

Referees' advisory group is giving explanations for cases where the rule book leaves some definitions unclear.

CASE # 1

In cases where one player on a team is reaching for the ball or trying to orientate themselves in their end of the court, he/she reaches out, grabs their team-mate's eyeshades and dislodges them.

QUESTION: Is there an eyeshade penalty assessed?

In this case it is clearly incidental contact which would result in an adjustment of a teammate's eyeshades. There would be clearly no intent to gain an advantage within the rules so play would be stopped. The player would have his eyeshades re-adjusted and checked by the referee and then play would resume.

CASE # 2

During a team timeout or substitution or any other official stop in play that is not an official time out, where the ball stays with the team in possession of the ball. The team passes the ball or accidentally kicks the ball or drops the ball etc. which somehow causes the ball to end up in their own net.

Question: Should the referee call this an "own" goal?

A) This loss of control of the ball shall not be considered a goal as the game clock has been stopped to accommodate the timeout/substitution.

B) Should the team choose not to control the ball during the timeout/substitution, the referee/goal judge shall control the ball until such a time as the team requests the ball or if the timeout/substitution has expired the referee/goal judge shall reintroduce the ball as per restart procedures (1.5m line)

CASE # 3

A player is penalized for some rule violation. The other two players step off the court as per protocol. The penalized player stays on the court but appears to be disorientated as to his position on the court.

Question: Should the referee orientate the player?

The language in the rule book states that aids of orientation are allowed to the players only **FOLLOWING** a penalty situation so the player should not be orientated. However, the referee is responsible for making sure that the player understands that he/she is defending a penalty shot and is "ready and set" before the shot is taken. Once the referee has determined that a language issue is not preventing the player from understanding the situation, the referee is not responsible for determining from what position the player defends the shot.

CASE # 4

In situations where there is a delayed penalty (i. e. Illegal Defense) and the ball enters the net.

Question: Does the team still have to defend the penalty after the goal is scored?

In cases where the referee has delayed calling a penalty to determine first if a goal will be scored, the scoring of a goal would then nullify the penalty and the team that was scored upon would keep the ball when play was restarted.

CASE # 5

A coach signals for a substitution. The referee acknowledges the substitution and the coach displays the two numbers of the players coming in and going out. After the referee completes the eyeshade check and hands over the player to the goal judge, the coach indicates the numbers for another substitution. The referee announces and runs the second substitution. At the completion of the second substitution, the coach indicates the numbers for a third substitution.

Question: Could the running of the substitutions consecutively as opposed to simultaneously be considered an intentional act to delay the game by the coach?

As long as the second substituted player had not stepped onto the court before the third substitution was indicated by the coach this is permitted. This is in line with the interpretation of the end of the substitution written in the manual under rule 21.1.

CASE # 6

In a game that goes into overtime, the coach decides to substitute one or more players between the end of regulation time and the beginning of overtime.

Question: Does the coach need to inform the referee for the substitutions to be announced before the overtime begins? Do these substitutions count toward the total or are they treated the same as half-time substitutions?

The substitutions do not count toward the total and are treated as “free” substitutions. However, overtime is considered part of the game and any player changes at the end of any half of play will be indicated to the referee and announced at the beginning of the following half.

CASE # 7

During a penalty situation, one of the defensive players that have been removed from the court yells something (ie. it's coming down the right side!) to the player defending the penalty shot while the ball is on its way down the court.

Question: Is there any call to be made here and if so how does it affect a saved penalty shot or a goal?

There is no penalty to be awarded here as the player, though not on the court, is still an on-court player and any perceived communication would be no different than the normal communication that sometimes happens between defensive players during a game. Whether the penalty shot scores or is blocked makes no difference.

CASE # 8

If a player is unable to defend a Personal penalty because they were injured, ejected etc. on the play in which the penalty occurred.

Question: How does the referee determine who will defend the penalty shot?

The team awarded the penalty throw will choose the player that will defend the penalty throw from among the on-court players

CASE # 9

In a penalty situation that takes place before the start of the game and the coach from the team that is throwing the penalty shot is selecting a player to defend the shot.

