

Casebook (Situations) for the 2008-09 NFHS Water Polo Rules
Including Applicable Cases from 2007-08 Casebook
(revised 9-3-08)

Rule 1: Field of Play and Equipment

Rule 1-1 Pregame Inspection and Rule 1-4 Pool Dimensions

Situation: The referee noted in the pre-game inspection that the pool to be used for the game was 75 feet wide. No sidelines were available. What is the responsibility of the referee in this situation?

Ruling: The width of the water polo course may not exceed 20 meters (66 feet). The referee must inform the coach before the game of the requirement to have sidelines (marked correctly) in place to decrease the size of the pool to the correct maximum width. After the game the referee must report to the administrator in charge and the state association the lack of the required sidelines in order that this may be corrected.

Rule 1-6 Pool Markings

Situation: The referee notes in the pre-game inspection that the institution does not have correctly colored sidelines, cones and long, horizontal markers of the correct color on the pool deck. What should be the action of the referee prior to the game?

Ruling: The rule is that the pool course must be marked correctly, in accordance with the current rules, which were effective July 1, 2007. The institution is not required to have all the possible deck markings. All measurements must be taken from the goal line. Correctly colored sidelines are required if the pool width is such that sidelines are required (a pool width that exceeds 20 meters). If there are horizontal markings on the pool deck, it is preferable that these markings on the pool deck extend down over the side of the pool so that they are clearly visible from the water and from the other side of the pool. Cones are not required if the sidelines are marked correctly or if there are correct markings on the pool deck if sidelines are not required. However, the use of cones of adequate size, color, and weight on the pool deck is to be encouraged as they are very easy for players, coaches and referees to see during the game.

Rule 1-6 and Rule 7-7 Non-Conforming Pool Markings

Situation: A pool was of the correct dimensions, but the colors in the sidelines, the markings on the pool deck and the color and placement of cones did not agree with each other (a painted mark on the pool deck was 6 inches from the change in color of the sidelines which was slightly different from the location of the cones). What should be the action of the referee prior to the game?

Ruling: One type of boundary marking (sidelines, cones, or deck markers) does not take precedence over the other markings. The referee must point out major deficiencies to the administrator present or, if no administrator is present, to the coach. Any possible change in markings should be made at that time and both teams informed which marking is the correct marking, if they still differ. After the match, the referee must report any issues with the course, equipment, caps or desk to the state association and assigning authority in an effort to correct the problems. The state association should report the deficiencies to the school administration.

Rule 1-7 Re-entry Area

Situation: The re-entry area was not marked on the end line at either end of the pool. An excluded player from the visiting team entered the field of play during play at the signal of the referee for a change in possession. At the next stoppage, without taking away the advantage, the home team coach protested, saying that the player was outside the exclusion area and should have been penalized for entering the field of play improperly (Rule 21-15). What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: Since the area was not marked at either end of that coach's pool and since neither the referee nor the exclusion secretary considered the player to be outside the unmarked boundary, the protest should be denied. The referee, however, should have noted this deficiency during the pre-game inspection of the facility and should not have started the game until the exclusion area was marked at the correct position by using a towel, cone, etc. The referee should report the lack of required pool markings to the coach or administrator, the state association and the assigning authority in order that this may be permanently corrected.

Rule 1-7 Re-entry Area

Situation: The re-entry area on the end lines or pool wall was marked in red at one meter on the boundary line at both ends of the field of play, instead of at the required two meters. An excluded player re-entered the field of play outside the marked area at approximately 1.5 meters. The exclusion secretary blew the whistle for an improper re-entry. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: Since the player entered the field of play outside the marked re-entry area, the re-entry shall be considered an improper re-entry and Rule 21-15 shall be applied. The referee, however, should have noted this error in pool marking during the pre-game inspection of the facility and should have had the host mark the exclusion areas correctly before the game began. The referee should report the lack of required pool markings to the coach or administrator, the state association, and the assigning authority in order that this may be immediately corrected.

Rule 1-12 Use of Video

Situation: A player's nose is broken in a game. During the game, the coach requests to use his/her game tape to prove that an opposing player deliberately hit the player. Is this allowed?

Ruling: No. The use of videotapes by officials to make decisions related to the game during the game is prohibited.

Rule 3: The Ball

Rule 3-5 Ball Retrieval

Situation: A ball goes over the goal line and remains outside the field of play. A second ball lands in a similar area. The goalkeeper then leaves the field of play to retrieve one of the balls. What should the referee call in this situation?

Ruling: The referee should exclude the goalkeeper for 20 seconds for leaving the field of play without permission (Rule 21-4, Rule 25-1). To prevent this situation from occurring, five game-quality balls must be available for all championship games and are recommended for all games, one with the referee and two at each bench. When a ball goes out of bounds over the goal line, the coach must have a team member from the bench immediately retrieve the ball and return it to the bench. If the coach does not do this, the referee shall warn the coach and, at the next occurrence, shall give the coach a yellow card.

Rule 4: Caps

Rule 4-5 Goalkeeper's Swim Cap Color

Situation: The visiting goalkeeper wears a white swim cap under the water polo cap. Is this permitted?

Ruling: Yes. Rule 4-5 states that the color of the goalkeeper's swim caps must be red or a color which matches the color of the water polo cap as closely as possible. Therefore, the swim cap worn by a visiting goalkeeper may be white or red, either color of which matches a panel in the water polo cap of the goalkeeper. This rule allows all members of a team to wear swim caps of one color.

Rule 4-6 Lack of Adherence

Situation: The referee notes that the visiting goalkeeper wears a solid red water polo cap during the pre-game meeting. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should inform the captain that the cap is not in compliance with the rules and the cap should be changed. If the team does not have the correct cap and is not able to borrow one from the other team, the usual method of handling this situation is to allow the game to proceed as opposed to forfeiting the game, but the referee should inform the state association of the improper cap. The state association shall report this to the school athletic director so that this may be corrected for future games (Rule 4-5 and Rule 7-7).

Rule 5: Teams and Substitutes

Rule 5-1 Number of Players, Illegal Player

Situation: A player received a third personal foul, an exclusion foul, at 6:04 in the fourth period and was immediately substituted. The scorekeeper raised the red flag and lowered it after the substitution. Later in the period a goal was scored at 1:04. The player with the third personal foul entered the field of play at that time after the goal and was observed by the desk at 0:46, just as a goal was scored by that team. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: Since a desk error was not involved, the referee should remove the player for the remainder of the game, remove the goal scored at 0:46, reset the game clock to 1:04, reset the shot clock, and award a penalty throw (Rule 22-6), with the substitute for the player with three personal fouls in the re-entry area until the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3.

Rule 5-2-2 Assistant Coach

Situation: The assistant coach during play stands behind the goal line. What is the penalty for this action?

Ruling: The assistant coach must remain seated on the bench at all times except during a time-out or after a goal or during a lengthy stoppage of play. The assistant coach may also move behind the bench to take care of or to speak to a player behind the bench. However, if the assistant coach stands during play, the referee may issue a warning followed by a yellow card. If the assistant coach stands, moves up to the 5-meter line **and** coaches, the referee shall issue a red card immediately.

