[](http://magnetnetballclub.co.uk/)**Modified Netball Q&A – September 2020**

**Why has netball had to modify?**

* Traditional/standard netball is deemed high risk due to the close face-2-face interactions
* Need to remove face-2-face interactions of less than 1m, for longer than 3 seconds - highest risk
* Need to reduce the number of interactions within 1m not face-2-face (ie side to side or front to back) for longer than 3 seconds – Medium risk. Medium risk interactions have to be less than 15 minutes in total across all match play
* Need to reduce idle interactions or periods of rest when players are stood within 1m of each other unnecessarily

Players have a responsibility to avoid placing themselves and others at risk by following the modifications put in place. Players must change their behaviour if asked and to adhere to the modifications. With good compliance from all there should be no issues

**Game modifcations - MODIFICATIONS ARE NOT RULES, RULES REMAIN THE SAME (except 3ft to 4ft distance which is a rule)**

**4ft spacing v contest** – we have to avoid face-to-face interactions within 1m (eg idle interaction under post, arms up waiting for rebound) and minimise face-to-face interactions within 2m for longer than 3 secs. What we can do:

* Run together side by side (even touching shoulders)
  + Defend front to back (can touch front to back), or side to side for less than 3 seconds
  + Contest for ball
  + **Key is to keep moving and avoid standing still, close to someone else**

**What really is an idle interaction?** Normally happens when the ball is in another area of the court and players are not involved. It can happen when players are having a rest period in play eg after a goal is scored, or at the end of a quarter when players are walking back to bench. They can occur but need to be done 4ft away from another player.

**4ft spacing at the start of play** – EN diagram below has confused people – it is a true diagram if everyone stood still on the transverse line waiting for C pass, they would all have to be 4ft away. BUT if players are running back side-to-side from a goal being scored for re-start, they can be less than 4ft and continue running in to centre third at less than 4ft side-to-side. GS and GK need to start in circle 4ft apart BUT this is not a rule (umpire can politely request them to get in to the circle). On transverse line, **movement is key** – GA/GD can be anywhere in goal third – GD can be ‘confusing space’ and moving around the GA within 4ft.



**4ft positioning of the penalised player –** when you set a penalty, should be beside and 4ft away. Non offending player does not need to wait for the offending person to get in position.

**The Goal Circles**

**KEY MESSAGE: GK/GD (& GS/GA) can do everything they used do, just MUST avoid face-2-face less than 1m**

**Confusing space** is a player continually moving around another player to confuse the ball carrier as to whether a player is free to pass to. Eg GK continually moving around GS to confuse C/WA/GA as to if GS is free. In this diagram, WA/WD are moving around each other on circle edge – as long as they are moving this is not an infringement.



**Circle set ups:**

1. GS and GA are within 4ft of each other but are side by side so is a medium risk – not a concern at this point in time. GK is defending from 4ft away (so no risk) and GD is positioned within 4ft of GK but GD is front to back with GK



1. GA and GD are 4ft away. GS is within proximity of 4ft of GD and GK but facing front to back to GD and GK. GK is front to back with GS.



3. GA and GD are 4ft away. GK is side to side with GD facing forward, GS is behind GK in a rebound position



1. GA positioning too close to GS (within 4ft) facing each other. If it happens for a fraction of a second (eg rolling round a player) that is not a problem (we cannot get rid of everything in a game – all of this is down to the player’s responsibility) – none of this is to do with the umpires as long as the defenders are defending from 4ft (obstruction)



1. Rebound - GK was marking GS at 4ft distance, then turned back on GS to get rebound, but realised she is face to face with GD so needs to move again (GA is front to back with GD (OK)). This is about **PLAYERS TAKING RESPONSIBILTY, not umpires**



1. Can a GS/GA step in to reduce the distance between herself and the defender to get closer to the post? No she shouldn’t. Umpire will blow whistle and ask GS/GA to step back. GS/GA will step back and play will continue with GS/GA in possession of the ball. If it happens again, umpire to speak to coach and captain at the next break.



**Game Management**

* Umpires will manage the game with frequent quiet words to support players to change their behaviour
* Ask to speak to the Captain and Coach at quarter/half-time if required
* Persistent or deliberate infringements that risk the healht of other players will be dealt with quickly but should not occur if players are taking responsibility and coaches are supporting the umpires
* Any serious infringements may be escalated quicker than normal or dealth with by using a higher sanction
* No excessive shouting – excessive is constant shouting ‘left, left, left, right, right, right’ etc…

**Q&A**

* Are we still penalising if players are defending within 4 ft? Yes, Obstruction. Stepping in infringes a modification, not a rule, so not penalised, just re-taken
* ***At a C pass if a GA is standing still, a GD can move around them within 4ft as long as they are moving. All players can be within 4ft IF they are moving***
* ***In circle GA is idle (not involved in play), GD can constantly move around the GA but not face-2-face (confusing the space) to avoid needing to be 4ft away***
* GA stands between GK and GS as GS takes a shot to block GK defending and getting rebound – **face-to-face blocking is not allowed**. If GA is back-2-back its ok, but if she is face-2-face with GK she needs to move, umpire should blow the whistle and ask her to move if she doesn’t
* **GK and GS must start inside goal circle to avoid congestion on transverse line**
* **If 2 people become idle on circle edge less than 4ft, who is responsible? Similarly, if 2 players are face-to-face?….Both responsible to move**
* Split landing – Defender need to be 4 ft from nearer part of nearer foot
* Posts need to be cleaned immediately during game if they are touched
* Player can play in 1 game per day for a maximum duration of 60 minutes – you cannot play multiple games in 1 day.
* Rebounds – can’t be static, can’t be face-2-face – keep moving and re-positioning.