

2024 RULES UPDATE

SHORT PASS

The short pass! Yes, it's always been a rule. We've just changed it a little.

It is a fundamental principle of netball that every pass should be capable of being legally contested. The previous wording of the rule was being interpreted in a way that led to the use of passes so short that defenders had no opportunity to even attempt to gain possession.



THE UPDATED RULE

RULE 12.1: SHORT PASS

“When a player passes the ball there must be sufficient space on the court for an opposing player to be able to deflect or intercept the ball as it moves from the hands of the passer to those of the receiver.”

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NEW RULE IN ACTION:

The difference between the old rule “intercept by a hand” and the updated rule “deflect or intercept” is that the umpire must consider whether the defending player can make a genuine attempt, considering not just a hand, but a hand connected to an arm and body.



SPORT FOR ALL

In keeping with the philosophy of netball as a “sport for all”, the rule refers to the umpire’s assessment of the player’s action, rather than to body size or shape.



**SHORT PASS
HAND SIGNAL**