

Appendix 1 – Extracts from the Rules of the Game concerning “7th court player”

Current version

New version

2:5 For free throws taken (or retaken) under Rule 2:4, special restrictions apply regarding player positions and substitutions. As an exception to the normal substitution flexibility in Rule 4:4, the **only** player substitution allowed is for one player on the throwing team.

Violations are penalised under Rule 4:5, 1st paragraph.

Moreover, all the team mates of the thrower must be positioned at least 3 metres away from the thrower, in addition to being outside the free throw line of the opponents (13:7, 15:6; see also Clarification No. 1). The positions of the defending players are indicated in Rule 13:8.

4:1 A team consists of up to 14 players.
No more than 7 players may be present on the court at the same time. The remaining players are substitutes.

~~At all times during the game, the team must have one of the players on the court identified as a goalkeeper.~~

A player who is identified as a goalkeeper may become a court player at any time (note, however, Rule 8:5 Comment, 2nd paragraph). Similarly, a court player may become a goalkeeper at any time (see, however, 4:4 and 4:7).

2:5 For free throws taken (or retaken) under Rule 2:4, special restrictions apply regarding player positions and substitutions.

As an exception to the normal substitution flexibility in Rule 4:4, **a substitution is allowed for only one player on the attacking team; similarly, the defending team is allowed to substitute a court player for a goalkeeper if this team is playing without a goalkeeper when the final signal is given.**

Violations are penalised under Rule 4:5, 1st paragraph.

Moreover, all the team mates of the thrower must be positioned at least 3 metres away from the thrower, in addition to being outside the free throw line of the opponents (13:7, 15:6; see also Clarification No. 1). The positions of the defending players are indicated in Rule 13:8.

4:1 A team consists of up to 14 players.
No more than 7 players may be present on the court at the same time. The remaining players are substitutes.

A player who is identified as a goalkeeper may become a court player at any time (note, however, Rule 8:5 Comment, 2nd paragraph). Similarly, a court player may become a goalkeeper at any time **as long as he is identified as a goalkeeper** (see, however, 4:4 and 4:7).

Appendix 1 – Extracts from the Rules of the Game concerning “7th court player”

Current version

New version

A team must have at least 5 players on the court at the start of the game.

The number of players on a team can be increased up to 14, at any time during the game, including overtime.

The game may continue even if a team is reduced to less than 5 players on the court. It is for the referees to judge whether and when the game should be permanently suspended (17:12).

Note:

The IHF, continental confederations and national federations have the right to apply deviating regulations in their areas of responsibility regarding the number of players. However, no more than 16 players are allowed.

12:2 The goalkeeper throw is taken by the goalkeeper without whistle signal from the referee (see, however, 15:5b), from the goal area out over the goal area line.

If a team is playing without a goalkeeper, a maximum number of 7 court players are allowed to be on the playing court at the same time (see Rules 4:7, 6:1, 6:2c, 6:3, 8:7f, 14:1a).

Rules 4:4-4:7 are to be applied to substitutions of a goalkeeper for a court player.

A team must have at least 5 players on the court at the start of the game.

The number of players on a team can be increased up to 14, at any time during the game, including overtime.

The game may continue even if a team is reduced to less than 5 players on the court. It is for the referees to judge whether and when the game should be permanently suspended (17:12).

Note:

The IHF, continental confederations and national federations have the right to apply deviating regulations in their areas of responsibility regarding the number of players. However, no more than 16 players are allowed.

12:2 The goalkeeper throw is taken by the goalkeeper without whistle signal from the referee (see, however, 15:5b), from the goal area out over the goal area line.

Appendix 1 – Extracts from the Rules of the Game concerning “7th court player”

Current version

New version

The goalkeeper throw is considered to have been taken, when the ball thrown by the goalkeeper has completely crossed the goal-area line.

The players of the other team are allowed to be immediately outside the goal-area line, but they are not allowed to touch the ball until it has completely crossed the line (15:4, 15:9, 8:7c).

