

January 2021

2021 Rule amendments Summary of changes

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Amendments to WWR International Rules Updated: 15 January 2021

THIS TABLE DETAILS amendments to the **International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby** introduced with the January 15, 2021 version of the Rules. The table shows text from specific articles in the **Rules**, with changes highlighted. The full articles are not included, only the paragraphs containing changes. In this revision, references to Articles, Annexes, documents and diagrams have been set up as hyperlinks throughout the document.

ART.	TITLE	OLD TEXT	NEW TEXT
	WWR player safety and welfare position statement added		<p>Player safety is a fundamental principle in wheelchair rugby. The WWR rules have been developed in accordance with these principles. Officials will endeavor to uphold these principles in their application of the rules.</p> <p>Wheelchair rugby is a physical sport; therefore, it is important that the game is played in accordance with the rules while being mindful of player welfare.</p> <p>Players have a responsibility to ensure they are physically and technically prepared to play the game within the rules and are committed to safe practices.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the coaches to ensure players are prepared to comply with the rules, play fairly and practice safe conduct.</p> <p>It is the duty of the referee to apply the rules fairly in all variants of the sport supported by the WWR.</p>
8	Try line	Each post should be a minimum of 45 centimeters high and should have a square base.	Each post must be a minimum of forty-five (45) centimeters high and must not exceed eighty (80) centimeters . Each post must have a square base.
9	Backcourt and frontcourt	A team's backcourt is the area from the inside edge of the end line that includes the try that team is defending up to and including the centerline. The frontcourt is the area from the centerline to the inside edge of the end line that includes the try the opposing team is defending.	A team's backcourt is the area from the inside edge of the end line that includes the try line that team is defending up to and including the centerline. The frontcourt is the area from the centerline to the inside edge of the end line that includes the try line the opposing team is defending.
21	Uniform	The number on the front must be on the players left side and the height must be 10 centimeters high . The number on the back must be in the center and must be between 12 and 20 centimeters high.	The number on the front must be on the players right side and the height must be no less than 6 centimeters and no more than ten (10) centimeters . The number on the back must be in the center and must be no less than fifteen (15) centimeters and no more than twenty (20) centimeters high.
			Additional details regarding uniform specifications can be located in the WWR Logo, Branding and Partnership Guidelines

ART.	TITLE	OLD TEXT	NEW TEXT
32	Modifications	Any part of the wheelchair or player equipment may be modified to improve comfort or safety or for medical reasons. These modifications must be safe, must conform to all the wheelchair specifications in these Rules, and may not create any mechanical advantage. Modifications made for medical reasons must be listed on the player's classification card.	Any part of the wheelchair or player equipment may be modified to improve comfort or safety or for medical reasons. These modifications must be safe, must conform to all the wheelchair specifications in these Rules, and may not create any mechanical advantage. Modifications made must be identified on the team's short list/team roster and approved by the Technical Delegate and Head Official prior to the start of competition.
	WHEELCHAIR Diagrams	Images were in black and white	Images have been updated in color
35	Classification	All players must be classified according to the WWR classification system as detailed in the WWR. Each player must possess a classification card that displays the following information: The player's full name. The player's current classification points. The player's number as it appears on his uniform and the roster. A photograph of the player. The specifications of any modifications made to the player's wheelchair or equipment for medical reasons. The classification card must be given to the scorekeeper each time the player enters the court.	All players must be classified according to the WWR classification system as detailed in the WWR
36	Rosters	No less than ten minutes before the game is scheduled to begin, each coach shall confirm with the scorekeeper the following information, which shall be inscribed on the score sheet: The names, classifications, and uniform numbers of all team members The name of the team captain or captains. The name of the team coach and assistant coach Starting players may not be substituted for after this time except in case of injury.	No less than ten minutes before the game is scheduled to begin, each coach shall confirm, with a signature, the following information inscribed on the score sheet: The names, classifications, and uniform numbers of all team members Identify the four players who will begin the game. The name of the team coach and assistant coach The coach of Team A shall be the first to provide this information and then the coach of Team B. The coach of Team A will be allowed a second opportunity to review the scoresheet. Starting players may not be substituted after the ten (10) minutes mark except in the case of a medical issue or equipment failure.
37	Starting players	No less than ten minutes before the game is scheduled to begin, each coach shall give the scorekeeper the names and classification cards of the four starting players confirm their roster (names and numbers) and identify the 4 players who will begin the game for their team with a signature. The coach of team A shall be the first to provide this information and then the coach of team B. The coach of team A will be allowed a second opportunity to review the scoresheet.	Article 37 has been deleted and combined with Article 36

