

Interpreted February 2021

WWR Casebook

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

worldwheelchair.rugby

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

International Wheelchair Rugby Federation

IWRF Office
4 Park Square,
Newton Chambers Road
Sheffield, England S35 2OH

Telephone:
+44 (0)114 257 3170

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Table of Contents

SECTION 3 EQUIPMENT	4
3.21 UNIFORM	4
3.22 HAND PROTECTION.....	5
SECTION 4 WHEELCHAIR	5
4.29 BUMPER	5
4.30 WINGS.....	6
4.31 COMFORT AND SAFETY.....	6
SECTION 5 TEAMS	6
5.35 CLASSIFICATION.....	6
5.36 ROSTERS	7
5.38 COACHES	7
5.39 TRY AND BENCH SELECTION.....	8
SECTION 6 OFFICIALS	8
6.41 OFFICIALS JURISDICTION.....	8
6.42 CORRECTABLE ERRORS	8
6.44 RESPONSIBILITIES OF REFEREE 1.....	9
SECTION 7 TIMING REGULATIONS	10
7.56 TIME-OUTS.....	10
7.58 EQUIPMENT TIME-OUT	12
7.59 FALLEN PLAYER.....	13
SECTION 8 PLAYING REGULATIONS	14
8.61 TIP-OFF	14
8.62 ALTERNATING POSSESSION.....	15
8.63 LOCATION OF A PERSON	16
8.64 LOCATION OF THE BALL.....	16
8.65 POSSESSION OF THE BALL.....	17
8.66 PLAYING THE BALL	17
8.67 DRIBBLING THE BALL	17
8.68 SCORING.....	18
8.69 THROW-IN.....	18
8.70 SUBSTITUTIONS.....	20
8.71 HELD BALL.....	22
SECTION 9 VIOLATIONS	22
9.733 BACKCOURT VIOLATION	22
9.74 BALL OUT OF BOUNDS VIOLATION	24
9.75 TWELVE SECOND VIOLATION.....	24
9.77 OUT AND IN VIOLATION.....	25
9.78 PHYSICAL ADVANTAGE VIOLATION.....	25
9.80 TEN SECONDS IN THE KEY VIOLATION.....	26
9.81 THROW-IN VIOLATION.....	27
9.83 TIP-OFF VIOLATION	29
9.84 FORTY SECOND CLOCK VIOLATION	29
SECTION 10 PRINCIPLES OF CONTACT	31
10.85 SAFETY	31

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

SECTION 11 COMMON FOULS	31
11.89 DEFINITION AND SANCTIONS	31
11.90 CHARGING FOUL	31
11.91 CONTACT BEFORE THE WHISTLE FOUL	32
11.92 FOUR IN THE KEY FOUL	32
11.93 HOLDING FOUL	33
11.94 LEAVING THE COURT FOUL	33
11.95 PUSHING FOUL	34
11.96 ILLEGAL USE OF THE HANDS FOUL	35
11.97 SPINNING FOUL	35
11.98 ONE-METER FOUL	36
SECTION 12 TECHNICAL, FLAGRANT AND DISQUALIFYING FOULS	36
12.100 PLAYER TECHNICAL FOUL	36
12.101 TECHNICAL FOUL BY BENCH PERSONNEL	38
12.102 EQUIPMENT TECHNICAL FOUL	39
12.103 EXCESSIVE POINTS ON THE COURT	40
12.104 FLAGRANT FOUL	40
12.105 DISQUALIFYING FOUL	41
SECTION 13 PENALTIES	42
13.107 RELEASE FROM THE PENALTY BOX	42

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Case Studies - Interpretations

In the following cases:

- Team A is the offensive team
- Player A1 is the ball carrier
- Team B is the defensive team
- A1 to A4 and B1 to B4 are players on the court
- A5+ and B5+ are substitutes on the bench

SECTION 3 Equipment

3.21 Uniform

Rule: Art 21. On each team, all uniform tops must be of the same colour and shade. Anything worn under the uniform top that is visible must be of the same colour and shade as the dominant colour of the uniform top.

On each team, all uniform bottoms must be of the same colour and shade. The uniform bottom may be a different colour from the uniform top. Anything worn under the uniform bottom that is visible must be of the same colour and shade as the dominant colour of the uniform bottom. On each team, individual players may wear either long or short uniform bottoms.

- 3.21.1 Team A appears on the court wearing red uniform tops and white shirts underneath. Does the referee handle the following scenarios correctly?
- a) Coach B asks for a decision review regarding the undershirts. The referee dismisses the decision review since all players are dressed alike.
 - b) Both coaches accept the white undershirts with the red uniforms, but the referee insists that the undershirts be removed.

Answer:

- a) Incorrect. The undershirt must be the same colour as the dominate colour of the uniform.
- b) Correct. Even though the coaches agree, the undershirts must be removed.

- 3.21.2 Team A appears on the court with shirts that have a colour on the front different from that on the back. Is this uniform legal?

Answer: No. The uniform top must have a dominate colour.

- 3.21.3 For whatever reason, the uniform tops of A2, A4, and B1 bunch up during the game and it is very difficult for the referees to identify the number of the player. Should the referee oblige the respective players and allow them to correct the problem or should they be banned from the game?

Answer: To properly and efficiently administer a game, the numbers of the players must be visible at all times. The referee should give the players a single opportunity to fix their uniform.

- 3.21.4 Team A and Team B wish to wear similarly coloured dark shirts. The referee rules that Team A will choose a contrasting, lighter coloured shirt. Is this decision correct?

Answer: Yes.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

3.21.5 Both teams appear on the court wearing similarly coloured dark shirts. Team A requests that they be allowed to wear the shirts at the expense of a technical foul. Shall the request be granted?

Answer: No. Team A must change to a contrasting light colour.

Rule: Art. 21. All uniform tops shall bear a number between 1-15, 20-25, 30-35, 40-45 and 50-55 inclusive, on the front and back.

3.22 Hand Protection

Rule: Art 22. Players may wear any form of hand protection; however, it cannot include any material that may be hazardous to other players, such as hard or rough material.

3.22.1 After the game has started the coach of Team A notices a player on the court, from Team B, has arm protection with a large buckle. At the next stoppage Team A's coach requests a decision review for equipment. Is the referee correct in granting the request?

Answer: Incorrect. At the stoppage, the referee should provide an equipment time-out and ensure the buckle is well padded prior to resuming play. If the repair cannot be completed within 60 seconds the player must be substituted.

Important Note: The referee should observe potential safety risks and use good game management principles to proactively solve issues that arise related to comfort and safety.

SECTION 4 Wheelchair

Wheelchair Comment: Any new modification cannot be used in competition unless previously reviewed and accepted by the Technical Committee applying these rules.

CLARIFICATION to Wheels/ Casters (Art. 27 b): The castor housing cannot be positioned wider than 2.5 cm from the adjacent position on the mainframe. This measurement is made from the inside edge of the castor housing to the outside edge of the mainframe.

CLARIFICATION to Anti-tip devices (Art. 28): The anti-tip devices are safety features and are not considered a part of the chair for the purpose of identifying a player's location on court, i.e. four in the key, leaving the court, backcourt violation.

CLARIFICATION to Bumper (Art. 29): Any part of the contact area of the bumper cannot be covered with any foreign material.

4.29 Bumper

Important Note: No part of the body (toes, knees) can extend forward ahead of the chair. For safety reasons, the bumper must be the most forward part of the player.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

4.29.1 The most forward projection of A2's chair is fixed into place and he cannot make it conform to the 11 cm. Since he is not a major strength player on the team, and with the approval of both coaches, the referee allows him to play. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. All chair specifications must be met for the chair to be legal.

4.29.2 Player A3 has covered his bumper with a rubber material to increase the friction when in contact with another chair and thus increase his holding power. Is this legal?

Answer: Illegal. (Any covering on a bumper is considered a protrusion)

4.29.3 Player B2 has a plastic covering on his bumper, which does not increase the friction when in contact with another chair but does help to cushion the bumper against hard hitting. Is this legal?

Answer: Illegal. (Any covering on a bumper is considered a protrusion)

4.30 Wings

4.30.1 Any and all parts of the wing cannot be any higher than 20 cm from the ground in height. Is this the correct measurement?

Answer: Incorrect. This is true only for the area that will come into contact with an opponent's chair. The wing itself may be attached to the frame at any angle.

4.31 Comfort and Safety

4.31.1 Player A3 decides to play the game without being strapped into his chair. Is this legal?

Answer: Yes. A player may strap himself into the chair but is not required to. The strap(s) used cannot create any kind of mechanical advantage for the player.

4.31.2 Shall players be permitted to wear earrings, hair clips, finger jewelry, or bracelets while participating?

Answer: No. This equipment could prove to be dangerous to either the player involved or the opponents.

SECTION 5 Teams

5.35 Classification

Rule: Art. 35. If conditions such as injuries or disqualification, result in a Team Being unable to field four players while respecting the maximum classification point value, the team shall be permitted to field three players. In this case, the sum of the classification points of the players on the court must be less than 8.

5.35.1 Team A loses their 1.0 player to injury. Team A is unable to field four players and meet the 8-point count. The referees allow Team A to continue with only three players on court as long as the point count doesn't exceed 7.5.

Answer: Correct ruling. The team must start with four players, but after that can play with three if circumstances force them to.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

5.36 Rosters

Rule: Art 36. 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 minutes mark except in the case of a medical issue ore equipment failure.

Each team must begin the game with four players on the court. Only players who are listed on this roster shall be permitted to play. Substitutes who arrive late to the game may play if their names appear on the roster.

- 5.36.1 How do you handle the following scenarios? A5 wishes to substitute for A3, but his name does not appear on the score sheet:
- a) nor on the list (roster) provided by the coach.
 - b) but does appear on the list (roster) provided by the coach.

Answer:

- a) Since the player's name does not appear on the coach's list (roster), the fault lies with the coach, and the player cannot be permitted to play.
- b) Since A5 is on the original list (roster), the player should be allowed to play after the coach receives a technical foul for the administrative error on the score sheet.

- 5.36.2 Coach A intends to match Team B's starting line-up and insists that Coach B indicate the four starting players at the same time he does. Is Coach A permitted to see Coach B's starting line up before submitting his?

Answer: Both coaches are obliged to give their line-up 10 minutes before the game; however, Coach A must be the first to indicate the four starting players.

5.38 Coaches

- 5.38.1 Playing Coach A4 is assessed a disqualifying foul. May A4 continue to act as coach?

Answer: No. He must be removed from the facility and an assistant coach shall replace him.

- 5.38.2 Coach A is disqualified. Team A doesn't have an assistant coach to replace Coach A. Shall Team A continue without a recognized coach?

Answer: No. In this situation the team captain shall assume the responsibility of coach, relative to the calling of time-outs, assessment of technical fouls, etc.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

5.39 Try and Bench Selection

5.39.1 During warm-up, the home team selects the bench on the right side of the court. They begin to warm up on their side of the court. At the tip-off the players in the center circle set up facing the incorrect try line and it is not notice until after the ball is live. What should the official do?

Answer: In the event that play starts with teams lining up going the wrong way, play shall be permitted to continue, and the direction of attack is maintained until the end of the second period.

