



2011 IHF Publication

2010 Rules of the Game

October 2011, **update 2012**



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.

Additional players (Rule 4:6, 1st paragraph)

If an additional player enters the court without a substitution, there shall be a 2-minute suspension for the player. If it is not possible to identify the guilty player, the following steps shall be taken:

- *The delegate or the referees respectively advise the 'responsible team official' to name the guilty player.*
- *The named player shall receive the 2-minute suspension as a personal punishment.*
- *In the event that the 'responsible team official' refuses to name the guilty player, the delegate or the referees respectively shall name a court player who is on the court at that time. The named player shall receive a 2-minute suspension as a personal punishment.*

Note:

- *Only court players who are on the court at the time of the game interruption may be named the 'guilty player'. A player acting as a temporary goalkeeper cannot be named the 'guilty player'.*
- *In case the 'guilty player' receives the third suspension, he shall be disqualified according to Rule 16:6d.*

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.

See annex for additional advice (recommended actions for referees and delegates)

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 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 behavior) and 8:10 (for unsportsmanlike behavior); 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 assist in distinguishing between Rule 8:5 and Rule 8:6:

- a) What defines 'particularly reckless'?*



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- assaults and assault-similar actions
 - ruthless or irresponsible action without any sense of proper behavior
 - 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
 - willful 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

Unsportsmanlike conduct warranting an immediate 2-minute suspension (Rule 8:8a)

Comparing the English version with the French/German ones of the aforementioned rule allows of different interpretations. Therefore the IHF-PRC herewith defines Rule 8:8a as follows:

a) protests involving loudness with forceful gestures or provocative behavior.

Thus provocative behavior is a 'new' issue to be dealt with separately.

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.

Additional rules references under Rules 13:1a and 13:1b

The 2010 Rules of the Game clearly divide Rule 8 into sections of 'fouls' (8:2 - 8:6) and 'unsportsmanlike conduct' (8:7 - 8:10). In order to avoid misunderstanding in view of the orderly restart after un-



sportsmanlike conduct that has been penalized, 8:7ff is added as a rules reference under 13:1a and 13:1b.

'Advantage' concept during faulty substitution (Rules 13:2 and 14:2)

According to Clarification No. 7A, 1st paragraph, the timekeeper (or delegate) must interrupt the game immediately, without regard for the 'advantage' concept under Rules 13:2 and 14:2. According to 13:2 the game must be immediately interrupted even if a faulty substitution is penalized by the referees. In order to avoid any misunderstanding the IHF-PRC specifies the named Clarification as follows: The timekeeper (or delegate) and the referees must interrupt the game immediately in case of infractions of Rules 4:2-3 and 4:5-6, regardless of the 'advantage concept' according to 13:2 and 14:2.

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 recognize 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 behavior 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 judgments, are final.

Annex:

Recommended actions for referees and delegates concerning face masks ban



Additional advice on face masks ban

The IHF-PRC regularly receives requests for a statement or even for granting exceptions regarding certain kinds of face masks, although additional notes included in the 2011 IHF Publications applicable explicitly indicate the **total ban on the use of face masks**.

Generally speaking the main argument of the questioner or the applicant is a corresponding personal judgment saying that the face mask concerned, usually with corresponding pictures documented, does not pose a danger to the players' health. Nevertheless the IHF Medical Commission indicated all types and sizes of face masks in their recommendation about the ban on such equipment. Thus there would be no room for interpretation even if the face mask concerned did not pose a danger to others.

However, it is reported from time to time that individual clubs or players referring to the alleged non-existence of danger to others intend defying the named ban on the use of face masks to cause additional problems in the decision-making process for referees and Technical Delegates officiating in the relevant match.

Due to the aforementioned the IHF-PRC herewith releases the following recommendations including the attached scheme for referees and timekeepers or Technical Delegates respectively in order to amend the provisions stipulated in Rules 4:9 and 17:3, 2nd paragraph, and the statements included in the 2011 IHF Publications applicable.

A player wearing a face mask intends participating in the game!

The measures to be decided by the referees mainly depend on the moment in time of the first and, when applicable, the follow-up identification.

In case the infraction is identified for the first time, the guilty player and 'responsible team official' shall basically be advised of the ban on the use of face masks. The guilty player shall be told to correct the problem and will only be allowed to participate in the game if the deficiency is corrected. If the player is advised for the first time, he shall not be given a personal/progressive punishment.

If a player is unrepentant despite appropriate advice, the first follow-up identification is warranted as more severe unsportsmanlike conduct and must be punished with a 2-minute suspension in accordance with 8:8a (exception for Rules-specific reasons, see situation 1.2 as below). In addition the player is invited again to correct the problem.

