

Version 2

The background of the slide is a photograph of two female handball players in yellow jerseys celebrating a goal. They have their arms raised in the air. In the background, a handball goal with a red and white striped frame is visible. Another player in a green jersey is partially visible on the left.

# Presentation of IHF-Rule Changes 2010

valid from 1. July 2010

prepared by

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IHF-Rule- and Referee Commission

using material from Dietrich Späte, IHF-Trainer- and Methodic Commission

## Philosophy and goals

More criteria for assessment as (many) examples



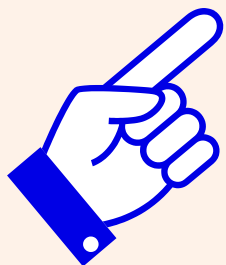
- Simplification
- Adjustment of the rules according to game development
- Apply standards out of the criteria → resulting teaching material



*Italic on purple background = original rule texte.*

Small on yellow background = remark for modification

Normal typing on light blue background = supplementary comments



Important Information

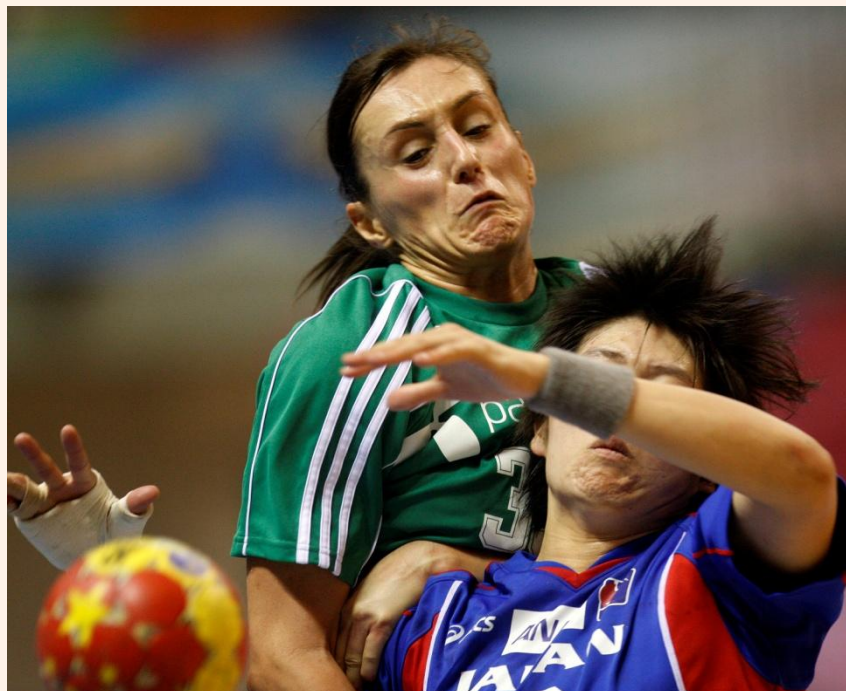


Examples on the IHF Teaching DVD available



# Rules 8 and 16

## Fouls and unsportsmanlike conduct ; punishments





## Permitted Actions (8:1)

In principle unchanged – „trunk“ instead of „body“

correct:



***It is permitted:***

- a) to use an open hand to play the ball out of the hand of another player;*
- b) to use bent arms to make body contact with an opponent, and to monitor and follow him in this way;*
- c) to use one's trunk to block the opponent, in a struggle for positions in a space;*

Blocking is to prevent the opponent running in the free space.

## Blocking

### Goal:

- To block the way of the opponent
- To obtain free room

### Technique:

- Blocking with the trunk

### Not allowed:

- Active blocking with arms, feet and legs
- Any active action, like pushing, shoving away, holding, running into



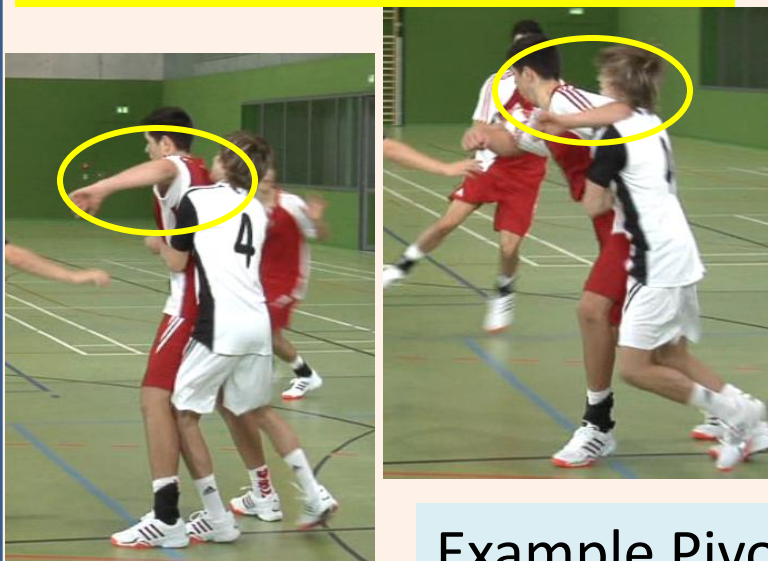
Taking the blocking position, the attitude in the block and the moving out of the block, must in general be passive against the opponent



