

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF NETBALL ASSOCIATIONS

PROTOCOLS FOR MATCH OFFICIALS

(revised and adopted 2009)

Most changes included in these Protocols either clarify existing situations or result from Rules changes made at the end of 2007 (this is especially true for those relating to stoppages). IFNA has also revised the role of the Reserve Umpire while Bench Officials have now been included (and the Protocols have been renamed accordingly).

Listed below are the most significant changes.

Stoppages

- No coaching may take place; advising team changes or substitutions is not considered to be 'coaching' (Protocol 4.3 (ii)). *Rule change.*
- Team Managers may hydrate players at the Side Line (Protocol 4.3 (iii)). *Rule change.*
- Different protocols are required for stoppages that may be up to 2 minutes and those that are restricted to 30 seconds (Protocols 5.1 and 5.2). *Rule change.*
- For stoppages of up to 2 minutes, both Umpires take positions on the team bench Side Line. The 'controlling Umpire' has right of way as to the position taken (Protocol 5.1 (i)). For stoppages up to 30 seconds, both Umpires remain on their respective Side Lines (Protocol 5.2 (i)). *Rule change; protocol revised to balance responsibilities of Umpires.*
- Only Primary Care personnel (may be more than one person) are permitted onto the Court during a stoppage (Protocol 5.1 (iii)). An injured player may be assisted to leave the Court during a 30 second stoppage. *Rule change.*
- During stoppages that are up to 2 minutes, other players (from either team) may receive treatment but the length of the stoppage is governed by treatment of the original injury/illness (Protocol 5.1 (iii)). *Clarification of Rule.*

Intervals

- Umpires may need to recheck the Court if there has been activity during an interval (Protocol 9.3). The Reserve Umpire retains oversight of the Court if the Match Umpires leave the Court during an interval (Protocol 10.4 (ii)). *Rule change.*

Reserve Umpire

- The duties no longer include those relating to the Official Bench. Checking the Centre Pass is undertaken by the Umpires and Scorers, while the Timekeeper is responsible for signalling to the Umpire in the event that electronic timer/s fail. The Reserve Umpire oversees any player who is suspended from play (Protocol 10). *Policy change (IFNA).*

Bench Officials

- A new section (Protocol 12) has been added to cover the main responsibilities of Bench Officials. The Timekeeper activates an audible signal if both electronic timers worn by the umpires fail. The number of Bench Officials is specified. *Addition to Protocols; plus clarification of Rule and policy change (IFNA).*