

Australian Racquetball Rules

Summary of rule changes effective 1 January 2013

Every 4 years the Australian Rules of Racquetball are reviewed by the National Rules Committee (NRC) in consultation with players across Australia. The NRC is made up of representatives from Victoria, Sth Australia, NSW and Queensland.

The process commenced with a notice being circulated Australia wide in June last year, advising of the review and encouraging the racquetball community to submit any proposed changes.

The NRC were then provided with 17 proposed changes which were reviewed and discussed at length. Of these 17 changes, 13 have been approved. While some of these are fairly minor cosmetic changes, there are some important changes as follows:

Change to Rule 4 (Good Service)

This Rule has been amended to reflect that the ball must be bounced once only before the striker can serve.

Additional Note for Rule 7 (Let)

If a player makes an appeal for interference before the result of the opponent's return is known, this is regarded as an early appeal. If a player makes an early appeal and the opponent's return subsequently goes down or out, the Referee shall allow the result of the rally to stand, the player winning the rally.

New wording for Rule 9 (Ball hitting a player)

This Rule has been reworded to clearly state what happens when a player is hit with the ball. The main change is that:

- In Singles, if a player turns (either physically or implied) or hits a "loss of sight" shot, and subsequently hits their opponent with the ball, the striker will lose the point.
- In Doubles, the striker is not allowed to do a Physical or Implied Turn. An Implied Turn is where the striker allows the ball to pass behind their body before striking the ball. If the striker, about to enter this situation chooses not to continue the rally and asks for a let due to the possibility of striking the opponent, a point shall be awarded to the receiving side even if, in the opinion of the Referee, the striker is able to make a good return

Change to Rule 12.1.4 (Interference)

This Rule has been changed to remove the last condition; "A player must make every effort to allow the opponent, as far as the latter's position permits, freedom to return the ball directly to the front wall, or either side wall, to within approximately one metre of the front wall." Therefore a Let will not be allowed for a player whose intention is to play a boast (subject to Rule 12.1.1, 12.1.2 or 12.1.3).

Change to Rule 16.6 (Injury)

The Rules for a self-inflicted injury, contributed injury and opponent-inflicted injury have been reworded to provide referees clear guidelines as to the consequences of an injured player and to bring them in line with current Squash rules.

- For a self-inflicted injury (Rule 16.6.1) the Referee shall allow 3 minutes for the injured player to recover. The Referee shall call “Time” at the end of the 3 minute period after giving a 15 second warning. If the player requests additional recovery time beyond 3 minutes, the Referee shall require the injured player to concede one game, accept the 90 second time interval between games and then resume play or concede the match. If the injured player has not returned to the court when “Time” is called, the Referee shall award the match to the opponent.
- For a contributed injury (Rule 16.6.2) the Referee shall allow one hour for the injured player to recover and such additional time as the time-schedule of the competition permits. The referee shall call “Time” at the end of any recovery time allowed. The injured player must, by the end of this period, resume play or concede the match. If the injured player resumes play, the score at the conclusion of the rally in which the injury occurred shall stand.
- For an opponent-inflicted injury (Rule 16.6.3) the Referee shall apply Rule 17 and if the injured player requires time to recover, the Referee shall award the match to the injured player

All of the new changes and a new set of Australian Rules of Racquetball can be found on the Squash SA website www.squashsa.asn.au > Racquetball > Rules & Guidelines