Question: Does the coach have to select a player from on the court? Can the coach select a bench player to defend the penalty shot? When does the coach need to notify the penalized team of his selection?

The coach can select any player listed on the line-up sheet as playing in the game. (Not a player sitting on the bench with an identifying jersey labelling him/her as a non-participant.) At Paralympics and World Championships, the coach must notify the referee 5:00 prior to the scheduled start of the game so the defending player can be ready for eyeshade/patch control by the start of the game. If a penalty is assessed between 5:00 and game time, the referee will immediately request the coach of the team throwing the penalty shot to make his/her decision at that time. At local tournaments with potentially shorter timelines, the organizing committee will set the "notification time" prior to the beginning of the tournament to better fit in with scheduling restrictions and so that all coaches, referees and athletes have the same information.

CASE # 10

In a situation where a team controls the ball and then the coach verbally calls for a time-out but signals by hand for a substitution. Or reversely, verbally calls for a substitution but signals for a time-out.

Question: What procedure does the referee follow to determine which request the coach is actually making?

The rule states that a coach can request a time-out or substitution verbally and/or non-verbally and can have both at the same time. Since it is not up to the referee to interpret what a coach is thinking, in this situation the referee would acknowledge the time-out AND the substitution and the team would be charged with both. If the coach really only wanted to request one, then the referee could correct the mistake but the team would be assessed a team penalty. DELAY OF GAME

CASE # 11

In a game that has gone into sudden death extra throws. Team "A" throws the ball and scores but Team "B" has not yet had an equal number of throws. One or more players on Team "A's" bench, thinking that the game is over, throw off their eyeshades in celebration.

Question: Is there a penalty and who would defend and throw the penalty shot?

This would be considered a defensive team penalty occurring after the completion of Team "A's" Extra Throw. As in other defensive penalties e. g. Illegal Defense, Illegal Coaching etc., this penalty would be applied depending on the outcome of Team "B's" extra throw. If Team "B's" extra throw scored, the penalty would be nullified and if "B's" shot didn't score then the penalty would be applied and the Team "B" player would get another throw. Defensive penalties will naturally unbalance the equal number of throws per team but the number of original EXTRA THROWS must be equal before the game can be considered completed.

CASE # 12

Team A defends the ball and the 10 second clock is started on contact. Team A gains control of the ball after 4 seconds and calls a substitution which is then completed by the officials. The 10 second clock has been stopped with 6 seconds remaining. Before the restart, Team B is assessed a penalty (ie. Unsportsmanlike Conduct) Team A has the ball and is preparing to throw the penalty shot.

Question: Does the 6 seconds remain on the 10 second clock for team A, or is it reset.

In all penalty situations, the 10 second clock will be re-set and the team throwing the penalty shot will have the full ten seconds once play is restarted.

CASE # 13

A team is awarded a penalty shot before the start of the game. The player is selected to defend the penalty shot and the referee is getting ready to run the penalty shot. The referee calls for "quiet please", blows his whistle and calls "play". At this point the coach of the team throwing the penalty shot, asks for a time-out.

Question: Can a coach ask for a team time-out before the game clock starts (regulation time) and if so does the time-out count toward the FOUR that are allowed a team during regulation time?

Penalty shots are run under the rules of the game so the coach of the team throwing the penalty shot would be allowed to request a time-out because his team has possession of the ball. The time-out would be recorded and count toward the team's total leaving them THREE for the rest of regulation time.

CASE # 14

It's the call for the beginning of the game (this game..., quiet please, center, etc.) and the referee sees a player touch their eyeshades. The referee calls immediately the appropriate personal penalty. When the referee goes to the player to check his eyeshade before he defend the penalty, the referee **can see the eye of the player**.

Question: What the referee have to do? Eject right away the player?

If the Referee observed the player touching their eyeshades and it clearly appeared that the player have been altering the patches/eyeshades, a personal unsportsmanlike conduct penalty has to be assessed he/she will be ejected and only 2 players will remain on court. The team who will throw the penalty will choose the defending player from the 2 on court players.