Rule 5-2-3 Change of Ends in Shallow-Deep Pool

Situation: The pool is shallow-deep. One team requested to change ends each period. The referees changed sides after the first and third periods. Is this the correct procedure?

Ruling: No. If one team requests to change ends each period, the referees do not change sides during the game in all types of pools.

Rule 5-4-1 Women's Suits

Situation: In a women's game, the goalkeeper wore a water polo suit with narrow straps and low back. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should take no action as the goalkeeper is not required to wear a suit with high back and broad straps.

Rule 5-4-3 Articles Likely to Cause Injury

Situation: A player requests permission to wear a padded cast or a finger splint. Should the referee allow this?

Ruling: The referee needs to judge each article for its potential to cause injury. A padded cast on an arm could cause injury to another player as it is heavier than the normal limb. A finger splint could cause a serious eye injury. With these devices, there is also the real possibility that the

player wearing these devices could suffer additional injury to the injured area, as the cast or splint do not offer complete protection. Therefore, the referee should not allow a player to play with a cast or finger splint.

Rule 5-4-3 Articles Likely to Cause Injury

Situation: May an injured player wear a nose guard or face mask made of high impact plastic and soft rubber during a game to protect the nose or orbit from further injury?

Ruling: Although these would usually be regarded as articles likely to cause injury either to the player wearing the article or to an opposing player, the nature of these particular protective devices is that they would not be likely to cause injury. Therefore, after informing the player, parents, prescribing physician and institution of the rules and interpretations regarding the use of this type of appliance and obtaining a signed release which covers the state association, the conference, and the referees from any liability, the player could use this type of device. This release must be provided to the referees before each game.

Rule 5-4-3 Articles Likely to Cause Injury

Situation: A player requires prescription goggles due to eye surgery in order to participate safely. The athlete has written clearance from the doctor and parents. Since goggles are prohibited, the school has contacted the state association and received written permission as this special goggle does not appear likely to cause injury due to the special material. The letter is provided to the referee prior to competition.

Ruling: Correct procedure.

Comment: The rule requires removal of articles likely to cause injury, but permits the referee to exercise discretion in making that determination. In this situation, an article that is generally prohibited can be considered by the state association if addressing a special need.

Rule 5-4-3 Zippers

Situation: The zipper on the suit of a field player is unzipped or broken. What action should the referee take?

Ruling: A zipper which is not fully zipped or is broken is considered to be an article which is likely to cause injury to either that player or to another player. If the zipper becomes unzipped during the game, 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 zipped up at that time or if the zipper is broken or suit is torn, the referee shall remove the player, allow the immediate entrance of a substitute, and the original player may be substituted in after the problem is corrected. No foul is charged to that player. This rule applies to the goalkeeper as well as to the field players if the goalkeeper's suit has a zipper. However, if the coach has replacement suits available at the bench and the coach has informed the referee before the game of the availability of replacement suits, the player may immediately put on a suit over the original suit and continue play.

Rule 5-5-2 Substances on Body

Situation: A player was detected with oil on the body after the start of the game. What should the referee do?

Ruling: The referee should remove the player from play with immediate substitution and instruct the player to remove the oil. The player may later return to play as a substitute after the referee has checked the player. This is the same procedure followed for sharp nails. Players needing to wear sunscreen should use a product that is not oily or greasy in its final form when applied to the body.

Rule 5-6 Time of Substitution

Situation: A coach makes a substitution during a temporary stoppage of play, such as, while a referee is resetting a clock. Should the referee allow this substitution?

Ruling: The referee should not allow the substitution. Players may not be substituted during a temporary stoppage of play, such as while a player is retrieving a cap, while a referee is checking on an injury, or while the referee is resetting a clock.

Rule 5-6 Method of Substitution

Situation: A live-time substitution occurred during a game as soon as the ball turned over and that team was counterattacking down the field of play. The player leaving the pool swam under the end line halfway between the goal and the sideline. The substitute entered from the re-entry area as soon as that player left the field of play. What should be the call of the referee?

Ruling: The rule states that in a live-time substitution, the player must exit the field of play at the re-entry area nearest that player's own goal line and that the substitute may not enter the field of play at the re-entry area until the player has visibly risen to the surface of the water within the re-entry area. The substitute who entered the field of play is, therefore, considered to be a player not entitled to participate in the play at that time (Rule 22-6). The player entering is excluded for the remainder of the game and a penalty throw is awarded, with the substitute in the re-entry area. No foul is charged against the player who left the field of play.

Rule 5-7 Entry of a Substitute

Situation: A player on the white team was excluded. A player on the blue team immediately took a direct shot on goal. The shot went over the goal line and the referee blew the whistle to award the ball to the white team. The excluded player turned, before reaching the exclusion area, and started to swim towards the other end of the pool. Before the ball was put into play after the direct shot, the coach of the white team called a time-out. Should the referee exclude this player for not going to the re-entry area before swimming towards the other end of the pool?

Ruling: No. During a time-out or between periods or after a goal, an excluded player is not required to go to the re-entry area before meeting with the team. Play should be restarted after the time-out even-up.

Rule 5-7 Entry of a Substitute

Situation: Should the excluded player in this situation have been charged with a penalty foul for interfering with play (Rule 21-20) after the exclusion, based on the fact that the player, although starting to swim towards the corner, immediately turned on the change of possession, and started swimming towards the offensive end.

Ruling: No. The player was not considered to interfere in this example, as the direct shot was taken immediately after the exclusion and the coach of the team now on offense called a time-out immediately after this action before the restart of play. However, if the excluded player had interfered with the direct shot or with any of the players then on offense on the player's way towards the re-entry area, a penalty foul should be called.

Rule 6: Officials

Rule 6-1 Desk Observers

Situation: The visiting team has two official observers at the scoring table. The observers cheer after each goal for their team. What action should the referee take?

Ruling: The official observers at the scoring table are considered to be part of the desk officials and must act in a neutral, professional manner during a game. The desk supervisor, if present, or the referees must order the observers to cease this action or leave the scoring table.

Rule 7: Referees

Rule 7-1 Authority of Referee

Situation: A team shot the ball. The referee immediately signaled a goal. The goal judge immediately signaled no goal. Which takes precedence?

Ruling: The referee has complete authority over the goal judges and desk officials; therefore, the ruling is that the goal scored.

Rule 7-1 Referee Attire

Situation: The referee calling a game wears shorts. What action should the school administrator at the game take?

Ruling: The referee is not allowed to wear shorts or sandals. The school administrator must report violations of this rule to the state association or as otherwise directed by the state association so that this may be corrected for subsequent games. A state association because of extreme heat may make a temporary adjustment in the rules.

Rule 7-2 Altering Decision

Situation: The whistle was blown for a foul. One referee pointed towards one end of the pool, indicating a change in possession. The other referee pointed towards the original offensive end. Players of the team then on defense turned to swim towards the opposite end of the pool. The referee pointing in that direction, however, dropped the hand and the team maintaining possession of the ball continued its offense. What should the referees have done in that situation?

Ruling: If the hand signals of the two referees differ (if, for example, the referees point in opposite directions), the ball should be called out of the water; play is resumed as quickly as possible when neither team has an advantage.

