



2011 IHF Publication

2010 Rules of the Game

October 2011



2011 Clarifications of IHF Rules of the Game

The PRC in collaboration with the IHF rules experts checked all previous letters for their relevance and integrates the information and explanations are still valid in the following publication. Any previous explanation letters are removed.

Replacement of players and officials (Rules 4:1 – 4:2)

In the event that a team has not exhausted the maximum number of players (Rule 4:1) or officials (Rule 4:2) permitted it is entitled to conduct a:

- *late registration of a player (already registered) as official*
- *late registration of an official (already registered) as player*

until the end of the playing time (including overtime periods).

The maximum number of players and officials respectively must not be exceeded.

The player's or official's original function shall be deleted in the match report. It is not permitted to replace a player or an official in his original function which has meanwhile been deleted. Furthermore it is not allowed to delete a participant having a certain function in order to make a substitution in compliance with the maximum number permitted. It is not allowed to register a person as both a player and an official.

The IHF, the Continental Confederations and the National Federations have the right to apply deviating regulations in their areas of responsibility.

Personal punishment resulting from changing the function (warning, suspension) shall be considered for both the personal quota and the 'player' and 'official' quota respectively.

Substitution of players (Rule 4:4)

Players shall always leave and enter the court over their own team's substitution line. Injured players who leave the court when playing time was interrupted are exempted. Those players must not be forced to leave the court over the substitution line, where it is obvious that they need medical treatment inside the substitution area or in the changing rooms. Furthermore the referees should allow the substitute player to enter the court before the injured player has left the court in order to keep interruption to a minimum.

Face and knee protection (Rule 4:9)

All kinds of protection for face and head no matter what size are forbidden. Not only entire masks but also protection to cover parts of the face is forbidden. Federations and referees are not allowed to grant any exceptions.

Knee protection made of solid and massive material is forbidden. However protection made of soft material or special tapes with the same purpose provide a safe and modern alternative solution.

This rule was introduced due to an IHF Medical Commission's recommendation.

Glue (Rule 4:9)

It is permitted to use glue. It is permitted to deposit glue on the shoes. This does not endanger the opponent's health.

However, it is not permitted to deposit glue on the hands or the wrist. This endangers the opponents' health, as glue might come into their eyes or their face. According to Rule 4:9 this practice is not allowed.

Continental and national federations have the right to adopt additional restrictions for their area.



Assisting injured players (Rule 4:11)

In cases where several players of the same team have been injured e.g. due to a collision, the referees or the delegate may give permission for additional eligible persons to enter the court in order to assist those injured players. Moreover the referees and the delegate monitor paramedics who may enter the court.

Injured goalkeeper (Rule 6:8)

The goalkeeper is hit by a ball in play and is incapable of acting. Generally in these cases the protection of the goalkeeper must be given priority. In terms of restarting the game different situations are possible:

- a) *The ball passes the side-line, the outer goal line, or is lying or rolling inside the goal-area.
Correct application of Rules: immediate interruption of play, throw-in or goalkeeper-throw in relation to the above cases, should be implemented to restart the game.*
- b) *The referees interrupted the game before the ball passed the side-line or the outer goal line or before the ball was lying or rolling inside the goal-area.
Correct application of Rules: Restarting the game with the throw that corresponds to the situation.*
- c) *The ball is in the air over the goal-area.
Correct application of Rules: Wait one or two seconds until one team gains possession of the ball, interrupt the game, restart the game with a free-throw for the team in possession of the ball.*
- d) *The referee whistles in a moment when the ball is still in the air.
Correct application of Rules: Restart the game with a free-throw for the team that last has been in possession of the ball.*
- e) *The ball bounces from the goalkeeper incapable of acting back to an attacking player.
Correct application of Rules: Interrupt the game immediately; restart the game with a free-throw for the team in possession of the ball.*

Note: *In such cases a 7m-throw is never possible. The referees interrupted the game deliberately for the protection of the goalkeeper. Therefore it is not a question of an 'unwarranted whistle' according to Rule 14:1b.*

Steps, Dragging up the Foot (Rule 7:3)

The Comment was considered obsolete. However, the interpretation of the rule concerned remains unchanged; in particular when dragging up the second foot the player is not considered having taken another step.

Steps, Start Dribbling (Rule 7:3)

In compliance with Rule 7:3c,d putting down your foot for the first time after receiving the ball during a jump is not considered as a step (zero contact). However, 'ball reception' means receiving a pass. Dribbling and catching the ball in the air during a jump is not considered as 'ball reception' according to the rule. Putting down your foot after dribbling has started is therefore without exception considered as a step.

