended direction of a movement.</li> </ul> </li> <li>(ii) A player who is within 0.9 m (3 ft) of an opponent (measured between the nearest part of the nearer feet on the ground) may not, whether attacking or defending, use movements that take the arms away from the body so as to limit the possible movement of an opponent, except as required for natural body stance.</li> </ul>	
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Game Management		
<p>Actions that may be taken by umpires</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To manage a match the umpires may, in addition to the normal sanction, use any of the following actions:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Caution a player: a player is advised that the behaviour specified must change.</li> <li>(b) Issue a warning to a player: a player is warned that suspension will follow if the player continues to infringe the foul play rule.</li> <li>(c) Suspend a player: a player who is suspended takes no part in play for 2 minutes playing time.</li> <li>(d) Order a player off: a player who is ordered off takes no further part in the match.</li> </ul> </li> <li>(ii) Normally an umpire will work through these actions in the order indicated unless an offence is serious enough to require a higher level of Game Management to be applied immediately.</li> <li>(iii) <b>A decision to give a caution, a warning, to suspend a player or order a player off will be considered to have been made jointly by both umpires and is binding on the co-umpire.</b></li> <li>(v) <b>The co-umpire may hold time if an act of foul play is observed that is not seen by the controlling umpire and a sanction has not already been awarded for an infringement. Such cases should be limited to serious actions which require a warning, suspension or ordering off.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The co-umpire will immediately blow the whistle to hold time and provide details of the foul play to the controlling umpire with a recommendation of the action that should be taken.</li> <li>(b) The controlling umpire will make the final decision about any action to be taken and will restart play.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>A caution is now binding on the co-umpire. This was in order to deal with an anomaly in the Rules, in that it was stated that a caution is not binding, but then a player could not receive more than one caution for the same action – which implies that it has to be binding.</p>
<p>Caution</p>	<p>An umpire may give a caution to a player and advise that a specified behaviour must change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Only one caution may be given to a player for a specific instance of foul play.</li> <li>II. If a player is given a caution for different instances of foul play, the umpire must consider escalating this to a warning.</li> </ul>	

Warning	<p>If a player continues to infringe after receiving a caution for a specified behaviour, the umpire will issue a Warning to the player.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Where appropriate a warning may be given even if no caution has been issued.</li> <li>II. Only one warning may be given to a player in a match.</li> </ol>	
Suspension	<p>The umpire will suspend a player following a Warning if the player continues to infringe the Foul Play rules.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Where appropriate the umpire may Suspend a player even if no warning has been given.</li> <li>II. Only one Suspension may be given to a player in a match.</li> </ol>	
Ordering Off	<p>The umpire will Order a player off the court following a Suspension if the player continues to infringe the Foul Play rules.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Where appropriate an umpire may Order a player off the court even if no Suspension has been given.</li> <li>II. A player who has been Ordered off may not take any further part in the match.</li> <li>III. A player who is Ordered off must immediately leave the court.</li> <li>IV. The player reports to the appropriate Team Officials on the Team Bench and may not re-enter the Field of Play.</li> </ol>	
Dangerous Play	<p>A player must not take any action, <b>either reckless or dangerous that could affect the safety of another player</b>. Such actions may include but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Punching, kicking, tripping or striking a player with any part of the body.</li> <li>II. Causing a player in the air to fall by moving into the path of that player.</li> </ol> <p>Sanction: Penalty Pass and the player is either Warned, Suspended or in a serious case Ordered off.</p>	<p>The words 'deliberate and accidental' have been removed.</p> <p>There was always a challenge in an umpire determining what may be accidental versus deliberate actions by a player. As such, the focus of this rule is now squarely on player safety. This includes the concept of 'reckless' (not exercising proper judgement or considering the consequences), rather than the distinction between accidental and intentional.</p>



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## Appendices

Appendix A: Match Guidelines	Replace the Match Protocols and these have been rewritten.	Australian umpires are to align to the new Match Guidelines. No longer will Australia develop a separate match protocols document.
Appendix B: Umpire hand signals	Hand signal text has been changed for 10 Centre positioned incorrectly 11 Offside or breaking 12 Ball over a third or untouched Centre Pass	Australian umpires are to align to the Rule Book hand signals.
Appendix C: Umpire terminology	Umpire terminology for infringements has been defined.	Australian umpires are to align to the Rule Book terminology.