

Advancing the Penalty Pass and Effective Game Management

Advancing the Penalty Pass

May only be used for delaying play

The Rule Book specifies the following:

Rule 7.1.3 Conditions for Penalty Pass

States that 'the infringer must move to the position indicated, stand beside and away from the player taking the penalty pass and remain in this position and not take part in play until the ball has been released'.

Sanction: A further penalty pass is awarded (which **may** be advanced if it is judged to be delaying play)

Rule 8.1.1 (ii) States that 'if a team delays taking the court after a stoppage a penalty pass is awarded which **may** be advanced'.

Rule 13.2.1 States that 'a player may not intentionally waste time or delay play'. The sanction is a penalty pass which is advanced (unless the non-offending team is disadvantaged) and the player is cautioned.

These are the only rules which allow an umpire to advance a penalty pass.

Advancing a Penalty Pass

If a penalty pass is to be advanced, the following should be considered:

- Make sure that players are aware the penalty pass has been advanced and why – if necessary hold 'Time' to ensure it is advanced correctly
- Note that the penalty pass is advanced, hence it must be set correctly in the new position. Thus the infringer must move to the new position (if the new position is in an area where the infringer is not permitted, the infringer moves to the edge of their playing area and takes no part in play until the ball is thrown)
- Distance advanced – through the court up to half a third. An umpire can only move the penalty pass within the half they control, but the co-Umpire may advance the penalty pass further (the total distance should be within the guideline). Umpires are advised to work together and to cooperate with each other.
- When advancing a penalty pass into the Goal Circle, it will not be usual to advance it to near the goalpost.

Effective Game Management

As well as using the voice and whistle for penalising infringements and awarding penalties, Umpires should have a range of strategies to use in a game to ensure players and team are aware of the standards they require. How an Umpire uses these to maintain good control and to minimise infringements will often be a mark of the competence of the Umpire (as well as reflect the respect the players have for the Umpire). These strategies may include the following:

- Use of voice (other than for infringements & penalties) ie 'informal advice'
- Change of tone in voice, which may include deliberate pause and/or more deliberate whistle
- Request the captain to speak to any on-court player/s whose behaviour is causing concern
- Caution a player



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- Official warning to a player
- Suspend a player
- Order a player off

Normally an Umpire will work through these strategies in roughly the order indicated unless an offence is serious enough to require a higher level of discipline.

Informal advice

The umpire may, without holding play, informally advise player/s to adjust their play.

- This would usually apply to an isolated incident or low-level incidents that do not require a caution
- This is considered to be 'effective game management' not 'coaching'

Use of Voice (including change of tone, use of pause etc)

Umpires should have a range of expressions they can use to indicate to players they need to change their behaviour. The important thing is to ensure there are further levels that can be used if players do not respond!

- Use short, clear instructions; useful phrases are 'tidy up your Contact', 'get your distance right', 'wait for the whistle' (in reference to Breaking)
- Do not say 'tidy up' as this is unclear and does not state what needs to be tidied up
- Do not use phrases such as 'no more Contact', 'stop breaking' - these could be misinterpreted as a caution or official warning and what will you do if they do not stop?
- Varying the tone used and uses of pauses all adds 'a difference' that players will note

Calling 'Time' to speak to the captain

Holding 'time' during the match adds a degree of seriousness that makes a sanction more effective.

Everyone (including the coach) knows the Umpire considers it important enough to stop play and ask the captain to speak to any on-court player/s whose behaviour is causing concern. The umpire must allow the captain time to go and speak to the player/s concerned.

Actions that may be taken by umpires

To manage a match the umpires may, in addition to the normal sanction use any of the following:

- Caution
- Official warning
- Suspend a player
- Order a player off

Caution

The umpire will advise the player/s that the behaviour specified must change. The following are suggested:

- The umpire will hold 'time' to give a caution
- Use clear, consistent language. Ensure the word 'caution' is used and the player is advised of the behaviour for which the caution was given. A caution signals to a player that the behaviour specified needs to change and repeated offences may result in further action being taken if they infringe again. The umpire must hold 'time' while giving a caution
- A caution is not binding on the co-umpire

Official Warning

If a player continues to infringe after receiving a caution for a specified behaviour, the umpire will issue an 'official warning'. The following are suggested:

- An official warning would not normally be the first step unless the incident is so serious that it requires this
- Use clear, consistent language. Ensure the word 'official warning' is used and the player is advised of the behaviour for which the official warning was given. An official warning signals to a player



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what action will be taken if they infringe again. The umpire must hold 'time' while giving an official warning

- The umpire should be clear about what repeated or deliberate infringements might lead to an official warning. Umpires are often quick to issue an official warning for relatively minor offences (such as breaking) but fail to deal with more serious repeated infringements (such as hitting the shooter's arm/ball at almost every shot, deliberate Obstructing etc). For minor infringements options such as awarding a penalty pass could be considered
- There is no such thing as a 'first official warning'! Only one should be given – and acted upon if there is any repetition of the behaviour that caused it to be given
- Rule 13.1 makes it clear that an official warning is considered to have been made jointly by the two Umpires and is binding on the co-umpire. The umpires may confer before deciding on the action to be taken. It is important that the co-umpire is aware that an official warning has been given and the reasons for it.

Suspension

Although the suspension of a player is relatively rare, Umpires should not hesitate to use this when appropriate. If an official warning has been given, a suspension would be expected to follow if further infringing occurs. In the case of dangerous play or misconduct, a player may be suspended without an official warning if the umpire considers this action is justified. The following guidelines should be used:

- The Umpire should hold 'time' while advising the player of the suspension and the reasons
- The length of time for the suspension is 2 minutes **playing time**.
- If appropriate, the Umpires can work together to advise the Timekeepers and Scorers of the details. The Reserve Umpire is responsible for the oversight of the suspended player while they are off the Court
- A suspended player is able to join the rest of the team during an interval but not during any stoppages
- Rule 13.1 makes it clear that a suspension is considered to have been made jointly by the two Umpires and is binding on the co-umpire. The umpires may confer before deciding on the action to be taken. It is important that the co-umpire is aware of the reasons for the suspension.

Ordering Off

The umpire may order a player off the court for serious misconduct or continued foul play. This would normally follow a suspension or official warning but the umpire may order a player off if they consider the action is justified.

The procedures are similar a suspension except the player is sent to the Team Bench for the remainder of the match.