SECTION 6 Officials

6.41 Officials Jurisdiction

6.41.1 Both teams are warming up 10 minutes prior to a championship game. Something provokes A4 (class 3.0) who swears at B3 (class 0.5). B3 retaliates and pushes A4. A fight breaks out between them but is quickly broken up by other players.

- The referee gives both players a reprimand but not much more since the game has not yet officially started. Is this correct?
- Coach A protests the referee's decision to disqualify both players, because the game has not yet officially started. Is this correct?

Answer:

- Incorrect. Both players should be disqualified for fighting.
- Incorrect. The coach may protest but it is well within the referee's authority to disqualify the players. The referees' authority begins when they arrive on the court.

6.42 Correctable Errors

Rule: Art 42. An error in game administration may be corrected under the following circumstances:

The error must be one of administration, such as applying an incorrect sanction or failing to start or stop the game clock or forty second clock appropriately. Errors in judgment or interpretation by the referees are not subject to correction.

A request for correction must be made by a coach or team captain before the ball becomes live after the next stoppage in play following the error.

The request must be made to the Scorekeeper, who should immediately note it and inform the referees at the next stoppage in play.

If Referee 1 decides that a correctable error has occurred, everything that took place after the error is nullified and play is resumed from the point at which the error occurred. The clock and score shall be reset to the point where the error occurred.

6.42.1 After the ball has been inbounded by Team A the referee notices that the game/ forty second clock has not started. What is the procedure if:

- Team A is still in possession of the ball?
- If the inbound pass is immediately intercepted by Team B?

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Answer:

- a) Play goes back to the original inbound spot on the sideline and game/ forty second clocks are reset to the original times and possession remains with Team A.
- b) The inbound is awarded to Team B at the original inbound spot on sideline with the game/ forty second clocks reset to the original times.

6.42.2 After the ball has been inbounded by Team A, the referee calls a foul. At that point, the referee realizes the clock and forty second clock did not start and sanctions the foul but does not change time. Is this correct if the foul is:

- a) An offensive foul called on A1?
- b) A defensive foul called on B2?

Answer:

- a) No. This is a correctable error and play goes back to the point of the inbound, no penalty is sanctioned.
- b) No. This is a correctable error and play goes back to the point of the inbound, no penalty is sanctioned.

6.42.3 After A2 just committed a flagrant foul it was discovered that the forty second clock had not started and therefore a correctable error occurred. Is the referee correct to go back to the play when the error occurred and take back/ erase the flagrant foul?

Answer: Yes

6.42.4 After A2 commits a disqualifying foul it is discovered that the forty second clock did not start; the coach identifies that a correctable error has occurred. Is the referee correct to go back to the play when the error occurred and erase the disqualifying foul?

Answer: No. The error should be corrected but the disqualifying foul will stand

6.44 Responsibilities of Referee 1

6.44.1 Excessive noise or mechanical difficulty prevents the referees from hearing the horn that signals the end of a period. In the confusion a try is scored. What is the proper procedure for the referees to follow?

Answer: The referees shall attempt to decide if the try was scored before the horn was sounded (or should have sounded). They can consult with the table officials and the Game Commissioner (if present). After all consultation the referee must make the final decision.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

SECTION 7 Timing Regulations

Statement: Following the warning to resume play, players shall be given time to position themselves. If a referee judges that a player or players are delaying, play shall resume as follows:

If the team taking the throw-in is delaying, the referee will begin the throw-in procedure at the appropriate point, placing the ball on the floor. If the in-bounding player takes his position before a violation of the throw-in occurs, the referee shall place the ball at his disposal and continue the ten-second count.

If the team not taking the throw-in is late, the referee shall give the ball to the other team for the throw-in and play shall resume.

7.56 Time-outs

7.56.1 Team B ignores the referee's warning that Team A's time-out is over. The referee gives the ball to A1 for the throw-in. Team A scores before Team B comes back to the court. Did the referee follow proper procedure?

Answer: Yes.

7.56.2 The coach from Team A requests and is granted a time-out. The team proceeds to their bench area. After 13 seconds the players from Team A get in position and inform the referee that they are ready to resume play. The referee resumes play without informing Team B that the time-out has ended. Is the referee's procedure correct?

Answer: Incorrect. It is the referee's responsibility to make sure both teams are informed that the time-out has ended. If the teams respond to the referee's warning and are returning onto the court, all players must be given adequate time (without delay) to position themselves.

7.56.3 Team A does not respond to the referee's warning that the time-out is over. The referee places the ball on the floor at the spot of the inbound and begins the ten second count. After 6 seconds, Team A comes onto the court. The referee suspends the ten second count and begins a new count after placing the ball at the disposal of A1 for the throw-in. Is the referee correct?

Answer: No. In this case, placing the ball at the disposal of the player does not start a new count. The referee should simply continue the count that is in progress.

Rule: Art. 56. During a time-out, players may remain on the court or return to their bench. Coaches and team staff may not enter the court during a time-out; if players require assistance or wish to converse with a coach or team staff, they must return to their bench.

7.56.4 During a time-out, are bench personnel allowed bring water on the court for the players?

Answer: No. Any player must go to the bench area to receive any assistance unless he is otherwise incapable.

7.56.5 The ball has been put at the disposal of Team A to inbound. B2 is out of position and requests a time-out. Since the ball has not been released, should the referee stop the play and grant the time-out?

Answer: No. The ball is live and Team B does not have possession of the ball.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

7.56.6 Team A coach requests a time-out but only if Team A scores a try. Shall this request be granted?

Answer: No. Coach A does not have the right to place a condition on the granting of a time-out. If a time-out is requested it must be taken at the next opportunity, regardless of the situation.

7.56.7 A1 is in his backcourt and the count for advancing the ball is up to 10 when B1 taps the ball away. A3 notices this and quickly calls a time-out to avoid the time count violation. Since the defense tapped the ball, the referee grants the time-out. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. No player had possession of the ball so the time-out request should be ignored. If the referee blew his whistle to stop play, then a technical foul should be assessed to the offensive team. Player A3 serves penalty while Team A inbounds from the sideline.

7.56.8 Coach A requests a 60 second time-out from the Scorekeeper knowing very well that he has no time-outs remaining. Should the Scorekeeper grant the request?

Answer: No. If the coach insists after he is properly informed by the Scorekeeper as well as the Game Commissioner, to obtain a stoppage in play, he is penalized with a technical foul.

7.56.9 Team A was properly informed on the occasion of their last time-out charged. Subsequently A2 requests a time-out during a live ball. Does the referee handle the following situations correctly?

- a) The referee realizes that Team A has no time-outs remaining, refuses the request, and motions for play to continue.
- b) The referee automatically stops the play to grant the request then realizes that Team A has no time-outs remaining. At this point, he awards the ball to Team B to inbound from the sideline.

Answer:

- a) Incorrect. The referee should call the timeout and sanction the call by awarding the ball to Team B at the sideline.
- b) Correct. The proper process was followed.

7.56.10 A1 is in the process of scoring with 20 seconds left to the end of the period (game). B2 calls for a time-out to stop the clock; the referee acknowledges the request and stops the game. What is the correct procedure?

Answer: B2 receives a technical foul. Team A starts the game with throw-in from sideline and the forty second clock shall be switched off.

7.56.11 Team A calls and is awarded a time-out. They head to their bench and Team B sets up around Team A and their bench. Is this acceptable?

Answer: No. Team B (not using timeout) must leave quarter of court in front of Team A bench clear.

7.56.12 Team A is playing with a coach that is also a player on the court. The player/coach asks for a 60 second time-out during a dead ball. The referee grants the request for the 60 second time-out. Is this correct?

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Answer: Incorrect. A player, that is also the coach on the court, must ask the assistant coach or a designated bench person to request the 60 second time-out. 60 second time-outs can only be requested through the score table.

7.56.13 A3 is in the penalty box. As Team A attempts to advance the ball to the frontcourt, A3 calls a time-out as only seconds remain before a 12 second backcourt violation. Should the referee ignore the time-out request as the player making the request is in the penalty box?

Answer: Yes. A3 is in a suspended state of play as a player in the penalty box and cannot be allowed to assist with any on court procedure.

Rule: Art. 56. A time-out requested by a player when the ball is live will be granted only if the player making the request, or a teammate of that player, has possession of the ball. The ball must not be in contact with the floor or with a player from the opposing team.

7.56.14 The referee is ready to inbound and no offensive player has been identified. The referee places the ball on the ground and blows his whistle, making the ball live. Player A2 is picked and cannot get to the spot to inbound. A2 calls for a time-out and it is granted. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct

7.58 Equipment time-out

Rule: Art. 58. If any part of a player's wheelchair or equipment malfunctions, becomes damaged, or requires some adjustment, he may request a stoppage in play. The referee will grant the stoppage as follows:

- a) If the equipment problem is placing anyone in danger, the referee shall stop play immediately.
- b) If there is no danger and the player is mobile, the referee shall stop play at the next stoppage in play.
- c) If there is no danger, the player is immobile, and the offensive team is not in a scoring position, the referee shall stop play immediately.
- d) If there is no danger, the player is immobile, and the offensive team is in a scoring position, the referee shall stop the play as soon as the current scoring opportunity has ended.

7.58.1 B2 tips a pass from A1 to A2. The ball is picked up by Team B who counter attacks. The foot strap of A1 comes loose but poses no problem. A1 urgently calls for an equipment check. The referee stops the play and nullifies a possible breakaway by Team B. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect call. The referee should evaluate every request for equipment checks, much like any situation involving a fallen player.

Game management advice: In this case the referee could give a warning to A1 (unsportsmanlike behavior) but shouldn't call a technical foul as he didn't check the situation correctly before he blew the whistle.

7.58.2 A1 has the ball in Team A's backcourt. B1 legally hits A1 and as a result of the hit, A1 becomes stuck on the bumper of B1. A1 looks to pass then asks for an equipment time-out. The lead official ignores the request as there is no damage to equipment and the players are not in danger. The trail official calls a 12 second backcourt violation. Is this correct?

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Answer: No. A1 was stuck and unable to move/ control his chair and there was no scoring opportunity. The referee should grant the equipment.

7.58.3 A2 legally hits B1 in Team A's frontcourt. As a result of the hit, A2 and B1 are hooked on each other's bumper. A2 asks for an equipment time-out as A1 is attempting to score. The referee denies the equipment. After the try, A2 and B1 free themselves. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes. There was an imminent scoring opportunity and players were not in danger.

7.58.4 A1 inbounds the ball to A2 after a try by Team B. A2 is legally hit on the side by B1. A2 and B1 become hooked together. A2 completes a pass to A3 who attempts a fast break to the try line. After the try is scored, the referee calls equipment and allows the equipment staff on the court to separate the two chairs. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes. There was an imminent scoring opportunity and players were not in danger.

7.59 Fallen Player

Rule: Art. 59. A fallen player is one who is in a position where he is no longer able to move his wheelchair as a result of a fall. As a fallen player may not return to play by his own effort, play must be stopped at the first possible opportunity. The referee will stop the play as follows:

- a) If the offensive team is not in a scoring position, the referee shall stop play immediately.
- b) If the fallen player is in danger or is injured, the referee shall stop play immediately.
- c) If the fallen player is in a position that interferes with the play, the referee shall stop play immediately.
- d) If the offensive team is in a scoring position, there is no danger or injury, and the fallen player is not in a position that interferes with the play, referee shall stop the play as soon as the current scoring opportunity has ended.

