



# RULES OF NETBALL

2024 Edition





The World Netball Rules of Netball 2024 Edition is written for the International game. It allows for variations for other levels of play (Rule 21).



# SUMMARY OF CHANGES

- There are significant changes to some rules, but also minor changes to terminology and definitions.
- The following is a summary only. Netball Victoria recommends that all parties thoroughly familiarize themselves with all rules and definitions, and ensure umpires are adequately educated.
- 2024 Rules must be implemented in their entirety when introduced (i.e. can not only enact some rules and not others).
- For application at grassroots competition, common sense is required and bylaws in place where necessary.
- Implementation of 2024 edition Rules of Netball required by September 2024.



# RULE 3 - TEAM

## Rule 3.13. Role of the Captain

Captain and / or any player concerned can may approach an umpire for clarification of a rule.

Clarification = question about a rule, not comment on decision!

Umpires must provide clarification in a way that is clearly understood.



# RULE 4 – MATCH OFFICIALS

## Rule 4.13.

*Either umpire may hold time for injury/illness of a player or blood, an emergency or other extreme circumstances, or for foul play.*

It does not need to be the controlling umpire that holds time.

Common sense is required so as not to disrupt play unnecessarily.



# RULE 6 – SANCTIONS & ACTIONS

## Throw In

### **4 Throw-in (goal line)**

*for attacking team  
at its goal end  
Arm angled down,  
pointing to base of  
goalpost*



Just like any other sanction, the player taking the throw-in can play the ball as soon as they are in position, without waiting.

**Players do not have to wait for all players to be on court**



# RULE 6 – SANCTIONS & ACTIONS

## Rule 6.20.

*Rule 6.20. A player must not infringe when the ball is not in play. This includes:*

*b. Between the awarding of, and the taking of a sanction or an action. This does not include a player entering an offside area to retrieve a ball to set a sanction or action.*



# ADVANTAGE

## Rule 7

### 5 Advantage

Arm sweeps across body towards goal end of team with advantage



**Advantage will be applied where the non-infringing team has a clear and real opportunity to play the ball:**

- To a territorial advantage (towards the non-infringing team's goal end).
- To a tactical advantage (the non-infringing team is free to play the ball as they wish).
- To a **combination of territorial and tactical** advantage.





# ADVANTAGE

## Rule 7

### 5 Advantage

Arm sweeps across body towards goal end of team with advantage



### Advantage must not be applied:

- To any incident of unfair play, unsporting behaviour or dangerous play.
- To any other incident that would result in the immediate suspension or ordering off of the infringer.
- To any incident resulting in head and/or neck contact or contact of the head and/or neck with any part of the playing enclosure including the goalpost.
- To any other incident where it is suspected that a player is seriously injured.



# CENTRE PASS CHECKS

## Rule 8

**3 Direction of pass**  
*for centre pass, sanction  
or action*  
Arm outstretched  
to side pointing to goal  
end of team with pass



**Immediately after a goal is signalled, both umpires and the reserve umpire indicate the direction of the next centre pass, and the controlling umpire calls the name of the team to take the centre pass:**

- On appeal from an on-court player **prior to the centre pass being taken**, the umpires will check with the scorers and confirm the correct team to take the next centre pass.

It is important to note that the appeal can **only come from an on-court player**, not the bench or coach and the appeal must be made before the centre pass is taken. **Once it's taken, it is too late.**



# CENTRE PASS

## Rule 8.10

Players must be positioned on the court and in their correct thirds when play is due to start.

Terminology: Incorrect position.

Action: Free pass where the infringement occurred.



# SCORING A GOAL

## Rule 9

- *Rule 9.2. If the whistle to end a period of play or hold time is blown after the ball has left the hands of the GS or GA and the shot is successful, the goal will be scored.*
- This is a change from the ball having to pass completely through the ring before the whistle is blown to be counted.



# STOPPAGES

## Rule 10

- *Rule 10.9. The umpires hold time for injury/illness following a verifiable request by an on-court player or with a request in the event there is an obvious and/or serious injury.*
- *Rule 10.17. Any other player with blood on their body or clothing who is not actively bleeding may leave the field of play to have this cleaned within the time allowed for the stoppage (30 seconds) by the umpires without the need to be substituted.*
- An umpire can hold time without the request by an on-court player.
- Players with dried blood are no longer required to be substituted, so long as clothing is not bloodstained (see definitions).



