



MEMORANDUM

March 12, 2007

To: Head Men's and Women's Water Polo Coaches, Commissioners and Officials.

From: Carin Crawford, chair
Men's and Women's Water Polo Rules Committee

Barbara Kalbus, secretary-rules editor
Men's and Women's Water Polo Rules Committee

Bret Bernard, coordinator of officials
Men's and Women's Water Polo Rules Committee.

Subject: Rules Interpretations and Questions (5th set).

1. General Question:

Question: Is video review allowed during a game when a question arises where it might be helpful?

Answer: No. Use of video review is not permitted during the game within the rules. However, conferences may have rules for the use of video to detect, for example, brutality, that was not called by the referees during the game.

2. Rule 5-4. **Question:** May a player with defective vision wear prescription goggles during a game or may a player with a head injury wear a hard helmet?

Answer: No. Goggles are regarded as an article likely to cause injury, either to the player wearing them or to opposing players in the water. The same is true for a hard helmet.

3. Rule 7-4 **Question:** A coach is issued a red card. The coach remains in one corner of the pool deck, away from the field of play. Should the referee allow this?

Answer: No, with the exception that a tournament committee may decide to keep the coach in an area near the tournament committee, under the direct supervision of the tournament committee. The rule is that the coach must leave the bench and may sit in the spectator stands but not communicate with the team, team officials, or referees by any means or the coach may leave the pool area completely.

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4. Rule 7-4 **Question:** May a referee issue a red card to a head coach for taunting the referee?

Answer: Taunting could be considered disruptive behavior (Rule 7-4) and the referee could issue the coach a red card for this behavior. If a player taunts another player, the offending player is excluded for the remainder of the game for misconduct (Rule 21-10).

5. Rule 7-9 **Situation:** With 4:53 remaining in the game the team with blue caps has a two goal lead and is defending a man-down situation. The white team has set up its power play offense and for 17 seconds has maintained possession and successfully passed the ball in order to take an appropriate shot on goal. With three seconds remaining in the white team's man-up situation, a stray ball from an adjacent warm-up area behind the goal enters the field of play. What should the referee do in this situation?

Answer: If the entrance of the ball affects play, the referee should stop the game, remove the ball, instruct the timekeepers to reset the game clock and shot clock, and restart the extra-man situation. It would not be in the spirit of Rule 7-9 for the referees to restart play with three seconds remaining on the extra-man as the offense would not have enough time to benefit from its man-up advantage as the player with the ball who was outside the 5-meter line could not take a direct shot on goal because the referee had called for the ball (Rule 14-3-e). Knowing this, the defense would press the other five offensive players, most likely preventing a goal in the remaining three seconds. Similar action should be taken if a lane line holding the goal in place breaks, the clock fails, etc., as long as the event affects play.

6. Rule 12-5 **Question:** If a team on defense calls a timeout at a time not permitted and the referee awards the timeout by mistake, what does the referee do? Is the defense charged with that timeout?

Answer: The referee should remove the ball from the pool and then award the ball back to the team on offense to restart play. The player who restarts play may not take a direct shot on goal (Rule 14-3-e). If the referee feels that this was a deliberate action of the coach to stop either a counterattack or the chance of a goal, the referee may award a red card or a penalty foul against the coach who requested the illegal timeout (Rule 22-7), except that no personal foul shall be recorded for this offense. The team on defense is not charged with a timeout

7. Rule 14-3 **Question:** With the change in the rules from the 7-meter direct shot to the 5-meter direct shot, should referees be instructed to call fewer fouls at or outside 5 meters in order to prevent an easier direct shot on goal?