Rules 7-4-1 Control Over Conduct

Situation: The head coach approached a referee at half time, walking down to the other end of the pool past the other team's bench to the location of the referees. The referee, however, did not allow any conversation with the coach, stating that the coach could not walk past the other team's bench. Is this the correct call?

Ruling: No. The head coach may address the referee at this time. The rule provides that the head coach and captain may address the referees at intervals between periods, during time-outs, or with the permission of the referee or, in the case of the head coach, when filing a protest. They may only discuss rule clarifications and misapplication of rules with the officials at these times, not judgment calls made by the referees.

Rule 7-4-4 Control Over Conduct

Situation: The referee awarded a yellow card to the bench because players were standing. One player on the bench later commented loudly on a referee's call. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should award a red card to that player. No warning or yellow card is issued to an individual athlete. That player is excluded for the remainder of the game and for the next game.

Rule 7-4-4 Location of Coach Issued a Red Card

Situation: A coach is issued a red card. The coach remains in one corner of the pool, away from the field of play. Is this allowed?

Ruling: No. The referee must require the coach or other team official to leave the pool facility. The referee can forfeit the game if the coach refuses to leave. The issuance of the red card must be reported to the state association or other appropriate governing organization, as directed.

Rule 7-4-4 Requirement for Coach

Situation: Both the head coach and assistant coach received red cards in a game and were required to leave the pool site. There was no other coach on the bench. Should the referee forfeit this game because there was no coach on the bench?

Ruling: In NFHS games, the associations usually require that a certified coach from that school or other official representative of that school (such as the athletic director) be on the bench or the game will be forfeited. During the next NFHS game, neither of the coaches who received a red card may be on the team bench because of the carry-over penalty with the issuance of a red card, but another coach or official school representative may be the designated coach on the bench.

Rule 7-4-5 Time of Award of Card

Situation: A coach kicked over a deck marker cone in anger. The referee decided to award the coach a yellow card. The referee blew the whistle to award the yellow card while the non-offending team was countering down the pool. Is this the correct time?

Ruling: No. The rule states that the referee shall whistle to stop play to administer a red or a yellow card without taking the advantage away from the non-offending team. Therefore, the referee should have waited until the conclusion of the counterattack, then stopped play, called the ball out of the pool, showed the appropriate card, and then put the ball back into play. A goal may not be scored by a direct shot on goal in this instance.

Rule 7-5 Coach Behavior

Situation: A coach continually loudly criticized the referee, running down the sideline yelling at the referees. The actions of the coach incited similar behavior in the crowd. What action should the referee take?

Ruling: The referee should immediately award a red card to the coach and order the removal of the coach from the entire precincts of the pool as the behavior of the coach prevents the referees from carrying out their duties in a proper and impartial manner. The referee may also abandon the game (Rule 7-6) if the behavior of coaches, players or spectators prevents the game from being brought to a proper conclusion. The award of the red card also includes the additional punishment of exclusion from the next game.

Rule 7-8 Checking and Signing Scoresheet

Situation: This rule recommends that one of the referees check the scoresheet after each period, particularly for score and number of time-outs taken. Should the referee keep track of the number of fouls awarded each player and inform a coach, when asked, how many personal fouls a player has?

Ruling: No. The referee is not responsible for keeping track of the number of personal fouls awarded to each player and should not answer such a question. Each team may have an observer at the desk who may convey this information to the coach. If a coach is uncertain of the number of fouls charged to a particular player and if there is not an exclusion board, a team official may check with its representative at the desk or, at an appropriate moment, with the scorekeeper, but may not ask the referee.

Rule 7-8 Checking and Signing Scoresheet

Situation: Flagrant misconduct, a fight, and players entering the field of play during the fight occurred near the end of a game. The referees imposed the correct penalties but did not notify the game secretary of the ruling of flagrant misconduct/fighting as required by the rules. The secretary recorded these as exclusion fouls, not as flagrant misconduct fouls, on the scoresheet. The referees signed that scoresheet after the game.

Ruling: The scoresheet is the official record of the game. The referees erred in signing a scoresheet that did not have the correct notation of these reportable fouls. The referee must check to verify that yellow and red cards, misconduct, flagrant misconduct, minor acts of misconduct

and any punishment (penalty fouls) awarded subsequent to a third personal foul are recorded on the scoresheet as there are follow-up penalties for certain of these behaviors.

Rule 7-9-a, Rule 5-1 Entry of a Player with Three Personal Fouls Not Red-Flagged by Desk

Situation: The blue team is leading, 4-2. Blue player #5 is excluded for 20 seconds at 4:23 in the second period, that foul making his third personal foul. The desk fails to signal this with the red flag. Blue #5 reenters play immediately after the extraman goal is scored by the white team at 4:15 (making the score 4-3). Play continues with the white team scoring an additional two goals, making the score 4-5. During this time, white player #6 received his third personal foul, an exclusion foul. The error on blue #5 is not noticed until the next period immediately after blue player #3 scores a goal, making the score 5-5 at 3:13 in the third period. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should call the ball out and asks the coach of the white team which option the coach prefers:

(1) To go back to the time the player #5 with the third personal foul entered the game (at the time the extraman goal scored in the second period after the third foul on blue #5), taking away all goals scored except that extraman goal scored at 4:15 and all fouls awarded during this period of time (there were no cards, misconduct or brutality fouls during this time). The referee should remove blue #5 and restart the game with a score of 4-3 in favor of the blue team, with the clock reset to 4:15, the time of the extraman goal. **OR**

(2) To not reset the clock, keeping all goals and fouls awarded during this time (including any by blue #5), remove blue #5 at this time, white #6 is out for the remainder of the game, score blue 5, white 5.

Rule 7-9-b Signal for Re-Entry of Player

Situation: A player is excluded for 20 seconds. The player is waved in at the proper time (both the game clock and the shot clock showed that 20 seconds had elapsed at the time of the wave-in) and the player comes under the lane line with 9 seconds remaining on the shot clock as a goal scored. That team's coach stated the player was waved in incorrectly and the goal should be removed. What should be the ruling of the referee?

Ruling: The referee has the authority to determine if the error was significant. In order to disallow a goal, the error must have affected play. In this case the flag was not late and the player coming under the lane line with 9 seconds remaining on the shot clock would be a typical response time. The referee should take no action.

Rule 7-9-h Timing Error

Situation: The score was tied in a game. The team with white caps had the ball with 12 seconds remaining in the game and with two seconds remaining on the shot clock. The player with the ball was fouled outside the 5-meter line and the ball was knocked a few feet away. While the player was retrieving the ball, the shot clock expired. What should the referee do in this situation?

Ruling: The referee must take the ball from the water, reset the shot clock to two seconds, put two seconds back on the game clock, and then give the ball back to the player in the white cap to take the free throw. That player can not take a direct shot on goal as the ball may not be shot if the referee calls the ball out to correct a clock error (Rule 14-3-g). Although this action takes away the advantage (Rule 7-3) from the player with the ball and is against the spirit of Rule 7-9 (correctable errors), there is no other way within the rules to handle this. For example, if the referee motioned to the players to play on, the referee could not know with certainty that all players understood the situation (that they were to ignore the shot clock buzzer). In addition, if the player did not take and score a direct shot, the referee would have had to then stop play to correct the game clock error as two seconds had been run off in error. Also, the shot clock may have expired or not, depending upon the action of the player with the ball, in which case the ball might need to be turned over to the blue team.