## Rule violation (8:2)



In principle unchanged– new in this part is addressed a dangerous use of the elbows, in starting position as well as in motion



*It is not permitted:*

- a) to pull or hit the ball out of the hands of the opponent;*
- b) to block the opponent with arms, hand, legs, or to use any part of the body to displace him or push him away; this includes a dangerous use of the elbow, both as a starting position and in motion;*

Example Pivot: repeated elbow in front of head/neck  
= unnatural position  
= danger for opponent





## Rule violation (8:2)



*It is not permitted:*

*c) to hold an opponent (body or uniform), even if he remains free to continue the play;*

*d) run into or jump into an opponent;*



Hold an opponent at body or uniform



Run/jump into an opponent



## Incorrect Blocking (8:2)



1 Wrong timing. The block is set too late

2 Wrong blocking: active block with putting leg (long step)

Exampel 1

## Incorrect Blocking(8:2)



3 Using the legs to block and holding the arms is against the rules

4 Rule violations means incorrect advantage for the attacker

Example 1



## Incorrect Blocking(8:2)



- 1 Defence player wants to run around the block in the direction of the pass
- 2 Big step to prevent that (= rule violation)

Example 2

## Incorrect Blocking(8:2)



Rule violation leads to a clear advantage for the attacker

3 Attacker pushes the defender actively

Example 2



## Incorrect Blocking(8:2)

Single aspect A



Rule violation:

Pushing away with  
backside – low center of  
gravity



## Incorrect Blocking(8:2)



Single aspect B

Rule violation:  
Blocking with active use  
of arms





## Incorrect Blocking(8:2)



Single aspect C

Rule violation:  
Attacker holds the  
defence player



### Fouls

### Unsportsmanlike conduct

I

8:3



Normal  
progressive  
punishment

8:7



Normal  
progressive  
punishment

II

8:4



Direct  
2- minutes  
punishment

8:8



Direct  
2- minutes  
punishment

III

8:5



Disqualification  
without  
report

8:9



Disqualification  
without  
report

IV

8:6



Disqualification  
with  
report

8:10



Disqualification  
with  
report



### Fouls

8:3



Normal  
progressive  
punishment

8:4



Direct  
2- minutes  
punishment

8:5



Disqualification  
without  
report

8:6



Disqualification  
with  
report

### Criteria

a) The position: b) The part of the body:

- frontal
- from the side
- from behind
- torso
- shooting arm
- legs
- head/throat/neck

c) Dynamics:

- Intensity of illegal body contact
- and/or foul where the opponent is full speed

d) Effect:

- impact on the body and ball control
- reduction or prevention of moving
- prevention of game continuation

Each situation is relevant:  
e.g. throwing action, moving into free space, fast moving

### Fouls

8:3



Normal  
progressive  
punishment

As before , where the action is mainly or exclusively aimed at the body of the opponent (now on the basis of criteria)





### Fouls

*For certain fouls, the punishment is a direct 2-minute suspension, regardless of whether the player had received a warning earlier. This applies especially for such fouls where the guilty player disregards the danger to the opponent*

**8:4**



Direct  
2- minutes  
punishment



*Taking into account the decision-making criteria under 8:3, such fouls could for instance be:*



See next charts

### Fouls



**8:4**



Direct  
2- minutes  
punishment

- a) fouls that are committed with high intensity or against an opponent who is running fast;*
- b) holding on to the opponent for a long time, or pulling him down;*
- c) fouls against the head, throat or neck;*
- d) hard hitting against the torso or throwing arm;*
- e) attempting to make the opponent lose body control (e.g., grabbing the leg/foot of an opponent who is jumping; see, however, 8:5a);*
- f) running or jumping with great speed into an opponent.*





### Fouls

8:4



Direct  
2- minutes  
punishment



Holding on for long time

against head



*A player who is attacking an opponent in a way **that is dangerous to his health is to be disqualified** (16:6a). The special danger to the opponent's health follows from the **high intensity of the foul** or **from the fact that the opponent is completely unprepared** for the foul and therefore cannot protect himself (see Rule 8:5 Comment).*

*In addition to the criteria of 8:3 and 8:4, the following decision-making criteria also apply:*

**8:5**



**Disqualification  
without  
report**

- a) the actual loss of body control while running or jumping, or during a throwing action;*
- b) a particularly aggressive action against a part of the body of the opponent, especially face, throat or neck; (the intensity of the body contact);*
- c) the reckless attitude demonstrated by the guilty player when committing the foul.*





### Comment:

Also a foul with a **very small physical impact** can be very dangerous and lead to a severe injury, if the foul is committed in a moment **when the player is jumping in the air or running, and therefore is unable to protect himself.** In this type of situation, it is **the danger** to the opponent and **not the intensity** of the body contact that is the basis for the judgment whether a disqualification is warranted.