7.59.1 B2 makes contact with A2 at mid court. A2 falls out of the chair and appears to be uninjured. A1 negates the opportunity to score and the referee whistles the play dead. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct. Delayed play by the offensive team is a condition for stopping the game when a player is down.

7.59.2 A1 is ahead of the play and on the way to score. B2 is hit and falls out of his chair, behind the play:
a) In moving traffic, should the referee allow A1 to continue his scoring opportunity?
b) Among stationary players, should the referee allow A1 to continue his scoring attempt.

Answer:

- a) No. The referee must protect the fallen player and should stop the play immediately.
- b) Yes. The referee should evaluate the situation and most likely allow A1 to score before stopping the play.

7.59.3 A1 and B1 are heading towards the try line making contact. A1 scores a try, B1 falls over (no foul, legal contact). The game is stopped for the fallen player and the referee allows a substitution for Team A that has been correctly requested at the table. Is this correct?

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Answer: Correct. Substitutions are allowed when play is stopped for a fallen player.

7.59.4 After A1 scored a try, B1 deliberately falls out of his chair onto the floor. The game is stopped for the fallen player. The referee allows a substitution for Team B that has been correctly requested at the table. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. Intentionally delaying play by the offensive team should be addressed with a technical foul to the player. The fallen player is still a condition for stopping the game, therefore a substitution is permitted, after the technical foul is administered.

SECTION 8 Playing Regulations

Important Note: An awareness of the "principle of advantage/ disadvantage" shall apply to judging violations in the same way it applies to judging fouls. See Art. 88.

8.61 Tip-off

8.61.1 During the tip-off, all players, except the players in the center circle, are required to remain stationary until the referee blows the whistle to indicate the start of legal contact.

Answer: Incorrect. They must only avoid advantageous contact and remain out of the center circle.

Rule: Art. 61. Players outside the circle who are on the same team may not occupy adjacent positions around the circle if an opposing player requests one of the positions.

8.61.2 Coach A suspect's Team B will win the tip-off and so instructs A2 and A3 to quickly occupy adjacent positions around the circle to defend their try line. B1 wishes to position himself between them but A2 and A3 refuse. Is the referee correct to oblige B1 and let him between A2 and A3?

Answer: Yes. Alternate positions around the circle are reserved for opposing players during a tip-off.

Rule: Art. 61. To administer the tip-off, Referee 1 shall blow his whistle to indicate the start of legal contact and then enter the center circle. He shall toss the ball vertically between the centers so that it reaches a height greater than either of them can reach and then drops between them. After the ball has reached its highest point, it must be touched at least once by at least one of the centers before it touches the floor.

8.61.3 During the tip-off, A1 and B1 tap the ball several times and then the ball bounces off the floor. Before any other player can get to the ball A1 picks it up and pushes towards the try line. Is the referee correct to stop the play and retake the tip-off?

Answer: No. If the ball has been tapped legally by either center, once it touches the floor, anyone can take possession.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

8.62 Alternating Possession

Important statement: Once a throw-in is awarded due to the alternating process, the possession arrow is changed when the ball is legally inbounded. If an infraction of the rules occurs before the conclusion of the throw-in, it shall be sanctioned according to the rules of the game, and it shall have no effect on the possession arrow.

The alternating-possession procedure is a method of putting the ball in play with a throw-in rather than a tip-off. The designated spot for the throw-in shall be on the sideline opposite the scoring table and nearest to the location of the ball at the time of the infraction. The arrow is always changed **AFTER** the inbound – even if other infractions occur.

8.62.1 A held ball is called and according to the possession arrow, Team A is awarded a throw-in. A1 commits a violation, i.e. 10 sec. to execute a throw-in; bounces the ball out-of-bounds on the throw-in. Does the arrow still change to show Team B possessing the ball next?

Answer: Yes. Team B is awarded the throw-in and the next possession goes to Team B as stipulated by the alternating process.

8.62.2 A held ball is called and according to the possession arrow, Team A is awarded a throw-in. How do you sanction calls when prior to the throw-in:
a) A2 commits a one-meter foul?
b) B1 commits a one-meter foul?

Answer:

- a) Team B is awarded a throw-in because of A2's violation, and Team B gets the next possession.
- b) B1 is charged with a foul and is placed in the penalty box. Team A is awarded a throw-in and Team B gets the next possession.

8.62.3 On the opening tip-off, center A3 taps the ball out of bounds. How should the referee handle the situation?
a) The referee declares the tip-off void and restarts the tip-off.
b) Team B is awarded a throw-in and Team A receives the first possession in the alternating process.

Answer:

- a) Incorrect. The tip-off is re-done only when it is not clear who committed this violation.
- b) Correct. The team not gaining possession on a tip-off shall start the alternating process. The inbound should occur at the sideline opposite the scoring table, in the backcourt and nearest to the centerline.

8.62.4 On the opening tip-off, center A3 taps the ball out of bounds. The referee declares the tip-off void and restarts the tip-off. The game clock is reset to 8:00. Is this correct?

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Answer: Incorrect. Even though the ball will be re-tipped, the game clock should reflect the time that has already elapsed.

Rule: Art 63. The location of a person is determined by the point of contact between that person and the floor. If any part of a person is in contact with an out-of-bounds area, the person is considered to be out of bounds. If a person who is in one part of the court makes contact with another part of the court, he is considered to be in the new part of the court.

8.63 Location of a Person

8.63.1 In an attempt to save the ball from rolling out-of-bounds, A2 taps the ball back towards the middle of the court before touching the sideline. A2's momentum carries him out of bounds. What call should the referee make?

Answer: No call. No violation has occurred.

8.63.2 In an attempt to save the ball from rolling out-of-bounds, A2 taps the ball back towards the middle of the court before touching the sideline. A2's momentum carries him out of bounds. A2 legally returns to the court and is the first player to touch the ball. The referee does not make a call. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes. No violation occurred as A2 played the ball ONLY when he was a legal player on the court.

8.63.3 Player A1, while advancing to the frontcourt, touches the center line with a front caster and returns to the backcourt. Is the referee correct to call a backcourt violation?

Answer: Incorrect. The center line is part of the backcourt; since A1 never crossed the line, he never entered the frontcourt.

8.63.4 Player A1 is in the key and loses balance, falling over the try line, but places his hands over the try line and regains balance. The referee charges this player with a foul for leaving the court between the posts. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct. Any part of the player contacting out of bounds between the posts is regarded as locating the player out of bounds/ leaving the court.

Rule: Art. 64. The location of the ball is determined by its point of contact with the floor or with a person. When the ball is not in contact with the floor or with a person, its location is determined by its last point of contact.

8.64 Location of the Ball

8.64.1 Team A is close to a 12 second violation. A1 throws the ball to the frontcourt. The referee calls the 12 seconds when the ball is in the air above the frontcourt. He takes the inbound where the ball was in the air. Is he right to do so?

Answer: No. The inbound must be taken from where the ball was last contacted.

8.64.2 A2 passes the ball near the sideline. The ball glances off the referee who is straddling the sideline. The ball returns to the court. Should the referee allow play to continue?

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Answer: No. The referee is located out of bounds. The ball is awarded to Team B on the sideline at the point it contacted the referee.

8.65 Possession of the Ball

Rules: Art. 65. A player has possession of the ball when:

- a) He holds the ball in his hands or secured on his lap or against any part of his body or wheelchair, and the ball is not in contact with the floor
- b) He has a hand or hands firmly on the ball thus preventing an opponent from having free and easy movement of the ball
- c) He is given the ball to execute a throw-in (Art. 70)
- d) He voluntarily accepts a live ball (Art. 55) or
- e) He is in the act of dribbling the ball (Art. 68).

8.65.1 A1 is chasing the ball that is rolling towards the offensive try line. Before he crosses the try line, he traps the ball against the wheel and crosses the try line, while the ball is held against the wheel and off the floor. The referee signals no try, because he did not get the ball onto his lap before crossing the try line. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. Trapping the ball against the wheel established possession.

8.66 Playing the Ball

8.66.1 A1 is carrying the ball on his lap. When B1 attempts to take the ball away, A1 leans his upper body on the ball to protect it. The referee calls A1 for a violation for not exposing 75% of the ball. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. A player may protect the ball with any part of his body when an opponent challenges him for possession of the ball. However, he must reposition the ball (to expose 75%) if it has been pressed deep between the legs. This must be done within a reasonable delay.

8.66.2 Player A3 is an amputee and has full function of his stumps. He uses them to hold the ball. Is this play legal or illegal?

Answer: Legal play.

8.67 Dribbling the Ball

8.67.1 A1 gets blocked and cannot move with the ball. He has not dribbled for 8 seconds. He touches the ball to the floor while maintaining contact with his hand. The referee suspends the 10 second dribble count and starts a new 10 second count. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. The ball must be dropped to the floor to be considered a dribble.

8.67.2 A1 is at a 5-second count without a dribble. B1 knocks the ball off his lap. While the ball is on the floor, 7 more seconds elapse. A1 then regains possession of the ball and advances without a dribble. Has he committed a dribbling violation?

Answer: No. There is a loss of player possession between the dribbles; therefore, he is entitled to a new 10 second count.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

8.67.3 The trail official makes a call on A1 for a 10 second no dribble violation. The lead official in fact noticed that A1 had indeed dribbled within the 10 second time frame and discusses the matter with the trail official. The decision is made to allow Team A to retain possession of the ball with an inbound at the nearest sideline as well as a reset of the forty second clock. Did the officials follow the correct procedure?

Answer: Yes. If the referees conclude that A2 definitively dribbled the ball within 10 seconds, the call is considered an inadvertent whistle. Team A should retain possession and the forty second clock is reset.

Important note: If it is not conclusive that A1 dribbled within 10 seconds, the call stands, and the ball is placed at the disposal of Team B.

8.68 Scoring

Rule: Art. 69. A try is scored when a player in possession of the ball has two wheels touching the out-of-bounds area across the opposing team's try line, between the two posts marking the ends of the try line. The player must have possession of the ball before either wheel crosses the try line.

If the ball is rolling off a player, it is not secured (Art. 66) and therefore the player does not have possession.

8.68.1 A1 crosses the try line while juggling the ball passed to him by A3. Since the ball did not hit the ground. The referee awards the try. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. For a player to score, he must gain possession of the ball before crossing the try line.

8.68.2 A1 crosses the try line with first one rear wheel and one anti-tip device. The referee awards the try. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. A player cannot make a try with the anti-tip devices.

Rule: Art. 69. Throw-ins shall take place at the following locations:

- a) After a try: at a point on the end line chosen by the in-bounder.
- b) After a violation, except for a violation of the tip-off: at a point on the sideline nearest to the location of the ball when the violation occurred.
- c) After a violation of the tip-off: at a point on the sideline opposite the scoring table, in the backcourt and nearest to the centreline.
- d) After a foul: at a point on the sideline nearest to the location of the ball when the foul occurred.