Rule 7-9-k Interruption of Extra Player Situation

Situation: With 4:53 remaining in the game, the team with blue caps had a two goal lead and was defending a man-down situation. The white team set up its power play offense and for 17 seconds maintained possession and successfully passed the ball in order to set up 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 entered the field of play. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: 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 player situation. It would not be in the spirit of Rule 7-9 for the referees to restart play with three seconds remaining on the player advantage situation. The offense would not have enough time to benefit from its advantage. 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., if the event affects the extra player advantage situation.

Rule 7-10 Protest Over Misapplication of Rules

Situation: The coach of the losing team in a situation where the referee restarted play with a 6 on 5 instead of a 6 on 4 extra player situation (due to a misinterpretation of the rule) filed a protest after the game within the correct time period. The protest was upheld at the site. Should the entire game be replayed at a later date or should play be resumed at the point of the referee error the same day?

Ruling: Play should resume at the point of the error that same day and all goals and fouls assessed during this time period (from the error to the end of the game) shall not count, except that the following cards and fouls shall remain as issued: any issuance of a yellow or red card, any instance of misconduct excluding minor acts of misconduct, and any instance of flagrant misconduct, including fighting. This is the procedure described in Rule 5-1 for a similar referee error.

Rule 7-11 Forfeit Time

Situation: The visiting team notified the home team that it will arrive late due to transportation problems. At what point does a team have to forfeit a game for not showing up on time even if the team contacted the home team?

Ruling: If a team is not ready to start the game within 30 minutes of the announced starting time, unless there is mutual consent between the competing institutions, the game is declared a forfeit.

Rule 8: Goal Judges

Rule 8-3 Ball Over Sideline

Situation: The ball landed between the sideline and pool wall. The player swam under the sideline, retrieved the ball and swam back into the field of play. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should exclude the player for 20 seconds for leaving the field of play without permission (Rule 21-4). The player should retrieve a ball only if it is immediately outside the field of play when the player does not need to leave the field of play. (See also Rule 19-1.) The player may reach over the sideline to retrieve the ball without leaving the field of play.

Rule 9: Timekeepers

Rule 9-1 Timing of Time-outs

Situation: The school does not have timing equipment that allows the game timer to readily time time-outs. Who shall time the time-outs in this situation?

Ruling: The referees must determine before the game if it is referee or if it is the game timer who will time the regular time-outs and give the warning signal (see also Rule 6-2 and Rule 12-1-1). If the school has the proper timing equipment, the game timer shall time the time-outs and give the warning signal. If the school does not have the proper equipment to time time-outs, the referees shall continue timing regular time-outs. In addition, the referees by the rules must time the 30-second time-outs if these are used as a tournament option.

Rule 9-3 Clock Buzzers

Situation: The buzzer for the expiration of time on the game clock and of time on the shot clock have the same sound. What is the responsibility of the referee in this situation?

Ruling: The referee should instruct either the game timer or the shot clock timer to sound an air horn or whistle when the game clock reaches 0.00. This is usually the responsibility of the shot clock timer as the shot clock is blanked when less than 30 seconds remain in a period and a new period of possession is awarded. (See also Rule 1-1.)

Rule 11: Duration of the Game

Rule 11-5 Tournament Variations

Situation: The coach on offense during a tournament called a 30-second time-out. The players swam to the side of the pool to listen to the coach. Is this permitted?

Ruling: Yes. Both teams, however, must be ready to start at the end of 30 seconds.

Rule 12: Time-Outs

Rule 12-1-2 The Award of a Time-Out

Situation: The coach of the team on defense signaled for a time-out when it appeared that the team on defense was about to take possession of the ball but the team on offense still had possession. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: Since the coach on defense called time-out, the referee blew the whistle and awarded a penalty shot as the team on defense was not entitled to call for a time-out at that time.

Rule 12-2 Position of Players During Time-out

Situation: An excluded player climbed from the water during a 30-second time-out in a tournament or during any regular time-out to meet with the team and then moved down the deck to the re-entry area to enter the pool when signaled. What action should the referee take?

Ruling: No action. During a time-out (either regular or 30-second) an excluded player may leave the water, meet with the team and then move down the deck to the re-entry area. If the coach is substituting for the excluded player, the excluded player does not have to go to the re-entry area before a substitute can enter the pool at the appropriate time.

Rule 12-3-1 Starting After Time-out

Situation: A time-out is called during regular play. After the warning whistle at 1:45, the teams line up to resume play as after a time-out. The referee throws the ball on the half distance line even though the player taking the free throw is approximately 5 yards behind half. What should the referee have done?

Ruling: After a time-out (with the exception of a time-out called before a corner throw or penalty throw), the players may take any position in the field of play and one member of the team in possession of the ball puts the ball in play at or behind the half distance line. The referee should throw the ball to the player who signals that he/she is the player putting the ball into play as long as the player is behind the half distance line at the conclusion of the time-out.

Rule 12-3-3 Starting After Time-out

Situation: When 30 seconds remained in the time-out, the players on the team on offense moved down to the offensive end of the pool. Should the referee allow this?

Ruling: No. Teams may take up their positions to restart after the referee's signal when 15 seconds remain in the time-out. The referee must motion the players to return to their half of the course. After the warning signal, either team may have players in either the offensive or defensive end of the pool or both, subject to the rules relating to the taking of a penalty throw or corner throw.

Rule 12-4 Additional Time-out Requested by Team on Offense

Situation: The coach of the team in possession of the ball requests a fourth time-out. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee must stop the game on the signal of the coach and play shall be restarted by a player of the opposing team putting the ball into play at or behind the half distance line as after a time-out. The referee may not ignore the signal.

Rule 12-5 Defensive Team-Additional Time-out

Situation: The team on defense called a time-out with an airhorn during a one on nobody. What should be the action of the referee and does this count as a time-out for the team?

Ruling: The referee should blow the whistle stopping play and then award a penalty throw to the team on offense. This request for a time-out does not count as a time-out for the team on defense. If the referee believed that this action was a deliberate effort by the coach on defense to stop the fast break and prevent the scoring of a goal, the action of the coach could be regarded as disruptive behavior and the referee could award the coach a red card (Rule 7-4).

Rule 14: Method of Scoring

Rule 14-3-c Shooting a Goal Throw

Situation: The ball goes out of bounds over the goal line and is awarded to the goalkeeper. May the goalkeeper take a direct shot at the other goal?

Ruling: Yes. If the ball enters the goal, passing fully over the goal line, the referee must award the goal.

Rule 14-3-c How Scored

Situation: The rule states that in order to score a goal at least two players of either team but excluding the defending goalkeeper must intentionally play or touch the ball except, for example, at the taking of an immediate shot from a goal throw. May a field player taking a goal throw take a direct shot on goal?

Ruling: Yes. A goal throw can be taken by any player of the team from anywhere within the 2-meter area, but shall be taken by the player nearest to the ball (Rule 16-2).

Rule 14-3-d How Scored

Situation: A foul is awarded outside 5 meters. The ball is to the left of a right-handed shooter. The player picks the ball up with the right hand and moves in one continuous motion counterclockwise to shoot a direct shot. Should the resultant goal be allowed?