Should the infraction be identified a second time, it will be considered as seriously unsportsmanlike conduct, and the guilty player shall receive a disqualification (without being reported) in accordance with 8:9.



In the opinion of the IHF-PRC the following scenarios, which in parts might indeed be rather hypothetical - may occur.

- 1.1 If the infraction in accordance with 4:9 is recognised before the start of the game (during the warm-up), the player and ‘responsible team official’ A are advised of the ban in accordance to 17:3, 2nd paragraph.
 The player shall be told to remove his face mask (4:9; 2011 IHF Publications).
 The player and ‘responsible team official’ A shall be advised that in case such infraction of 4:9 occurs a second time it shall be considered as unsportsmanlike behaviour according to 17:5, 2nd paragraph, and the introduction of 8:7 ff, to result into progressive punishment for the player in accordance with 8:8a or 8:9.

- 1.2 In the event that the player wearing a face mask enters the playing court at the start of the match anyway, the match shall not be started.
 The guilty player shall be given a warning according to 16:11, 2nd paragraph, point a.
 The player with the face mask must leave the playing court.
 He may only participate in the game if the problem is corrected.

- 1.3 In the event that the player wearing a face mask enters the playing court during the match, the referees or the timekeeper/Technical Delegate respectively must give a time-out to interrupt the match immediately due to the potential risk of endangering others.
 In accordance with 8:8 a (provocative behaviour) the guilty player shall be punished with a 2min suspension (16:3 f).
 The player must then leave the playing court to correct the problem.
 The player will be allowed to participate in the match again after expiration of his 2min suspension and after having corrected the problem.
 The match shall be restarted with a free-throw for the opposing team according to 13:1 a (7-metre throw in case the match was interrupted at the time of a clear scoring chance; 14:1a).

- 1.4 In the event that the player wearing a face mask enters the court a second time during the match, the referee or the timekeeper/Technical Delegate respectively must give a time-out to interrupt the match immediately due to the potential risk of endangering others.
 The player's repeated misconduct is considered as seriously unsportsmanlike conduct in accordance with 8:9.
 The player shall be disqualified in accordance with 16:6 b.
 The provisions laid down in 16:7 and 16:8, paragraphs 1 – 4, are to be observed.
 The match shall be restarted with a free-throw for the opposing team according to 13:1 a (7m throw in case the match was interrupted at the time of a clear scoring chance; 14:1a).

- 2.1 In the event that the infraction is not recognised or identified by the referees before the start of the game (during the warm-up), a player who is on the court when the match is started shall be told to correct the problem according to 4:9.



The match must not be started as long as the guilty player is on the court.

The player and 'responsible team official' A are advised that in case such infraction of 4:9 occurs a second time it shall be considered as unsportsmanlike conduct according to 17:5, 2nd paragraph, and the introduction of 8:7 ff, to result into progressive punishment for the player in accordance with 8:8a or 8:9.

Then the throw-off shall be taken as usual (10:1, 1st paragraph).

- 2.2 In the event that the player wearing a face mask enters the playing court during the match with the infraction previously not being noticed or recognised by the referees or timekeeper/Technical Delegate respectively, a time-out shall be decided to interrupt the match immediately due to the potential risk of endangering others.

The player shall be told to correct the problem in accordance with 4:9.

The player and 'responsible team official' A are advised that in case such infraction of 4:9 occurs a second time it shall be considered as unsportsmanlike behaviour according to 17:5, 2nd paragraph, and the introduction of 8:7 ff, to result into progressive punishment for the player in accordance with 8:8a or 8:9.

The match shall be restarted with a free throw for the opposing team according to 13:1 a (7m throw in case the match was interrupted at the time of a clear scoring chance; 14:1a).

- 2.3 In the event that the player wearing a face mask enters the court again despite the aforementioned advice, the referees or the timekeeper/Technical Delegate respectively shall give a time-out to interrupt the match immediately due to the potential risk of endangering others.

In accordance with 8:8 a (provocative behaviour) the offending player shall receive a 2min suspension (16:3 f).

The player must then leave the playing court to correct the problem.

The player will be allowed to participate in the match again after expiration of his 2min suspension and after having corrected the problem.

The match shall be restarted with a free-throw for the opposing team according to 13:1 a (7m throw in case the match was interrupted at the time of a clear scoring chance; 14:1a).

- 2.4 In the event that the player wearing a face mask enters the court again during the game, the referees or the timekeeper/Technical Delegate respectively shall give a time-out to interrupt the game immediately due to the potential risk of endangering others.