8:5



Disqualification  
without  
report

Actual loss of  
body control while  
running or  
jumping –  
reckless !



### Goalkeeper:

*This also applies in those situations where a goalkeeper leaves the goal area, for the purpose of catching a pass intended for an opponent.*



Here the goalkeeper has the responsibility for ensuring that a situation does not arise that is dangerous to the health of the opponent.

He is to be disqualified if he:

- a) gains possession of the ball, but in his movement causes a collision with the opponent;
- b) cannot reach or control the ball, but causes a collision with the opponent;

**8:5**



**Disqualification  
without  
report**





### Goalkeeper:



8:5



Disqualification  
without  
report

*If the referees are convinced in one of these situations, that, without the illegal action from the goalkeeper, the opponent would have been able to reach the ball, then a 7-meter throw is to be awarded.*

### Fouls



Exclusion does not anymore exist



### Criteria

If an action is classified by the referees as:

- **particularly reckless**
  - **particularly dangerous**
  - **premeditated or malicious, not in any way related to the game situation;**
- they must submit a written report after the game

8:6



Disqualification  
with  
report

Inform responsible team official after decision:

„This is a  
disqualification  
with report „



By means of examples, unsportsmanlike behaviour, are divided into 4 levels according to 8:7-8:10.

These examples were mainly included in the clarifications of the rules before.



### Unsportsmanlike conduct

8:7



Normal  
progressive  
punishment

8:8



Direct  
2- minutes  
punishment

8:9



Disqualification  
without  
report

8:10



Disqualification  
with  
report

*The actions listed below under a-f are examples of unsportsmanlike conduct that is to be punished progressively, beginning with a warning:*

*a) protests against referee decisions, or verbal and non-verbal actions intended to cause a specific referee decision;*

Rephrased but  
unchanged

*b) harassing an opponent or teammate through words or gestures, or shouting at an opponent in order to cause distraction;*

Rephrased but  
unchanged

8:7



Normal  
progressive  
punishment



Unsportsmanlike  
conduct

*c) delaying the execution of a formal throw for the opponents, by not respecting the 3-meter distance or in some other way;*

Rephrased with additional possibilities

Unsportsmanlike conduct

8:7



Normal progressive punishment

*d) through 'theatre', trying to mislead the referees regarding the actions of an opponent or exaggerating the impact of an action, in order to provoke a time-out or an undeserved punishment for an opponent;*

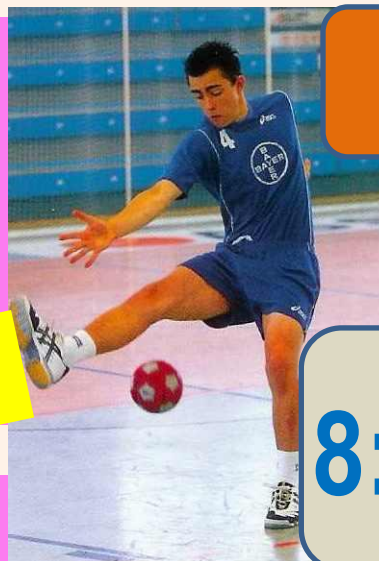
Rephrased, must be implemented more consistently !!





*e) actively blocking a shot or pass by using a foot or lower leg; pure reflex motions, e.g., moving the legs together, are not to be punished*

Rephrased but unchanged



Unsportsmanlike conduct



8:7



Normal progressive punishment

*f) repeated entering of the goal area for tactical reasons;*

Rephrased, must be implemented more consistently !!



*Certain unsportsmanlike actions are by their nature seen as more severe and warrant an immediate 2-minute suspension, regardless of whether the player or the officials had received a warning earlier. This includes:*

*a) protests involving loudness with forceful gestures, or provocative behaviour;*

new

*b) when there is a decision against a team in possession, and the player with the ball does not immediately make it available to the opponents by dropping it or putting it down on the floor;*

Rephrased but unchanged

Unsportsmanlike  
conduct

8:8



Direct  
2- minutes  
punishment



*c) blocking the access to a ball that went into the substitution area;*

adapted

Note:

Disturbing the game or interfering from the bench is covered by the rule 8:10



Unsportsmanlike  
conduct

8:8



Direct  
2- minutes  
punishment



*Certain forms of unsportsmanlike conduct are considered so serious that they warrant a disqualification. The following are examples of such conduct:*

*a) throwing or hitting the ball away in a demonstrative manner, after a decision by the referees;*

Rephrased but  
unchanged

*b) if a goalkeeper demonstratively refrains from trying to stop a 7-meter-throw;*