Ruling: Yes, provided that the action is in one continuous motion.

Rule 14-3-d Method of Shooting a Direct Shot

Situation: A player is fouled outside the 5-meter line. The shooter pick up the ball with the left hand, immediately transfer the ball to the right hand and shoots the ball which then enters the goal. There is otherwise no fake, hesitation or delay in the direct shot. Should the referee count the goal?

Ruling: No. The player must pick the ball up with the hand with which he/she intends to shoot. Transferring the ball from one hand to the other is putting the ball into play. The player may sweep the ball along the water from one hand to the other without putting it into play and then

take a direct shot. If the foul is awarded outside 5 meters with the ball inside 5 meters, the player may get the ball and move back to the line of the foul. The player may transfer the ball to the other hand while getting back to the correct position to take the free throw.

Rule 14-3-f Direct Shot from Ball Leaving Side of Field of Play

Situation: A white defending field player tipped a shot over the sideline. After the ball was given to the white goalkeeper to put into play, the goalkeeper took a direct shot on goal and the ball entered the goal. Should the referee allow the goal?

Ruling: No. The goal should not be counted since a goal may not be scored directly from the restart after the ball leaves the side of the field of play. However, the ball may be shot and a goal scored if the ball went over the goal line and is awarded to the goalkeeper.

Rule 14-6-e Illegal Shot

Situation: A player is fouled inside the 5-meter line and takes a direct shot on goal. The defender puts up two hands. Should the referee award a penalty shot?

Ruling: No. The referee should turn the ball over to the defense since the ball was shot illegally (see also Rule 14-3) and the goal does not count.

Rule 16: Goal Throws

Rule 16-2 Method of Taking Goal Throw

Situation: A player other than the goalkeeper took the goal throw. Should the referee allow this?

Ruling: Yes. A goal throw may be taken by any player of the team anywhere within the 2 meter area. The player should be the player nearest to the ball. If the ball goes out of the field of play, the goalkeeper puts the ball into play. If the ball goes behind the goal line but is still within the field of play, the closest player to the ball puts the ball into play.

Rule 16-2 Method of Taking Goal Throw

Situation: In taking a goal throw, the goalkeeper raised the ball behind the head and the ball touched the back of a wall goal or, in the case of a floating goal, the ball went completely behind the goal line. One referee awarded a goal to the opposing team. The other referee signaled a corner throw. Which is correct?

Ruling: Neither should be awarded. The referee should allow the game to continue as the ball was not in play at the time it was behind the goal line.

Rule 17: Corner Throws

Rule 17-1 When Awarded

Situation: A defensive player deflected a pass and sent the ball out over the goal line. What should be the call of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should award a corner throw. This is considered to be an example of the defensive team deliberately sending the ball over the goal line.

Rule 17-1 Rebounding Ball

Situation: The offense shoots and the ball rebounds off the goalkeeper or off the face of the goal. The rebounding ball strikes a defender, and the ball then bounces over the goal line out of bounds. To which team should the referee award the ball?

Ruling: The referee should award a corner throw to the offense. The actual shot is completed when the ball rebounds off the goalkeeper or off the face of the goal. Since the rebound after the shot then subsequently strikes a defender and the ball then bounces from the defender over the goal line, the referee should award a corner throw because the team on defense last touched the ball.

Rule 19: Free Throws

Rule 19-1-a Ball over Sideline

Situation: A defender deflected a pass over the sideline. The nearest player on the team on offense swam over the sideline out of the field of play to get the ball, returned to the field of play, and is about to put the ball into play. Should the referee allow that player to put the ball into play?

Ruling: No. The player on offense is allowed to reach over the sideline to retrieve a ball and put the ball into play at that point, but the player may not leave the field of play to do so. Since the player left the field of play without the permission of the referee to retrieve the ball, the referee should exclude the player for 20 seconds and turn the ball over to the opposing team. (See also Rule 3-5, Rule 8-3 and Rule 21-4.)

Rule 20: Ordinary Fouls

Rule 20-16-2, 3 Tip of the Ball

Situation: A defending goalkeeper tips a shot over the sideline. To which team should the referee award the ball? To which team should the referee award the ball if a defending field player tips a shot over the sideline?

Ruling: The referee should award the ball to the offense if a defending goalkeeper tips a shot over the sideline. If a defending field player tips a shot over the sideline, the ball is put in play by the defense (which may include the goalkeeper) at the point where the ball went over the sideline or at any point behind this point.

Rule 20-18 Stalling (Wasting Time)

Situation: Only 30 seconds remained in a game. The goalkeeper held the ball for 19 seconds with all the field players from both teams in the offensive end of the pool. The goalkeeper swam up only to the 5-meter line before the coach called a time-out with 11 seconds remaining. Should the referee have called stalling?

Ruling: 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.

Rule 20-18 Stalling (Wasting Time)

Situation: The ball was in the offensive end of the field of play. The goalkeeper and one offensive field player were in the defensive end. A player passed the ball back to the offensive player in the defensive end of the field of play. Should the referee allow play to continue?

Ruling: The referee should allow play to continue. The referee should not call stalling for this pass since there are two players from the team on offense in the defensive end. However, if, for example, that player merely passes the ball back and forth with the goalkeeper, without attempting to advance the ball to the offensive end, the referee may call stalling. The referee must also take into consideration that the offensive team is not required to make a bad pass to advance the ball from the back court to the front court.

Rule 21: Exclusion FoulsRule 21 (General) Change in Calls When Ball is at Set

Question: The instructions to referees have changed since 2005-06 where the distributed instructions stated that "It is also correct to call an ordinary foul at set when the ball is on the perimeter and the two players at set are starting to get overly physical. This call can be thought of as a warning to the two players, and the next time an offensive foul or exclusion can be called." The Points of Emphasis from 2006-07 and later do not contain these two sentences. Why were they removed?

Answer: These two sentences were removed from the Points of Emphasis for several reasons:

1. This call is confusing to the team on offense. The players at set do not know that this is intended as a warning to them. The ball would be put in play on the periphery where the ball is, so the players would not know that the whistle was meant for the players at set. Even if they did look up at the referee, the referee would be pointing where the ball is to be put into play, which is on the periphery, not at set. In fact, if the referee did point at set to indicate that the players there are overly physical, the player on the periphery could think that this is where the ball is to be put into play and pass the ball there for the free throw.
2. The call takes away the advantage from the offense. Rule 7-3 states that the referees shall refrain from declaring a foul if, in their opinion, such declaration would be an advantage to the offending player's team. If the play is overly physical at set, the referee should make the appropriate call there (an offensive foul or an exclusion foul or a double exclusion foul).
3. The direction commonly given to referees that a referee may call this a few times in a game as a warning is not appropriate as, if the action is a foul, it should be called. If it is not a foul, it should not be called. A coach should not have to warn players that this may be called a few times in a game so don't be surprised.

Rule 21-2 Method of Leaving the Field of Play

Situation: An excluded player exited the side of the field of play under the sideline and swam directly to the exclusion area. The referee made no call. Is this correct?

Ruling: This is correct because an excluded player may swim from the field of play at any point on the goal line or sideline in order to reach the re-entry area.

