

Rule changes within the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Rule changes within the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby introduced with the January 01, 2025 version of the Rules.

The following rule changes have been implemented and were developed on consultation with the Rules Sub Committee and the WWR Classification Working Group as per the WWR Rule change policy.

1. Reduce counts from 10 second counts to 8 seconds; inbound, key time & dribble
2. Reduce penalty times, both try release and served.
3. Modify number, time and use of Time Outs
4. Remove loss of 60 second time out as an element of the penalty for an Equipment Technical Foul
5. Increase team point available on court to 1 for female athletes 2.0 – 3.5

This table details amendments to the January 01, 2025 version of the Rules. The table shows text from specific articles in the Rules, with changes highlighted. The full articles are not included, only the paragraphs containing changes. The article number cited are those within the May 2024 version of the rules and are subject to change in the new rules.

Current Text	Revised Text
<p>Article 35. Classification The sum of the classification points of a team's players on the court must be eight (8) or less. For each female player on the court a team will be allowed an extra 0.5 points over and above the eight (8) points for the team.</p>	<p>The sum of the classification points of a team's players on the court must be eight (8) or less. For each female player classified 0.5 to 1.5 on the court a team will be allowed an extra 0.5 points over and above the eight (8) points for the team. For each female player classified 2.0 to 3.5 on the court a team will be allowed an extra 1.0 points over and above the eight (8) points for the team.</p>
<p>Article 46. Scorekeeper c. Record all time-outs on the score sheet, including the period, the team, and the player or coach who requested it.</p>	<p>c. Record all time-outs on the score sheet, including the time, the period and the team who requested it.</p>
<p>Article 51. Game clock operations c. When a Referee blows his whistle to signal a violation, foul, time-out, or any other stoppage in play.</p>	<p>c. When a Referee blows his whistle to signal a violation, foul, time-out, or any other stoppage in play.</p>
<p>Article 52. Forty Second clock operations The forty (40) second clock shall be stopped and reset to fifteen (15) seconds when a team in possession of a live ball requests, and is awarded a timeout, and time remaining on the forty (40) second clock is less than fifteen (15) seconds.</p>	<p>The forty (40) second clock shall be stopped and reset to fifteen (15) seconds when a team in possession of a live ball requests, and is awarded a timeout, and time remaining on the forty (40) second clock is less than fifteen (15) seconds.</p>

Rule changes within the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

Article 56. Time-outs

Each team has six (6) time-outs that may be taken any time during regulation play. There will be four (4) time-outs of thirty (30) seconds and two (2) of sixty (60) seconds. In the event of overtime, any time-outs remaining at the end of regulation play will be carried over into overtime play. In addition, each team will receive one (1) additional (30) second time-out per overtime period. A request for a thirty (30) second time-out may be made by a coach or by a player. Only the coach or assistant coach may request a sixty (60) second time-out. A time-out requested by a coach will only be granted when the ball is dead. The coach may make his request to the timekeeper at any time; the timekeeper will relay the request to a Referee at the next stoppage in play following the request. 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 court (Article 3) or with a player from the opposing team. If the ball becomes live and is intentionally placed on the floor by the Referee to begin the inbound process, the team in possession of the ball may request a time out. When the Referee accepts a request for a time-out, he shall blow his whistle, signal that a time-out has been called, and indicate the team that has requested the time-out. This information shall be inscribed on the score sheet. 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. The team that requested the time-out may choose to terminate it and return to play at any time. The other team must resume play immediately. If the full time-out is taken, a warning shall be sounded after twenty (20) seconds for a thirty (30) second time-out and fifty (50) seconds for a sixty (60) second time-out to indicate that teams should return to the court and prepare to resume play. When the time-out has expired, play shall resume with a throw-in. Following the warning to resume play, players shall be given time to position

Each team has three (3) time-outs of sixty (60) seconds per half that may be taken any time during regulation play. Any time-outs remaining at the end of the first half will not be carried over to the second half. At the end of regulation play, any time-outs remaining will not be carried over into overtime play. In the event of overtime, each team will receive one (1) time-out per overtime period. Any time-outs remaining at the end of the overtime period will not be carried over into subsequent overtime periods.

Only the coach or assistant coach may request a time-out. A time-out requested by a coach will only be granted when the ball is dead. The coach may make his request to the timekeeper at any time; the timekeeper will relay the request to a Referee at the next stoppage in play following the request.

When the Referee accepts a request for a time-out, he shall blow his whistle, signal that a time-out has been called, and indicate the team that has requested the time-out. This information shall be inscribed on the score sheet. 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. The team that requested the time-out may choose to terminate it and return to play at any time. The other team must resume play immediately. If the full time-out is taken, a warning shall be sounded after fifty (50) seconds to indicate that teams should return to the court and prepare to resume play. When the time-out has expired, play shall resume with a throw-in.

If a time-out is granted with less than one (1) minute remaining in the quarter or overtime period, and the location of the throw in is in the backcourt, the team in possession of the ball may request the ball be advanced to the front court. When the ball is advanced, the throw in location will be beside the penalty box closest to the try line.