8.69 Throw-in

8.69.1 A1 has just scored a try. B3, after receiving the ball from the referee for the throw-in, decides to change location on the end line to make the throw-in. The referee makes no call and allows play to continue. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct.

8.69.2 While attempting a throw-in from the end line, A1 commits a violation (example: taking longer than 10 seconds to inbound the ball) and turns over the ball. Where shall the resulting throw-in be taken by the opposing team?

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Answer: On the sideline closest to the location of the ball where the violation was committed.

8.69.3 A2 and A4 set a trap on B3 who is in the penalty box. A1 scores a try. B3 indicates that he will be the player who will inbound the ball. To get to the end line B3 wheels down the sideline before entering the court to get to the end line. Is this allowed?

Answer: Yes. As B3 is inbounding the ball he gains no advantage by wheeling around the trap.

8.69.4 The referee is about to hand the ball to A1 to inbound after a try has been scored. Captain of Team B protests that Team B hasn't had time to set its defensive position. Shall the referee delay placing the ball at A1's disposal until Team B is prepared to play?

Answer: No. The proper procedure is to resume play as quickly as possible.

Important Note: Once a player identifies himself as the in-bounder, he must inbound the ball.

8.69.5 A1 is in position for the throw-in and has yet to receive the ball, and A2 asks to be the in-bounder. Should the referee ignore the request?

Answer: No. Any player may identify themselves as the in-bounder prior to the referee placing the ball at the disposal of the in-bounder.

8.69.6 B3 is in the penalty box. A2 and A3 set up to trap B3 as he comes out of the box after the penalty. A1 scores and B4 sets up for the inbound and is given the ball by the referee. Is this correct if:

- B3 had declared himself before the other team scored?
- B3 attempted to beat the trap but declared himself the in-bounder after B4 is in position for the throw-in and before the ball is administered by the referee?

Answer:

- Correct. The request was made before try and therefore before B4 set up for the throw-in.
- Correct. The request was made before the ball was placed at the disposal of B4.

8.69.7 Player A1 indicates that he is the in-bounder. Instead of progressing directly to the inbound position, A1 delays to allow his team to get into position. The referee blows his whistle and places the ball on the ground to begin the 10 second count. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct. Players who identify themselves as an in-bounder must proceed directly to the inbound point.

8.69.8 On a sideline inbound, the referee places the ball on the ground to begin the 10 second count as no player from Team A has arrived to inbound the ball. A1 wheels off the court at the sideline and picks up the ball to inbound. Should the referee allow play to continue?

Answer: Yes. The referee should continue the 10 second inbound count.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

- 8.69.9 The referee places the ball on the ground to begin the 10 second count as no player from Team A has arrived to inbound the ball. A1 wheels off the court on the end line and picks up the ball. What is the call if the inbound spot is:
- a) on the end line (after a try)?
 - b) on the sideline?

Answer:

- a) No call. No advantage is gained
- b) Leaving the court.

- 8.69.10 A3 is being trapped by B2 and B3. A3 declares himself as the in-bounder to avoid the trap. As A3 proceeds to the inbound location, A4 requests an equipment time-out. The referee grants the equipment time-out. Upon completion of the equipment time-out, A4 proceeds to and is granted the inbound. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. A3 must be required to inbound the ball as he was removed from an advantage situation, being trapped by B2 and B3, by requesting to be the in-bounder.

8.70 Substitutions

Rule: Art. 70 Either team may substitute any number of players after a stoppage in play, except after a try has been scored. If there is an additional stoppage after the try, substitutions may be made.

- 8.70.1 Team A requests a substitution. The score bench notifies the referees at the next opportunity and the referee beckons the substitutes onto the court. The substitutes enter the court before the players being substituted leave the court. Is this legal?

Answer: Yes. As soon as the referee beckons the substitutes onto the court, they may enter the court.

- 8.70.2 Team A request a substitution. Before the next stoppage in play the request is withdrawn. At the next stoppage in play the referee insists the substitution must take place. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. The request was withdrawn before a stoppage in play so there is no substitution for the referee to administer.

- 8.70.3 Team A request a substitution, players A5 and A6 are checked in at the table and sitting in the substitution area. At the next dead ball, the table buzzes for substitutions and players A5 and A6 enter the court. Neither official signaled for substitutions. Having been previously warned that substitutes may not enter the court until called on, Referee 1 issues a technical foul to Team A. The coach for Team A selects a player on the court to serve the penalty and players A5 and A6 remain in the game. Is this the correct procedure?

Answer: Incorrect. While the technical foul was correctly assessed, players A5 and A6 should be recalled to the bench as they are illegally on the court. The coach should select a player from the four players on the court prior to the substitution. Once the penalty is assessed, players can then substitute.

- 8.70.4 After A1 scores, B3 hits A1 and is flipped out of his chair. The referee calls a flagrant foul on B3. The foul is offensive and results in a turnover. A5 is on the sideline and wishes to substitute for A3. Do you allow the substitution?

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Answer: Yes. The try had already occurred. The additional stoppage was created by the flagrant foul.

8.70.5 During the half time break, teams A and B indicate they will make substitutions. The referee blows his whistle and calls for subs. Is this the correct procedure?

Answer: No. During the quarter time and half-time breaks, the referee does not need to blow his whistle and indicate substitutions.

8.70.6 Player B2 requests a substitution, reports to the substitute waiting area and requests to substitute for B3. Prior to the next opportunity for the substitution, B3 is placed in the penalty box. B2 leaves the substitution waiting box area, as the player he was looking to replace, B3, is not eligible to substitute. Is this the correct procedure?

Answer: Yes. It is the responsibility of the player/coach to manage the use of the substitute waiting area. If a player(s) is unable to substitute, they must remove themselves from the substitute waiting area to indicate the inability to substitute.

8.70.7 Team A requests a substitution for 2 players. After the players have entered the field of play, and the ball becomes live, it is identified that Team A is over the classification point limit. What is the correct procedure?

- a) When the Scorekeeper identifies the points error?
- b) When the coach of Team B identifies the possible error?

Answer:

- a) Once the Scorekeeper verifies the excessive points, the official will be notified, and Team A's coach is charged with a technical foul. The coach of Team A must first identify a player to serve the technical foul and then identify a substitute to correct the points.
- b) The request must be made to the Scorekeeper to check the point values on court. Once the Scorekeeper verifies the excessive point's error, the official will be notified and the coach of Team A is charged with a technical foul. The coach of Team A must first identify a player to serve the technical foul and then identify a substitute to correct the points. If it is determined that Team A is not in violation of excessive points, the official will be notified, and the coach of Team B is charged with a technical foul.

The responsibility to ensure a legal lineup rests with the coach at all times. Prior to the ball becoming live, preventive officiating principles will be applied when possible.

8.70.8 Team A requests a substitution for 2 players. After arriving in the substitution waiting area, but prior to entering the field of play, the Scorekeeper identifies that Team A is over the classification points limit. The Scorekeeper alerts the player/coach of Team A to correct the substitution. Is the Scorekeeper correct?

Answer: Yes. As this is a preventive measure, Team A is not assessed a technical foul.

Rule: Art. 71. A held ball occurs when:

- a) two or more opposing players have possession of the ball at the same time (Article 66)
- b) two or more opposing players simultaneously cause the ball to go out-of- bounds or
- c) a live ball becomes stuck between two or more opposing players' wheelchairs, or a live ball becomes trapped under a wheelchair.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

8.71 Held Ball

8.71.1 A1 is carrying the ball on his lap with one hand. B2 reaches in and contacts the ball. A1 protects the ball and continues to make a pass. The referee blows the whistle for a held ball. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. Contact of the ball by two opponents must be such that neither player has easy freedom of movement with the ball.

8.71.2 A2 chases a ball rolling towards the sideline, uncontested. The nearest defender is 5 meters away. In attempting to pick up the ball, he rolls over it and it is momentarily trapped under the chair. He rocks back and forth and frees the ball before any defender gets close enough to contest the ball. The referee immediately stops the play and indicates a held ball. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. Unless possession for the ball is contested, a player should be given the opportunity to free a trapped ball.

8.71.3 A1 is wheeling towards the try line and is about to score. B4 in an attempt to prevent the try reaches around A1 and manages to get a hand on the ball without contacting A1. A1 continues over the try line while B4 has a hand on the ball. Should the referee call a held ball or award a try?

Answer: Award a try. Even though B4 has a hand on the ball he has not prevented A1 from possessing the ball and scoring a try.

8.71.4 A2 and B3 are contesting possession of the ball. Neither player is able to gain possession, but as they are jostling for ball possession B3 crosses the sideline. The referee calls a held ball. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. Player B3 is out of court and therefore places the ball out of court. Throw-in to Team A.

SECTION 9 Violations

9.73 Backcourt violation

Rule: Art. 73. All of the following conditions must exist for a backcourt violation to occur:

- a) A team must have possession of the ball in their frontcourt.
- b) A player on that team must be the last player to touch the ball before it enters the backcourt.
- c) The ball must enter the backcourt.
- d) A player on that team must be the first player to touch the ball after it enters the backcourt.

9.73.1 A1 has two wheels in the frontcourt and two in the backcourt and then passes to A3 who also has two wheels in the frontcourt and two in the backcourt. The referee blows a backcourt violation. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct. The ball, while in possession of A1, is in the frontcourt. When it is passed to A3, the location of the ball changes because A3 is viewed as anyone or anything touching the backcourt (see Art. 9).

9.73.2 A1 is stationary and has two wheels in the frontcourt and two in the backcourt. What is the call when A1 bounces the ball in the:

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

- a) Frontcourt?
- b) Backcourt?

Answer: Violation for both a and b (see Art. 9).

- 9.73.3 A1 is advancing the ball to the frontcourt. As A1 crosses the center line he bounces the ball in the:
- a) Frontcourt. Is this a violation?
 - b) Backcourt. Is this a violation?

Answer: No. There is no violation in either scenario, as A1 is advancing the ball to the frontcourt.

- 9.73.4 A1, in the backcourt, attempts a pass to A3 but the ball strikes the referee who is standing in the frontcourt, and returns to A1. Should the referee call a backcourt violation?

Answer: Yes. When the ball struck the referee, it entered the frontcourt. All four conditions required for a backcourt violation are present.

- 9.73.5 Team A has possession of the ball in the frontcourt. B2 tips a pass and the ball rolls into the backcourt. A1 wheels and recovers the ball first. Should the referee allow the play to continue?

Answer: Yes. Since a defensive player last touched the ball in the offensive zone, no backcourt violation can occur.

- 9.73.6 A1 is straddling the center line with two wheels in the frontcourt and two in the backcourt. When pressured by two opponents, he passes the ball to A4 in the backcourt. What call should the referee make?

Answer: This is a backcourt violation as all conditions for the violation have been met.

- 9.73.7 A1 straddles the center line with two wheels in the frontcourt and two in the backcourt. In his attempts to protect the ball, one of the wheels in the frontcourt rolls into the backcourt. The referee chooses to ignore the situation. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. When any part of a player contacts a new part of the court, he is said to be in that new part of the court and a backcourt violation should have been called.