Rule 21-2, Rule 21-3-1 Method of Leaving the Field of Play

Situation: In a 25-yard pool with wall goals and with walls instead of sidelines on the sides of the field of play, an excluded player climbed from the pool and walked to the re-entry area. What is the call of the referee?

Ruling: The player is excluded from the remainder of the game for misconduct. An excluded player must not leave the water to reach the re-entry area.

Rule 21-2 Illegal Entry

Situation: An excluded player exited the field of play at the end of the pool approximately two yards from the re-entry area and swam under water to the re-entry area. The referee signaled for play to go in the other direction after a shot went out of bounds over the goal line (this signal being the signal for re-entry) just as that player (still under water) reached the re-entry area. The substitute for that player swam under the line marking the re-entry area into the pool before the head of the excluded player appeared above the surface of the water in the exclusion area. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should exclude the player entering the field of play for 20 seconds and turn the ball over because the head of the excluded player must appear in the re-entry area before either that player or a substitute for that player can re-enter the pool. 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 player's re-entry area).

Rule 21-3 Substitution for an Excluded Goalkeeper During the Exclusion Period

Situation: A goalkeeper was excluded for 20 seconds. The team on offense immediately called a time-out. The team on defense during that time-out substituted a different goalkeeper (with a goalkeeper's cap) into the goal for an exiting field player and another field player took the place of the excluded goalkeeper in the re-entry area. Is this allowed?

Ruling: No. The excluded goalkeeper is considered to be that team's goalkeeper even though this player is in the re-entry area. That field player's replacement can only be another field player, not

a goalkeeper in a goalkeeper's cap. The referee should not allow this substitution and does not start play until the situation is corrected.

Rule 21-5 Guarding a Shooter on a Direct Shot on Goal

Situation: A player is fouled at the 6-meter line. The player picks the ball up and attempts a direct shot on goal. How may a defender guard this player?

Ruling: There is no difference in how a player may guard a player who is attempting a direct shot on goal or who is attempting to pass. The guard may have only one arm up, which should be straight up or behind the player's head, an appropriate distance away so that the guard is not considered to be interfering with the free throw. The penalty for interference is either an exclusion foul if the defender is outside the 5-meter line or a penalty foul if the shooter is inside the 5-meter line.

Rule 21-5 Guarding a Player Taking a Free Throw

Situation: A field player guarding a player who is taking a free throw has one arm raised behind the head but the body and arm are within inches of the offensive player. May the referee call interference with the free throw?

Ruling: Yes. There is no set distance the defensive player has to be away from the offensive player with his/her hand straight up or behind the head; the rule is that the defensive player can not interfere with the free throw. For example, the raised hand might be behind the head of the defensive player, but if that defending player is so close that the offensive player cannot make a throwing motion without hitting the defensive player, the defender has to back away or be called for interfering with the free throw. However, the offensive player may not unnecessarily lean or make some extraordinary arm motion into the defender to create this contact; that is, the free throw should be in a normal throwing motion.

Rule 21-5 Interfering with Free Throw

Situation: A defender gives the appropriate space to the offensive player for a free throw or direct shot outside the 5-meter line, but the defender is aggressively waving his/her hand behind the head in an attempt to cover more area to block a shot. Should the defender be excluded?

Ruling: The rule is that the defender can not interfere with the taking of a free throw, goal throw, corner throw or direct shot on goal. There is no set distance that the defender must be away from the person putting the ball in play or taking a direct shot – the key is that the defender can not interfere. If the referee considers that the distance away is such that the defender is not interfering, the defender can wave a hand, either behind the head or directly above the head in an effort to shot block.

Rule 21-6, Rule 22-2 Use of Two Hands

Situation: A player put two hands up to show that the player is not fouling the attacking player. Should the referee allow this? Are there other examples where the use of two hands might be permissible?

Ruling: The player may put two hands up in this situation, on the perimeter, for example, but the player may not put up two hands if the offensive player is attempting to shoot (or attempting a pass which could lead to a probable goal if inside the 5-meter area). In each of these cases the player must be prepared to immediately drop one hand if the situation changes. Note: It is usually relatively easy to distinguish between a defender who is trying to show he/she is not fouling as opposed to a defender raising both hands to block a shot or pass. If an offensive player with his/her back to the goal attempts to shoot, the defender who had raised two hands to show he/she was not fouling must immediately lower one hand. Impermissible use of two hands include the following: a player may not put up two hands to block or to attempt to block a shot outside the 5-meter area (exclusion foul); a player may not put up two hands to block or attempt to block a shot within the 5-meter area (penalty foul); a player may not put up two hands to block or attempt to

block a pass to prevent a probable goal inside the 5-meter area (penalty foul); a player may not put up two hands to interfere with a player taking a free throw (exclusion foul).

Rule 21-6 Use of Two Hands to Block a Pass

Situation: A player uses two hands to prevent a pass outside the 5-meter area. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee may not call an exclusion foul if a player outside the 5-meter area uses two hands to prevent a pass. The referee may call an exclusion foul only if the player uses two hands to attempt to block a shot in this area.

Rule 21-7 Splashing Intentionally

Situation: A player inside the 5-meter line splashes a player outside the 5-meter line. What should the referee call?

Ruling: The referee should exclude the player for 20 seconds. The penalty awarded depends on the location of the face splashed, not on the location of the defender. In this case, the player on offense (the player splashed) was outside the 5-meter line.

Rule 21-10-1 Location of Player Excluded from Remainder of Game for Misconduct or Three Personal Fouls

Situation: A player excluded from the remainder of the game for misconduct or for being charged with three personal fouls leaves the team bench for the stands. Should the referee allow this?

Ruling: No. The player must remain on the team bench with cap on for the remainder of the game in the case of either misconduct or for being charged with three personal fouls. The player must leave the team bench if that player receives a red card or is excluded for flagrant misconduct but must then remain in the bleachers for the remainder of the game under direct supervision.

Rule 21-10-1 Minor Act of Misconduct Turning Into Misconduct

Situation: A player commits an exclusion foul and then that player makes a few minor comments to the referee. However, the player's comments escalate before the referee has blown the whistle to call the minor act of misconduct. What should the referee call?

Ruling: The referee should exclude the player for the remainder of the game for misconduct. Play is restarted with a substitute in the re-entry area.

Rule 21-10-1, Rule 21-10-2 Taunting a Player

Situation: A player taunts a player. What should the referee call?

Ruling: This depends on the severity of the offense. The referee may call a minor act of misconduct or misconduct.

Rule 21-10-1 Swearing

Situation: An excluded player swears at the referee while leaving the pool. The referee awards an additional exclusion foul of a minor act of misconduct. Is this the correct call?

Ruling: No. The referee should exclude the player for the remainder of the game for misconduct.

Rule 21-10-1 Misconduct Committed by a Player in the Exclusion Area

Situation: A player is excluded for the first time. After being in the exclusion area for several seconds, the player spoke to his/her coach on the bench, making a remark critical of the referee. What should be the action of the referee if the referee overhears this comment?