Rephrased but  
unchanged

Unsportsmanlike  
conduct

8:9



Disqualification  
without  
report

*c) deliberately throwing the ball at an opponent during a stoppage in the game; if it is done with a lot of force and from very short distance, it is more appropriately regarded as a ‘particularly reckless action’ under 8:6 above;*

Rephrased but unchanged

*c) when a 7-m shooter hits the goalkeeper's head, if the goalkeeper does not move his head in the direction of the ball;*

Rephrased but unchanged



Unsportsmanlike  
conduct

8:9



Disqualification  
without  
report

This doesn't include usual moves of the goalkeeper concerning his defending behaviour. What is meant is a move into ball's path

*e) when a free-throw shooter hits a defender's head, if the defender is not moving his head in the direction of the ball;*

Rephrased but  
unchanged



Remark to c) and d):

The thrower has the responsibility not to endanger the goalkeeper or the defender



Unsportsmanlike  
conduct

*f) an act of revenge after having been fouled.*

Rephrased but  
unchanged

8:9



Disqualification  
without  
report



*If the referees classify a conduct as **extremely unsportsmanlike**, 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.*

*The following actions may serve as examples:*

- a) insulting or threatening behavior directed at another person, e.g., referee, timekeeper/scorekeeper, delegate, team official, player, spectator; the behavior may be in verbal or non-verbal form (e.g., facial expression, gestures, body language or body contact).*

Rephrased but  
unchanged

Unsportsmanlike  
conduct

8:10  Disqualification  
with  
report



- b) (I) the interference by a team official in the game, on the playing court or from the substitution area, or*
- (II) a player destroying a clear chance of scoring, either through an illegal entry on the court (Rule 4:6) or from the substitution area;*

New as an example

Rephrased but unchanged



Unsportsmanlike  
conduct

8:10



Disqualification  
with  
report

c) if during **the last minute** of a game the ball is out of play, and a **player or team official** prevents or delays the execution of a throw for the opponents, in order to prevent them from being able to take a shot on goal or to obtain a clear scoring chance; this is considered **extremely unsportsmanlike**, and it applies to any type of interference (e.g., with only limited physical action, intercepting a pass, interference with the reception of the ball, not releasing the ball);



The score is not anymore relevant.

### Criteria:

- Last minute
  - Ball not in play
  - preventing/delaying throw of opponent
- leads always to a disqualification with report

The result can have at the most an influence on further punishments

Unsportsmanlike  
conduct

8:10



Disqualification  
with  
report



*d) if during the last minute of a game the ball is in play, and the opponents through an action falling under rule 8:5 or 8:6 prevent the team in possession from being able to take a shot on goal or to obtain a clear scoring chance, then this is not just to be punished with a disqualification under 8:5 or 8:6; a written report must also be submitted;*



This amendment 8:10d aims to stop players to get „red-carded“ resulting in manipulating the final score without any consequences.

Unsportsmanlike  
conduct

8:10



Disqualification  
with  
report

16:8

*As noted in rules 8:6 and 8:10, disqualifications in accordance with these rules are to be reported in writing to the responsible authorities for further action. In such cases, the ‘responsible team official’ shall be informed immediately after the decision.*



„This is a disqualification  
with report „

Fouls

8:6



Disqualification  
with  
report

Unsportsmanlike  
conduct

8:10



Disqualification  
with  
report

# Passive Play

## Clarification 4





Explanation No 4 now additionally indicates a set of new criteria on whether and when a referee should finally decide on passive play (after warning signal)



### *D. After the Forewarning Signal has been shown*

*After showing the forewarning signal, the referees should allow the team in possession of the ball some time to change their action. In this regard, the skill level in different age and performance categories must be taken into account.*

*The team forewarned should thus be allowed the possibility to prepare a targeted attacking action towards the goal.*

*If the team in possession does not make a recognizable attempt to get into position to take a shot on goal, then one of the referees decides that this is passive play (rules 7:11-12). (See also below the 'Decision-making criteria after showing the forewarning signal').*

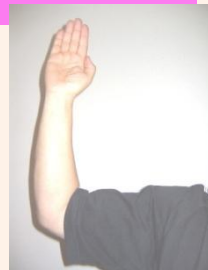
### *Decision-making criteria after showing the forewarning signal*

#### *D1. The attacking team*

- *no clear increase in pace*
- *no targeted action towards the goal*
- *1-on-1 action where no spatial advantage is achieved*
- *delays when playing the ball (e.g., because the passing routes are blocked by the defending team)*

#### *D2. The defending team*

- *the defending team tries to prevent an increase in pace or a targeted attacking action, through correct and active defensive methods*
- *passive play must not be called, if an aggressive defence interferes in the attacking flow through constant fouls*



### *Indications of a reduction of pace*

- *Action sideways and not in depth towards the goal.*
- *Frequent diagonal running in front of the defenders without putting any pressure on them*
- *No action in depth, such as confronting an opponent 1-on-1 or passing the ball to players between the goal-area line and the free-throw line*
- *Repeated passing between two players with no clear increase of pace or actions towards the goal*
- *Passing of the ball with all positions involved (wing players, pivot and back-court players) with no clear increase of pace or recognizable actions towards the goal*





