

# PLAY NETBALL

## RULES UPDATE



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# PL AV NETBALL TACTICAL CHANGES

## As of September 2024:

Teams no longer have to fake an injury to make positional changes during play. Teams can request a tactical change immediately after a goal has been scored.



## HOW IT WORKS



An on-court player must ask the umpire to hold time in order to make a tactical change.



Players are then to quickly change positions.



Play will restart by the umpire blowing their whistle.

# PL AV NETBALL GOAL AFTER WHISTLE

## As of September 2024:

Before, the ball had to pass completely through the net before the whistle for the goal to count.

Now if the whistle is blown to end play but the ball has already left the players hands, and the ball does go through the net, the goal will be counted.





# PL AV NETBALL CENTRE PASS CHECKS

## As of September 2024:

This is an update to an existing rule. The updated rule allows players on court to appeal to the umpires before the centre pass is made if they believe the team with the next centre pass is incorrect. Once the centre pass has been taken, any mistakes cannot be rectified.

If a team does believe a centre pass is being signaled incorrectly, the umpires will check with the scorers who will confirm the correct centre pass.



# PL AV NETBALL TOSS UP REMOVED

## As of September 2024:

Bye, bye toss up! A toss up was previously used if an infringement occurred simultaneously.

If a simultaneous infringement occurs now, the umpire will award possession to the team that last had possession of the ball, where the ball was when play stopped. Any player from that team can take the ball to restart play.



# PL AV NETBALL SHORT PASS

## As of September 2024:

This is an update to an existing rule. When a player passes the ball there must be sufficient space on the court for an opposing player to be able to deflect or intercept the ball as it moves hands between two players.

The update to this rule is the umpire must consider whether the defending player can make a genuine attempt to intercept the pass.



# PL AV NETBALL THROW IN

## As of September 2024:

This is an update to an existing rule. If you're waiting to take a throw in you no longer have to wait for every player to be on court.

This rule has been updated as the previous rule was difficult for umpires to apply as players may move off court to reposition. This update now helps speed up the game and ensures momentum isn't lost.





# PL AY NETBALL PLAYER SAFETY

## As of September 2024:

This rule has been updated to ensure player safety is always safe and fair.

Umpires can now hold time for player injury or illness, whereas before a request to hold time had to be made to the umpire. Players can still request to the umpire to hold time for injured or ill players.

Furthermore, players with dried blood on them will not have to leave the court and be substituted. Players with dried blood are now allowed to clean up quickly and continue playing.



# PL AV NETBALL FOU L PLAY

**As of September 2024:**

Foul play has been split into three categories.



## HOW IT WORKS



**Unfair Play.** This includes delaying play, intentional infringement, repeated infringement, intimidation and disputed ruling by a player.  
**= Penalty pass which is advanced.**



**Unsporting Behaviour.** This includes retaliation, abusive behaviour and any actions which show bad sporting behaviour.  
**= Penalty pass plus a warning or suspension.**



**Dangerous Play.** This means players must not take action that affects the safety of another player.  
**= Penalty pass plus a suspension or ordering off.**

# PL AV NETBALL GAME MANAGEMENT

Cautions have been removed and umpires can now advance or escalate a sanction. Usually umpires will work through these game management actions in order unless a serious offence has occurred on court.

## HOW IT WORKS



**Proactive advice.** This is for low level incidents that do not comprise player safety. An umpire will provide feedback to a player to change their behaviour.



**Advance or Escalate.** A sanction may be advanced up to 5m. If an infringement is in the goal third it can be advanced to a penalty pass. A free pass may be escalated to a penalty pass, as a stand-alone action or in combination with the sanction being advanced.



**Warning.** This lets the player know that if they continue to infringe the foul play rules they will be suspended.



**Suspension.** The player will be sent from the court for 2 minutes. After 2 minutes the suspended player can return to the court.



**Ordering off.** The player must leave the court and takes no further part in the match. The player may be replaced by another player but after 4 minutes of playing time.

# PL AV NETBALL ADVANTAGE RULE

## As of September 2024:

This is a refresh to an existing rule. A team should not be disadvantaged when an opponent infringes.

If an infringement occurs and the non-infringing team would be disadvantaged by the umpire blowing their whistle, they will refrain and instead call advantage, allowing play to continue.





# PL AV NETBALL CONTACT RULE

**As of September 2024:**

This is a refresh to an existing rule.  
There are two types of contact.



## HOW IT WORKS



**Interference.** A player must not engage in physical contact that unfairly interferes with an opponent's play. This includes ball lost, passing or shooting, and body position.



**Causing.** Causing contact has two sections:

**Moving Player.** This rule now states that a player must not take up a position so near to or quickly in the path of a moving opponent that the opponent does not have enough time or space, either to stop or change direction.

**Playing in The Air.** When two players jump in the air to contest, the player who gains possession has 'right of way' and must be given space to land.

# PL AV NETBALL REPLAYING THE BALL

This is a refresh to an existing rule.

**As of September 2024:**

To gain possession of the ball, a player will be able to:



- Catch the ball with one or both hands
- Roll the ball to oneself
- Catch the ball if it rebounds from the goalpost
- Bat the ball once, then catch it
- Touch the ball in an uncontrolled manner once or more than once, then catch it.

Without possession, a player can:



- Bat or bounce the ball to another player
- Bat the ball once, and then either bat or bounce the ball to another player
- Bounce the ball once, and then either bat or bounce the ball to another player
- Touch the ball in an uncontrolled manner once or more than once, and then either bat or bounce the ball to another player.

# PL AY NETBALL REPLAYING THE BALL

It should also be noted on what you cannot do when having possession or trying to gain possession of the ball.

A player is not allowed to:



- Kick the ball.
- Strike the ball with a fist.
- Roll the ball to another player.
- Pass the ball or shoot for goal whilst lying, kneeling or sitting on the ground.
- Fall on the ball to gain possession.
- Use the goal post for support.

