

NEW RULES FOR NETBALL

Netball is an exciting, fast and skilful game of fair contest. It is a game in which two teams of seven players each strive to keep or gain possession of the ball. The team with the ball, through running, jumping, throwing and catching, attempts to move the ball into its goal circle from where a goal may be scored, while the opposing team uses defensive movements and strategies to prevent this and to gain possession.

The team with the greater number of goals is the winner of the match. Players have specified areas in which they can move.

Play restarts after each goal with teams having alternate possession.

The Rules are based on the core values of equal opportunity, fair play and respect for an opponent's skill and safety.

2016 RULES OF NETBALL

The International Netball Federation has updated some the Official rules of netball. These updates will take effect for all matches played in Australia, and all International games, on **January 1 2016**.

The rule changes aim to meet the changing needs of the game, and to reflect the modern, forward-looking sport of netball. They are designed to improve players' enjoyment of the game, create consistency in the interpretation of the rules across all world regions, and make the game more attractive to spectators.

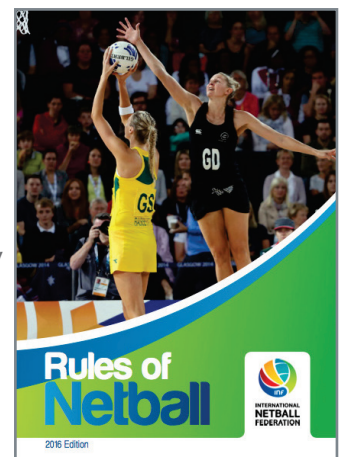
The changes will mean quicker injury management, clearer options for game management, less whistle, and in some cases, simpler, more clearly written rules.

The Game Management section has been expanded to provide greater clarity and consistency around how umpires are to officiate play that is contrary to the letter and spirit of the Rules of the Game. This includes unfair play, dangerous play and misconduct.

As well as these changes, the rule book has been revamped to include a new definitions section, new technical specifications, including new court terminology, a clarification of interval times, a clarification of team officials, match officials and the terminology of the court and related areas.

It is important to note that the rules remain unchanged in relation to a player's responsibility. Players on the court are still expected to respond to rulings by the umpires and adjust their play accordingly. Similar requirements apply to team officials and bench players.

Further to this, the rules remain unchanged in relation to the umpire's responsibilities. It is the umpire's responsibility to control the match according to the rules, apply the rules fairly, communicate clearly and maintain a calm and decisive control.



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SNAPSHOT OF KEY CHANGES

Umpires will no longer blow their whistle when goals are scored and if it is clear that the ball is out of court.



All injury/illness stoppages, which will include blood, will be up to 30 seconds, and the player concerned must leave the court.



When taking a centre pass, the Centre is required to now only have one foot wholly within the centre circle.

Goal tending will no longer be allowed. Players will not be able to deflect a shot once the ball is on a downward flight towards the ring, including touching the ball up through the net.



~~PENALTIES~~

SANCTIONS

Once a player taking a penalty pass is in the correct position, the player may choose either to play the ball immediately or to wait for the infringer to stand out of play. However, it is important to note that the changes to the rule regarding the taking of the penalty pass do not remove the requirement for a player who is sanctioned for a major infringement to stand out of play.



The use of the word 'Penalties' has been changed to 'Sanctions'. Sanctions will include Free Pass and Penalty Pass. Throw In and Toss Up are considered actions as opposed to Sanctions (or penalties under the current version).