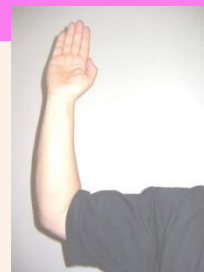
### *Indications of 1-on-1 actions where no spatial advantage is gained*

- *1-on-1 action in a situation where it is obvious that there is no room for a break-through (several opponents block the room for a break-through.)*
- *1-on-1 action without any aim to break through towards the goal*
- *1-on-1 action with the objective of simply being awarded a free-throw (e.g., letting oneself 'get stuck', or ending the 1-on-1 action even though it might have been possible to break through)*

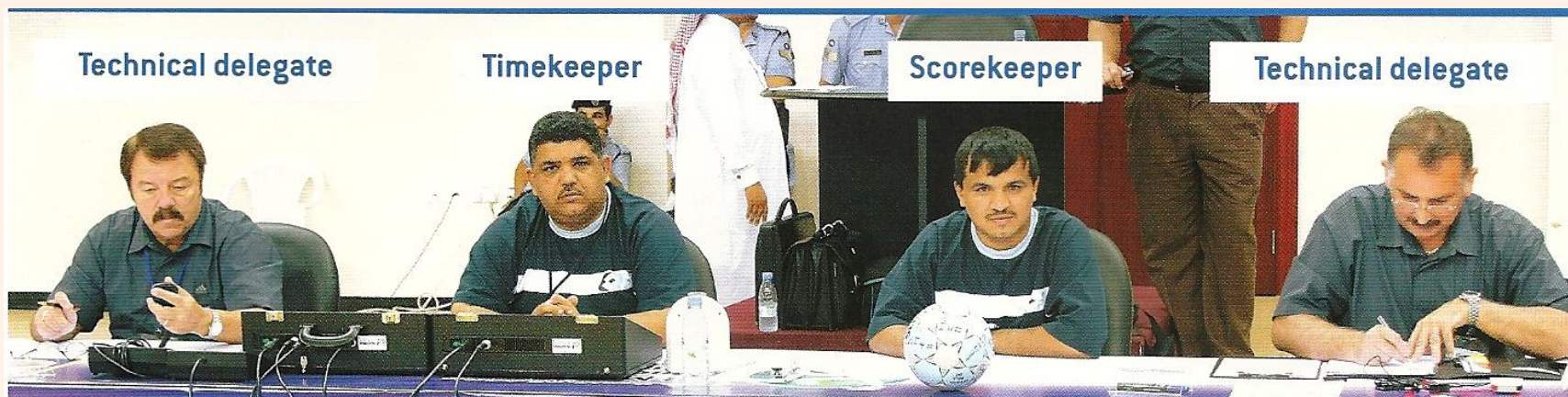


### *Indications of active defensive methods in conformity with the rules:*

- Trying not to commit a foul, so as to avoid an interruption in the game
- Obstructing the running path of the attacker, perhaps by using two defenders
- Moving forward to block the passing routes
- Moving defenders forwards so to force the attackers further back in the court
- Provoking attackers to pass the ball far back into harmless positions



# Intervention/Interruption by the Timekeeper or a Delegate



## Clarification 7



Faulty substitution or illegal entry by a player

If the timekeeper or a delegate interrupts the game

game is already  
interrupted



2 Minute Suspension

Restart with corresponding throw

Added in rule text,  
was missing

ball in play  
(don't wait for  
advantage)



During a clear  
chance of scoring



**Disqualification**  
(with report)

2 Minutes  
Suspension



Clear chance of scoring → 7-m  
otherwise

**Free-throw** (better position)

### Interruption for other reasons, e.g. unsportsmanlike conduct

a) by the timekeeper

should wait until the next interruption, then inform referees

- If he nevertheless interrupts: the game is restarted with a free-throw for the team that was in possession at the time of the interruption
- Clear scoring chance: →7-m
- The same with an interruption for Team-Time-Out in the wrong moment
- No punishments by timekeepers/no punishment by referees if they have not recognised it by himself



## Interruption for other reasons, e.g. unsportsmanlike conduct

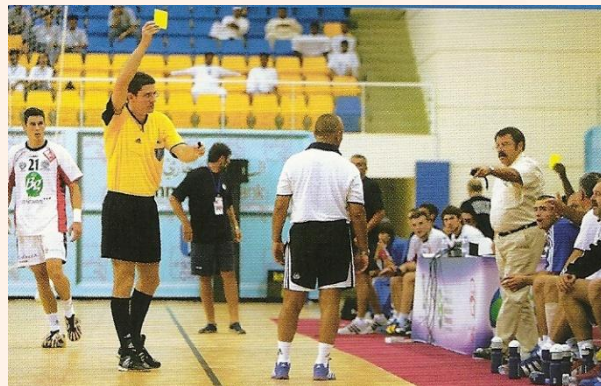


b) by the delegate (DEL)