Intervention by Additional Players or Officials (Rules 8:5, 8:6, 8:9, 8:10)

In cases where additional players or officials intervene, the decision on punishment and continuation of play are subject to the following criteria:

- player or official
- destroying a clear chance of scoring

Due to the named criteria the following situations could occur:



- a) *During a clear chance of scoring an additional player who has not been involved in a substitution process is present on the court.*
Correct application of Rules: 7m-throw, disqualification to be reported in writing
- b) *Incorrect substitution: The timekeeper/delegate whistles during a clear chance of scoring.*
Correct application of Rules: 7m-throw, 2min suspension
- c) *During a clear chance of scoring a team official enters the court.*
Correct application of Rules: 7m-throw, disqualification to be reported in writing
- d) *as under c), but no clear chance of scoring*
Correct application of Rules: free-throw, progressive punishment

Further measures after a disqualification to be reported in writing (Rules 8:6, 8:10)

The catalogue of personal punishment was changed significantly in the recent rules of the game. The very uncommon case of an assault exclusion was replaced by the disqualification to be reported in writing.

The criteria for this new highest level of punishment are defined in rules 8:6 (for illegal behaviour) and 8:10 (for unsportsmanlike behaviour); q.v. rule 8:3 section 2.

As the consequences of a punishment according to rule 8:6 or 8:10, during the game, do not differ from the penalty according to rules 8:5 and 8:9 (disqualification not to be reported in writing) the IHF added the following supplementary provision to both rules:

"... they must submit a written report after the game, so that the responsible authorities are in a position to take a decision about further measures."

This supplementary provision builds the principle for the responsible authority to decide about the intended further measures. Not at all the wording of the rule "... are in position" may be interpreted as a discretion of the responsible authority, if further measures are taken. This would mean a change of fact-finding of the referees. Any enhancement of the disqualification punishment should not be reported in writing as intended by the IHF, and therefore is no longer necessary.

Criteria for disqualification not to be reported / to be reported in writing (Rules 8:5, 8:6)

The following criteria assists in distinguishing between Rule 8:5 and Rule 8:6:

- a) *What defines 'particularly reckless'?*
- *assaults and assault-similar actions*
 - *ruthless or irresponsible action without any sense of proper behaviour*
 - *unrestrained hitting*
 - *malevolent actions*
- b) *What defines 'particularly dangerous'?*
- *actions against an unprotected opponent*
 - *extremely risky and serious actions endangering the opponent's health*
- c) *What defines 'premeditated action'?*
- *intentional and deliberately committed malicious action*
 - *wilful action against the body of the opponent just to destroy the opponent's action*
- d) *What defines 'malicious action'?*
- *sneaky and hidden action against the unprepared opponent*
- e) *What defines 'without any relation to the game situation'?*
- *actions committed far away from the player in possession of the ball*
 - *actions without any relation to game tactics*



Spitting (Rules 8:9, 8:10a)

Spitting at someone is considered an assault-similar action and must be punished in accordance with 8:10a (disqualification to be reported in writing). Differentiation between 'successful spitting' (punishment according to Rule 8:10) and 'unsuccessful spitting' (attempt, punishment according to Rule 8:9), which was previously introduced, remains unchanged.

Last Minute (Rules 8:10c, 8:10d)

'Last minute of the game' occurs during regular playing time (end of 2nd half) as well as at the end of the second half during both overtime periods.

Not respecting the distance (Rule 8:10c)

Not respecting the distance only leads to a disqualification (to be reported in writing) if a throw during the last minute of the game cannot be executed.

If the throw is executed and blocked by a player standing too close, normal progressive punishment shall be applied during the last minute of the game.

Disqualification during the last minute of the game (Rule 8:10d)

In cases of a disqualification according to Rule 8:5 during the last minute of the game, only infractions according to Rule 8:6, Comment (infraction with the purpose to prevent a goal) lead to a disqualification to be reported in writing (according to 8:10c).

Disqualification of the goalkeeper in accordance with Rule 8:5 (leaving the goal-area) basically does not lead to a disqualification to be reported in writing. This might occur in the last minute of the game provided it refers to an infraction according to Rule 8:5a-c.

Disqualified Players / Officials (Rule 16:8)

Disqualified players and officials must leave the court and the substitution area immediately and must not have any contact with their team afterwards.

In cases where the referees recognise another infraction committed by a disqualified player or official, after restarting the game, must be reported in writing.

It is not possible, however, to extend further punishments in the game against the player or official concerned, and therefore, their behaviour must not lead to a reduction in the number of players on the court. This is also valid in the event that a disqualified player enters the court.

Amendments

The following Rules amendments were approved by the IHF:

Rule 2:1

Note concerning the half-time break

Rule 2:10 / Clarification No. 3

Notes concerning the number and the handling of team time-outs

Rule 4:1

Note concerning the number of players

Rule 17:11, 1st paragraph to be amended as follows:

Decisions made by the referees or the delegate on the basis of their observations of facts, or their judgements, are final.