

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Referenced from The Rules of Netball 2016 which is available ONLINE  
and Baulkham Hills Association Policies and Regulations

## Adornments

Page 22

*Rule 5.1.1 (iv): No adornment or jewellery may be worn other than a wedding ring which must be covered with tape.*

Umpires must check for adornments before players take the court and apply the rule to protect all players. The Umpires' decision is final with NO appeal. Players and coaches must act responsibly and be fully aware of the following.

- PERMITTED - soft brimmed caps/hats and hard headbands that fit snugly
- NOT PERMITTED – all types of bracelets including elastic bands on wrist
- NOT PERMITTED - hair beads, hair rollers and large hair clips

## Ball

Page 17

*Rule 3.3: The match ball which is spherical in shape (a) Measures 690-710mm (27-28 in) in circumference and weighs 400-450g (14-16oz) (b) is made of leather, rubber or suitable synthetic material (c) is inflated to a pressure of 76-83 kPa (11-12 psi)*

Clubs are responsible for providing their teams with the correct sized netball.

- Size 4 balls are used for players aged 7 yrs, 8 yrs and 9 yrs
- Size 5 balls are used for all players aged 10 yrs and older
- A netball can be any colour.

Umpires should check each team's match ball before the game starts and if both are acceptable each can be used for 2 quarters. A commonsense approach by both teams and the umpires is necessary and there should be NO problems arising from this area.

## Blood Policy

Page 46

*Rule 9.3.1: The umpires hold time for blood when noticed or for injury/illness when requested by an on-court player. The player concerned must leave the court within 30 seconds. Any blood on the ball or the court must be cleaned before play restarts and any bloodstained clothing replaced.*

- Umpires should ask each team before the game starts who is their Primary Care Person as this is the only person permitted on Court during a stoppage for blood or injury.
- Quite often the bleeding player can be attended to quickly from the sideline without being noticed by the umpire and without any interference to the flow of the game.

## Captain's Role

Page 22

*Rule 5.1.1 (v): Before the match starts, the two captains toss for choice of goal end or first centre pass and notify the scorers and the umpires of the result. The captain has the right to approach the umpires during an interval for clarification of any rule. Any player/s for whom the clarification is relevant may accompany the captain. The umpires may request the captain to speak to any on-court player/s whose behaviour is causing concern. In the event that the captain is not on the court, an on-court captain will be advised to the umpires.*

Umpires should ask each team who is their Captain if the Captains do not advise them.

## Caution, Warning, Suspension, Ordering Off

Pages 26, 31, 62

*Rule 5.3.1 – Scorers record any official warning, suspension and/or ordering off.*

*Rule 6.1.6 – Procedures for Game Management (i) After signalling to the timekeeper to hold time, the umpire uses the appropriate hand signal to indicate if a player is receiving an official warning, being suspended or ordered off. (ii) The umpire advises the co-umpire of any official warning, suspension or ordering off.*

*Rule 13.1 – Actions that may be taken by Umpires (i) (a) Caution a player: a player is advised that the behaviour specified must change (b) Issue an official warning to a player: a player is warned that suspension will follow if the behaviour specified continues (c) Suspend a player: a player who is suspended takes no part in play for 2 minutes (d) Order a player off: a player who is ordered off takes no further part in the match.*

If an umpire is experiencing difficulty during a game, support should immediately be sought from their

mentor, club officials or association personnel.

Umpires should learn and follow the steps outlined under Rule 13, Game Management.

Umpires are fully supported by BHSNA Executive and Umpiring Committee when they are required to take disciplinary action.

### **COURT and surrounds**

**Page 14**

*Rule 3.1.1 (vi): All lines (preferably white) are 50mm (2in) wide and are part of the court area they outline.*

- Umpires should be fully aware to ensure they penalise offside and out of court correctly.
- It should be noted that the internal lines are **common to both areas**.
- Also as the court area is for players, umpires need space around the external lines, especially the sidelines. Umpires should ensure that spectators are moved back from the sidelines to give them the space they require to umpire efficiently without tripping.

### **Emergency**

**Page 25**

*Rule 5.2.1 (vi): Either umpire may hold time for injury/illness of a player, blood, foul play, an emergency or other appropriate circumstances.*

*In an emergency or other circumstances: the umpires decide whether the players leave the court or not – refer Rule 9.3.2*

Umpire shall blow the whistle and hold time. When it is safe to resume play, the umpire should blow the whistle and signal the re-commencement of play.

