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**QUIDDITCH
AUSTRALIA**

2020-2022 QA Rule Amendments



Reduction in minimum number of required players

1.2.1.A.C is renamed to 1.2.1.A.D and a new 1.2.1.A.C is added to read: *If a team has insufficient eligible players due to injury, they may choose to forfeit the match, or may choose to continue. If the injury reduces the number of eligible players below five (5), then the team must forfeit.*

1.2.1.A.C.i is also added to read: *Teams must always have one keeper in play*

Justification

This amendment is added with the intention of allowing smaller squads, or squads with large gender imbalances to continue playing if they feel it is appropriate. While QA encourages teams to represent all genders as equally as possible, we have listened to clubs in the past who expressed concern about the fact that despite their best efforts, they struggle to recruit players to create a good balance of players representing all genders. As a result, we would like to avoid a situation where a team would be forced to forfeit despite having a large number of players, due solely to them having a large number of one gender of player. In such a situation, we would like clubs to have the opportunity to play on with the ability to manage player fatigue through their remaining substitutes.

Similarly, we know that many clubs often send small teams to matches. In an attempt to ensure that these smaller clubs are not forced into forfeiting a match and missing out on a game of quidditch, this amendment would allow those teams to play on. This amendment would be particularly useful when an injury may occur for a smaller team near the end of the game. Should the small team be clearly leading, it would be unfair to force them into a forfeit if they are physically able to finish the game and win. We do recognise that there should be a limit to this rule however and as such, we feel it would be unreasonable to allow a team to play on with four or less players.

Expansion of reasons for players to leave player area

1.4.2.E. is added to read: *Players may leave the player area to fetch equipment, such as water, headbands etc. at the discretion of the Head Referee or an Assistant Referee.*

Justification

This amendment is being carried over from the previous QA amendments. We feel it is important for the rulebook to allow players to retrieve necessary equipment, especially water, after the commencement of the game. We feel that as long as the referee team is informed, there is no reason to disallow such an action



Relaxation of broom material rules

2.4.1.A is amended to read: *Must consist of a rigid pole made of plastic, wood, or any other reasonable material cleared by the head referee before the commencement of the match.*

Justification

This amendment was put in place for the previous rulebook and the Gameplay Department has not found any evidence to suggest that it should be removed. Some players have a personal preference for wooden brooms and some clubs have a large collection of wooden brooms that would be unusable without this amendment. Only anecdotal evidence has ever been provided to back up the ban on non-plastic brooms and without reliable, fact based evidence, we feel that the current rule is an unnecessary overregulation of player equipment that may negatively impact clubs.

Grace period for reduction in allowed broom size

2.4.1.A.iii is amended to read: *Any broom that was purchased prior to 2021 and would have been a legal broom during the 2020 season may still be used until the start of 2023. Brooms purchased after 2020 must meet the new regulations for broom size.*

Justification

In much the same way as a grace period was offered for jerseys that did not meet requirements introduced in the 2018-2020 rulebook, QA are allowing more time for teams and individual players to replace their brooms to fall in line with these new requirements. It is important to note that any brooms purchased from 2021 onwards must meet the new specifications for broom size and clubs are encouraged to work towards replacing or modifying any illegally sized brooms as soon as is practical to be prepared for the 2023 deadline.

Removal of restrictions on tape for brooms

2.4.1.D is removed.

Justification

QA is not aware of any non-anecdotal evidence that suggests there is a legitimate reason to regulate the use of tape on brooms. Conversely, QA is aware that many players take pride and joy in decorating their brooms with tape and this activity can be an excellent activity to promote member engagement within local clubs. As such, we believe that this regulation should be removed in Australia.



Removal of restrictions on metal studs

2.5.2.D.ii is amended to read: *Studs may be completely made of metal or affixed with metal caps however individual tournaments retain the right to ban metal studs should it be a condition of the playing venue.*

Justification

Considering other sports which have their players wear studs, we see no evidence to suggest that quidditch should move to ban metal studs. Soccer does not ban the use of metal studs unless they are sharp or jagged (this is already covered in section 2.5.2.D.i). Rugby union is a full contact sport with an extensive set of rules around studs, yet they do not outlaw the use of metal studs. On the contrary, metal studs are preferred over plastic ones in rugby union, with plastic studs only becoming allowed more recently. We hence see no reason to ban the use of metal studs, especially when it may end with players who already own metal studs being required to purchase new boots just to play quidditch.

