



BISFed Ball Licensing Update

MARCH 2022

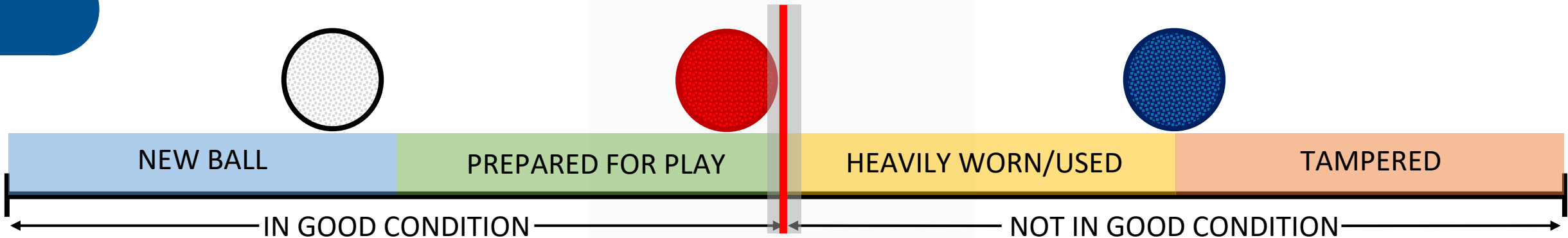
Introduction

- The Ball Working Group, made up of athletes, coaches, referees, and manufacturers, has been working to develop the rules and processes which will be applied to support the BISFed Ball License.
- The group had two key aims:
 - Create clear definitions for the specification of a ball and what ball tampering is so we can act consistently to ensure fairness and demonstrate athlete skill level
 - Create a decision-making process to follow the rules which will develop the sport and further increase the standard of play internationally

Introduction

- The final recommendations of the working group have been added to the rules of the sport by:
 1. Adding significantly expanded definitions for the construction and condition of a ball to BISFed Sport Rules
 2. Increasing ball checks, adding new tests, and capturing procedures within the BISFed Referee Procedure Manual
 3. The penalties and consequences for tampering have been strengthened and added to the BISFed Code of Ethics.
 4. Creating a Ball Condition Guide to provide further information about what is/is not allowed for a ball

Ball continuum



A new ball will still be in its original condition. There are no custom markings added and the surface of the ball is clean with no obvious signs of normal use. The seams are tight and the joints are consistent.

A ball that is prepared for play may have been softened slightly and the seams may be slightly loose. The ball may have been marked with either an arrow or a player's initials. The surface of the ball shows a normal pattern of use, such as where a head pointer is used.

A ball that is heavily worn and not in a good condition will have damage to a number of panels and a significant number of panels are in need of repair. The ball has been re-marked in pen several times and as a consequence a seam or panel cannot be fully inspected

A ball that has been tampered will have properties that have been changed from the initial characteristics of a ball. The surface may have abrasions or a substance applied. The seams show signs of significant alteration. There are suspicious markings.



BALL RULES

Construction

- A ball must weigh 275 g. +/- 12 g and the circumference must be 270 mm +/- 8mm.
- The balls must have a defined colour of red, blue, or white and each colour must fall within the BISFed acceptable colour range provided to manufacturers.
- A ball must be spherical and constructed from panels that are uniformly sized. All panels must be uniformly sewn together to define the spherical shape. All panels must be the same type of material.
- A ball must be constructed from materials with low elongation and stretch characteristics including vinyl, polyurethane fabric, leather, synthetic leather, suede, or other similar material.
- A ball must be filled with uniformly sized pellets or beads made of polyethylene or other similar plastic, or natural inert materials. Materials must be non-conductive, non-metallic, and non-magnetic.

Condition

- A ball must be in a good condition. In good condition means fit for intended purpose, of satisfactory quality, not damaged and capable of any agreed standard of performance. The manufacturer logo and BISFed logo must both be visible and identifiable.
- A ball must not be tampered with and will be considered to have been tampered with if it differs from the original ball submitted by the licensed manufacturer, except where a difference can be accounted for due to normal wear and tear or acceptable preparation for play.
- Normal wear is the expected decline in condition from typical use of a ball, such as repeatedly being thrown on to court or propelled onto court down a ramp.
- Acceptable preparation for play is the permitted maintenance of a ball so that it remains in a good condition, such as maintaining the weight and desired softness of a ball.

Confiscated balls

- After a ball fails a ball check, a senior panel of officials (e.g., HR, TD) at the tournament will review the initial decision to confiscate the ball and complete further tests to determine whether a ball has been tampered with. The panel will review the decision within one round of matches of the initial decision.
- If, after the panel have reviewed a ball, it is decided it **has not** been tampered with, then the ball will be held until the end of the tournament and then returned to the athlete.
- If, after the panel have reviewed a ball, it is decided it **has** been tampered with, then the panel will award a red card and the athlete will be disqualified from the tournament. The athlete will also be reported under the BISFed Code of Ethics to a BISFed Ethics Commission. The tampered ball(s) will be retained by BISFed as evidence for the BISFed Ethics Commission. Please refer to the BISFed Code of Ethics for more information on the process of the Ethics Commission.

