

MEMO

To: Netball Victoria Affiliates

Date: 10th January 2024

From: NV Workforce

Re: World Netball Rule Changes

Following the release of the 2024 edition of the Rules of Netball and additional commentary and advice from Netball Australia, Netball Victoria will make information sessions and educational resources, including sample bylaws, available to all members in the coming weeks and in time for the start of most competitions.

In the interim, Netball Victoria would like to advise affiliates of a recommendation on implementation of Rule 10: Stoppages.

Rule 10.2. of the 2024 Rules of Netball states:

Both teams may make tactical changes immediately after a goal is scored following a request from an on-court player to **hold time** for this purpose, ensuring that;

- a) The umpire is clear the request is for a tactical change and not for injury / illness of a player or blood.
- b) Any on-court players leave the court or change positions without delay.
- c) Any substitutes take up their position on court without delay.

Netball Australia notes *“we have recognised that a large proportion of our community games are centrally timed and whilst the game can be stopped, time cannot be held as required in Rule 10.2”*.

Netball Victoria, as the controlling authority in the State, is able to recommend how the Substitution rule will be implemented (as per Rule 21).

Competition administrators and affiliates of Netball Victoria can choose to implement the Stoppages rule;

As per Rule 10.2. in the Rules of Netball (as above),

OR

Introduction of *Rolling Substitutions*.

Rolling Substitutions

- a) The rolling substitution stands at the designated area. This is normally set up as a small box or line to the side of each team’s bench, next to the score bench (see diagram).

- b) Before leaving the designated area, the substitute tags (with hands) the player leaving the court.
- c) Only one (1) rolling substitute per team can be made at a time.
- d) Play is not to be held up for rolling substitutions. If play is delayed, the player will be penalised under Rule 19.2. Delaying play.
- e) Players must observe the offside rules as they enter/leave the court.

Sanction: Free pass where the infringement occurred (offside area) unless this places the non-infringing team at a disadvantage, or advantage is applied.

- f) Players must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution.

Sanction: Free pass where the ball was when play was stopped (advantage may be applied).

- g) If a player leaves the court as a rolling substitution, and there is no player in the designated area, the replacement player is treated as a late player (as per Rule 3.8) and must wait until a break in play to enter the court.

3.8. Any late player may, after advising the umpire, take the court in the vacant position/s at the next break in play.

Action: Any late player is sent from the court until the correct time for entry and possession is awarded to the opposing team where the ball was when play stopped.

Terminology: Incorrect entry

"Break in play" is defined as *after a goal is scored, during a stoppage or interval or when a sanction or action is awarded.*

Netball Victoria recommends that games that are centrally timed apply *Rolling Substitutions*. Rolling substitutions can also be used on games that are individually timed.

This is to ensure the rule is applied fairly, with the principles of good sporting behaviour, as well as the ease of adaption and application as many of our players, umpires and coaches are familiar with the Rolling Substitution through the Victorian Netball League and Suncorp Super Netball. The decision, however, is at the discretion of the controlling authority/competition organiser.

There are many benefits to either substitution method. The use of the Rolling Substitution negates the need for the Tactical Substitution rule, and therefore should not be used in conjunction with each other.

Further information regarding implementation, practical guides and sample bylaws will be available to all affiliates in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Stakeholder Relations team member, or Workforce Development Manager, Meg Hopper (meg.hopper@netballvic.com.au)