



United States Association of Indoor Wheelchair Soccer

To: Head Coaches of USA-IWS Teams

From: Bill Lardi, Commissioner USA-IWS

Re: Delay of Game/ Passive Play Rule

Date: September 2, 2010

Hello to all of you. I hope you have had a wonderful summer and are all gearing up to join us in Houston this November for the USA-IWS Nationals! The Houston Local Organizing Committee and the Interim Committee have been working hard to ensure that our first "independent" National Games are a success.

Earlier this year, the Rules Committee met and dealt with several proposed rule changes. They were able to come to a consensus on all the issues with the exception of the Delay of Game issue. Everyone agreed that this was a vitally important issue. For years there have been complaints that the conclusion of close games looks unprofessional (some have even said boring) when one team holds the ball without movement, simply killing the clock. To that end, a group composed of Dave Stephenson, Ron Tavis, Janie Avant and I convened and came up with a rule which we feel is properly worded, addresses the Delay of Game issue, and makes minimal changes.

As per past practices of the sport, we will be using the attached Delay of Game/Passive Play Rule as a trial at the Nationals. We will all meet at the conclusion of the Tournament and discuss its success or failure. It will be re-worked as necessary, and then go through the annual Rules Committee process if it is to be officially added to the rulebook.

As we have said before, the USA-IWS Committee believes that this sport is a sport of its membership. We welcome your input on the intent and clarity of this proposal; which, I repeat, will be used as a trial rule in the upcoming National Tournament.

Thank you all for your participation and support of our wonderful sport. I hope to see you in Houston in November.

Bill Lardi

Commissioner/Chairman of the Interim Committee of USA-IWS

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Delay of Game/Passive Play Rule

During the course of the game, a team may wish to attempt to delay the game by engaging in any number of passive play scenarios. *Passive play* is defined as the offensive team not making any aggressive play toward the goal. If, in the judgement of the referee, the offensive team is not making any aggressive play toward their goal, the referee will give a clear, verbal warning for passive play, and begin a 5 sec. count. If the offensive team makes an aggressive move toward their goal, the count will stop. If the offense continues their passive play, at the end of the 5 sec. count the referee will stop play, call a Delay of Game, and award a side-out to the defensive team.

Under the Delay of Game/Passive Play Rule, the offensive team may pass back to their goalie at any time. However, the goalie is an OFFENSIVE PLAYER at this point, and the goalie privilege of holding the ball for a 5 second side-out *is not in effect at this time*. If the goalie does hold the ball for 5 seconds, the referee will stop play, call a Delay of Game, and award a side-out to the defensive team. The goalie still retains his goalie privilege right to a 5 second side-out whenever he plays the ball as a DEFENSIVE PLAYER (see example #4), or on plays that result in a change of possession from defense to offense (see example #5.)

In an effort to clearly describe this proposed rule, the following game scenarios have been provided.

Examples:

- 1) Offensive player plays “catch” with his goalie, not advancing the ball or moving his chair forward. **Result:** Verbal warning, 5-count, Delay of Game... side out defense.
- 2) Offensive player passes back to his goalie from anywhere on the court and goalie holds the ball. **Result:** Verbal warning, 5-count, Delay of Game... side out defense.
- 3) Offensive player passes back to his goalie, who then passes out, and the team moves the ball upcourt. **Result:** No call, this is a legal play.
- 4) The goalie makes a save and holds the ball for 5 seconds. **Result:** No change in this rule. The goalie’s team retains possession on a side-out.
- 5) While in his defensive zone, a defensive player steals the ball and passes to his goalie, who holds the ball for 5 seconds. **Result:** No change in this rule. The goalie is still a defensive player on change of possession plays and retains goalie privileges. The goalie’s team retains possession on a side-out.