

Technical Bulletin

Subject: Use of Foreign Substance on the ball and the pitcher's hands
SAL TB 2011-3.2

Date: 28/11/2011

SAL TB 2011-3.1 was updated 25/11/2011 to include 2011 Congress changes to allow resin impregnated wrist bands

At the 2009 International Rules Congress Federations voted and approved the use of resin impregnated cloths for use by pitchers into the playing rules.

Tests have shown that this resin on the fingers allows additional grip and control for pitchers without transferring onto the ball, and the cloths provide another option for pitchers. These cloths are used widely throughout North America and were allowed at the 2009 Men's World Championship in Saskatoon Canada.

At the 2011 International Congress resin impregnated wrist bands were also approved.

Note: Pitchers may keep the resin impregnated cloth in their back pocket and allow it to be available for inspection by the umpires if required.

In the past, pitchers by rule have only been allowed to use powdered resin to dry the hands. Over the years, there have been issues with pine tar being used on the ball to give pitchers better grip and control of the ball, particularly in the men's game. One of the issues with pine tar is its colour (dark brown); it also transfers to the ball making it sticky attracting dirt, this darkens the ball further and in some cases makes it difficult to see the optic ball in flight.

The SAL Rule Book under Rule 6 Sec 5 covers illegal substances on the ball.

Excerpt from the SAL and ISF 2010 - 2013 rule book.

Sec. 5 FOREIGN SUBSTANCE

- b. Under the supervision and control of the umpire, powdered resin may be used to dry the hands.

NOTE to Sec 5b:

Approved manufactured cloths that are embedded with resin only, are also permitted for use on the hands.

- c. Applying resin to the ball, or into the glove and then placing the ball in the glove, is an illegal act. Powdered resin bags must be kept on the ground behind the pitcher's plate when not in use.

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