Ruling: 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 award that player a second exclusion foul for the minor act of misconduct or may exclude the player for the remainder of the game for misconduct for showing disrespect to the referee. If the referee

excludes the player for the remainder of the game, a substitute must replace that player in the exclusion area. In either case, the re-entry time of the excluded player is 20 seconds from the time of the second foul and the shot clock is reset.

Rule 21-10-1 Misconduct After a Goal

Situation: A player in a white cap sinks a player in a blue cap who has just scored a goal. The referee calls misconduct, excludes the white player for the remainder of the game and awards the ball to the blue team. Is this the correct call?

Ruling: No. This action occurred after a goal during what is commonly called “dead dead time” or interval time. If the referee feels that the action of the player in the white cap merits a misconduct call, the referee must exclude the player for the remainder of the game and the teams start even up with a free throw taken by the team in white caps as after a goal.

Rule 21-10-1 Misconduct After First Personal Foul, an Act of Misconduct

Situation: A player is disrespectful to the referee while exiting the pool after being excluded from the remainder of the game for misconduct, that player’s first personal foul.

Ruling: The player is excluded for the remainder of the game and a penalty throw is awarded. If the player continues to be disrespectful to the referee, the referee should also award a red card to the player. The player receiving the red card is also excluded from the next game. The substitute may enter after the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3.

Rule 21-10-2 Minor Act of Misconduct After First Personal Foul, a Penalty Foul

Situation: A player is charged with a penalty foul, that player’s first personal foul. The player then commits a minor act of misconduct, an exclusion foul, before the penalty shot is taken. Should the player (or substitute) be in the exclusion area for the taking of the penalty throw?

Ruling: Yes. If the penalty shot is scored, the player may enter immediately. If not, the player is out until the occurrence of one of the events described in Rule 21-3. Under Progress of Game, the scorekeeper must enter time, cap number, team, and (under Remarks) P, and then on the next line enter time, cap number, team, and (under Remarks) E-MAM. On the top portion of the scoresheet, enter P and the period in the first column under Personal Fouls, and then enter E and the period in the second column under Personal Fouls. If the penalty shot is scored, the scorekeeper must enter time, cap number, team, and (under Remarks) G-P. In the upper part of the scoresheet enter P in the attempt column and enter P in the appropriate column under goals.

Rule 21-10-2 Minor Act of Misconduct After Second Personal Foul, a Penalty Foul

Situation: A player commits a minor act of misconduct immediately after that player is charged with a penalty foul, the penalty foul being that player’s second personal foul. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: Since the minor act of misconduct made that player’s third personal foul (an exclusion foul), the referee removes the player for the remainder of the game and conducts the penalty throw with the substitute for that player in the exclusion area. If the penalty throw is scored, the substitute enters immediately. If it is missed, the substitute may not enter until the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3.

Rule 21-10-1, 2 Misconduct or Minor Act of Misconduct after Third Personal Foul, an Exclusion Foul

Situation: A player commits the foul of misconduct or the foul of a minor act of misconduct while exiting the pool after committing that player’s third personal foul, an exclusion foul. The referee excludes the player for the remainder of the game for committing his/her third personal foul, with the substitute in the re-entry area, and then awards a live-time penalty shot for the foul of misconduct or the minor act of misconduct after a third personal foul. Is this the correct

procedure?

Ruling: Yes. As soon as the exclusion secretary sees the signal for misconduct or for a minor act of misconduct after the third personal foul, an exclusion foul, the exclusion secretary must immediately raise the red flag and blow the whistle. The substitute may not enter for 20 seconds or the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3, and a penalty throw is awarded. Under Progress of Game, the scorekeeper must record the third foul with time, cap number, team, and (under Remarks) E; then on the next line, at the same time, record cap number, team, and enter the foul of misconduct as E-misconduct (penalty throw) or E-MAM (penalty throw). In the top portion of the scoresheet, enter E and the period in the third column under Personal Fouls. In the NOTE column following the Personal Fouls columns, enter P/M for this penalty foul awarded for misconduct or P/MAM for this penalty foul awarded for a minor act of misconduct. If the penalty shot is scored, enter the time, team, cap number and G-P under Progress of Game, and, in the upper portion of the scoresheet, enter P in the attempt column and enter P in the appropriate column under goals.

Rule 21-10-1, 2 Misconduct or MAM after Third Personal Foul, a Penalty Foul

Situation: A player commits the foul of misconduct or the foul of a minor act of misconduct while exiting the pool after committing that player's third personal foul, a penalty foul. The referee excludes the player for the remainder of the game for committing the third personal foul, the substitute enters immediately, and then the referee awards first a dead-time penalty shot for that penalty foul and then a live-time penalty shot for the foul of misconduct or for the foul of a minor act of misconduct after a third personal foul. Is this the correct procedure?

Ruling: Yes. As soon as the exclusion secretary sees the signal for misconduct or a minor act of misconduct after the third personal foul, a penalty foul, the exclusion secretary must immediately raise the red flag and blow the whistle. The substitute enters immediately. The first penalty throw is a dead-time penalty throw. The second penalty throw is a live time penalty throw. Under Progress of Game, the scorekeeper must enter the third foul with time, cap number, team, and (under Remarks) P; then on the next line, at the same time, cap number, team, and enter the foul of misconduct as E-misconduct (penalty throw) or E-MAM (penalty throw). In the top portion of the scoresheet, enter P and the period in the third column under Personal Fouls. In the NOTE column following the Personal Fouls columns, enter P/M for this penalty foul awarded for misconduct or P/MAM for this penalty foul awarded for a minor act of misconduct. If the first penalty shot is scored, enter the time, team, cap number and G-P under Progress of Game, and enter P in the attempt column and enter P in the appropriate column under goals. If the second penalty shot is scored, enter the time, team, cap number and G-P under Progress of Game, and enter P in the attempt column and enter P in the appropriate column under goals.

Rule 21-10, Rule 21-2, Rule 7-9-e Simultaneous Exclusion Foul and Misconduct Foul on Two Different Players

Situation (Part I): The referee excludes white player cap #2 for 20 seconds. White player cap #3 starts to leave the field of play by mistake. The referee calls for the ball and signals to white player #3 that he/she was not excluded. The player, however, not understanding, splashes water which reaches the referee. The referee signals exclusion of that player from the remainder of the game for misconduct. How should the referee restart play?

Ruling: Player #2 (or substitute) and the substitute for player #3 should both be in the exclusion area and play should be resumed by the blue team with a 6 on 4. Even though the referee removed the ball from the field of play, the substitute for player #3 may not start play at this time since Rule 21-10 only provides for this immediate substitution if the misconduct was committed during an interval between periods, a time-out and prior to restart after a goal, no matter which team

committed the foul. The act of a referee taking a ball out of the pool to clarify which player was excluded is not a time-out.

Situation, Part II: Should the referee have merely straightened out the situation in the previous question (an incorrect player leaving the field of play - Rule 21-2, Rule 7-9-e) as opposed to exclusion of the player for the remainder of the game for misconduct?

Ruling: No, since the referee had determined that the act of splashing the referee constituted misconduct. The rule regarding the referee stopping play, correcting the situation, and resetting the clocks assumes that the player leaving by mistake does not commit misconduct.

Situation, Part III: Could player #3 have been excluded for a minor act of misconduct for making a minor gesture to the referee?

