

## **8. ORDINARY FOULS**

- 8.1** It shall be an ordinary foul to commit any of the following offences (VI.8.2 to VI.8.15), which shall be punished by awarding of a free throw to the opposing team, except as otherwise provided by the Rules.
- 8.2** To advance beyond the goal line at the start of a period, before the referee has given the signal to start. The free throw shall be taken from the location of the ball or, if the ball has not been released into the field of play, from the half distance line.
- 8.3** To assist a player at the start of a period or at any other time during the game.
- 8.4** To hold or push off from the goal posts or their fixtures, to hold or push off from the sides or ends of the pool during actual play or at the start of a period.
- 8.5** To take any active part in the game when standing on the floor of the pool, to walk when play is in progress or to jump from the floor of the pool to play the ball or tackle an opponent. This rule shall not apply to the goalkeeper while within the goalkeeper's 6 metre area.
- 8.6** To take or hold the entire ball under the water when tackled or to deliberately hide it from the opposing team.
- 8.7** To strike at the ball with a clenched fist, unless by the goalkeeper while within the 6 metre area.
- 8.8** To play or touch the ball with two hands at the same time, unless by the goalkeeper while within the 6 metre area.
- 8.9** To push or push off from an opponent who is not holding the ball.
- 8.10** To be within the opponent's goal area except when behind the line of the ball. It shall not be an offence if a player is inside the 2 metre line but outside the goal area. Any player who is behind the line of the ball can enter the goal area to receive the ball. Any player inside the goal area who does not shoot but passes the ball backwards has to leave the goal area immediately to avoid being sanctioned under this rule.
- 8.11** To take a free throw, goal throw, corner throw or a penalty throw other than in the prescribed manner except under the circumstances provided by VI 12.2 and VI13.4.
- 8.12** For a team to retain possession of the ball without shooting at the opponent's goal for more than: (i) 30 seconds of actual play, or (ii) 20 seconds in the case of an exclusion, corner throw or rebound to the attacking team after a shot, including after a penalty shot.

The timekeeper recording the possession time shall reset the clock:

- (a) when the ball has left the hand of the player shooting at goal. If the ball rebounds into play from the goal post, crossbar, a player or the goalkeeper, the possession time shall not recommence until the ball comes into the possession of one of the teams. The clock shall be reset to 20 seconds if the ball comes into possession of the attacking team. It shall be reset to 30 seconds if it comes into possession of the defending team;
- (b) when the ball comes into the possession of the defending team, the clock shall be reset to 30 seconds.
- (c) when the ball is put into play following the award of an exclusion foul to the defending player, the clock shall be reset to 20 seconds unless there are more than 20 seconds of possession time remaining, in which case the time shall continue and not be reset;
- (d) when the ball is put into play following the taking of a penalty throw without a change of possession or, corner throw, the clock shall be reset to 20 seconds;
- (e) when the ball is put into play following the award of a penalty throw with a change of possession, a goal throw or neutral throw, the clock shall be reset to 30 seconds. Visible clocks shall show the time in a descending manner (that is, showing the possession time remaining).

**8.13** To waste time.

**8.14** To simulate being fouled.

**8.15** To go under the water to gain positional advantage.

## **9. EXCLUSION FOULS**

**9.1** It shall be an exclusion foul to commit any of the following offences (VI 9.4 to VI 9.18) which shall be punished (except as otherwise provided by the Rules) by the award of a free throw to the opposing team and the exclusion of the player who committed the foul.

**9.2** An excluded player, including a player excluded for the remainder of the game, must immediately leave the field of play, not leaving the water, and move to the exclusion re-entry area (visibly rising to the surface of the water and, if applicable, touch hands above the water with the substitute) nearest to the player's own goal line without interfering with the play.

**9.3** The excluded player or a substitute shall be permitted to re-enter the field of play from the re-entry area nearest to the player's own goal line after the earliest occurrence when:

- (a) 20 seconds of actual play have elapsed, at which time the secretary shall raise the appropriate flag;
- (b) a goal has been scored; an excluded player or a substitute may re-enter the field of play from any place.

