



**IWBF**

International Wheelchair  
Basketball Federation

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** March 17, 2007

**To:** All NOWBs  
All IWBF Referees  
IWBF Executive Council

**From:** Maureen Orchard, President IWBF

**Re:** Revision to Article 31 of the Official Rules

At the request of the Technical Commission a proposal for a revision to the current Article 31 was presented to the Executive Council of IWBF at their recent meeting in Melbourne, Australia.

The Executive Council approved the change as requested.

Please find below the Revised Article 31 as well as the Comments and Interpretations for Article 31.

Any questions should be directed to the IWBF care of the Secretariat

Please make your members and officials aware of this revision.

Thank you for your assistance in this.

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## Revision to Article 31 of the Official Wheelchair Basketball Rules 2006

### Effective Immediately

#### Art. 31 Lifting and Rear Wheels off the Floor

##### 31.1 Definition - Lifting

31.1.1 **Lifting** is the act of raising the player's buttocks so that both cheeks are no longer in contact with the cushion on the wheelchair in order to gain an unfair advantage.

A player shall not lift from the wheelchair to shoot, rebound or pass the ball or attempt to block a shot or a pass from an opponent.

31.1.2 Penalty

A technical foul shall be assessed against the player.

##### 31.2 Definition – Raising the rear wheels off the floor

This action generally happens when a player:

- reaches forward for the ball on the floor
- makes contact with another player either from his own team or the opponent's team.
- raises up while strapped to the wheelchair to shoot, rebound, pass the ball or attempt to block a shot or a pass from an opponent.
- while strapped jumps the wheelchair laterally (e. g.) to separate from a block
- while strapped is contesting a tap-off at the beginning of the first period.

31.2.1 It is legal to raise both the rear wheels off the floor, when the player is holding one or both rear wheels with one or both hands.

31.2.2 It is either a **violation** or a **foul** anytime *a player who has the ball, or is attempting to play the ball*, raises both rear wheels off the floor, **while both hands are removed from the rear wheels**.

##### 31.3 Definition - Tilting

31.3 Tilting is an action initiated by a player who, with one or two hands removed from the wheels, lifts **one rear** wheel with **one front** castor off the floor while, shooting, defending, receiving or trying to intercept a pass, rebounding or taking part in the tap-off. Tilting is legal.

##### 31.4 Penalty

31.4.1 A **technical foul** shall be assessed against the player, who raises both rear wheels off the floor **while both hands are removed from the rear wheels**, when:

- the rear wheels are raised off the floor when the player while strapped to the wheelchair attempts to shoot, rebound, pass the ball or attempts to block a shot or a pass from an opponent.
- the rear wheels are raised off the floor when the player while strapped is contesting a tap-off at the beginning of the first period
- the rear wheels are raised off the floor when the player while strapped jumps the wheelchair laterally, (e. g.) to separate from a block.

31.4.2 A **personal foul** shall be assessed against the player, **while both hands are removed from the rear wheels**, when he has come into contact with an opponent and the contact is **significant** enough to be considered a foul. In this case the raising of the rear wheels off the floor which follows the contact is generally a result of the contact and is considered to be secondary and should be ignored.

31.3.3 A **violation** shall be assessed against the player, who raises both rear wheels off the floor **while both hands are removed from the rear wheels**, when:

- the rear wheels are raised off the floor because the player has come into contact with a player of his own team.
- the rear wheels are raised off the floor because of the player leaning forward to retrieve a ball from the floor, with or without contact with another player. If contact occurs it **must not be** significant enough to be considered a foul.
- the rear wheels are raised off the floor because the player has come into contact with a player of the opponent's team and contact is **not** significant enough to be considered a foul.

**NOTE:**

It is the **Technical Commission's position** that Lifting and Rear Wheels off the Floor, resulting from **significant** contact with an opponent, produced a considerable number of violations being called when a **personal foul** was warranted. It was determined that many officials were ruling this as "incidental contact" and administered the least severe penalty.

The intent of the rule administration was not to reduce the penalty for illegally lifting the rear wheels off the floor, **while both hands are removed from the rear wheels**, when contact was **significant**. This type of contact must be called a **personal foul**.

If the contact is by the offensive team against the defensive team then the referee must consider if a charge has occurred. If in the opinion of the referee this is the case then the charge shall be called and the raising of the rear wheels off the floor which follows the contact, is generally a result of the contact and is considered to be secondary and should be ignored.

## Update of the Comments and Interpretations for Article 31

### NOTE:

It is the **Technical Commission's position** that Lifting and Rear Wheels off the Floor, resulting from **significant** contact with an opponent, produced a considerable number of violations being called when a **personal foul** was warranted. It was determined that many officials were ruling this as "incidental contact" and administered the least severe penalty.

The intent of the rule administration was not to reduce the penalty for illegally lifting the rear wheels off the floor, **while both hands are removed from the rear wheels**, when contact was **significant**. This type of contact must be called a **personal foul**. In order to clarify this point, the following case situations are given.

If the contact is by the offensive team against the defensive team then the referee must consider if a charge has occurred. If in the opinion of the referee this is the case then the charge shall be called and the raising of the rear wheels off the floor which follows the contact, is generally a result of the contact and is considered to be secondary and should be ignored.

In all situations listed below both hands are removed from the rear wheels.

**Situation 1:** A4 while attempting to retrieve a loose ball from the floor leans forward and touches the ball and both his rear wheels are raised from the floor. Shall a violation be called on A4? YES

**Situation 2:** A4 with possession of the ball contacts teammate A5 and both A4's rear wheels are raised from the floor. Shall a violation be called on A4? YES

**Situation 3:** A4 with possession of the ball contacts opponent B4 and both A4's rear wheels are raised from the floor. The contact is not significant enough to be considered a foul. Shall a violation be called on A4? YES

**Situation 4:** A4 with possession of the ball contacts opponent B4 and both A4's rear wheels are raised from the floor. The contact is **significant**. Shall the officials rule a **personal** foul on A4? YES (Raising the rear wheels off the floor, which is generally a result of the contact, is considered to be secondary and should be ignored).

**Situation 5:** A4 attempting to play the ball contacts opponent B4 and both A4's rear wheels are raised from the floor. The contact is **significant**. Shall the officials rule a **personal** foul on A4? YES (Raising the rear wheels off the floor, which is generally a result of the contact, is considered to be secondary should be ignored).

**Situation 6:** While strapped to the wheelchair, A4's rear wheels are raised from the floor in an attempt to shoot, rebound, pass, block a shot or pass from an opponent. Shall the officials rule a **technical** foul on A4? YES

**Situation 7:** A4 tilts on one rear wheel and one front castor while shooting with both hands on the ball. Shall the officials consider A4's action to be legal? YES

**Situation 8:** A4 tilts on one rear wheel and one front castor while rebounding with two hands. Shall the officials consider A4's action to be legal? YES

**Situation 9:** D4, holding a large wheel with one hand, raises both rear wheels from the floor and tilts on both front castors while defending with one arm outstretched toward A4. Shall the officials consider D4's action to be legal? YES