Answer: There has been no change in instruction to the referees. If there are fewer direct shots on goal from behind the 5-meter line, it could be because the defender is not as likely either to foul a player in that position or to drop off the shooter as much as before after a foul since the defender knows that allowing a direct shot on goal is more likely to produce a goal from 5 meters as compared to 7 meters. The defender is also more likely to show the referee that he/she is not fouling that player with the ball. In addition, the referee tends to make sure it is a foul before blowing the whistle, but the referee should not ignore clear fouls by defensive players at or just behind the 5-meter line or call the foul differently depending upon how much time remains on the shot clock. If the offensive player is clearly trying to draw a foul by aggressively digging into a defender who is clearly trying to avoid committing a foul, this is an offensive foul and the ball should be turned over.

8. Rule 20-18 **Question:** Only 35 seconds remained in the game. The goalkeeper held the ball for 19 seconds with all the field players from both teams in the offensive end of the pool and swam up only to the 5-meter line before the coach called a timeout with 16 seconds remaining. Should the referee have called stalling during the time the goalkeeper held the ball?

Answer: It is the responsibility of the team on offense to advance the ball toward the offensive end; it is not necessary for the team to pass or shoot the ball. If there was no offensive player free for the goalkeeper to pass the ball to, the referee is not required to call stalling but might in the situation as described with that length of time. A defensive player could have dropped off an offensive player forcing the goalkeeper to advance the ball or have stalling called.

9. Rule 21-2 **Question:** An excluded player exits the field of play at the end of the pool approximately two yards from the exclusion area and swims underwater to the reentry area. The ball turns over just as that player reaches that area (still underwater) and the referee signals for play to go in the other direction (this signal being the signal for reentry) after a shot which goes out of bounds over the goal line. The substitute for that player swims under the line marking the reentry area into the pool before the head of the excluded player appeared above the surface of the water in the exclusion area. What should the action of the referee be?

Answer: The referee should exclude the substitute player for 20 seconds and turn the ball over again to the original team on offense as the substitute is not allowed to enter until the head of the excluded player appears in the exclusion area (Rule 21-2 note). The ball should be put into play at or behind the point nearest the infraction (at or behind the 2-meter line closest to the other team's reentry area)

10. Rule 21-2 **Question:** Would the answer be different in this similar situation where the excluded player swam under water to the reentry area and the ball turned over just as that player (still underwater) reached that area. The referee signaled for play to go in the other direction after a shot which went out of bounds over the goal line. The excluded player swam under the line marking the reentry area into the pool without the player's head first appearing above the surface of the water in the reentry area.
Answer: No. The referee should exclude the player for 20 seconds and turn the ball over again to the original team on offense as the excluded player is not allowed to reenter the pool until that player's head appears in the reentry area (Rule 21-2 note).
11. Rule 21-4, 8-3 **Situation:** A player leaves the field of play to retrieve a ball without the permission of the referee. What action may the referee take?
Answer: The referee may exclude that player for 20 seconds. A player is not allowed to leave the field of play to retrieve a ball outside the field of play without the permission of the referee (Rule 8-3, Rule 21-4).
12. Rule 21-5 **Question:** A player is fouled at the 6-meter line, picks the ball up and attempts a direct shot on goal. How may the defensive player guard that player?
Answer: The guard may have only one arm up, which must be parallel with or behind the player's head. The arm must be stationary, not waving at the shooter. There is no difference in how a player guards a player who is attempting a direct shot on goal or who is attempting a pass.
13. Rule 21-10, 5-4 **Question:** What action should the referee take in instances of exposure?
Answer: In women's competition, a defender shall be excluded for 20 seconds after grabbing an offensive player's suit and causing breast exposure. Likewise, when an offensive player grabs the defender and causes exposure, the offensive player shall be excluded for 20 seconds. Finally, if a player grabs her own suit and exposes a breast, a minor act of disrespect with a 20-second exclusion shall be called. To decrease the incidence of exposure, it is recommended that the swim suits be full-back and that the zipper is fully zipped. If the zipper becomes unzipped, the player should zip up the suit at the next appropriate stoppage of the game when that player's team is in possession of the ball, without taking away the advantage (Rule 7-3), just as in the cap replacement rule (Rule 4-1). If the zipper can not be fixed at that time or if a suit is torn, the referees should remove the player, allow the immediate entrance of a substitute, and the original player may be substituted in after the problem is corrected.