- (c) the excluded player's team has retaken possession of the ball during actual play, at which time the defensive referee shall signal re-entry by a hand signal;
- (d) the excluded player's team is awarded a free throw, a goal throw or a penalty throw.

The excluded player or a substitute shall not be permitted to:

- (i) jump or push off from the side or wall of the pool or the field of play;
- (ii) affect the alignment of the goal;
- (iii) enter for an excluded player until that player has reached the exclusion re-entry area nearest to the player's own goal line except between periods, after a goal, or during a timeout.

These provisions shall also apply to the entry of a substitute when the excluded player has received three personal fouls or has otherwise been excluded from the remainder of the game in accordance with the Rules.

- 9.4** For a player to leave the water or sit or stand on the steps or side of the pool during play, except in the case of accident, injury, illness or with the permission of a referee. An excluded player who leaves the water (other than following the entry of a substitute) shall be deemed guilty of an offence under VI.9.13 (Misconduct).
- 9.5** To interfere with the taking of a free throw, goal throw or corner throw, including: (a) intentionally to throw away or fail to release the ball to prevent the normal progress of the game; (b) any attempt to play the ball before it has left the hand of the thrower.
- 9.6** To attempt to block a pass or shot with two hands outside the 6 metre area.
- 9.7** To intentionally splash in the face of an opponent.
- 9.8** To impede or otherwise prevent the free movement of an opponent who is not holding the ball, including swimming on the opponent's shoulders, back or legs. "Holding" is lifting, carrying or touching the ball but does not include dribbling the ball.
- 9.9** To hold, sink or pull back an opponent who is not holding the ball.
- 9.10** Anywhere in the field of play, to use two hands to hold an opponent not holding the ball.
- 9.11** Tactical foul. Anywhere in the field of play, for a defending player to commit a foul on any player of the team in possession of the ball with the intent to stop the flow of the attack. This kind of foul is called a tactical foul.

- 9.12** To make disproportionate movements including kicking and striking.
- 9.13** To be guilty of misconduct, including the use of unacceptable language, aggressive play, refusing obedience to or showing disrespect for a referee or official, or behaviour against the spirit of the Rules and likely to bring the game into disrepute.
- 9.13.1** Should this occur during the game, the offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game, with substitution after the earliest occurrence referred to in VI.9.3, and must leave the competition area.
- 9.13.2** Should the incident occur during the interval between periods, during a timeout, or after a goal, the player shall be excluded for the remainder of the game and a substitute shall be eligible to re-enter immediately prior to the restart of the game and play will restart in the normal manner.
- 9.13.3** When one or more players of a team persist in repeated fouls other than aggressive play or misconduct or protest referees' or officials' decisions without the use of unacceptable language, the referee may show a yellow card to the offending team. Should the action continue, the referee will issue the offending player of the same team with a red card excluding the player for the remainder of the game according to VI.9.13 (misconduct).
- 9.14** To commit a violent action, including kicking, striking, or attempting to kick or strike with malicious intent an opponent or official, whether during actual play, during any stoppages, timeouts, after a goal has been scored or during intervals between periods of play. If the offending player is the goalkeeper, a substitute goalkeeper may be changed for another player in accordance with VI.2.6.
- 9.14.1** Should this occur during the game, the offending player shall be excluded for the remainder of the game and must leave the competition area and a penalty throw awarded to the opposing team. The offending player may be substituted when four minutes of actual play have elapsed.
- 9.14.2** Should the incident occur during any stoppage, timeout, after a goal or interval between periods of play, the player shall be excluded for the remainder of the game and must leave the competition area. No penalty throw shall be awarded. The offending player may be substituted when four minutes of actual play have elapsed. Play will restart in the normal manner.
- 9.14.3** If the referees call violent actions simultaneously on players of opposing teams during play, both players are excluded for the remainder of the game with substitution when four minutes of actual play have elapsed. The team, which had possession of the ball, will first shoot a penalty throw followed by the other team shooting a penalty throw. After the second penalty throw, the team, which had possession of the ball, will restart play with a free throw on or behind the half distance line.
- 9.15** In the case of simultaneous exclusion of players of opposing teams during play, both players are excluded for 20 seconds until the earliest occurrence

referred to in VI.9.3 or at the next change of possession. The possession clock is not reset. Play is restarted with a free throw to the team which had possession of the ball. If neither team had possession when the simultaneous exclusions were called, the possession clock is reset to 30 seconds and play shall be restarted with a neutral throw. Both players excluded under this Rule, shall be permitted to re-enter at the next earliest occurrence referred to in VI.9.3 or at the next change of possession.