# PLAYING THE BALL

## Rule 11

### 15 Incorrect playing of the ball

*also for playing ball on ground,  
using the goalpost, replayed ball*

One hand, palm down, move  
vertically up and down in  
a bouncing action



After having possession and releasing the ball, a player may not touch the ball again before it touches another player or it rebounds from the goalpost.

Sanction: Free pass.

**Terminology: Repossession. (no change to hand signal)**

Under Playing the Ball, without having possession (11.7) and prohibited actions (11.8) **have a new hand signal.**



# SHORT PASS

## Rule 12

- *Rule 12.1. 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 from the hands of the passer to those of the receiver.*
- There is a change in the wording here (from “intercept by a hand”) to allow for the umpire to consider whether the defending player can make a genuine attempt to deflect or intercept.



# SHORT PASS

## Rule 12

### 16 Short pass

Hands, palms inward a short distance apart, one hand moves towards the other held stationary



## Off the post?

The interpretation of a short pass when the ball is passed on to the post by a player, and then caught by the same player, has not changed.

There must be sufficient space **on the court** (in particular at a throw in) for an opposing player to be able to deflect or intercept the ball, as it moves from the hands, to the post, and back to the hands again.





# FOOTWORK

## Rule 13

- *Rule 13.3. A player in possession of the ball may not:*
  - d. *Fall to the ground and reground the landing foot*
- This has been added to the footwork definition. Common sense required when applying, especially at junior competition.



# OBSTRUCTION

## Rule 16

- *Rule 16.2. An opposing player may attempt to deflect or intercept the ball or defend a player in possession of the ball while being lifted by another opposing player, provided there 0.9m between the nearest part of the grounded foot of the player in possession of the ball, and the foot/feet of the opposing player in contact with the ground.*



# CONTACT

## Rule 17

### 20 Contact

Hand, palm facing down,  
taps opposite forearm



## INTERFERENCE

For physical contact to interfere it must result in:

- Loss of the ball by an opponent in possession.
- Interference with the passing or shooting action of an opponent in possession.
- A change in the body position of an opponent, regardless of whether the opponent is in possession of the ball, which limits their ability to move freely and places them at an unfair disadvantage in attacking, defending or playing the ball.



# CONTACT

## Rule 17

### 20 Contact

Hand, palm facing down,  
taps opposite forearm



## CAUSING

- A player can jump and land in their own space or any vacant space on court.
- A player cannot jump into a stationary opponent.
- A player cannot move into the landing space of an opponent who has jumped.