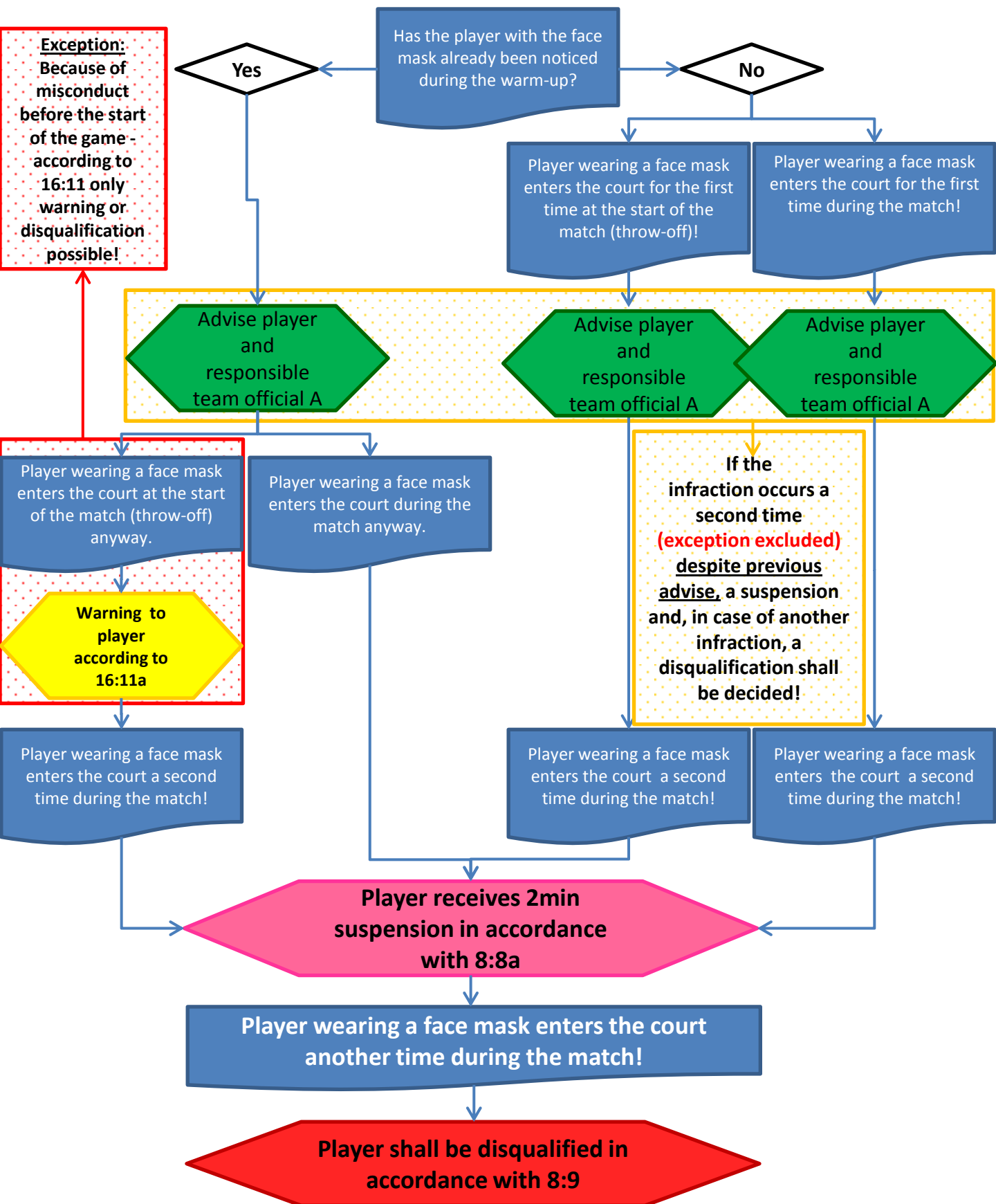
The player's repeated misconduct is considered as seriously unsportsmanlike conduct in accordance to 8:9a.

The player shall be disqualified according to 16:6 b.

The provisions laid down in 16:7 and 16:8, paragraphs 1 – 4, shall be observed.

The match shall be restarted with a free-throw for the opposing team according to 13:1 a (7m throw in case the match was interrupted at the time of a clear scoring chance; 14:1a).

Player with face mask – Recommended actions for referees*



* If other dangerous objects as referred to in 4:9 cause the named infringements, the recommendations will basically apply in that same manner.