Testing

Removed pre-tournament ball check

Included a pre-match call room ball check

Included a post-match ball check

Introduced a ball inspection checklist

Introduced additional tests

Ball Inspection Checklist

Construction - panels,
stitching, materials, beads,
colour

Condition - abrasion,
substance, markings,
punctures, surface

New Tests

- Magnetic Test
 - This test will be performed to all balls within the call room
 - A magnet will be passed over the surface of a ball
 - If the ball is attracted to the magnet a ball will fail the test

New Tests

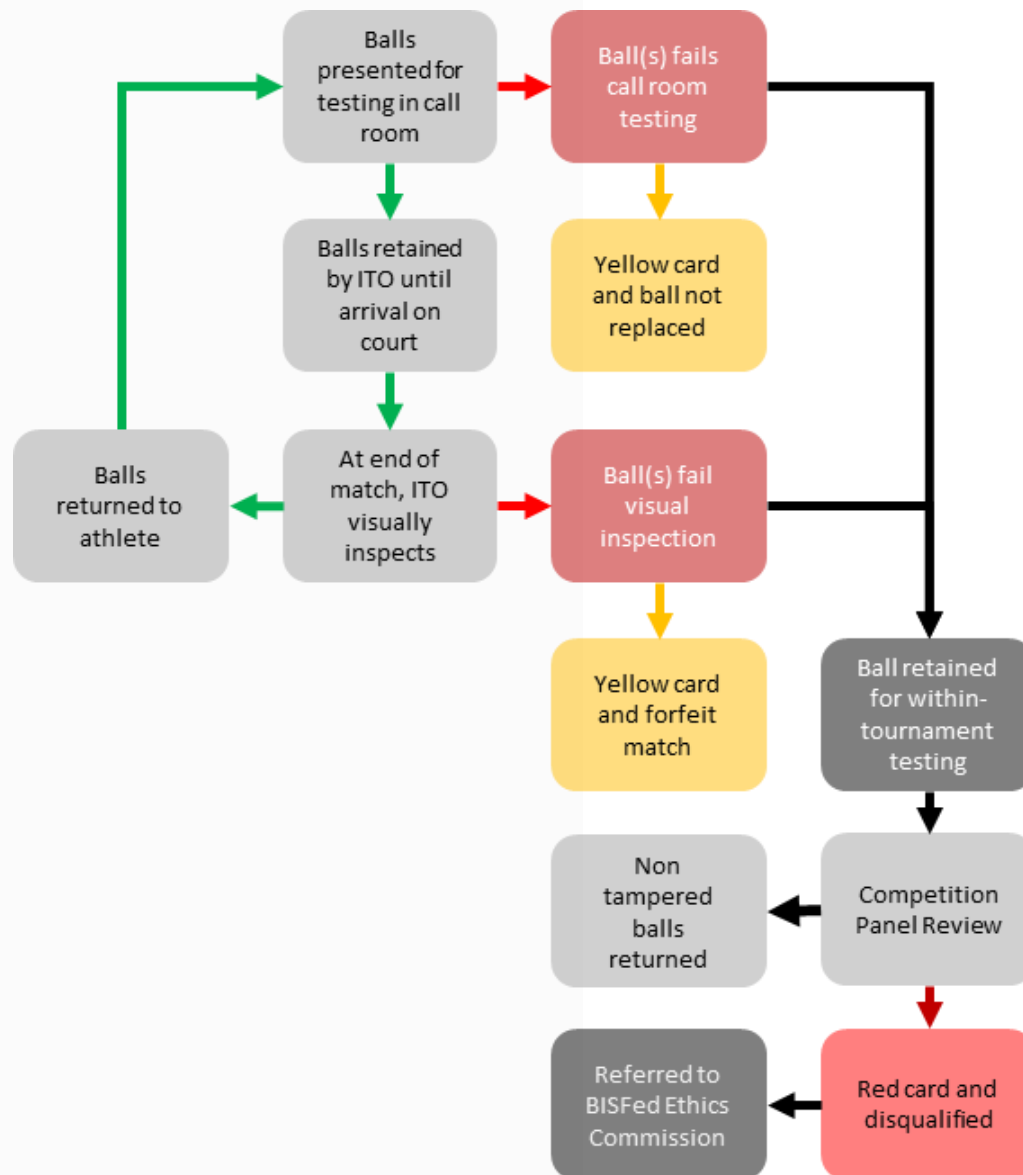
- Needle/Probe
 - This test will only be performed on confiscated balls to check for tampering
 - A narrow needle will be inserted at the join between panels
 - If the needle cannot be fully inserted at different angles a ball will fail the test

New Tests

- Friction Test
 - This test will only be performed on confiscated balls to check for tampering
 - The ball will be attached to a pulley and weight added until the ball moves
 - If the weight required to move a ball exceeds acceptable limits a ball will fail the test

PENALTIES & CONSEQUENCES

Flowchart



Ethics Commission

- An athlete who has been disqualified from a tournament for ball tampering will be reported under the BISFed Code of Ethics
- An Ethics Commission will be formed to determine the sanction, based on further in-depth testing of the tampered ball.
- An athlete can accept charge of ball tampering and will receive minimum three event period of ineligibility (ban)
- An athlete can contest the charge of ball tampering by paying a deposit towards the appeal costs.
- A hearing informed by independent testing will take place and an athlete can receive up to six event period of ineligibility (ban)



Thank You!!!

