

Anchors Protection

Rule Change

8.1.4 Protective clothing

This text will be below the revised protective clothing (belt) rule

Anchor specific protective clothing

The protective clothing worn by the anchor shall not exceed a **maximum** thickness of 5 centimetres (uncompressed); it must always be worn under the sport shirt/jersey and placed between the rope and the body. No hooks, grooves or other constructions intended to lock the rope are allowed on any of the sports or protective clothing.

*The lower part of the sport shirt/jersey, and any protective clothing that extends to that length, **must be worn inside of the shorts** i.e. from the waistband of the shorts.*

A protective belt (see above) may be worn over the sports shirt/jersey.

There must be no loose part of the sports shirt/jersey or protective clothing below the belt that doesn't go inside of the shorts. No additional material may be added to the shorts.

The anchors protection can weigh a maximum of 5Kg

Recommended Anchor vest (see page 45)

➤ ANCHOR'S POSITION (Rule 13)

The end puller shall be called the Anchor. The rope shall pass alongside the body, diagonally across the back and over the opposite shoulder from rear to front. The remaining rope shall pass under the armpit in a backward and outward direction and the slack shall run free. The Anchor shall then grip the standing part of the rope by the ordinary grip; i.e. the palms of both hands facing up, with both arms extended forward. The Anchor is allowed to keep the rope below the level of the protective **belt** and contact with the belt for safety considerations will not constitute a Lock.

NOTE:

For clarity, this now means that the anchor must tuck their shirt and any protection they are wearing inside their shorts. It is their responsibility to ensure that it remains so. The purpose of this is to prevent the possibility of an anchor being able to hook and therefore lock the rope under and behind any protection they may be wearing. This rule change should assist any judge now by ensuring the rope remains clearly visible and is not hidden in any way.

A single leather or hard/rigid nylon belt no wider than 15cm, may be worn over the pulling shirt and the rope is permitted to be hooked under the bottom edge to prevent the rope from slipping under the ribs (for anchors only). Any other nylon/neoprene/elasticated protection must be worn under the shirt.

“No Pull”

Rule Change

Changes to, and renaming of, the Inactivity rule / infringement. Affecting Rule 21 and Infringement number 13.

21 NO PULL

A “No Pull” will be declared in the event of;

- a) both teams being guilty of infringements; after twice being cautioned;
- b) both teams being guilty of inactivity *or a stalemate/deadlock (most likely due to poor ground conditions)*;

A warning (judge pointing to his/her watch) shall be given to both teams before a No Pull for inactivity/*stalemate/deadlock* is given in order for both teams to have a possibility to react. Any cautions will be carried over to the new pull;

- c) both teams leaving go of the rope before the finish of a pull;
- d) a pull being interrupted without infringement by either of the teams, the teams will be granted a reasonable rest and retake the pull.

➤ INFRINGEMENTS DURING COMPETITION

Interpretation of Inactivity (not leading to disqualification)

13. Inactivity/*stalemate/deadlock*

Teams failing to actively engage in a competitive effort during a pull (*which could bring the sport into disrepute*), *or poor ground conditions*, leading to a prolonged stalemate/*deadlock*, will constitute a “No pull”, (see rule 21) which can be called at any time. The judge will make the coach aware of his/her plan to give a no pull by pointing at his/her watch and if no activity starts, a no pull will follow.

The pull will be restarted, and will continue for this match *and all subsequent matches for this weight class*, on either new or less broken ground in the immediate proximity of the original pulling lane. **No matches will be allowed to return to the original pulling lane.**

If a pull with periods of inactivity lasts longer than ten minutes, the Chief Judge will draw the attention of the Centre Judge to call a “No pull” for this purpose. *The warning (judge pointing to his/her watch) shall still be given to both teams in accordance with rule 21.*

NOTE:

The addition of the terms stalemate/deadlock to the inactivity aspect of a 'No-Pull' is because, as we have seen, when the ground condition is poor, teams are unable to 'get out' of the holes/trenches, despite their best efforts, which lead to excessively long pulls. This is frequently being considered as 'inactivity' so this change in the wording is to bring clarity to the fact that a No-Pull can be given due to the ground conditions and not the fault of the teams as would be the case in 'inactivity'.

Secondly, if it is necessary to move to fresh ground due to the ground conditions (whether deemed inactivity or not), it seems inappropriate to make teams return to the same holes/trenches and struggle in the same way to get out of them.

The final point added to rule '13' above, is purely for clarification, in that even if the Chief Judge intervenes as the time approaches 10 minutes, the Centre Judge **must still follow rule 21 and give a 'warning'** to the teams as indicated before calling a 'No Pull'.