



# Passive Play

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# Passive Play



The application of the rules regarding passive play has the objective of preventing unattractive methods of play and intentional delays in game. This requires that the referees, throughout the game, recognize and judge passive methods in a consistent manner.



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# Passive Play



**Why is it necessary to discuss about this matter?**

- Hard fight because of TV-transmission
- Hard fight because of sponsors
- Hard fight between different sports
- Hard fight because of popularity and spectators

# The main problems in interpretation on passive play



## From coaches' and players' point of view

- The team must have a chance to finish the build-up phase – tactics of the team.
- Different decisions at the beginning and in the last phase of the match.
- Different interpretation by offensive and defensive defence-systems.
- As before substitution shall be tolerated.



# The main problems in interpretation of passive play (cont.)



## From the referees' point of view

- Are the attacks real attacks aimed at scoring goals or just for winning additional „attack“ time?
- Delaying the playing time because
  - One or more players are suspended
  - The team has less power
  - Delaying the throws
  - Delaying the playing time in order to win

# The main problems in interpretation on passive play (cont.)



## From the spectators' point of view

- Unattractive play – not any more interesting
- More attacks, attractive combinations, nicer goals
- Pressure on referees? Mostly against the guest team?



# The clear answer



- The spectators are mainly interested in watching attractive matches with a fast pace and with excellent techniques and shots
- Prevention of intentional delays in the game as soon as possible
- No „acceptable” gifts for the team who don't make pressure in attack
- A clear type of rule for spectators, because they are also a part of the game
- Consistent judgement of referees, minimum of subjectivity

# Structure of the game – important changes in the last years

- High speed! About 120 and more attacks in top-matches – is it passive play?
- More individual actions / attacking in small groups
- Bigger repertoire in attack + defence
- More counter-attacks than ever
- More creativity in catching and passing the ball (one-hand, long pass etc.)



# High speed and passive play?



There is a discrepancy existing – but the teams are trying to gain time in “special” situations.

## Each team has its own “speed”

- Do I have the possibility to decide about the speed when I am driving my car? Am I tired of driving, will I try to gain/save time?
- During all phases of my drive I have the control whether I drive fast or slow.
- Referees are also sensible, so every time when the speed is changing, they have to react!



# Passive methods of play

- Attacking very slowly without interest for goal scoring
- No pressure against defenders - intentionally
- No vision against defenders – non intentionally
- Less interest / more interest



# It is important to be attentive in the following situations



- When a team has a player suspended / what is the intention of the team?
- When a team is narrowly in the lead towards the end of the game
- When the defence of the opponents is superior
  - only provocation in making body contact with an opponent
  - repeated free-throws “x-times”

# The most common situations of a passive play



- Players are standing around in the middle of the court waiting for substitutions to be completed;
- A player delays the execution of a free-throw (by playing around with the ball or pretending not to know the correct spot), throw-off (by the slow recapture of the ball by the goalkeeper, by an erratic pass to middle, or by slowly walking with the ball to the middle);
- A player is standing still bouncing the ball;



# The most common situations of a passive play (cont.)



- The ball is played back into the team's own half of the court, even though the opponents are not putting on any pressure;
- In connection with a late substitution after the build-up phase has already started;
- The team's attack does not lead to any targeted attacking action;
- Players are repeatedly receiving the ball while standing still or moving away from the goal;
- A repeated bouncing of the ball while standing still, etc.;

# Decision criteria for passive play – different phases of the team attack



- During starting phase
  - Goalkeeper does not hurry
  - Delay in the execution of the throw off
  - Waiting for substitution to be completed



# Decision criteria for passive play – different phases of the team attack (cont.)



- During build-up phase:
  - Late substitution after the build-up phase has already started
  - Players are repeatedly receiving the ball while standing still or moving away from the goal.
- During the finishing phase:
  - No shot, despite the good chance to score

# Delays in the execution of the throw-off or some other throws



- a) Delay of the throw-off by goalkeeper after a goal has been scored. The referees should remind the goalkeeper to make use of a quick throw-off. If the team is still not trying to throw quickly, then the referees have to interfere immediately after the throw-off by signalling “passive play”.
- b) No reaction – respective players have to be punished progressively (referee tactic).
- c) Delayed throws (throw-in, free-throw, throw-off) – same rule interpretation as that from point (b).

**Referees have to be attentive especially when a team has a player suspended or a team is narrowly in the lead towards the end of the game.**





# Two critical points / moments

- Arising the arm in the right time
- Whistle in the right moment

**Not too early, not too late**

# Conclusions



It is very important, that the referees know the handball game, that they know something about the tactics in general (handball knowledge) and practical experience (video, game to observe)

Only in this way they will be able to react correctly and in time to the previously mentioned situations.



## The basic idea of handball:

- ✓ **score as many goals as possible**
- ✓ **attractiveness and popularity**





**Any questions ?**

**Thank you for your attention...**



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