14. Rule 21-10 **Question:** A player in a white cap sinks a player in a blue cap who has just scored a goal. What penalty should the referee award?
Answer: If the referee feels that the action of the player in the white cap merits a misconduct call, the referee should exclude the player for the remainder of the game and the teams start even up with a free throw by the team in white caps. If the referee feels the action was minor, the referee may warn the player but take no other action.
15. Rule 21-10 **Question:** An excluded player who has been in the exclusion area for several seconds, speaks to his/her coach, makes a disrespectful remark critical of the referee. What punishment should the referee award?
Answer: Although the referee should not focus on discussions between the coach and players, if the referee does hear the remark and feels it is directed at him/her, the referee may exclude the player for 20 seconds for a minor act of disrespect or for the remainder of the game for misconduct for showing disrespect to the referee. In the latter case a substitute must take the place of that player in the exclusion area and the player excluded for the remainder of the game must stay on the bench with cap on. The reentry time of the excluded player is 20 seconds from the time of the second call and game clock is reset at the time of that call and the 35-second clock reset.
16. Rule 21-16 **Question:** Immediately after the referee blows the whistle for the taking of the penalty throw, the player on the right side of the shooter hits the shooter's arm as the shooter is releasing the ball. The penalty shot did not score. What should the action of the referee be?
Answer: It is a penalty foul for a person to interfere with the taking of a penalty throw, both if this interference occurs before the referee blows the whistle or after the referee blows the whistle but before the shooter releases the ball. It is considered interference if a defensive player on the side of the shooter moves towards the shooter or hits the player's arm before the shooter releases the ball. The defensive players may move forward towards the goal after the whistle, before the shooter releases the ball, but not towards the shooter. It is also considered interference if a defender takes other actions towards the shooter such as shouting or whistling at the shooter. The offending player is excluded for the remainder of the game, the substitute is in the reentry area, and the penalty shot is retaken. If the penalty shot is scored, the substitute enters immediately. If the shot is missed, the substitute may not enter until after the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3.
17. Rule 21-16 **Question:** If the player who was interfered with scored the original penalty shot, what should the action of the referee be?
Answer: The player who interfered with the penalty shot is excluded for the remainder of the game and the substitute enters immediately.

18. Rule 21-17 **Question:** During the administration of a penalty throw, the goalkeeper comes forward before the shot is administered. What should the action of the referee be?
Answer: Warn the goalkeeper. If the goalkeeper fails to take up the correct position on the goal line after having been warned once by the referee, the referee should then exclude the goalkeeper for 20 seconds. Another defending player may take the position of the goalkeeper but without the goalkeeper's privileges or limitations during the penalty throw.
19. Rule 22-4, 7-4 **Question:** A player is exiting the pool after receiving his/her third personal foul. On the way out, the player makes disrespectful remarks to the referee. What penalty can the referee award that player?
Answer: The referee may award the player a penalty foul for an excluded player interfering with play on the way out (Rule 22-4) or the referee may award the player a red card (Rule 7-4). Although red cards are usually given only to players on the bench and not to players in the water, that player is no longer considered "a player in the water" since the player is no longer eligible to take part in the game.
20. Rule 23-2,3 **Question:** Where should the referees stand when administering a penalty throw?
Interpretation: The attack referee should stand on the 5-meter line and line up the shooter (unless the shooter is left-handed), position the defenders adjacent to the shooter so that they are at least 2 meters from the shooter and position the goalkeeper. When the referee controlling the taking of the throw is satisfied that the field players and the goalkeeper are in their correct positions, the referee shall signal (dropping his/her hand and blowing the whistle) from the 5-meter line for the throw to be taken, watching for interference. The other referee shall watch the back court. After the referee blows the whistle, the referee immediately starts moving towards the goal line, watching for delay, interference and to see if the goal scored. The use of goal judges is to be encouraged.