## MOVING PLAYER

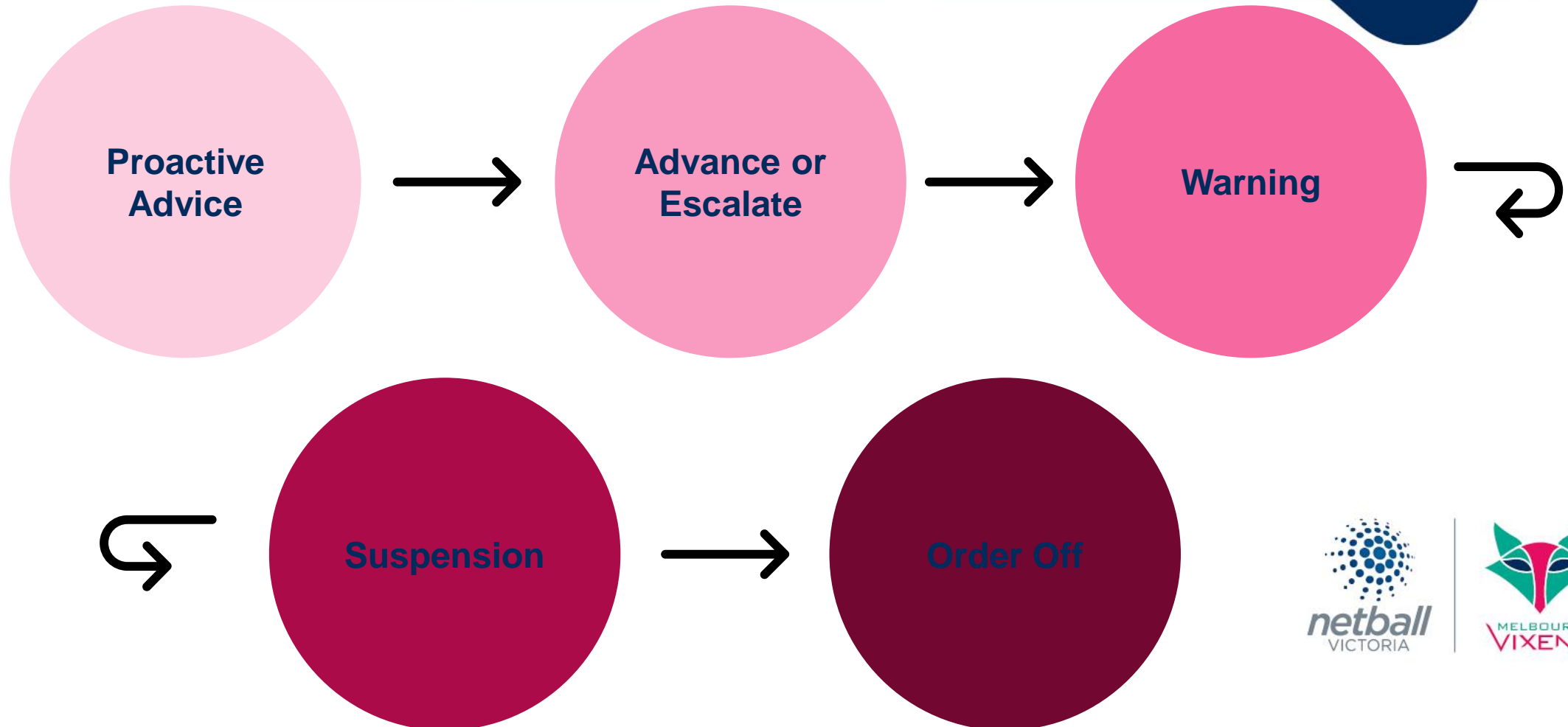
The moving player rule now states that a player must not take up a position so near to or so quickly in the path of a moving opponent that the opponent does not have enough time or space, either to stop or change direction.

This is dependent on the speed of the opponent.



