

## **Addition to WSF Bleeding Rule**

The CSA has implemented an addition to the current WSF Bleeding Rule, shown in italics in section 14.4.1 shown below. Please also reference the rationale and recommended procedures at the bottom when reviewing the proposal.

### **14.4 Bleeding**

**14.4.1** Whenever bleeding occurs, play must stop and the player must leave the court and attend to the bleeding promptly. Reasonable time for treatment is allowed. Play may resume only after the bleeding has stopped and, where possible, the wound has been covered.

*For College Squash Association matches, if active bleeding is visible a second time after the match has resumed, play must stop again, and the player must leave the court. On this occasion, the player will have three minutes to attend to the bleeding injury.*

**14.4.2** If the bleeding was accidentally caused by the opponent, then Rule 15 (Conduct) must be applied.

**14.4.3** If the bleeding is the result of the opponent's deliberate or dangerous play or action, the match is awarded to the injured player.

**14.4.4** A player who is unable to stop the bleeding within the time permitted must either concede 1 game and take the 90-second interval and then continue play, or concede the match.

**14.4.5** If blood is again visible during play, no further recovery time is permitted, and the player must concede the game in progress and use the 90-second interval between games for further treatment. If the bleeding has not then stopped, the player must concede the match.

**14.4.6** The court must be cleaned and bloodstained clothing replaced.

#### *Rationale for change:*

- *Coaches want to strike a balance between following the rules that govern the game of squash and having a match be decided by the bleeding rule unless it is absolutely necessary.*
- *College athletic training personnel and resources are not always readily available near the courts or competition site.*
- *Coaches or players on site not truly equipped to properly handle bleeding if athletic trainer is not present.*
- *Certified officials are also not always present at college matches to rule on bleeding issues*

#### Recommended Procedures When Instituting Bleeding Rule

- A certified athletic trainer should be available – either in person or on call within the immediate vicinity – at all college squash matches.
- When present, the athletic trainer should be the person to treat and cover the wound.
- The bleeding injury in question must exhibit an active bleed in order to apply the bleeding rule.
- Both coaches must agree that the treatment and cover of a wound after each stoppage is adequate before play can proceed.
- During timed treatment opportunities, the clock may start as soon as the athletic trainer (or, in absence of a trainer, the medical kit) arrives.
- The CSA encourages teams and players to take any possible steps prior to a match to prevent or mitigate the likelihood that a player might have an incident of active bleeding during the match.