



QA 2023 RULEBOOK AMENDMENTS



QUIDDITCH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED



Reduction in minimum number of required players

1.2.1.B.iii is renamed to 1.2.1.B.iv and a new 1.2.1.B.iii 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.B.iii.a 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 quadball, 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.C is renamed to 1.4.2.D and a new 1.4.2.C 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

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 added 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 they are no longer viable. Brooms purchased after 2020 must meet the new regulations for broom size.*

It is recommended that elite level players such as Continental Games or World Cup participants purchase their own brooms according to the sizing restrictions of the current rulebook. This is to alleviate any adjustment issues when participating in relevant international events which use the IQA Rulebook specifications.

Justification

In much the same way as a grace period was offered for jersey 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.

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 event to promote member engagement within local clubs. As such, we believe that this regulation should be removed in Australia.



Removal of requirement for mouthguards

2.5.2.E is amended to read: *A mouthguard is NOT compulsory for social, community or club level QA sanctioned events, however the use of a mouthguard is strongly recommended.*

A mouthguard is still compulsory for elite level events which include but are not limited to; Dropbears Trials and Training events, Development Squad Trial and Training events, State Shield.

2.5.2.E.i-iii are removed.

Justification

This amendment was put in place for previous rulebooks and is being carried over to the new rulebook. While QA strongly 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. It has been recognised that the requirement for a mouthguard may be a barrier for recruitment as it is an additional cost incurred by either the individual or club.

Elite level players are expected to adhere to this requirement for their own safety as there is an anticipated higher level of intensity and physicality at the events in which they participate.

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.



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

This amendment is being carried forward from previous rulebooks. 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 soft brimmed caps, buckets hats, or soft wide brimmed hats.

Clarification to allow jewelry 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

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 volleyball 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 volleyball, the keeper may substitute out of the game if the substitution can be completed before the dead volleyball 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 volleyball 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 volleyball is ready to be made live, this is still a delay of game offence and may still be penalised.

Replacement of heat policy

3.3.5 is replaced with: *The QA Extreme Weather Policies will be applied to all QA sanctioned events within Australia.*

Justification

These policies have been created specifically with reference to the Australian climate. We feel that an international standard for weather policies is not catered to the needs of our members and as such will continue to use our own policies in regards to extreme weather.

Additional condition to volleyball stalling procedure

7.4.2.A.i-iii are renamed to 7.4.2.A.ii-iv and 7.4.2.A.i is added to read: *The HR shall announce “volleyball is stalling” at the beginning of the 10 second count.*

Justification

This is to have an indication that the 10 second count has begun for players knowledge.