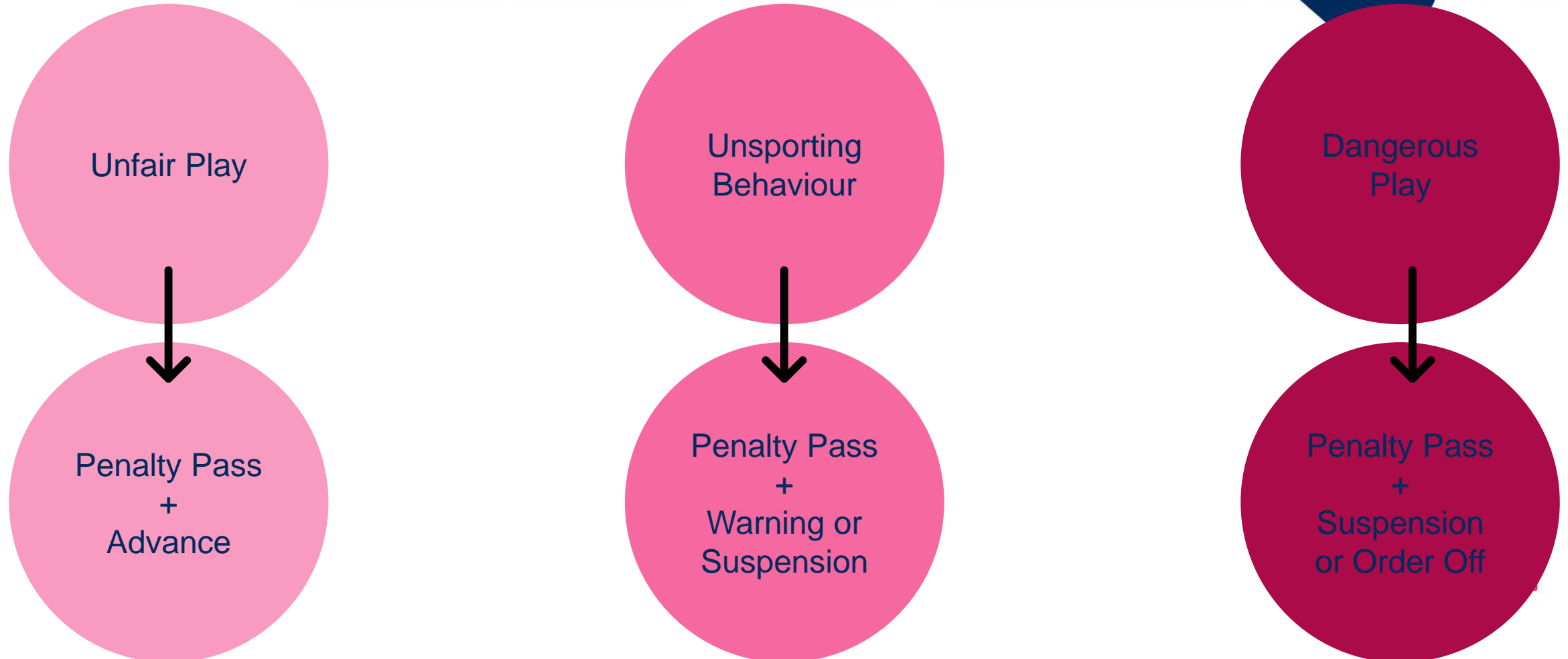
# GAME MANAGEMENT

## Rule 18



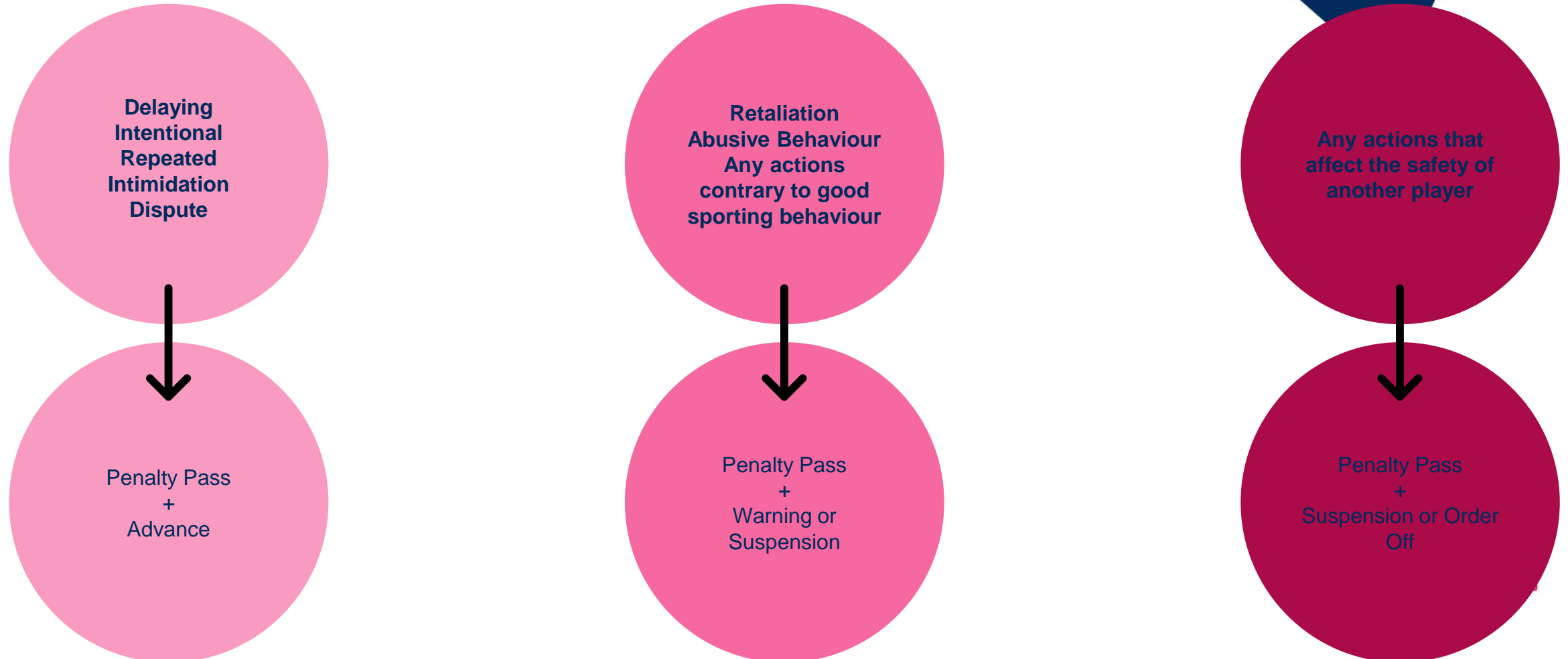
# FOUL PLAY

## Rule 19



# FOUL PLAY

## Rule 9



# TOSS UP





# SIMULTANEOUS INFRINGEMENTS

## Rule 20

### 6 Possession

Hands, palms inward a short distance apart in a catching motion



The umpire will award possession to the team who last had possession of the ball immediately prior to that infringement.

It is expected this will be used as often as we would've seen a toss up - not very often!

As it stands for any other action (free pass or penalty pass), any player from that team may take the ball for the restart of play- it doesn't have to be the player who had the ball last. If in the goal circle, the GS or GA may shoot for goal.



# TACTICAL SUBSTITUTIONS

## Rule 10

- 10.2. Both teams may make tactical changes immediately after a goal has been scored following a request from an on-court player to hold time for this purpose, ensuring that:
  - a. The umpire is clear the request is for a tactical change and not for injury/illness of a player or blood.
  - b. Any on-court players leave the court or change playing positions without delay.
  - c. Any substitutes take up their position on court without delay.
  - d. All team officials including primary care persons remain at the team bench.
  - e. The umpire is able to restart play quickly so the momentum of the match is not affected.
- 10.3. If undue time is taken by either team to complete substitutions and/or team changes, the infringing team will be penalised for delaying play [Rule 19.1] and [Rule 19.2]. For a tactical change, this will be immediately following the whistle for the next centre pass.
- 10.4. The number of substitutions and/or team changes is unlimited during a match provided the players used are those named for the match. However, if the number of requests for tactical changes becomes frivolous the umpires may refuse the request and/or penalise the infringing team for delaying play [Rule 19.1] and [Rule 19.2].