Removal of requirement for mouthguards

2.5.2.E is amended to read: *A mouthguard is NOT compulsory however the use of a mouthguard is recommended.*

2.5.2.E.i-iii are removed.

Justification

This amendment was put in place for the previous rulebook and is being carried over to the new rulebook. While QA recommends the use of a mouthguard, we trust our members to use their best judgement when it comes to their own safety and the safety equipment that they require.

Relaxation of headgear rules for cultural headwear

2.5.3.C.iii is added to read: *Headwear worn for cultural reasons such as turbans or hijabs may be used as a headband, pending the following:*

- I. *They must meet the standards of 2.5.3.A-B*
- II. *Their use must be communicated to the head referee and opposing speaking captain during the pregame meeting*
- III. *Their use must not pose a safety risk to other players*
- IV. *If the player enters the game in another position, they may wear a different coloured headband on top of their headwear to signify this change.*



Justification

The idea from this amendment comes from its successful use by Quidditch Canada for many years now. To ensure that quidditch remains a welcoming atmosphere for people of all cultures, we want to remove barriers that may disincentivise quidditch for people of particular cultural backgrounds.

Relaxation of equipment rules to allow shin guards

2.5.5.A.iv is added to read: *Shin guards are exempt from sections ii and iii above as long as they are fully covered by the player's clothing at all times, such as by their socks.*

Justification

We have heard lots of community feedback over the past few years from players who were upset by the fact that they could not wear shin guards while playing quidditch. Given that shin guards are regularly used in sports such as soccer and rugby union, we see no reason why they should be banned in quidditch. If anything, we feel that contact with a bare shin is likely to cause more damage than contact with a shin guard.

Clarification of headgear rules to disallow hard brim hats

2.5.5.F.i is added to read: *Hats with hard brims may not be worn.*

Justification

The current rulebook does not provide explicit clarification on this however we feel that the use of a hard brim hat presents a safety risk towards other players. In the past, there has been some inconsistency with the enforcement of this, with some referees allowing hard brim hats, others allowing them to be worn backwards, and others still banning them outright. To remove this inconsistency, we have made the decision to introduce a total ban on hard brim hats as this is the safest, and most straightforward way to deal with hard brimmed hats. It should be noted that QA encourages our players to be sun smart and this rule by no means bans the use of bucket hats, soft brimmed caps/visors, or soft wide brimmed hats.



Clarification to allow jewellery in limited circumstances

2.5.10.B.iv is added to read: *If a player's jewellery cannot be removed for medical reasons (including a newly acquired piercing), or can only be removed by a professional, it shall be permitted so long as it is covered by tape or some other covering such that the referee deems the covered jewellery to not be dangerous.*

Justification

The rulebook allows for medical equipment to be worn if an equipment waiver is attained from QA. To avoid the need for equipment waivers to wear items such as medical alert bracelets, we have chosen to explicitly allow these within the rules. To ensure player safety, these bracelets should be taped such that there is a low risk of another player getting a finger stuck under the bracelet. We do however recognise that fully covering a medic alert bracelet in tape defeats the purpose of wearing it. As such, a referee should use their best judgement to balance player safety, and the visibility of the medic alert bracelet.

Additionally, we note here that jewellery may be covered when it can only be removed by a professional. This is intended to only cover times when a player has a piercing or similar piece of jewellery that cannot physically be removed without professional assistance. If a player has such a piece of jewellery, it must be entirely covered such that it could not cause any harm to other players. This rule does NOT extend to regular piercings that can be removed without professional assistance. These must still be removed before the start of a match.

Removal of requirement for substituting keeper to restart quaffle in limited circumstances

7.4.1.C.ii.a is added to read: *If an official or a member of the formerly defending team is retrieving a dead quaffle, the keeper may substitute out of the game if the substitution can be completed before the dead quaffle would be returned to the keeper.*

Justification

If a shot has rolled far away from the hoops, requiring a keeper to restart play before substituting may cause a further delay of game. If a keeper is able to substitute while the quaffle is dead without causing unnecessary delay to the restart of play, there is no reason to disallow this. If the keeper is delaying the game by substituting while the quaffle is ready to be made live, this is still a delay of game offence and may still be penalised.