- 9.73.8 A1 straddles the center line with two wheels in the frontcourt and two in the backcourt. In his attempts to protect the ball, his chair rolls backwards. Neither castor touches the center line. The referee chooses to ignore the situation. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct. A1 has not left the frontcourt so no violation has occurred.

- 9.73.9 A1 straddles the center line with the front wheels in the frontcourt and with the back wheels in the backcourt. In an attempt to pass the ball to A2 who is in the frontcourt he leans back on his anti-tip and lifts up his front wheels. What call should the referee make?

Answer: Backcourt violation. As soon as A1 loses contact with the frontcourt, he has returned to the backcourt and is penalized accordingly.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

9.73.10 A1 straddles the center line with the front wheels in the frontcourt and with the back wheels in the backcourt. Team A has team control and while attempting to secure a loose ball, A1 does not cleanly secure the ball (bobbles) from the floor. Is this a violation?

Answer: Violation. As soon as A1 loses contact with the ball, he has returned to the backcourt and is penalized accordingly.

9.73.11 B1 straddles the center line with the front wheels in the frontcourt and with the back wheels in the backcourt. Team A has team control and while attempting to secure a loose ball, B1 does not cleanly secure the ball (bobbles) from the floor. Is this a violation?

Answer: No violation since team control was with Team A.

9.74 Ball out of bounds violation

Rule: Art. 74. The last player to have touched the ball before it goes out-of-bounds is charged with this violation. The sole exception is if a referee judges that another player intentionally caused the ball to go out-of-bounds by bouncing it off the last player. In that case, the player who intentionally caused the ball to go out-of-bounds shall be charged with the violation.

9.74.1 A1 has the ball for a throw-in. A1 deliberately throws the ball off the back of B3. Before anybody can retrieve the ball, it rolls out of bounds. The referee awards the ball to Team B out of bounds where the ball crossed the line. Is this the correct ruling?

Answer: Yes. If the ball is deliberately thrown off an opponent and goes out of bounds it is awarded to the opposing team.

9.75 Twelve second violation

Rule: Art 75. A team that has possession of the ball in their backcourt has twelve seconds to cause the ball to go into the frontcourt. Failure to do so is a violation.

The ball is in the frontcourt when it touches the floor or a person in the frontcourt. The twelve-second count begins when a player on the court takes possession of the ball in his backcourt. The twelve-second count stops if a player from the opposing team takes

9.75.1 Team B is pressing A1 in the backcourt for 10 seconds when B1 tips the ball away from A1 and it rolls free in the backcourt for an additional 2 seconds. Is the referee correct to allow play to continue?

Answer: No. Team possession was never lost, and Team A is guilty of a time count violation.

9.75.2 A1 has the ball in the backcourt for 10 seconds and passes to A4. The pass is slapped out-of-bounds by B4. On the following throw-in, A4 has possession of the ball in the backcourt. Shall A4 have a full 12 second count to move the ball to the frontcourt?

Answer: Yes.

9.75.3 A throw-in by A1 is touched by A4; but A4 does not gain possession of the ball in Team A's backcourt. Shall the 12 second count begin when A4 touches the ball?

Answer: No. The count begins when a player gains possession.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

9.75.4 A1 has the ball in his backcourt for a throw-in. After releasing the ball, it is tipped by B1 and the ball rolls on the floor, in the backcourt, for 3 seconds. A2 picks up the ball. Team A now has 12 seconds to advance the ball to the frontcourt. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes. Team A will have 12 seconds as the 12 second count starts when a player on court gains possession.

9.77 Out and In violation

Rule: Art. 77 A player who has possession of the ball is not permitted to leave the court on the try line and then return to the court without scoring a try. Three conditions must exist for this violation:

- a) The player must have possession of the ball before crossing the try line.
- b) One wheel of the player's wheelchair must touch the out-of-bounds area across the opposing team's try line.
- c) That wheel must return to the in-bounds area or break contact with the out-of-bounds

9.77.1 A1 is stopped with one front wheel across the try line. He continues to push and tips the front wheels up and down before the second wheel has a chance to touch the try line. What call should the referee make?

Answer: A1 is guilty of out and in because his chair broke contact with the floor.

9.77.2 A1 is attempting to score while closely guarded by B4 & B3. As A1 pushes to cross the try line the front casters leave the floor. A1 crosses the try line but before the casters return to the floor A1 is trapped by B4 & B3 and is unable to put the casters back on the floor. While A1 is jostling to break the trap, the casters return to the floor. What action should the referee take in the following situations?

- a) Both casters land on or over the try line.
- b) One caster over the try line.
- c) Both casters land back in the court.

Answer:

- a) A try is awarded to A1.
- b) No action is taken as A1 still has the opportunity to score.
- c) This is a no call situation. There is no violation and no try since the floor was not contacted out of bounds. A1 is still in the playing area and has the opportunity to score.

Rule: Art. 78 A player who is touching the ball may not touch the floor with any part of his body or any part of his wheelchair except the four wheels and the anti-tip device.

9.78 Physical advantage violation

9.78.1 A1 is hit and falls forward. What is the call if:

- a) He places his hand on the floor to stop himself from falling while in possession of the ball?
- b) He loses possession of the ball before touching the floor?
- c) He loses the ball, falls to the floor, and the ball bounces off a chair and he regains the ball while he is on the floor?
- d) The ball returns and only touches his back wheel while he is on the floor?
- e) Player with wing/bumper on the floor makes contact with the ball?

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Answer:

- a) Violation.
- b) No violation.
- c) Violation.
- d) Violation.
- e) Violation.

9.80 Ten seconds in the key violation

Rule: Art. 80 A player whose team has possession of the ball may not remain in the opposing team's key area for more than ten seconds.

9.80.1 A1 is trapped in the key with the ball for eight seconds and quickly places the ball on the lap of B2 to avoid a ten second violation, however, B2 never made any movement to indicate taking possession of the ball. The referee stops his count and allows the play to continue. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. Since B2 never voluntarily accepted the ball, the time count should have continued.

9.80.2 A2 backs up into the offensive key and his anti-tip device crosses into the key and is blocked into that position for 11 seconds. What is the call if:
a) His anti-tip device does not make floor contact in the key?
b) His anti-tip device is making floor contact?

Answer: No violation on either situation. The anti-tip devices are safety devices and are ignored as a part of the chair.

9.80.3 A1 is inbounding the ball, the referee blows his whistle to indicate the play is live. A2 is in the key. The other referee starts the 10 second count for A2 once the whistle is blown. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct. The 10 second restriction applies whenever a team has possession of a "live" ball.

Statement: The ten second restriction applies not only when a team is in possession of the ball on the court but also while that team is in possession of the ball for a throw-in.

9.80.4 When does the 10 second in the key count begin? And when will the 10 second count stop?

Answer: The count begins as soon as any part of an offensive player's chair (wheels) touches the floor within the key area. The count ends as soon as the chair (wheels) leaves the key area.

9.80.5 A3 is trapped in the offensive key for 7 seconds when the ball is tapped away from A1. The ball is rolling free on the floor for more than three seconds and A3 is still trapped. Is the referee correct to charge Team A with a 10-second in the key violation?

Answer: Correct. Team possession was never lost, 10 seconds in the key stands.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

9.81 Throw-in violation

Rule: Art. 81 The following rules apply to the throw-in:

- a) After the referee has blown his whistle, the ball must be released by the in-bounder and be touched by a player on the court within ten seconds.
- b) After he has released the ball, the in-bounder may not touch it until it has been touched by another player on the court.
- c) The in-bounder must be the last point of contact for the ball before the ball makes contact with the court or a player within the court.
- d) The in-bounder may not enter the court until he has released the ball.
- e) The in-bounder must enter the court within a one-meter radius of the point where the ball was released.
- f) When the throw-in takes place on a sideline, the in-bounder may pivot prior to releasing the ball but may not move laterally along the sideline away from the throw-in location.

9.81.1 A1 has the ball for a throw-in. He dribbles and, in the process, he bounces the ball on the sideline. A1 then inbounds to A2. Is it correct for play to continue?

Answer: Incorrect. The line is considered to be out of bounds. The athlete must be the last point of contact prior to the ball entering the court.

9.81.2 A1 has the ball for a throw-in. A1 throws the ball off the back of B3, wheels into court and retrieves the ball.

Answer: Correct. Once the ball has been legally inbounded (touched by a player on the court) it can be retrieved by any legal player.

9.81.3 How should play resume in the following situations? The throw-in by A1:

- a) Goes out of bounds without having touched a player on the court or the court itself.
- b) Goes out of bounds after contacting the court but without having touched a player on the court.
- c) Is deflected after having left A1's hands so as to come back to A1 who is still out of bounds.

Answer for all situations: Play shall resume with a throw-in to Team B at the point of A1's original throw-in.

Note: If throw-in by A1 is after a try, the ball shall be awarded to Team B at the sideline corner.

9.81.4 A throw-in by A1 bounces off the top of a post and into A2's lap. Is this a legal throw-in?

Answer: Incorrect. The post is considered outside the playing court.

9.81.5 A1 attempting to throw the ball in, backs away from the sideline (2- 5 meters), A1 then pushes towards the sideline to gather some momentum. A1 then releases the ball and rolls into the court. Is this a legal play?

Answer: Correct.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

9.81.6 After a throw-in, A1 enters the court at a 45° angle but within the one-meter radius. The referee charges him with an illegal entry.

Answer: Incorrect. The rule allows him to enter within the one-meter radius.

9.81.7 A1 is in position for a throw-in. Body movement causes his front casters to touch the sideline just before releasing the ball for a throw-in. The referee allows play to continue.

Answer: Correct. A1 touched but did not cross over the line. The sideline is part of the out-of-bounds.

9.81.8 After releasing the ball for a throw-in, A1 turns in the direction of the offensive try and beats the defender by first rolling for a meter outside the sideline. Since the defender is rolling in the same direction, the referee allows the play to continue.

Answer: Incorrect, A1 should be charged with an inbound violation. The in-bounder must enter the court within a one-meter radius of the point where the ball was released.

9.81.9 A1 is set to inbound the ball. He dribbles the ball but for some reason (bad bounce, changes his mind) he does not inbound the ball and recovers it into his lap. He then bounces the ball and bats it into play. Is this allowed?

Answer: Yes. The in-bounder may dribble the ball multiple times; however, he must be the last point of contact for the ball before the ball makes contact with the court or a player within the court.

9.81.10 A1 waits behind the try line ready to take the inbound. The referee blows the whistle and the 10 seconds for a legal inbound count begins. A2 comes to A1, takes the ball, A1 moves back on court and A2 inbounds the ball within the 10 seconds. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. Since A1 set up as the in-bounder, the throw-in violation occurs as soon as A2 touches the ball while out of bounds.

9.81.11 A1 is set to inbound the ball, places the ball on the ground and rolls the ball onto the court. Is this legal play?

Answer: Incorrect. The ball made contact with the floor outside the court before entering the court. The player must be the last point of contact before the ball enters the court or is touched on court.

9.81.12 A1 is inbounding the ball at the sideline one-meter away from the sideline with his front casters. B2 is just outside the one-meter area waiting for A1 to enter the court. After inbounding the ball:

- A1 goes straight to the sideline and enters the court in a 45° angle just around B2. The referee allows play to continue. Is this correct?
- A1 turns to a 45° angle and enters the court around B2. The referee allows play to continue. Is this correct?