Clarification No. 2 – Time-out (2:8)

Apart from the situations indicated in Rule 2:8, where a time-out is obligatory, the referees are expected to use their judgment regarding the need for time-outs also in other situations. Some typical situations where time-outs are not obligatory but nevertheless tend to be given in normal circumstances are:

- a) there are external influences, e.g. the court must be wiped;
- b) a player seems to be injured;
- c) a team is clearly wasting time, e.g. when the team is delaying the execution of a formal throw, or when a player is throwing the ball away or not releasing it;
- d) if the ball touches the ceiling or a fixture above the court (11:1), and the ball is deflected so that it goes far away from the location of the resulting throw-in, causing an

If the team that has to execute the goalkeeper throw is playing without a goalkeeper, a goalkeeper must replace one of the court players (Rule 4:4). The referees decide if a time-out is necessary (Rule 2:8, 2nd paragraph, Clarification No. 2).

The goalkeeper throw is considered to have been taken, when the ball thrown by the goalkeeper has completely crossed the goal-area line.

The players of the other team are allowed to be immediately outside the goal-area line, but they are not allowed to touch the ball until it has completely crossed the line (15:4, 15:9, 8:7c).

Clarification No. 2 – Time-out (2:8)

Apart from the situations indicated in Rule 2:8, where a time-out is obligatory, the referees are expected to use their judgment regarding the need for time-outs also in other situations. Some typical situations where time-outs are not obligatory but nevertheless tend to be given in normal circumstances are:

- a) there are external influences, e.g. the court must be wiped;
- b) a player seems to be injured;
- c) a team is clearly wasting time, e.g. when the team is delaying the execution of a formal throw, or when a player is throwing the ball away or not releasing it;
- d) if the ball touches the ceiling or a fixture above the court (11:1), and the ball is deflected so that it goes far away from the location of the resulting throw-in, causing an

Appendix 1 – Extracts from the Rules of the Game concerning “7th court player”

Current version

New version

unusual delay.

IHF Publication 2012

Additional players (Rule 4:6, 1st paragraph)

If an additional player enters the court without a substitution, there shall be a 2-minute suspension for the player.

If it is not possible to identify the guilty player, the following steps shall be taken:

- *The delegate or the referees respectively advise the ‘responsible team official’ to name the guilty player.*
- *The named player shall receive the 2-minute suspension as a personal punishment.*
- *In the event that the ‘responsible team official’ refuses to name the guilty player, the delegate or the referees respectively shall name a ~~court player who is on the court at that time~~. The named player shall receive a 2-minute suspension as a personal punishment.*

Note:

- *Only ~~court~~ players who are on the court at the time of the game interruption may be named the ‘guilty player’. ~~A player acting as a temporary goalkeeper cannot be named the ‘guilty player’.~~*
- *In case the ‘guilty player’ receives the third suspension, he shall be disqualified according to Rule 16:6d.*

unusual delay;

e) replacing a court player with a goalkeeper in order to execute a goalkeeper throw.

Guidelines and Interpretations

Additional players (Rule 4:6, 1st paragraph)

If an additional player enters the court without a substitution, there shall be a 2-minute suspension for the player.

If it is not possible to identify the guilty player, the following steps shall be taken:

- *The delegate or the referees respectively advise the ‘responsible team official’ to name the guilty player.*
- *The named player shall receive the 2-minute suspension as a personal punishment.*
- *In the event that the ‘responsible team official’ refuses to name the guilty player, the delegate or the referees respectively shall name a player. The named player shall receive a 2-minute suspension as a personal punishment.*

Note:

- *Only players who are on the court at the time of the game interruption may be named the ‘guilty player’.*
- *In case the ‘guilty player’ receives the third suspension, he shall be disqualified according to Rule 16:6d.*

Appendix 1 – Extracts from the Rules of the Game concerning “7th court player”

Current version

New version

Court player entering the goal area (8:7f)

If a team is playing without a goalkeeper and loses the ball, a court player of this team who is entering the team's own goal area to gain an advantage is to be punished progressively.