# ROLLING SUBSTITUTIONS

## Netball Australia recommended bylaw

- a. The rolling substitution stands at the designated area. (This is normally set up as a small box or line to the side of each team's bench, next to the score bench)
- b. Before leaving the designated area, the substitute tags (with hands) the player leaving the court.
- c. Only one (1) rolling substitute per team can be made at a time.
- d. Play is not to be held up for rolling substitutions. If play is delayed, the player will be penalised under Rule 19.2. Delaying play.
- e. Players must observe the offside rules as they enter/leave the court. *Sanction:* Free pass where the infringement occurred (advantage may be applied if this would place the non-offending team at a disadvantage).
- f. Players must not interfere with the umpire's movement during the substitution. *Sanction:* Free pass where the ball was when play was stopped (advantage may be applied)
- g. If a player leaves the court as a rolling substitution, and there is no player in the designated area, the replacement player is treated as a late player and must wait until a break in play to enter the court.



# SUBSTITUTIONS

## Rule 10 - Stoppages

Things to consider for each option.

Decision is for administrators to best meet the needs of their competitions.

Recommendation for centrally timed games is to adopt Rolling Substitutions.

**Must be one or the other, not both!**



# TACTICAL VS ROLLING SUBSTITUTIONS

## Things to consider

	TACTICAL SUBS	ROLLING SUBS
Time must be held	✓	✗
Game stops for substitutions	✓	✗
On court positional changes	✓	✗
Multiple substitutions	✓	✗
Designated substitution area	✗	✓
Multiple sets of bibs	✗	✓
Infringements that may occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delaying play (penalty pass + <i>advanced</i>)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offside (free pass)</li><li>• Interference with umpire (free pass)</li></ul>

# MORE INFO

## Resources and opportunities

- <https://netball.sport/game/the-rules-of-netball>
- [rules@netball.com.au](mailto:rules@netball.com.au)
- Rules of Netball app
- Rules of Netball exam (Netball Learning)
- WorkSafe Umpires in the Field workshops – Game & Match Management