Answer:

- Yes. A1 should push up to the sideline and establish the 45° angle just prior to entering the court.
- No. By establishing the 45° angle while still one-meter behind the sideline, the entering angle is greater than 45° and an advantage gained by evading B2.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

9.83 Tip-off violation

Important note: In all situations the inbound should occur at the sideline opposite the scoring table, in Team B's backcourt and nearest to the centre line.

- 9.83.1 Referee 1 enters the circle for the tip-off and blows the whistle to indicate contact is allowed. How are the following situations administered?
- A2 enters the circle before the ball is tapped to gain a better position over B2.
 - B2 hits A2 into the circle before the ball is tapped.
 - A1 hits B1 on the arm at the tip-off.
 - A1 (center) crosses the center line to be in better position to tap the ball.

Answer:

- Violation of the tip-off. Ball is awarded to Team B and the possession arrow is awarded to Team A.
- Violation of the tip-off. Ball is awarded to Team B and the possession arrow is awarded to Team A.
- Foul on A1. A1 is not placed in the penalty box as possession has not yet been established. Ball is awarded to Team B and the possession arrow is awarded to Team A.
- Violation of the tip-off. Each center must remain on their side until the ball has been touched. Ball is awarded to Team B and the possession arrow is awarded to Team A.

- 9.83.2 Player A1 uses the wheel for support during the tip-off. Neither referee calls a violation. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct. Although rules state the player may only use backrest, the way players are lining up for the tip-off makes this impossible.

- 9.83.3 At the tip-off in the first overtime and after the referee announces the direction of play, the centers do not line up facing opposite Team Benches. After the game has started, the referee realizes teams did not line up correctly. Should the referee allow play to continue?

Answer: Correct. Teams will continue scoring based on the manner in which they lined up for the tip-off.

- 9.83.4 At the tip-off in the first overtime and after the referee announces the direction of play the centers do not line up facing opposite Team Benches. Referee 2 calls a tip-off violation on the center of Team B. The referee awards the ball to Team A at the sideline. The referee signals the direction of play again and assures the inbound is taken in Team A's frontcourt. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. While teams will continue scoring based on the manner in which they lined up for the tip-off, the inbound should occur at the sideline opposite the scoring table, in the backcourt and nearest to the centerline. Ball is awarded to Team A and possession arrow is awarded to Team B.

9.84 Forty Second clock violation

- 9.84.1 At the end of a forty second period, A1 attempts to score a try. The attempt is legally blocked by B4 and then the forty second device signal sounds. After the signal B4 fouls A1 and the referee calls the foul. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. A forty second violation has occurred. B4's foul shall be disregarded unless technical, flagrant or disqualifying.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

9.84.2 An attempt for try is made by A1. B3 successfully prevents the try from being scored as the forty second device sounds, after which a held ball between A4 and B3 is immediately called. Does the referee signal held ball or forty second violation?

Answer: A forty second violation has occurred. Team B did not gain immediate and clear control of the ball before the forty second device sounded.

9.84.3 Team A is in control of the ball with ten seconds remaining in the forty second period when a held ball occurs. What time should the forty second clock show when an alternating possession throw-in is awarded to:

- a) Team A?
- b) Team B?

Answer:

- a) Team A shall have only ten seconds remaining in the forty second period.
- b) Team B shall have a new forty second period.

9.84.4 Team A is in control of the ball with ten seconds remaining in the forty second period when the ball goes out-of-bounds. The officials either cannot agree on whether it was A4 or B4 who was the last to touch the ball before it went out-of-bounds or cannot determine which player was the last to touch the ball before it went out-of-bounds. What time should the forty second clock show when an alternating possession throw-in is awarded to:

- a) Team A?
- b) Team B?

Answer:

- a) Team A shall have only ten seconds remaining in the forty second period. The possession arrow is then changed to Team B.
- b) Team B shall have a new forty second period. The possession arrow is then changed to Team A.

9.84.5 Team A requests a time-out during a dead ball with eight seconds left on the forty second clock. Should the forty second clock reset to 15 seconds if:

- a) A1 requests a 30 second time-out?
- b) Team A coach requests a 60 second time-out?

Answer:

- a) Yes. Any time-out requested by the offensive team will result in a reset of the forty second clock to 15 seconds if the forty second clock is below 15 seconds.
- b) Yes. Any time-out requested by the offensive team will result in a reset of the forty second clock to 15 seconds if the forty second clock is below 15 seconds.

9.84.6 During a dead ball situation, the defensive team's coach requests a 30 second time-out with seven seconds left on the forty second clock. The time-out is granted, however, the forty second clock is not reset to 15 seconds. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct. The forty second clock is only reset to 15 seconds when the request is by the offensive team.

9.84.7 Team A had possession of the ball. A2 falls and the referee stops the play for a fallen player. The referee resets the forty second clock. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. A reset should only occur if play is stopped for a team not in possession of the ball.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

SECTION 10 Principles of Contact

10.85 Safety

- 10.85.1 A1 has just scored a try, which has been signaled by the referee. Immediately after A1 is hit by B2 and there is only slight contact between the players. Should the referee ignore the contact as the try has been scored?

Answer: Ignore.

Game management advice: The referee could warn B2 about contact after a try or call contact before the whistle.

- 10.85.2 A1 has just scored a try, which has been signaled by the referee. Immediately after A1 is hit by B2 and A1 is tipped out of his chair. Should the referee ignore the contact as the try has been scored?

Answer: Do not ignore. B2 should be penalized with a flagrant foul and the appropriate sanction applied.

Game management advice: The referee should consider a disqualifying foul depending on the situation.

SECTION 11 Common Fouls

11.89 Definition and Sanctions

- 11.89.1 A1 rolls for the try line uncontested and stops short to use up time on the clock. B1 ignores him and leaves the court between the try posts. Should the referee call a penalty try?

Answer: Since A1 stopped, we must conclude that his immediate intent was not to score, and therefore a penalty try cannot be awarded. B1 is charged with a leaving the court foul and Team A is awarded a throw-in on the sideline.

- 11.89.2 A1 rolls for the try line. B1 rolls beside him and tries to cut him off. As they approach the try line, A1 actively slows down and B1 to cross the try line first. The referee awards A1 with a penalty try. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. By actively slowing down, the priority of A1 is not to score, but to draw B1 into a foul for leaving the court between the posts. B1 should be charged and serve the penalty for leaving the court.

- 11.89.3 A1 rolls for the try line. B1 rolls beside him and makes contact while trying to cut him off. In doing so, B1 crosses the try line before A1. The referee awards A1 with a penalty try. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct. In this case A1, while in a position to score, was stopped from trying to score and therefore a penalty try must be awarded.

11.90 Charging foul

- 11.90.1 A1 is rolling into the key. Since the opening to the try line is blocked off, he passes the ball and crashes into a stationary defender. The referee gives him a penalty for charging. Is this correct?

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Answer: Incorrect. The defender is located in the key, making them an active participant in the game, therefore a charging foul cannot be applied.

- 11.90.2 A1, already travelling faster than two defenders who are closing a small opening to the try line. He continues to push and hits a defender with enough force to make the chair turn sideways. In doing this he crosses the try line. Is the referee correct to disallow the try and give A1 a penalty for charging?

Answer: Incorrect. Power by the ball carrier, in an attempt to score, is always permitted. The only exception is dangerous or unsportsmanlike play.

- 11.90.3 B2 rolls and hits A3 on the bumper with enough force to make his chair turn 180°. The referee charges B2 with charging. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. Causing an opponent to change direction, even at a major angle, does not automatically result in a charging foul. The referee must first conclude that athlete being hit was not an active participant in the game and that there was a risk of injury to that athlete.

11.91 Contact Before the Whistle foul

- 11.91.1 Immediately after a try but before the referee's whistle, A2 tries to free himself from a crowded group of players. B2 lightly contacts him changes A2's direction of travel enough to place him at a disadvantage. Should the referee ignore the light contact and allows play to continue?

Answer: No. A2 was disadvantaged by B2's contact before the whistle and should be charged with the foul (contact before the whistle).

- 11.91.2 Immediately after a try but before the referee's whistle, A2 and B3 lightly bump each other in an attempt to get out of traffic. Should the referee ignore the light contact and allow play to continue?

Answer: Yes. Contact was minor and neither player was disadvantaged.

- 11.91.3 Before the whistle, A2 rolls up to B3 and locks his chair such that he cannot move freely on the court. The referee judges this as incidental contact and allows play to continue. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. Although no crashing sound resulted by the contact, the contact is placing B3 at a disadvantage before the whistle.

11.92 Four in the Key foul

- 11.92.1 B3 is defending near the top of the key. A2 hits him and causes him to roll into the key as the fourth defender. The referee charges B3 with the penalty.

Answer: Correct. Since the hit was a legal hit, B3 should be charged with four in the key.

- 11.92.2 In the follow situations, is the referee correct to charge B2 with a foul?
a) B2 rolls from the top of the key to the area near the post, to block A1 from scoring. In doing so he rolls partially through the key and momentarily becomes a fourth defender in the key.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

- b) In a similar situation Team A players are crossing the center line or are in the backcourt when B2 rolls from the top of the key to take a new defensive position to cover the corner. In doing so he partially enters the key and temporarily becomes a fourth defender in the key.

Answer:

- a) Yes. B2 gained an advantage and should be charged with four in the key.
b) No. Absolutely no advantage was gained by Team B or lost by Team A.

- 11.92.3 B2 is the fourth defender at the top of the key. In turning, he tips up his front casters and turns over the key without making floor contact. Since B2 momentarily occupied space in the key the referee charges him as the fourth defender in the key. Is this the correct call?

Answer: Incorrect. The fourth player's location on the floor is determined by the point of contact between that person and the floor.

11.93 Holding foul

- 11.93.1 A2 rolls and hits B2 on the bumper with enough force to make B2 fall on his lap and A2 cannot continue to push. The referee gives B2 a penalty for holding. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct. The hit is legal. B2 disadvantaged A2 when he could no longer continue to push.

- 11.93.2 A2 and B2 hit each other. Because of the hit, B2 loses balance and lightly touches A2 on his knees. The referee calls B2 for holding. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. B2 only touched A1 shortly and no disadvantage occurred. Play should have been allowed to continue.

11.94 Leaving the Court foul

- 11.94.1 A2 is attempting to beat B1 along the sideline. B1 forces him out of bounds. A2 continues to roll out of bounds and eventually beats B1. Should the referee allow play to continue since A2 was originally forced out?

Answer: No. A2 should be charged with leaving the court. A player must return onto the court at a point nearest to where he exited.

- 11.94.2 Team A is awarded a throw-in in the frontcourt near the end line. A2 immediately takes up the position in the key (facing the try line) nearest to the point of throw-in. He does this before the whistle for legal contact. B1 sets up next to A2 between A2 and the in-bounder. B3 sets up immediately behind A2. The whistle is blown to make the ball live. What call should the referee make when:

- a) B3 hits A2 once and causes him to roll out of bounds between the posts?
b) B3 hits and continues to push until A2 rolls out-of-bounds?

Answer:

- a) A2 is charged for leaving the court.
b) B3 is charged for pushing.