ART.	TITLE	OLD TEXT	NEW TEXT
		<p>Starting players may not be substituted for after this the ten minutes mark time except in the case of a medical issue or equipment failure injury.</p> <p>Each team must begin the game with four players on the court.</p>	
<p>44 Now Article 43</p>	<p>Referees</p>		<p>The referees are empowered to remove a player from the court for the following reasons:</p> <p>If an official identifies that a player has suffered a significant blow to the head or the player is displaying the symptoms of concussion as per the WWR Medical Guidelines - Concussion (See THE WWR Concussion Guidelines).</p> <p>If a player has an open or bleeding wound, or other issues outlined in the WWR, a 60 second referee time out will be provided. If the issue cannot be resolved in the time allotted the player(s) must be substituted. The player(s) may return to the game, through the typical substitution process, once the wound has stopped bleeding and has been cleaned and covered. Should a uniform become contaminated it must be cleaned, covered or replaced. If uniform replacement is required the score sheet will be amended, at no penalty, to reflect the change in number. – Bodily Fluid (See THE WWR Bodily Fluid Guidelines).</p> <p>Any player that is removed under these rulings will not be permitted to return to the field of play until they have met the return to play criteria outlined in the WWR.</p>
<p>45 Now Article 44</p>	<p>Responsibilities of Referee 1</p>	<p>Referee 1 has overall responsibility for the conduct of the game. He has the following additional duties:</p> <p>To ensure that the game is played in accordance with the rules and in a manner that does not constitute danger to the players.</p> <p>Inspect and approve all equipment used by players and officials.</p> <p>Disallow the wearing of any objects or use of any equipment judged to be dangerous.</p> <p>Ensure all court areas and court equipment are in accordance with the rules and will not constitute a danger to players or technical officials. (Section 2)</p>	<p>Referee 1 has overall responsibility for the conduct of the game. He has the following additional duties:</p> <p>Inspect and approve all equipment used by players and officials.</p> <p>Disallow the wearing of any objects or use of any equipment judged to be dangerous.</p>
<p>46 Now Article 45</p>	<p>Technical Commissioner</p>	<p>Assist the referees with any protest.</p>	<p>Game Commissioner (New title has been updated throughout the document)</p> <p>Assist the referees with any chair protests and decision review (as referenced in the WWR).</p>

ART.	TITLE	OLD TEXT	NEW TEXT
47 Now Article 46	Scorekeeper	Record the order in which players enter the court after substitutions.	deleted
50 Now Article 49	Penalty Timekeeper	i.the name of the player who committed the foul, ii.the type of foul committed, and iii.the time of the foul.	i.the time and period the foul was committed, ii.the team that committed the foul (A or B), and iii.the number of the player.
71 Now Article 70	Substitutions	Substitutes must report to the substitution area prior to the stoppage in play and give their classification cards to the Scorekeeper. Substitutes are not permitted to enter the court directly from the bench. The team that has substituted players must retrieve the classification cards of the substituted players during or immediately after the substitution has occurred.	Substitutes must inform the score table of the substitution and report to the substitution area prior to the stoppage in play. Substitutes are not permitted to enter the court directly from the bench.
90 Now Article 89	Definitions and sanctions	Common Fouls result from an illegal action that is the result of a genuine attempt to play the game. A foul committed by the team that has possession of the ball is A common foul committed by the team that has possession of the ball is referred to as an offensive foul. A common foul committed by the team that does not have possession of the ball is referred to as a defensive foul. The sanction for an offensive common foul is a loss of possession. The sanction for a defensive common foul is a one-minute penalty served by the player who committed the foul. If a defensive common foul is committed when an offensive player is in possession of the ball and in a position to score, the referee may award a penalty try in lieu of the one-minute penalty. A player serving a one-minute penalty, for a common foul, will be released from the penalty box if the opposing team scores a try prior to the end of their penalty, unless a penalty try has been awarded.	Common Fouls result from an illegal action that is the result of a genuine attempt to play the game. A common foul must result in one of the following outcomes: Offensive - A common foul committed by the team in possession of the ball will be sanctioned with a loss of possession. Defensive - A common foul committed by the team not in possession of the ball will be sanctioned with a sixty (60) second penalty served by the player who committed the foul. The player serving the penalty will be released prior to the end of the sixty (60) second period if the opposing team scores a try, unless a penalty try is awarded. If a defensive foul is committed when an offensive player is in possession of the ball and making a clear attempt to score, the referee may award a penalty try in lieu of the sixty (60) second penalty.
91 Now Article 90	Charging foul	A player is not permitted to hit an opponent with excessive speed or force relative to the opponent, risking injury to the opponent.	A player is not permitted to hit an opponent, who is not actively taking part in the play or moving on court, with excessive speed or force relative to the opponent that risks injury to that opponent.
Section 12 Article 100 Now Article 99	Technical, Flagrant and Disqualifying fouls Definition and Sanctions	The sanction for a technical foul charged to a player is a one-minute penalty served by the player who committed the foul. The sanction for a technical foul charged to bench personnel, including the coach, team staff, or substitutes, is a one-minute penalty served by a player on the court chosen by the coach. A player serving a one-minute penalty for a technical foul that is not a disqualifying foul	The sanction for a technical foul charged to a player is a sixty (60) second penalty served by the player who committed the foul. The sanction for a technical foul charged to bench personnel, including the coach, team staff, or substitutes, is a sixty (60) second penalty served by a player on the court chosen by the coach. A player serving a sixty (60) second penalty for a technical foul that is not a disqualifying foul will

