



# PLAYING THE BALL

## RULE REFERENCE

9.4

## RELATED SANCTION AND ACTION

Free Pass

## ACTIVITY OBJECTIVE

To provide umpires with a basic knowledge of the **Playing the Ball** rule through a game of Heads or Tails.

## AREA REQUIRED

Your choice of indoor or outdoor playing area.

## EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

**Playing the Ball** Heads or Tails game card

10-15 MINUTES DURATION

### WHAT TO DO

- Using the rules of heads or tails, umpires are to select 'heads' by placing their hands on their head for yes or 'tails' by placing their hands on their backs for no.
- All umpires are to start the game from a standing position.
- Read out the first question from the **Playing the Ball** Heads or Tails game card.
- Before providing the answer, umpires are to select whether they think the answer is yes (hands on head) or no (hands on backs).
- Provide the answer.
- All umpires who answered incorrectly are to sit down and all umpires who were correct are to stay standing.
- Repeat the process with the next question.
- Continue the game until there is one umpire standing.
- Use the **Ask the Umpires** questions to promote further discussion and reinforce the most important aspects of the learning by referencing the **Umpire Coaching Tips**.

### UMPIRE COACHING TIPS

- The Sanction for incorrectly playing the ball is a Free Pass.
- The Sanction is taken where the infringement occurred, and no players are required to stand out of play.
- An umpire must know and understand what a player may do to play the ball and the skills involved. It is important to be able to:
  - Determine when a player gains possession of the ball - a player may have possession with one or both hands.
  - Assess when a player gains possession of the ball in relation to the first landed foot.
  - Determine in which third of the court the player catches the ball.
  - Count 3 seconds from the instant the ball is caught, being consistent with timing.

### ASK THE UMPIRES

- What is the Sanction for incorrectly playing the ball?
- Where is the Sanction taken?
- Do any players need to stand out of play?

# HEADS OR TAILS

May a player gain control of the ball if it rebounds from the Goalpost?

YES

May a player tip the ball in an uncontrolled manner into the air more than once?

YES

May a player jump from a position in contact with the court and play the ball outside the court, provided neither player nor the ball make contact with the ground or any object or person outside the court?

YES

May a player throw the ball and play it before it has been touched by another player?

NO

May a player tip the ball in an uncontrolled manner, then bat it forward, then catch it?

NO

May a player strike the ball with a fist?

NO

May a player toss the ball into the air and then replay it?

NO

May a player tip the ball in an uncontrolled manner, then direct it to another player?

YES

May a player bounce the ball and replay it?

NO

May a player deliberately kick the ball?

NO

May a player bat or bounce a ball forward, then bat/bounce it again?

NO

May a player with the ball bounce it to another player?

YES

May a player drop the ball and replay it?

NO

May a player bat or bounce a ball forward, then direct it a second bat or bounce to another player?

YES

May a player who has caught the ball hold it for 3 seconds before releasing it?

NO

May a player bat or bounce the ball to another player without first having had possession of it?

YES

May a player roll the ball to themselves to gain possession?

YES

May a Goal Shooter or Goal Attack shoot for goal and replay the ball before it has been touched by another player if it rebounds from the Goalpost?

YES

May a player throw the ball while lying, sitting, or kneeling on the ground?

NO

May a player in possession of the ball roll it to another player?

NO

May a player fall on the ball to gain possession?

NO

May a player use the Goalpost as a support in recovering the ball going out of court?

NO

May a player fall while holding the ball, regain footing and throw within 3 seconds of receiving the ball?

YES

May a Goal Shooter or Goal Attack shoot for goal and replay the ball before it has been touched by another player if it does not touch the Goalpost?

NO

May a player use the Goalpost as a means of regaining balance?

NO

May a player attempt to gain possession of the ball while lying, sitting, or kneeling on the ground?

NO