- 11.94.3 A1 is in possession of the ball near the try line, under pressure from B1. A1 passes to A2, but in doing so rolls backwards and contacts the post outside the key area after passing the ball. The referee calls a leaving the court foul. Is this correct?

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Answer: No. Player A1 does not have the ball and does not leave the court between the posts, therefore no call.

- 11.94.4 A2 is blocked by B3 and B4 close to the sideline. While trying to free himself A2 leaves the court. B3 and B4 advance towards A2 and prevent him from re-entering the court. Is the referee correct to ignore the situation and allow play to continue?

Answer: Incorrect. B3 and B4 should be instructed to allow the player back on court, however, A2 cannot gain any advantage by his re-entry onto court.

- 11.94.5 After A1 scores a try he continues to push behind the try line to enter the court on the opposite side of the try line from where he scored. The referee allows play to continue. Is this the correct procedure?

Answer: Correct. The player that scores the try is allowed to enter the court at any point along the end line.

- 11.94.6 A1 attempts a pass to A2 who is in the key and rolling for the try line. The ball is caught by B1 who is defending in his key. A2 continues to roll out between the posts. Is the referee correct to stop play and charge A2 with a foul (leaving the court)?

Answer: Incorrect. In this case the ball is caught by B1 and therefore in the Team B's backcourt when A2 crosses the end line. Play should be allowed to continue.

11.95 Pushing foul

- 11.95.1 A1, while in the frontcourt, has slowed to a stop near the center line. B4 rolls up to him and bumps him so that A1's back wheel makes contact with the center line. The referee charges B4 for illegal pushing foul for pushing A1 into a back-court violation. Is this the correct decision?

Answer: Incorrect. There is no foul since the initial contact was legal. (See Art. 74) However, the backcourt violation should be called.

- 11.95.2 A1 is on a breakaway for the try. B1 is close behind and is pushed by B2 for additional speed. Is the referee correct to charge B2 with a pushing foul?

Answer: Correct. A player cannot be helped by a teammate by means of a push.

- 11.95.3 A1 is partially blocked from scoring by B1 and B2. A4 comes up behind and bumps A1 over the try line to score. The referee signals the try. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct. A bump is considered initial contact and is permitted.

- 11.95.4 A3 rolls into the key and bumps B2 near the try line. He then continues to push B2 so that he forces him out of the try line. Should the referee charge B2 with leaving the court?

Answer: No. After the initial contact (legal hit), a player cannot continue to push another player into an illegal position. A3 should be charged with a pushing foul.

- 11.95.5 B2 and B3 block A1 near the try line. However, A1, being stronger, continues to push B2 and B3 aside (after initial contact) and rolls in for the try. The referee disallows the try and charges A1 for pushing. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. A1 (the ball carrier) pushed B2 and B3 aside but not into illegal positions, therefore, no pushing call should be made, and the try awarded.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

- 11.95.6 What call should the referee make when Player A1 uses his hand to push:
- his own team-mate, A2 to defend?
 - an opponent, B1, making contact with the body?
 - an opponent, B1, making contact with the chair?

Answer:

- Pushing foul, a player may not use their hands to assist a team-mate defend or score, by means of a push.
- Illegal use of hands.
- Illegal use of hands.

11.96 Illegal Use of the Hands foul

- 11.96.1 B2 reaches for the ball within the vertical space of A1. In contacting the ball with his hand, he is also pressing down on the arm of A1 with his own arm, creating a clear disadvantage. Should the referee allow play to continue?

Answer: No. If both contacts are simultaneous, and the pressure created on A1's hand creates a disadvantage, the arm contact becomes a foul and must be called.

- 11.96.2 B4 reaches in to tap the ball off the lap of A1. To defend against B4, A1 while holding the ball with both hands raises his elbow to the side and contacts the arm of B4 and contact is made outside the zone. The referee charges B4 for illegal use of the hands. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. As there is no advantage or disadvantage no call should be made.

- 11.96.3 A1 holds the ball above his head. B2 attempts to hit the ball loose. A1 pushes the hand away. The referee stops the play and charges A1 with a foul for illegal use of the hands. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct. The contact occurs outside the Zone of Verticality, which stops at the top of the head of A1, and A1 initiates the contact.

- 11.96.4 B1 is waving his hand in front of A1 (within the Zone of Verticality), to deny a pass. A1 moves the ball around and light contact occurs, placing neither at any disadvantage. Should the referee stop play and charge B1 for a foul?

Answer: No. Since there was no advantage/disadvantage, the contact was incidental and play should continue.

11.97 Spinning foul

- 11.97.1 A2 is in the key waiting for a pass. B1 moves in behind him and bumps his rear wheel causing his front casters to tip up. What is the call if:
- A2 is displaced enough to miss the ball?
 - A2 loses his balance enough to put his hand to the floor to prevent him from falling?

Answer:

- No call as safety of Player A2 is not at risk.
- Spin foul - A2 is disadvantaged and endangered by a possible fall.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

11.97.2 A2 and B2 are following A1 towards the try line. In the attempt to block for A1, A2 gives B2 a legal hit. Because of that hit B2 spins A1. The referee charges B2 with a spinning foul. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct, B2 caused the spin on A1 and is sanctioned with the foul.

11.97.3 A1 is wheeling backwards down the court. In an attempt to stop him from scoring, B1 places his bumper on the leading edge of A1's rear wheel. A1 spins and falls out of his chair. Is this a spin call?

Answer: No. Since A1 is wheeling backwards, the back of the chair is considered the front and contact was made in front of the axle.

11.98 One-meter foul

11.98.1 A1 is throwing in the ball. A2 passes in front of A1 within the one-meter radius and receives the ball on the other side of the one-meter restraining area. The referee allows play to continue. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. The one-meter restraining line is neutral and cannot be infringed by either team during the throw-in resulting in a turnover.

11.98.2 A1 is inbounding the ball after a try and moves over to B1 who is blocked by A2 and A3; all three of them are within one-meter. What is the correct call if:

- a) A1 passes the ball to A3?
- b) A1 gives the ball straight on the lap of A2 who is very close at the try line?
- c) A1 passes the ball to A4 who is 3 meters away and then asks the referee to send B1 away so that he may enter the court?

Answers:

- a) One-meter foul for A3.
- b) One-meter foul for A2.
- c) Players were legally outside the one-meter radius before the ball was placed at the disposal of the in-bounder. Play should be allowed to continue with B1 maintaining his position on the court. A1 should enter the court within the 45° angle. When only a slightly greater angle is available, A1 may enter the court around B1 but away from the play/playing direction.

11.98.3 A1 is inbounding the ball after a try. B2 enters the one-meter area. The referee calls the one-meter foul for B2 and gives Team A the inbound at the sideline. Is this the correct procedure?

Answer: No. The location for the throw-in should remain the same, anywhere on the end line. The ball must be in bounded from the end line after a try.

SECTION 12 Technical, Flagrant and Disqualifying Fouls

12.100 Player Technical Foul

12.100.1 B4 is called for a technical foul at the same time that A1 scores. Should Team A be awarded a penalty try and B4 be exempted from serving the penalty?

Answer: No. Technical fouls are served under all circumstances.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

12.100.2 B1 cannot reach the ball held up high by A1 who intends to pass it high to A2 in the key. B1 pressures A1 by waving his hand in front of the eyes of A1. A1 appears undisturbed by B1. The referee allows play to continue. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. Waving the hand in front of the eyes is unsportsmanlike and dangerous and B1 should be charged with a technical foul.

12.100.3 Team A is on a 3 on 2 break away. B1 moves into the path of one of the attackers. The timing makes it impossible for the attacker to stop or change directions. B1 is hit and intentionally falls in the line of oncoming traffic. Since he is in the direct line of oncoming players, the referee stops the play and charges B1 with a technical foul. Is he correct?

Answer: Yes. B1 used an unsportsmanlike and dangerous tactic to gain a stoppage in play.

12.100.4 B3 tips a pass from A1 to A3. While the ball is still loose, A1 calls a time-out in an attempt to stop the play and gain an advantage. What is the correct call if:

- The referee is unable see that the ball is still loose. As a result, play is stopped for the time-out. The referee immediately realizes that no player from Team A had possession of the ball.
- The referee sees that the ball is still loose and allows play to continue. B1 gains possession.

Answers:

- Technical foul. This must be called because A1 created an illegal stoppage that resulted in a delay of the game.
- No call. The referee should be aware of the rules and ignore A1's request, allowing B1 to gain control of the ball.

12.100.5 B4 has been having difficulty defending against A3 for most of the first half of the game. In the second half he resorts to insulting A3's playing abilities in the hope of breaking his concentration. Is the referee correct to ignore B4's tactics since no foul language is used?

Answer: No. B4 is using unsportsmanlike behavior to compensate for his difficulties to defend against A3 and should be charged with a technical foul.

12.100.6 A1 is throwing the ball in. B1 advances after the throw-in and blocks A1's complete entry onto the court. The referee charges B1 with a technical foul for delaying the game. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct. The defender must allow the inbound player to completely return to the court immediately after the throw-in.

12.100.7 A1 is inbounding the ball. After inbounding the ball A1 waits a couple of seconds and then tries to enter the court, B1 prevents A1 from completely entering the court. Should the referee charge B1 with a technical foul?

Answer: Yes. Time is not an issue and A1 must be allowed to enter the court when they choose to do so.

12.100.8 A1 is inbounding the ball at the sideline. B1 stays outside the one-meter but close to the sideline. After the throw-in, A1 enters the court on an angle towards B1 and therefore he cannot enter completely onto the court. Should the referee charge B1 with a technical foul for delaying the game?

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Answer: No. A1 has the possibility to completely enter onto the court by entering without contacting B1, no technical foul should be charged. A1 cannot force a technical foul on B1.

- 12.100.9 Player B1 is in the penalty box. Player A3 and A2 set up to trap Player B1 when he exits the penalty box. Player A1 scores a try. Player B1, upon trying to enter the court, illegally enters by not respecting the gate. Should the referee issue Player B1 with a technical foul and does Player B1 serve an additional penalty?

Answer: Yes. B1 gained an advantage by ignoring the gate.

- 12.100.10 Player A1 inbounds the ball to A2 who is sitting close to the point of inbound (beyond the meter). B1 and B2 jostle A2 close to the sideline. A1 enters the court and makes contact with A2, preventing him from going out of court. Is there a call to make?

Answer: A1 is guilty of unsportsmanlike behavior and is not entitled to assist a teammate from out of court. A1 is issued with a technical foul, but Team A retains possession.

- 12.100.11 Player A1 is legally hit by B1 at an angle causing B1 to become momentarily unbalanced on one wheel. A2, who was already attempting a legal hit on B1, is unable to avoid the hit while B1 is still unbalanced. This causes B1 to fall. A2 is charged with a technical foul. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes. Although the collision was unavoidable, this is dangerous play. A2 is still responsible for their actions and should be assessed a technical foul. Team A will retain possession of the ball.

12.101 Technical Foul by Bench Personnel

- 12.101.1 Coach A is using offensive language in addressing some of his players on the court for their poor performance. The referee ignores the situation because the coach's comments are not directed to the referees or the opposing players. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. Proper court decorum must be enforced at all times and the coach should be assessed a technical foul.

