

Proposed Changes in the Playing Rules and Guidance Notes 2017

Rules

Present Rule	Proposed Rule
<p>§1.6 Equipment of players and officials (2nd paragraph)</p> <p>All objects that might prove dangerous during the game are prohibited, e.g. rimless glasses, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, wristwatches and rings. They must be either removed or taped in such a way that they are no longer dangerous.</p>	<p>§1.6 Equipment of players and officials (2nd paragraph)</p> <p>All objects that might prove dangerous during the game are prohibited, e.g. sharp finger nails, rimless glasses, bracelets, necklaces, earrings, wristwatches and rings. They must be either removed or taped in such a way that they are no longer dangerous.</p>
<p>§ 2.3 h check players for dangerous items</p> <p>New Rule</p>	<p>§ 2.3 h check players for dangerous items</p> <p><i>The referee shall check that the requirements mentioned in the 2nd paragraph of §1.6 are adhered to.</i></p>

Reason for the above: It has been brought to our attention that, unlike other ball sports played by hand, there is no specific mention of sharp finger nails and their definition (below in the guidance notes). It has also been brought to our attention that the referee should check for dangerous items. It mostly happens but should be made obligatory.

Guidance Notes

Present Rule	Proposed Rule
§1.6 Equipment of players and officials	§1.6 Equipment of players and officials (Add new 2 nd paragraph) <i>Fingernails must be closely cut and smooth</i>

Reason for the above: see reason in rules above – this is a definition.

§ 1.7 Shot clock apparatus Extra paragraph	§ 1.7 Shot clock apparatus (new 4 th paragraph) <i>Competition rules may prescribe that in addition to the shot clock apparatus referred to in this rule, LED lights may be affixed to each post to further indicate the counting down of the clock.</i>
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Reason for the above: This is to legalise the possible use of LED lights on posts

§ 3.2 b Time Out (4 th paragraph) The referee indicates the start of the time-out by giving a T-signal and by whistling at the same time. After 45 seconds the referee blows his whistle to indicate that both teams have to retake their positions. The game has to be restarted within 60 seconds of the start of the time-out.	§ 3.2 b Time Out (4 th paragraph) The referee indicates the start of the time-out by giving a T-signal and by whistling at the same time. After 50 seconds the referee blows his whistle to indicate that both teams have to retake their positions. <i>(Competition Regulations may give the task of making this signal to the scorer)</i> . The game should be restarted within 60 seconds of the start of the time-out.
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Reason for the above: Experience has shown that 15 seconds is too long to return after a time out and that referees often blow before a minute has actually passed. In World Games 2013 a period of 50 seconds timed by the scoreboard was experimented with and proved to be successful with not only players returning on time but the full minute time-out achieved. (Note: A similar use of the scoreboard may be used to get players back on the field at the end of a break between quarters.)

§ 3.5 Throw off Extra paragraph	§ 3.5 Throw off (new paragraph) <i>In matches where real playing time is not being used it is possible for the team taking a throw off to forfeit that right if they are punished under § 3.6 g (delaying the game). This would result in a re-start being awarded to the opposing team.</i>
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Reason for the above: In games not being played with real playing time, teams who are scheduled to take the throw off are often delaying the game but could not be punished (apart from yellow cards for misbehaviour) because the rules specifically state that after a goal the team conceding the goal **must** take the throw off. By making this small change it brings the delaying the game rule more consistent with other bringing the ball into play like throw-in, re-start and free pass where the whistle cannot be blown or a four second period start until the team taking the throw and the ball are together.