Metric Units – Abbreviations and usage

Rule	Correct Example	Incorrect Example
Use a decimal to express partial units. Avoid using fractions to express partial units.	1.25 m 0.75 kg	$1^1/_4$ m $^3/_4$ kg
Use a zero in front of the decimal point when the numerical value is smaller than one.	0.5 g	.5 g
In compound units formed by multiplication, use the raised period (product dot) to indicate multiplication.	N·m (newton meter)	Nxm (newton meter)
Use the solidus (/) or a negative exponent to indicate division.	m/s $m \cdot s^{!1}$	$\frac{m}{s}$ or m÷s
Use only one solidus in any given expression	m/s^2	m/s/s
Use lower case letters to write all unit symbols *except* those that stand for proper names	m (meter) g (gram)	M (meter) G (gram)
Use a capital letter to start unit symbols that stand for proper names.	N (newton) Pa (pascal)	n (newton) PA (pascal)
Use a small script ℓ for liter rather than a typed or printed "l", whenever possible. "l" is easily mistaken for a "one".	ℓ	
Use all symbols in the singular form (no plural "s"s)	10 m (meters)	10 ms 10 m's
Do not put periods after unit symbols (as with abbreviations)	The pencil is 20 cm long.	The pencil is 20 cm. long.
Separate the numerical value from the symbol by a space	21 m 37 EC	21m 37EC, 37E C
When writing symbols for squared or cubed quantities, use the appropriate superscript.	m^2 m^3	sq m cu m
Use lower case letters to write out unit names. (Exception: the "C" in "degrees Celsius" is always capitalized)	The newton is the SI unit of force. The temperature is twenty degrees Celsius.	The Newton is the SI unit of force. The temperature is twenty degrees celsius.
Do not use a prefix alone (in writing or speech)	kilogram	kilo
Do not mix different units of the same kind in one measurement	8.6 cm 86 mm	8 cm 6 mm
The degree symbol (E) is not used with the Kelvin temperature scale	273 K	273 EK