CASE # 15

A player is hurt when stopping the ball and the coach asks for a time out. During the time out the referee goes to see the player and he sees that he is bleeding.

Question: Does the referee have to wait after the end of the time out before calling medical time out, or not?

Call medical time out after the team time-out. However, if it is heavy bleeding, then it must be addressed immediately.

CASE # 16

The referee calls "block out" and "play". The ball was put back on the court at the correct place (on the line). But the player doesn't come to grab the ball. So the coach calls "Time out", not with a sign but with his voice.

Question: Is it an illegal coaching?

No, in this case, even though the ball is in play, the coach can still call a Time Out or Substitution.

CASE # 17

A series of incidences occur

1. High ball Penalty on Team B
2. Team A in preparation to throw penalty shot (players off, ref says "quiet please")
3. Coach of Team A keeps talking after quiet please.

Question: What is the right decision?

The Coach of Team A is assessed a Team Penalty- Illegal Coaching.
Continue with the High Ball penalty, then the Illegal Coaching penalty

CASE # 18

Team B received the ball (defensive). The ball was block but continue to roll in team A's direction. Center team B run after the ball. The ball and the player crossed the high ball line and player grabs the ball before the center line. Player turned around (he is now facing his own goal), and the player throws the ball to the player on the wing. The first bounce of the ball to the wing player touches the court in neutral area.

Question: What is the call? Is there a call?

There is NO call. While the ball is being passed back to the own team mate and the ball stays on court of team B's end, this is seen as normal pass between the player.

CASE # 19

If, during the warm up, a team throws the ball into the other teams half of the court, they will be given a warning by the referee. If the same team throws a second ball into the other teams half of the court they will be given a penalty before the start of the game. Team Penalty – Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

Question: when a team during warm up throws the ball for third time to the other team area, what do you decide for that?

In the case of 3rd time or 4th time throw, who defend the throw and who is ejected from the field of play?

If a team throws a third ball into their opponents half during the warm up then a second Team Penalty – unsportsmanlike conduct will be given. The throwing team's coach chooses the player to defend.

If the referee knows who is responsible for the ball going over the centre line and that is a player they can be ejected from the game. However, it is not always clear who is responsible and it may be a combination of people so in this situation the person to be ejected would be the head coach, in line with rule 35 which lists the order of personnel to be ejected.

CASE # 20

At the end of any half, one team is scoring, referee whistles twice and at the same time the horn or signal indicates the end of the half or game (the official clock was not running properly?)

Question: What is the procedure and/or referee's actions?

Immediately the referee needs to whistle and call 'official time out – clarification'. They should then consult the timer and the other referee.

They have to decide:

1. whether the referee whistled the goal and the timer was late stopping the game clock so making another second or two to play of that half - if this is the decision then the goal is announced, and the game restarted for the remaining time;
2. whether the time expired after the goal had been scored but before the referee had a chance to blow their whistle – if this is the decision then the goal stands and that half is over;
3. whether the timer was late in sounding the horn and the goal should not have been scored – if this is the decision then the goal is disallowed and the half is over.

CASE # 21

Question: Does it matter that some players have taken to having a towel tucked into their trousers so that they can wipe their hands and their face during the game. How does this tie up with the rule that says padding should not extend more than 10 cms from their body?

Answer: this had nothing to do with the padding rule and players should be allowed to have a towel tucked into their waist. However if it should become loose during the game and interfere with the path of the ball at any time in the game the player would be awarded a Personal Delay of Game penalty.

CASE # 22

Question: How should a referee respond when a ball is blocked out and lands on the back of the net and stays there but does not go over the line out line now extended round the back of the goal?

Answer: The ball will be called blocked, whistle, line out even though the ball has not gone over the line out line. This decision was made as the only other choice was official time out which would give the advantage to the defending team.

CASE # 23

Question: Now that the long ball line is the defending team's illegal penalty line there is a difficulty in that the defending team might prevent the referee from being able to call a long ball.

Answer: If this should happen the play will be allowed to continue and no long ball will be called.