### **Fingernails**

**Page 22**

*Rule 5.1.1 (c): Fingernails shall be short and smooth.*

- Umpires undertake a VISUAL inspection of nails prior to players entering the court; umpires do not touch a player's hands.
- If nails appear rough or jagged, they must be filed and made smooth.
- If nails are considered too long, they must be cut.
- Acrylic nails must be short and smooth, exactly the same as normal nails.
- There is no mention of "round" in the rule.
- Players must accept the Umpire's decision without appeal or disagreement.
- Gloves, normally unacceptable (refer to Gloves below)

### **Glasse**

**Playing Regulation**

*Commonsense: Players who wish to wear glasses, of any type, do so at their own risk. It is recommended that a suitable strap be worn to ensure glasses remain secure.*

Umpires, if questioned should be aware that there is no official rule regarding glasses.

### **Gloves**

**Playing Regulation**

*No player is permitted to play whilst wearing gloves. Exceptions would be based on a Doctor's letter providing medical reasons and approved by the BHSNA Registrar. An authorised copy must be produced prior to commencement of play each week.*

*Wedding rings and long nails are not considered valid medical reasons.*

- Umpires are permitted to view the approval letter prior to the commencement of the game. Approval letter should be kept with the teams' photos identifications.
- If no such approval letter is available then the player cannot take the court. There are NO exceptions and NO appeal.

### **Injury / Illness During Games**

**Pages 22, 24, 27, 44, 45**

*Rule 5.1.2(ii)(d) A primary care person is permitted on the court during a stoppage for injury / illness of a player or blood issues*

*Rule 5.2.1(vi) Either umpire may hold time for injury/illness of a player, blood, foul play, an emergency or other appropriate circumstances*

*Rule 5.3.2(v) Timekeepers-Notify the umpires when 10 seconds remain prior to the end of a stoppage for injury/illness or blood.*

*Rule 9.1 Substitutions and Team changes (b) both teams have the right to make substitutions and/or team changes when play is stopped for injury/illness or blood.*

*Rule 9.3.1(ii) Injury/Illness or Blood-The player concerned must leave the court within 30 seconds and receive any treatment off the court. The timekeepers advise the umpires when 10 seconds remain.*

- It is extremely important for umpires to remain vigilant during the game to ensure their duty of care for all players is constant.
- Prior to the game starting identify the Primary Care Persons.
- Remember, any ON COURT PLAYER can **call** for a stoppage. No hand signal is required.
- In the younger age groups players may not be aware that they are supposed to ask for TIME, therefore Umpires must use commonsense.
- THE PLAYER'S WELL BEING is the most important issue under consideration.

### **Jewellery**

**Page 22**

*Rule 5.1.1 (iv): Players may not wear anything that could endanger themselves or other players, specifically (a) No adornment or jewellery may be worn other than a wedding ring which must be covered with tape.*

Most important rule. The following items are **NOT ACCEPTABLE**. Taped earrings; facial studs; belly rings; taped engagement rings; bracelets or wristbands of any sort. Umpires must apply this rule for the protection of all players i.e. both the player wearing the jewellery and their opponent. None of the above is acceptable regardless of the age of the player. The only acceptable jewellery is a taped wedding ring or taped medical alert bracelet.

### **Late Arrival to the Game**

**Page 44**

*Rule 9.2: (i) A player who arrives after a match has started must be checked by an umpire before taking the court. (ii) A late player may not immediately replace a player who is already on the court but may be used subsequently as a substitute. (iii) If a position has been left vacant the late arrival may not enter the match while play is in progress but may take the court immediately after (a) A goal has been scored (in this case the player must play in the position left vacant) (b) A stoppage for injury/illness or blood (c) An interval.*

Umpires need to know and apply this rule correctly and consistently. Players and coaches should also understand the implications of late players arriving at the game who expect to enter the game immediately and are refused entry.

### **Plaster Casts / Finger Splints**

**Playing Regulation**

*No player is permitted to play whilst wearing a plaster cast or hard finger splints.*

Umpires apply this under their “duty of care” area to protect all players. Treat players and coaches courteously when advising the player that they cannot enter the game as they are in breach of a BHSNA playing regulations.