May interrupt the game  
immediately

- DEL can inform referees about rule violation/ unsportsmanlike conduct and infringements against the substitution area regulation.
- Clear scoring chance of the non fallible team → 7-m
- Or free-throw against fallible team
- Referees are obligated to give out personal punishments in accordance with the instructions of the delegate

**! Intervention of delegate if ball is “out of play” →  
Throw according to game situation**





# The Team, Substitutions, Equipment, Player Injuries



## Team Captain

- The decision that the function of the team captain has no longer been obligatory since the rule changes 2005 was partly regretted
- However, the function of the team captain was never been prohibited.
- Therefore the new rules include the function of the team captain again (4:9 paragraph 4 (indirect) and 17:4 (direct))
- The function is still optional



## Numbers

The previous wording according to which the numbers should range from 1 to 20, has no longer been up to date

### 4:8

*The players must wear **visible** numbers that are at least 20 cm high in the back of the shirt and at least 10cm in the front. The numbers used **shall** be from 1 to **99**. A player who is switching between the court player and goalkeeper positions must wear the same number in both positions.*

*The color of the numbers must contrast clearly with the colors and design of the shirt.*

# 1 to 99





## Headscarves

By including headscarves (as long as they are made of soft, elastic material) in the catalogue of objects players are entitled to wear, the religious needs of many IHF member nation has been addressed with regards to the rules.

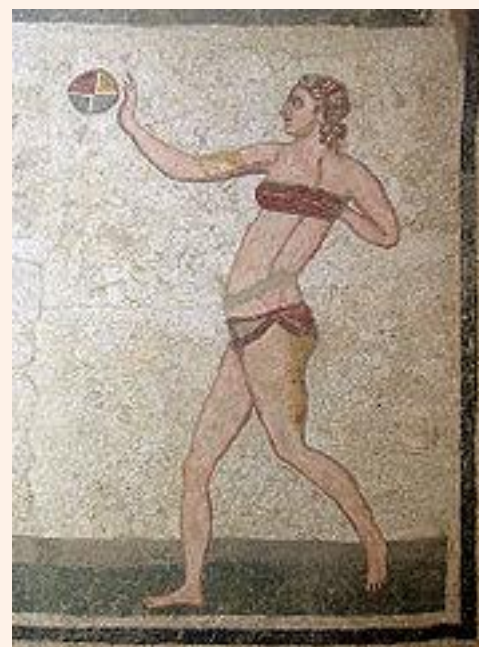
Likewise it has been clarified that players wearing or carrying dangerous objects are not entitled to play.



## Further changes and amendments worth mentioning



Nobody too small.....



Harpastum, the Roman form  
of (women) handball

## Goalkeeper

*The goalkeeper is **not allowed** to: .....*

### **5:10**

*touch the ball with the foot or the leg below the knee, when it is ~~stationary on the floor in the goal area or~~ moving on the floor in the goal area out towards the playing area (13:1a);*

This rule refers only to balls moving in the direction of the playing field. In consideration with rule 12:1, balls lying in the goal area are no longer covered by this rule.



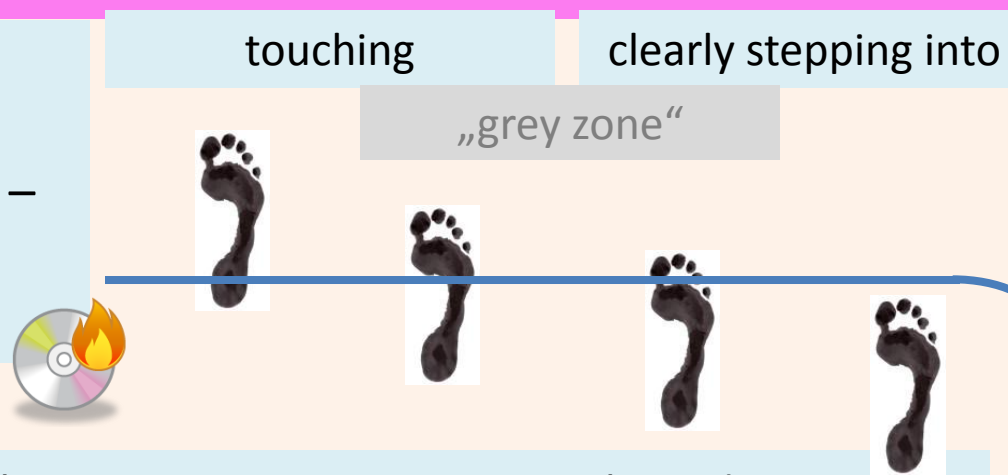


## 7-m .... because of inside defending

**6:2** When a court player enters the goal area, the decisions shall be as follows :

c) 7-meter throw when a court player of the defending team enters the goal area and because of this destroys a clear chance of scoring (14:1a). *For purposes of this rule, the concept “entering the goal area” does not mean just touching the goal-area line, but clearly stepping into the goal area.*

- Less 7-m decisions due to „Inside defending“ – less alibi signals!
- It is not enough, if defender is inside – attacker has to be willing to create a clear chance of scoring



Judging position at beginning of the 1-on-1 situation – not only end position !