**9.16** For an excluded player to re-enter or a substitute to enter the field of play improperly, including not following VI.2.6, VI.2.7 and VI.9.3. This player receives only one personal foul, which should be marked by the secretary as an exclusion foul.

**9.16.1** If this offence is committed by a player of the team not in possession of the ball, the offending player shall be excluded and a penalty throw also awarded to the opposing team.

**9.16.2** If this offence is committed by a player of the team in possession of the ball, the offending player shall be excluded and a free throw awarded to the opposing team.

**9.17** To interfere with the taking of a penalty throw. The offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game with substitution after the earliest occurrence referred to in VI.9.3 and the penalty throw shall be maintained or re-taken as appropriate. The referees may use the VAR system to determine if there has been interference with the penalty throw. This offence may occur before the taking of the throw or after the whistle by the referee.

**9.18** For the defending goalkeeper to fail to take up the correct position on the goal line at the taking of a penalty throw having been ordered once to do so by the referee. Another defending player may take the position of the goalkeeper but without the goalkeeper's privileges or limitations.

## **10. PENALTY FOULS**

**10.1** It shall be a penalty foul to commit any of the following offences (VI.10.2 to VI.10.11) which shall be punished by the award of a penalty throw to the opposing team. The referee can delay whistling and wait to see if the attacking player scores a goal in the same action. If the player does not score, the referee should sanction the penalty. The referee may raise an arm indicating a possible penalty.

**10.2** For a goalkeeper or defending player to commit any foul within the 6 metre area if a goal would probably have resulted, including VI.10.4 to VI.10.7.

**10.3** For an excluded player intentionally to interfere with play, including affecting the alignment of the goal. If the excluded player does not commence leaving the field of play almost immediately, the referee may deem this to be intentional interference under this Rule.

**10.4** For a goalkeeper or defending player to pull over, pull down or otherwise

displace the goal.

- 10.5** Within the 6 metre area, for a defending player to attempt to block a pass or shot with two hands.
- 10.6** Within the 6 metre area, for a defending player to play the ball with a clenched fist.
- 10.7** Within the 6 metre area, for a goalkeeper or defending player to take the ball under the water when tackled.
- 10.8** For a player or substitute who is not entitled under the Rules to participate in the play at that time to enter the field of play. Also, the offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game with substitution. The substitute may enter the field of play after the earliest occurrence referred to in VI. 9.3.
- 10.9** For the coach, or any team official, of the team not in possession of the ball to request a timeout. No personal foul shall be recorded for this offence.
- 10.10** For the coach or any team official, or player to take any action with intent to prevent a probable goal or to delay the game, including:
- a) a defending player deliberately throwing the ball away before the attacking team can take a free throw
  - b) a defending player, after a free throw outside the 6 metre line, deliberately pushing the ball inside 6 metre line, to avoid a direct shot.

No personal foul shall be recorded for this offence by the coach or any team official.

- 10.11** For a defending player to impede an attacking player from behind within the 6 metre area when the attacking player is facing the goal and making a shooting action, unless the defending player makes contact only with the ball. If the defending player's foul, described in this Rule, prevents the attacking player from scoring, a penalty must also be called. The referee must delay the call of penalty until the shot or attempted shot is completed and must award a penalty unless the attacking player scores.
- 10.12** If, in the last minute of the game, a penalty throw is awarded to a team, the coach may elect to maintain possession of the ball and be awarded a free throw. The timekeeper recording possession time shall reset the clock to 30 seconds, and the game will be restarted as after a timeout.
- It is the responsibility of the coach to give a clear signal without delay if the team wishes to maintain possession of the ball in accordance with this Rule.