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:

Rule changes within the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

<p>themselves. If a Referee judges that a player or players are delaying, play shall resume as follows:</p> <p>a. 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 (10) second count.</p>	<p>a. 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 eight (8) second count.</p>
<p>Article 69. Throw-in e. After a time-out: i. if it was called after a try but before the ball had been in-bounded, the throw-in shall take place at a point on the end line chosen by the in-bounder; and ii. at any other time, the throw-in shall take place at a point on the sideline opposite the scoring table nearest to the location of the ball when the time-out was called.</p>	<p>e. After a time-out: i. if it was called after a try but before the ball had been in-bounded, the throw-in shall take place at a point on the end line chosen by the in-bounder; ii. if it was called in the backcourt and there was less than one (1) minute left on the game clock, the team in possession of the ball may advance the ball to the front court. If advanced, the location shall be beside the penalty box closest to the try line; and iii. at any other time, the throw-in shall take place at a point on the sideline opposite the scoring table nearest to the location of the ball when the time-out was called.</p>
<p>Article 79. Ten-second dribble violation A player who has possession of the ball must either pass or dribble the ball (Article 67) at least once every ten seconds. Failure to do so is a violation.</p>	<p>Article 79. Eight-second dribble violation A player who has possession of the ball must either pass or dribble the ball (Article 67) at least once every eight (8) seconds. Failure to do so is a violation.</p>
<p>Article 80. Ten seconds in the key violation A player whose team has possession of the ball may not remain in the opposing team's key area for more than ten (10) seconds.</p>	<p>Article 80. Eight seconds in the key violation A player whose team has possession of the ball may not remain in the opposing team's key area for more than eight (8) seconds.</p>
<p>Article 81. Throw-in violations 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 (10) seconds.</p>	<p>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 eight (8) seconds.</p>
<p>Article 82. Time-out violation It is a violation for a team to request a time-out when they have no time-outs remaining.</p>	<p>Entire article deleted It is a violation for a team to request a time-out when they have no time-outs remaining.</p>

Rule changes within the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

<p>Article 89. Definition and sanctions</p> <p>b. Defensive - A common foul committed by the team not in possession of the ball will be sanctioned with a sixty (60) second penalty served by the player who committed the foul. The player serving the penalty will be released prior to the end of the sixty (60) second period if the opposing team scores a try, unless a penalty try is awarded. If a defensive foul is committed when an offensive player is in possession of the ball and making a clear attempt to score, the Referee may award a penalty try in lieu of the sixty (60) second penalty.</p>	<p>Article 88. Definition and sanctions</p> <p>b. Defensive - A common foul committed by the team not in possession of the ball will be sanctioned with a thirty (30) second penalty served by the player who committed the foul. The player serving the penalty will be released prior to the end of the thirty (30) second period if the opposing team scores a try, unless a penalty try is awarded. If a defensive foul is committed when an offensive player is in possession of the ball and making a clear attempt to score, the Referee may award a penalty try in lieu of the thirty (30) second penalty.</p>
<p>Article 99. Definition and sanctions</p> <p>A technical foul results from an administrative error or a violation of acceptable behavior and decorum. Technical fouls may be committed by a player or by bench personnel.</p> <p>The sanction for a technical foul charged to a player is a sixty (60) second penalty served by the player who committed the foul.</p> <p>The sanction for a technical foul charged to bench personnel, including the coach, team staff, or substitutes, is a sixty (60) second penalty served by a player on the court chosen by the coach.</p> <p>A player serving a sixty (60) second penalty for a technical foul that is not a disqualifying foul will be released from the penalty box if the opposing team scores a try, unless a penalty try has been awarded.</p>	<p>Article 98. Definition and sanctions</p> <p>A technical foul results from an administrative error or a violation of acceptable behavior and decorum. Technical fouls may be committed by a player or by bench personnel.</p> <p>The sanction for a technical foul charged to a player is a thirty (30) second penalty served by the player who committed the foul.</p> <p>The sanction for a technical foul charged to bench personnel, including the coach, team staff, or substitutes, is a thirty (30) second penalty served by a player on the court chosen by the coach.</p> <p>A player serving a thirty (30) second penalty for a technical foul that is not a disqualifying foul will be released from the penalty box if the opposing team scores a try, unless a penalty try has been awarded.</p>
<p>Article 100. Player technical foul</p> <p>k. Using an unjustifiable excuse to obtain a stoppage in play, for example by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. requesting a time-out when a teammate does not have possession of the ball, ii. requesting a time-out when the other team has possession of the ball, iii. or making a trivial request for an equipment time-out. 	<p>Article 99. Player technical foul</p> <p>k. Using an unjustifiable excuse to obtain a stoppage in play, for example by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. requesting a time-out when a teammate does not have possession of the ball, ii. requesting a time-out when the other team has possession of the ball, iii. or making a trivial request for an equipment time-out.

Rule changes within the International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby

<p>Article 102. Equipment technical foul A coach may make a request to the Referee for an inspection of an opposing player's wheelchair during a stoppage in play. If the Referee finds that the wheelchair is legal, a sixty (60) second time-out and a technical foul shall be charged to the coach who made the request. If no sixty (60) second time-out remains, then a second technical foul shall be charged to the coach. If two (2) technical fouls are charged to the coach, they are to be served consecutively by the same player.</p>	<p>Article 101. Equipment technical foul A coach may make a request to the Referee for an inspection of an opposing player's wheelchair during a stoppage in play. If the Referee finds that the wheelchair is legal, a sixty (60) second time-out and a technical foul shall be charged to the coach who made the request. If no sixty (60) second time-out remains, then a second technical foul shall be charged to the coach. If two (2) technical fouls are charged to the coach, they are to be served consecutively by the same player.</p>
<p>Article 105. Disqualifying foul The sanction for a disqualifying foul is a sixty (60) second penalty. This penalty is served for the full sixty (60) seconds; the player serving the penalty will not be released from the penalty box if the opposing team scores a try.</p>	<p>Article 104. Disqualifying foul The sanction for a disqualifying foul is a forty (40) forty (40) second penalty. This penalty is served for the full forty (40) forty (40) seconds; the player serving the penalty will not be released from the penalty box if the opposing team scores a try.</p>