## Ball in the air over goal area

### 6:5 paragraph 3

It is ~~fully~~ permitted to touch the ball when it is in the air over the goal area, *as long as it is in conformity with Rules 7:1 and 7:8.*

Wording has to be more precise – „fully permitted” is not correct in this context



## Steps

**7:3**

**Comment:**

*It is in conformance with the rules, if a player with the ball falls to the floor, slides and then stands up and plays the ball. This is also the case, if a player dives for the ball, controls it and stands up to play it.*

The previous comment was not anymore necessary (was in conformity with the rule text)

The new comment provides indications for particular situations in the ball handling



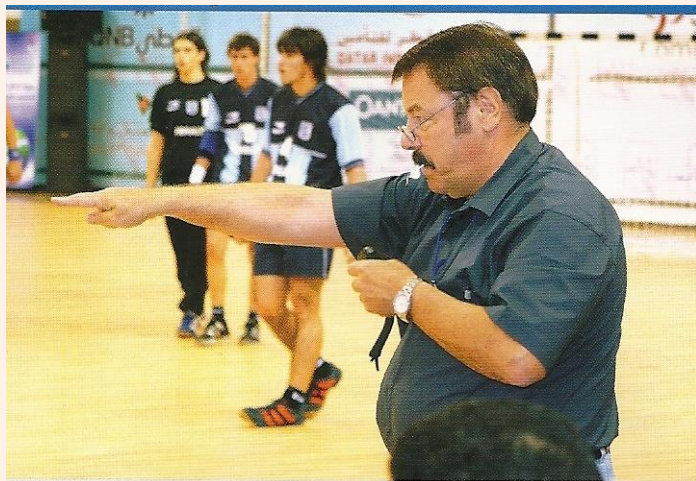


## Delegate

### **9:1 paragraph 3:**

*A goal cannot be awarded if a referee, timekeeper **or delegate** has interrupted the game before the ball has completely crossed the goal line.*

The rule text now also includes the delegate



## Put down the ball

### 13:5

*If there is a free-throw decision against the team that is in possession of the ball when the referee whistles, then the player who has the ball at that moment must immediately drop it or put it down on the floor, **so that it can be played** ~~at the spot where he is~~ (8:8b).*

Unchanged  
concerning the sence





## Disturbing throws

**15:9**

This point is only mentioned in the German version, because one sentence was missing in the German edition of the rule book 2005)

## Delegation of referee tasks to table officials

### 17:8

*Both referees are responsible for keeping the score. They also take notes about warnings, suspensions and disqualifications.*

### 17:9

*Both referees are responsible for controlling the playing time. If there is any doubt about the accuracy of the timekeeping, the referees reach a joint decision (see also 2:3).*

*Note: The IHF, continental and national federations have the right to apply deviating regulations in their areas of responsibility, regarding the application of Rules 17:8 and 17:9.*

The same applies to 17:5 paragraph 1+3: appointment of referees and and drop out of one referee

The federations may for example delegate the main responsibility for such tasks e.g. to the delegate or to timekeeper/secretary → relieving the referees



## Communication Systems

### 17:14

*The referees and the delegates may use electronic equipment for their internal communication. The rules for their utilization are determined by the respective federation.*

This new rule opens the possibility to use communication systems. The federations enact regulations concerning their application within their championships.



## Team Time-out

This paragraph was added in Clarification 3. Besides other infractions, unsportsmanlike conduct is included as well.

*For the purpose of punishments under rule 16, a team time-out is defined as being part of the playing time (16:10), so any unsportsmanlike conduct and other infractions are punished in the normal way. It is irrelevant in this context, if the player/official concerned is on or off the court. Accordingly, a warning, suspension or disqualification under Rules 16:1-3 and 16:6-9 can be given for unsportsmanlike conduct (8:7-10) or for action falling under Rule 8:6b.*


Paragraph 4 (Remark regarding the timekeeper's conduct in exceptional situations was deleted without replacement)



## Clear scoring chance

The former point c) „does not yet have the ball, but is ready for an immediate reception of the ball“ has been integrated in a) and b). Especially worth mentioning is the additional text in b):

*This also applies if the player does not yet have the ball, but is ready for an immediate reception of the ball, and the opposing goalkeeper through a collision as under 8:5 Comment prevents the reception of the ball; in this special case, the positions of the defending players are irrelevant;*



This additional part takes up the case concerning unsportsmanlike conduct of the goalkeeper in the counter attack already mentioned on rules 8 and 16 (charts Nr. 24+25).