### **Player's Uniform**

**Page 20**

*Rule 5.1.1: (i) During a match players must wear: (a) Registered playing uniform and suitable sports footwear (spiked soles are not allowed).*

*BHSNA Playing Regulations state “No player can compete unless wearing their complete approved club uniform, i.e. skirt and shirt, dress or bodysuit; patches; sports briefs and socks.”*

- Umpires are not aware of each club's registered uniform colours as this information is not published anywhere. As most clubs do not register the colour of the players' socks or briefs, Umpires therefore, cannot deny a player entry to the court if their socks or brief colour is different from the rest of the team.
- Umpires have no right to ask players to display their briefs.
- If during the course of the game, an Umpire notices skimpy briefs they should blow their whistle, stop the game and politely ask the player to address the situation by wearing sports briefs. This should be done unobtrusively to save embarrassment to the player.
- On cold days younger players are permitted to wear long sleeves/tights underneath their playing uniform during the first two timeslots (i.e. 8am, 9am).

### **Pregnancy**

**Playing Regulation**

*BHSNA has adopted the pregnancy policy from Netball NSW. Please refer to Netball NSW website for a copy of the Policy.” For Match Officials they should apply the rules governing the sport equally and fairly to all participants. Location of policy is: <http://nsw.netball.com.au> - Under Library - Policies & forms*

### **Scorers**

**Page 26**

*Rule 5.3.1: The scorers are jointly responsible for keeping an accurate record of the score.*

At BHSNA Scorers should stand together midway along the Sideline in case the Umpires need to check the Centre Pass. Scorers should record any suspensions at the bottom of the score sheet. Captains should advise

Scorers who has the first Centre Pass.

## Scoring a Goal

Page 55

*Rule 10.1: A goal is scored when the ball is thrown or batted above and completely through the ring by Goal Shooter or Goal Attack from any point within the Goal Circle including the lines bounding the Goal Circle.*

- The game begins and ends on the Umpire's whistle which is blown as soon as the signal is heard.
- It is important to note that if the ball is **NOT COMPLETELY THROUGH THE RING** when the Umpire's whistle is blown for time, the **GOAL DOES NOT COUNT. In the air does not count.**
- In NSG games, goals are scored when the ball is thrown or batted over and completely through either the 2.4m (8ft) ring or the 3.05m (10ft) ring. Each goal scores only one (1) point.
- If a Penalty has been awarded to the attacking team in the goal circle prior to ending the game then that **PENALTY MUST BE TAKEN**. Once the shot is taken there is no further whistle to be blown and the game ends.

## Team Officials (Coach, Manager, Primary Care Person)

Page 22, 31, 68

*Rule 5.1.2 (i) A team may have up to five team officials. These will include a coach and at least one primary care person.*

*Rule 6.2 (ii): Team officials and bench players must not use offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.*

*Rule 13.3: During play team officials and bench players must remain at the team bench, except that bench players may leave the team bench for a valid reason (such as to warm up).*

- The Penalty for any Team Official displaying inappropriate behaviour is a FREE PASS to the opposing team where the ball was when play was stopped. The Umpire may, in addition to any penalty awarded, warn a player and/or Team official whose comments and/or behaviour are considered inappropriate in any way.
- BHSNA Executive and Umpiring Committee fully support umpires who are required to penalise for inappropriate behaviour from the team bench.

## Umpire's Duties Prior to the Start of the Game

Page 24

*Rule 5.2.1(i) After the captains have notified the umpires of the result of the toss for goal end or first centre pass, the umpires toss for goal end. The umpire winning the toss controls the sideline nearer the official bench and the goal end to the right when facing the court. Each umpire controls the same half of the court throughout the match.*

*Before the start of play:*

- (i) Umpires shall check that the Court, its surrounds, Goalposts and the ball conform to the Rules.*
- (ii) Off the Court, the Umpires shall inspect players for (a) Uniforms (b) Jewellery (c) Adornments (d) Correct length of fingernails*

- All Umpires shall arrive at the Court with time to undertake the necessary pre-game checks.
- Umpires should introduce themselves to each other, the Team Captains and the Scorers.
- All umpires should undertake a warm-up prior to the commencement of the game.

## Umpire's Dress (Match official)

Page 23

*Rule 5.2: The match officials wear clothing that is distinct from the teams' playing uniforms and suitable sports footwear.*

National badge holders umpiring at all NSW managed competitions should dress as below:

- 1) Wear white underwear, white socks and footwear should be predominately white.
- 2) Ensure hair is tied back from face and eyes and is neat, use a white headband or ribbon.
- 3) Wear a minimum of jewellery.
- 4) Use a discrete method to keep Centre passes and not a large colourful scrunchy.
- 5) Wear a watch with a second hand.
- 6) Bring your rulebook, spare whistle and any other extras required to each game.

For Saturday Competition whites are preferred but the wearing of your club uniform is acceptable. Wearing a white top over your playing uniform is recommended but is not mandatory.

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