- 12.101.2 During the course of the game, Coach B repeatedly travels outside the Team Bench area to instruct his players on the court. This interferes with the duties of the table officials. Is the referee correct to charge Coach B with a technical foul after the coach has been warned?

Answer: Correct.

- 12.101.3 A2 & B3 are fighting. The coach of Team A leaves the Team Bench area to assist the referees in restoring order. Should a technical foul be assessed against the coach for leaving the Team Bench?

Answer: No. Use common sense. If bench personnel assist in stopping the fight, then no sanctions should be applied to bench staff.

- 12.101.4 It is discovered that a Team B player on the court is not one of the 4 players designated as the team's starting four. What is the correct procedure for the referees to follow:

a) Before the start of the game?

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

b) After the start of the game?

Answer:

- a) The incorrect player(s) must leave the court immediately and the starting line-up as indicated by the coach must enter the court. No technical foul is charged.
- b) A technical foul will be assessed against the coach of Team B. The starting line-up as indicated by the coach must take the court, unless approved by the official for a medical or equipment related issue. One player from Team B will be selected by Team B's coach to serve the penalty.

12.102 Equipment Technical Foul

12.102.1 Prior to the start of the tournament all chairs from Team A pass the chair check. During the first game of the tournament A1's chair is damaged and subsequently repaired. In the second game of the tournament Team B protests the legality of the chair. What is the process the official should follow?

Answer: Chair should be re-checked.

a) What is the sanction/procedure if the chair is judged legal?

Answer: If the chair is legal, the team that requested the check, in this case Team B, is sanctioned with a technical foul and a 60 second time-out for delay of the game. In case no 60 second time-out is left, two (2) technical fouls will be charged and will be served consecutively by a player chosen by the coach of Team B.

b) What is the sanction/procedure if the chair is judged illegal when the chair/player first enters the game?

Answer: If the chair is protested at the point when it first enters a game the player is penalized with a technical foul as chair did not become illegal during game.

Procedure: The referee should report the technical foul to the penalty table and place the penalized player behind/outside the penalty box. The penalized player must remain there until his substitute is released from the penalty box. The substitute will take up a position inside the penalty box (try release or 1 minute suspended).

Rational: The player has been penalized for an illegal chair. He should not be permitted to start fixing the wheelchair before his penalty has been served.

Re-check: A re-check can only be performed during a quarter or half time break in order to prevent further delays in the game. It also ensures that team staff have adequate time to repair the chair without rushing. Additionally, the coach of that player is not allowed to ask for a time-out to recheck the chair as the chair first enters the game illegally.

c) What is the sanction/procedure if the chair is judged illegal after the chair/player has had game time?

Answer: If the chair is protested after it has had game time the player will be provided an equipment time-out in order to try to fix the chair. If he is unable to fix it within 1 minute, the player will be substituted. No penalty will be applied to the player. The coach may use a time-out to recheck the legality if the chair.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

d) What is the procedure if the chair has not had any game time and is protested at half time?

Answer: A chair can only be protested when it enters the court. When the player enters the court, he will be judged as stated above.

12.102.2 Ten minutes prior to the start of the game, coach of Team A protests the chair of Player B1. How do you administer this request if:

- a) B1 is a part of the starting lineup?
- b) B1 is a substitute player?

Answer: The referee disallows this request and indicates that the chair of B1 must be checked once they have entered the court to take part in the game.

- a) The chair should be checked when the player comes on court to start the game. If the protest is upheld, Team B will start the game with a player serving the technical foul.

Procedure: The referee should report the technical foul to the penalty table and place the penalized player behind/outside the penalty box. The penalized player must remain there until his substitute is released from the penalty box. The substitute will take up a position inside the penalty box. (try release or 60 seconds of time served).

- b) The chair should be checked when the substitution has been completed during game time.

12.103 Excessive Points on the Court

12.103.1 Team A is charged with too many points on the court. Is the referee correct in giving the coach of Team A the choice of player to serve the penalty?

Answer: Yes.

Procedure: The coach of Team A must select a player from the players on the court to serve the technical foul. A substitution will then be made to achieve the correct point value on court.

12.103.2 A1 (class 3.0) and A2 (class 1.5) are serving a penalty and A3 (class 3.0) is outside the penalty box waiting for his time to serve his penalty. A4 (class 0.5) is joined by A5 (class 3.0) to fulfill the minimum player requirement and continue play. A4 is then injured and cannot continue to play. Team A has A6 (class 3.0) and A7 (class 2.0) on the bench. Can Coach A substitute A7 for the injured player?

Answer: Coach A has no player that can substitute for the injured player and at the same time respect the maximum point value on the court. Therefore, Team A must forfeit the game at this point.

12.104 Flagrant Foul

12.104.1 A1 is about to score and is ahead of all defenders. B2 comes in at an angle and creates reckless contact with the ball carrier behind the rear axle, causing the player to spin or lose his balance but not fall. Is the referee correct to charge B2 with a flagrant foul?

Answer: Correct. Team A is awarded a penalty try and B2 will serve two penalties.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

12.104.2 A1 is approaching the try line ahead of all defenders. B2 comes in at an angle and creates unsportsmanlike contact with the ball carrier behind the rear axle, causing the player to fall to the floor. The referee charges B2 with a flagrant foul. Is this correct?

Answer: Correct. Team A is awarded a penalty try and B2 will serve two penalties.

12.104.3 A1 has the ball and is wheeling towards the try. B1 grabs A1 by the arm, extending it behind the player at an unsafe angle. The referee calls a flagrant foul as there was no attempt to play the ball and the action was unsportsmanlike. As it was done on the line, when there was no possibility of affecting the try, it was deemed to be an act of intimidation. Should the referee issue penalty try and have B1 serve two penalties?

Answer: Correct.

12.104.4 Player A1 legally collides with B1, causing A1 to become momentarily unbalanced on one wheel. While in this position B2 makes a reckless attempt to hit A1, causing him to fall. The referee calls a flagrant foul. Is this correct?

Answer: The referee is correct to call a foul on B2. This is reckless and unsportsmanlike play and B2 will be assessed with a flagrant foul.

12.104.5 During the same game, Player B2 commits his second flagrant foul. Is the referee correct to signal the flagrant foul, then signal the disqualifying foul, and penalise the substitute with the sanction of the disqualifying foul only?

Answer: Incorrect. The player committed a flagrant foul. The sanction for a flagrant foul is three 60 second penalties, unless the flagrant foul constitutes a loss of possession, or a penalty try is awarded. The penalty timekeeper will indicate, on the penalty sheet, the flagrant foul for the disqualified player, B2, who must be sent from the field of play. The coach will be allowed to substitute to create a legal line up.

Procedure: As a disqualified player has to leave the field of play immediately a player from the same team, selected by the coach as specified in the rules, will serve the penalty.

12.105 Disqualifying Foul

12.105.1 A1 punches B1. The referee issues A1 with a disqualifying foul. A1 is sent from the field of play and is substituted with Player A5 (who is of the same point value or higher than the player removed), who serves a one-minute penalty. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes. A1 must leave the field of play and A5 serves the full minute.

12.105.2 After the referee noticed that A2 emptied his urine bag on the Team Bench he assesses A2 with a disqualifying foul. Was the proper procedure followed?

Answer: Yes

12.105.3 The 3.0 on Team A received a disqualifying foul. The other players on court are 2.0, 2.0 and 1.0. Only a 3.5 and 2.5 are available to substitute in. Who do you substitute?

Answer: Art. 106 states you should substitute the higher of two players if they are equal point value away. In this situation, the 3.5 would put the Team At 8.5 points, an illegal line up. Since the team is able to field a legal team, substitute the 2.5 and let play continue instead of creating a forfeit.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

12.105.4 After A2 has committed a disqualifying foul it is discovered that the 40 second clock did not start; therefore, a correctable error has occurred. Is the referee correct in erasing the disqualifying foul and allowing the player who received the foul to stay in the game?

Answer: Incorrect, the referee will still take the ball back to where the error occurred and erase the sanction for the disqualifying penalty, but the player who received the disqualifying foul will still be ejected from the game.

Procedure: The disqualified player must leave the field of play and a substitute will take his position on court. The sanction of the disqualifying foul (one full minute) will not be applied.

Rational: A disqualifying foul is a severe situation that needs to be administered.

Section 13 PENALTIES

13.107 Release from the Penalty Box

13.107.1 B1 is charged with a foul for contact before the whistle. He argues using profane language towards the referee. The referee further charges him with a technical foul. He continues and intimidates the referee by bumping him with his chair. The referee then proceeds to disqualify B1 from the game. The coach of Team B must now select a player (at same point value or higher if there is a tie) to serve all the penalties charged to B1 (one minute for contact before the whistle; one minute for the technical foul; one full minute for the disqualifying foul). Is this the correct procedure?

Answer: Yes.

13.107.2 B3 is serving a penalty for a common foul. The penalty clock is not in clear view and he presumes the penalty has expired. He returns to the play with a few seconds remaining. The penalty timekeeper realizes this and informs the referee on the next dead ball. Should the referee charge the player with a technical foul?

Answer: Correct. The player returned without the permission of any official.

13.107.3 B2 is serving a penalty when A3 scores a try. B2 leaves the penalty box without any notification from any official. The referee sees B2 entering the court and penalizes B2 with a technical foul for entering the game illegally. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. The player is allowed to re-enter the game after a try has been scored.

Note: Player may not re-enter the game after a penalty try.

13.107.4 B2 is serving a penalty when the opponent gets a penalty try. The penalty timekeeper releases B2 from the penalty box. The referee sees B2 entering the court and penalizes B2 with a technical foul for entering the game illegally. Is this correct?

Answer: Incorrect. The penalty timekeeper made the mistake to allow B2 re-enter the game. B2 has to go back to the penalty box and serve the rest of the penalty with no additional sanction.

Interpretations from the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

13.107.5 With 4:50 left on the game clock, B1 is called for a flagrant foul. The initial foul was a penalty try and B1 has to serve two try release penalties. At 4:30 B2 is called for illegal use of hands. At 4:10 A1 scores a try and B1's first foul is completed, and the second foul begins at 4:10. At 4:05 A1 scores and B2 is released from the penalty box as his penalty was the first started. Does B1 continue to serve his second foul from the 4:10 time mark or the 4:05 time mark?

Answer: The 4:10 time mark is correct. The position of player in the penalty box is the primary responsibility of the penalty keeper. The referee should be aware of the order of release and should support the penalty keeper as needed.

13.107.6 Player B1 commits a foul with 7:50 on the game clock and is placed in the penalty box. B2 then commits a foul with 7:25 on the game clock and is placed in the penalty box. Before B1 is released from the penalty box B3 commits a foul. B3 is placed behind the penalty box and waits to start serving his penalty. B5 is substituted into the game to make sure that Team B has a legal team on court. The time runs down to 6:50 and B1 is released from the penalty box during live play. The penalty keeper stops B3 from entering the penalty box until there is a stoppage in play. When the next stoppage occurs Team B substitutes, to make a legal lineup on court, and B3 begins serving his penalty at the time of the stoppage. Is this procedure correct?

Answer: Yes.