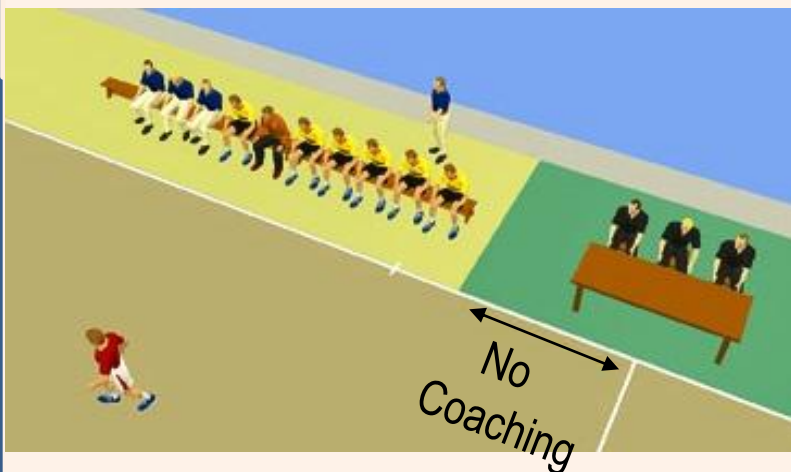
# Substitution Area Regulation

## Coaching Zone / Colour of Team Official's Clothing Team Time-Out and making Contact



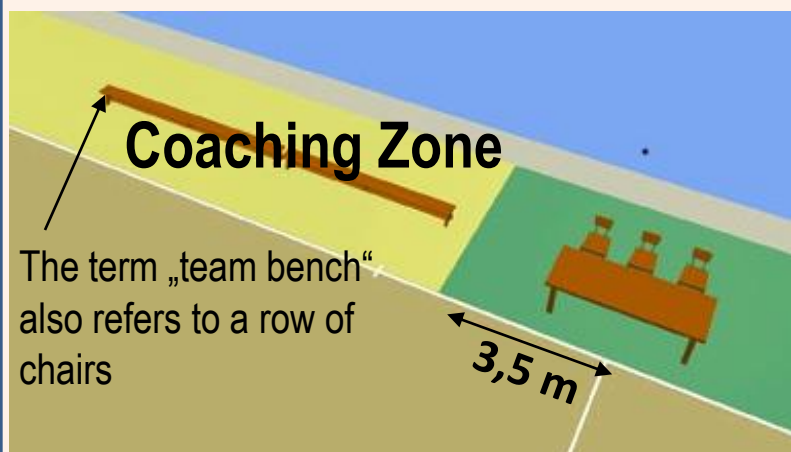


## Substitution Area Regulation



### 1. Coaching zone

- The „coaching zone“ shall start at a distance of **3.5 meters** from the centre line up to the end of the respective team benches.
- The coach is allowed to do coaching in front of the team bench and behind it – in doing so, he is allowed for sure, to pass on the side of the bench.

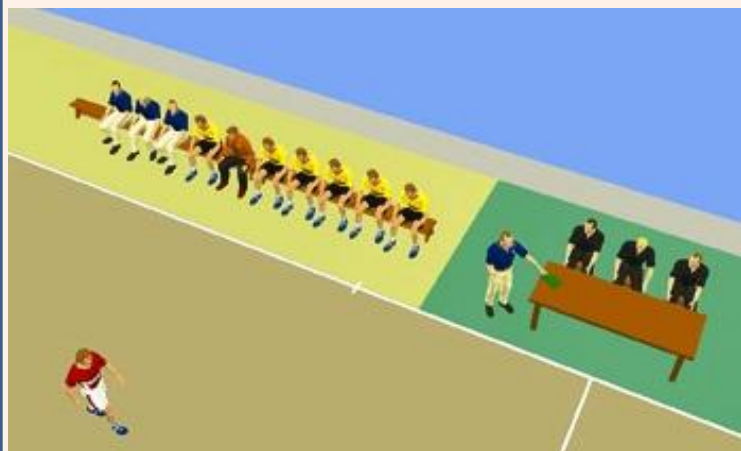


## 2. Colour of Team Official's Clothing



- **Red-coloured** clothing worn by team officials may cause confusion
- Players of the opposing team might get confused to produce bad passes
- Officials are not allowed to wear the same colour of the opponent team (in this case **red**).

### 3. Team Time-Out, Making Contact



- Officials are allowed to leave the coaching zone to request a team time-out.
- However, they are not allowed to stand waiting at the table for a suitable moment to request the team time-out.
- The „responsible team official“ may also leave the coaching zone in special situations, for instance, for necessary contact with the timekeeper or scorekeeper.

## 4. General

- Infringements of Substitution Area Regulations shall be punished in accordance with the rules 16:1b, 16:3d or 16:6b (warning, suspension, disqualification). (see, however, Clarification 7B a)

*Referees and delegates are requested to verbally advice the officials accordingly in order to introduce the coaching zone*