ART.	TITLE	OLD TEXT	NEW TEXT
		will be released from the penalty box if the opposing team scores a try, unless a penalty try has been awarded.	be released from the penalty box if the opposing team scores a try, unless a penalty try has been awarded.
101 Now Article 100	Player technical foul		i. Contact with a player, who is in an unstable position as a result of primary contact that was legal.
102 Now Article 101	Bench personnel technical foul	b.Entering the court as a substitute without reporting to the scoring table, presenting a classification card, and waiting for the referee's permission to enter.	b.Entering the court as a substitute without reporting to the scoring table and waiting for the referee's permission to enter. e.Excessive Points – see Article 103.
104 Now Article 103	Excessive points technical foul	<p>The total point value of the players on the court, including the penalty box, cannot exceed the maximum specified in Article 35. If a team is found to be playing with excessive points on the court, a technical foul shall be charged to the last player from that team to have entered the court. If the last player to have entered the court is already serving a penalty, the technical foul shall be charged to the next to last player to have entered the court. If it is impossible to determine which player was the last to enter the court, the technical foul shall be charged to a player on the court chosen by the coach.</p> <p>A coach may make a request to the scorekeeper for a point count of the other team at any time during the game. The scorekeeper will note the time of the request and will inform the referee at the next stoppage in play. If the referee finds that the team has excessive points on the court, the technical foul will be given and the play will be reset to the time when the request was made.</p>	<p>The total point value of the players on the court, including the penalty box, cannot exceed the maximum specified in Article 35. If a team is found to be playing with excessive points on the court, a technical foul shall be charged to the bench.</p> <p>The coach will select a player from the lineup on court to serve the technical foul. When the player is identified, a substitution to correct the error can then be made.</p> <p>A coach may make a request to the scorekeeper for a point count of the other team at any time during the game. The scorekeeper will note the time of the request and will inform the referee at the next stoppage in play. If the referee finds that the team has excessive points on the court, a technical foul will be given and the process listed above will be followed. Play will resume at the point when the request was made.</p>
105 Now Article 104	Flagrant foul	<p>A player may not deliberately commit any foul against an opponent. A flagrant foul is committed when it is clear that a player intent of committing a common foul is to intimidate his opponent.</p> <p>A player who commits a flagrant foul shall be charged with two technical fouls in addition to the common foul. The penalties are served consecutively, beginning with the common foul. If the sanction for the common foul is a loss of possession or a penalty try, the player will begin serving the second of the three one-minute penalty for the first technical foul immediately third.</p> <p>If a player is charged with a second flagrant foul in the same game the player shall be disqualified from the game. The sanction for the disqualification in this situation will be as stated for a flagrant foul.</p>	<p>A player may not deliberately commit any foul against an opponent. A flagrant foul is committed when it is clear that a player has created an unsporting contact with an opponent that extends beyond a legitimate attempt to legally play the ball or the chair. This includes contact that is reckless or demonstrates the intent to intimidate his opponent.</p> <p>A player who commits a flagrant foul shall be charged with three try release penalties. The penalties are served consecutively. If the sanction for the initial foul is a loss of possession, or a penalty try is awarded, the player will begin serving the first penalty, followed immediately by the second.</p> <p>If a player is charged with a second flagrant foul in the same game the player shall be disqualified from the game. The sanction for the disqualification in this situation will be as stated for a flagrant foul. The disqualified player will</p>

ART.	TITLE	OLD TEXT	NEW TEXT
			leave the field of play immediately. The penalties shall be served by a player from the same team selected by the coach. The coach will be allowed to substitute to create a legal line up.
106 Now Article 105	Disqualifying foul	The sanction for a disqualifying foul is a one-minute penalty. This penalty is served for the full minute; the player serving the penalty will not be released from the penalty box if the opposing team scores a try.	The sanction for a disqualifying foul is a sixty (60) second penalty. This penalty is served for the full sixty (60) seconds; the player serving the penalty will not be released from the penalty box if the opposing team scores a try.
Annex B	Score sheet		Updated score sheet attached
Annex C	Penalty sheet		Update penalty sheet attached