Ruling: The referee has the sole power to determine if this act of misconduct was minor or major. The referee should have restarted play in either case with a 6 on 4.

Situation, Part IV: If the referee had determined that the splashing in this instance was a minor act of misconduct, should the referee have awarded a penalty shot?

Ruling: No. A penalty shot is awarded only if the same player commits a minor act of misconduct on the way out from the pool immediately after receiving the third personal foul.

Rule 21-10-2 Minor Act of Misconduct

Situation: A minor act of misconduct is considered to be an exclusion foul with a 20-second period of exclusion. What is the appropriate action for the referee to take in each of the following cases where a player commits a minor act of misconduct immediately following a personal foul?

Ruling: The appropriate action in each instance is summarized in the following chart.

A player commits a minor act of misconduct immediately after each of the following personal fouls:	Appropriate action of the referee in each case:
A player receives his/her first personal foul, an exclusion foul	Player awarded another personal foul (his/her second) and is excluded for 20 seconds; play starts with player in exclusion area
A player receives his/her first personal foul, a penalty foul,	Player awarded another personal foul (his/her second); player excluded for 20 seconds, and live-time penalty throw conducted
A player receives his/her second personal foul, an exclusion foul	Player awarded another personal foul (his/her third) and excluded for remainder of game as the player has 3 personal fouls; substitute out for 20 seconds
A player receives his/her second personal foul, a penalty foul	Player awarded another personal foul (his/her third) and excluded for remainder of game as the player has 3 personal fouls, substitute out for 20 seconds and the live-time penalty throw conducted
A player receives his/her third personal foul, an exclusion foul	Player excluded for remainder of game as the player has 3 personal fouls, substitute out for 20 seconds, a live-time penalty throw awarded
A player receives his/her third personal foul, a penalty foul	Player excluded for remainder of game as the player has 3 personal fouls, substitute enters immediately as the third foul was a penalty foul; first penalty throw is a dead time penalty throw, second is a live time penalty throw

Rule 21-10-1-c Personal Fouls Committed During and After a Penalty Throw

Situation: A 5-meter penalty is awarded to the blue team. After several warnings to an offensive and a defensive player concerning their positions and actions prior to the penalty shot, the referee excluded both players for the remainder of the game for misconduct prior to the penalty shot. The penalty shot was then taken with the substitutes for these players in the exclusion areas. The penalty shot was scored and the substitutes entered the pool. Prior to putting the ball into play, the goalkeeper of the white team was then excluded from the remainder of the game for misconduct. How should the referee restart play?

Ruling: The white team must substitute another goalkeeper (with the privileges of a goalkeeper) for the goalkeeper who was excluded. The referee should start play with the teams even up with the white team putting the ball into play as after a goal.

Rule 21-11 Flagrant Misconduct in Dead Time

Situation: A player with a white cap was excluded. During the dead-time, while the referee was removing the player and communicating this information to the scoring table, a player on the blue team committed an act of flagrant misconduct. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should take the ball from the water, remove the player who committed the act of flagrant misconduct from the remainder of the game, and allow the excluded white player to enter (as there was a change of possession due to the call of flagrant misconduct). The referee should then conduct the dead-time penalty throw. The team with the white caps will get the ball back, whether the penalty shot was made or missed, with the substitute for the player who committed flagrant misconduct still in the exclusion area for 20 seconds or until the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3.

Rule 21-11 Double Flagrant Misconduct Committed During Dead Time

Situation: A player commits an act of flagrant misconduct during dead time. In retaliation, a player of the opposing team then hits that player during that same period of dead time. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: Since the two acts of flagrant misconduct both occurred during the same dead time, the referee should remove both players for the remainder of the game and a dead-time penalty throw is awarded to each team. The penalty throws are taken with the substitutes in the exclusion areas. The first penalty throw is taken by the team that was in possession of the ball at the time of the stoppage. After the second penalty throw has been taken (made or missed), the game is restarted by the team that last had possession of the ball taking a free throw as after a time-out on or behind the half distance line with the substitutes for the excluded players still in the re-entry areas. The substitutes may not enter until the earliest occurrence of one of the events described in Rule 21-3.

Rule 21-11 Double Flagrant Misconduct During a Time-out or After a Goal

Situation: A double flagrant misconduct foul is called during a time-out or after a goal. How does the referee conduct the penalty throws and restart the game?

Ruling: The offending players are removed for the remainder of the game, with their substitutes in the re-entry areas. The first dead-time penalty throw is taken by the team that would normally have possession (the team which called the time-out or was in possession of the ball at the time a time-out was called by the defense or by the team on which the goal was scored). This results in a goal or no goal. The second team then takes a dead-time penalty throw. This results in a goal or no goal. The referee will then award a free throw on or behind the half distance line as after a time-out to the team that would normally have had possession after the time-out or after the goal. The substitutes may not enter until the earliest occurrence of one of the events described in Rule 21-3.

Rule 21-15 Early Entry of an Excluded Player

Situation: An excluded player re-enters the pool early. The referee awarded a penalty throw and excluded the player from the remainder of the game. Is the correct ruling?

Ruling: No. If a player on the defensive team enters early or improperly, the player is excluded for an additional 20 seconds and a penalty throw awarded to the attacking team. If a player on the offensive team enters improperly, the player is excluded for an additional 20 seconds and a free throw awarded to the opposing team. Rule 22-6 refers to a player not entitled under the rules to participate (an extra player or a player who has received a third personal foul or who has been excluded for the remainder of the game, as described in Rule 5-1). In this case the player is excluded for the remainder of the game and a penalty throw is awarded.

Rule 21-16 Interference with Penalty Throw

Situation: 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 before the shooter releases the ball. The penalty shot did not score. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: It is a game exclusion for a person to interfere with the taking of a penalty throw, either 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 or if a defender takes other actions towards the shooter such as shouting, splashing or whistling. The offending player is excluded for the remainder of the game with the substitute in the re-entry area, and the penalty shot is retaken. If this 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.

Rule 21-16 Interference with Penalty Shot

Situation: If the player in the above case who was interfered with scored the original penalty shot, what should the referee call?

Ruling: The penalty shot counts and the substitute enters immediately. The player who interfered with the penalty shot is excluded for the remainder of the game.

Rule 21-17 Goalkeeper Failure to Take Position on Goal Line

Situation: During the administration of a penalty throw, the goalkeeper comes forward before the shot is administered. What should the referee do?

Ruling: The referee should 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.

Rule 21-20 Excluded Player Interfering With Play

Situation: An excluded player swims through the 6-on-5 to reach the re-entry area. What should the referee call?

Ruling: If the referee believes there is interference with play, the referee awards a penalty throw and another personal foul against the excluded player. The penalty throw is taken with the excluded player (or substitute) in the re-entry area.

Rule 22: Penalty Fouls

Rule 22-2-b Two-Hand Shot Block Inside 5-Meter Line

Situation: A player within the 5-meter area puts up two hands in an attempt to block a shot. The referee blows a whistle for the foul when the ball is in the air. The shot goes out of bounds over the goal line, untouched by any player. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee awards a penalty foul. The defending player does not have to touch the ball nor does a shot have to be taken. The player is being punished for intent.

Rule 22-2-b Two-Hand Shot Block Inside 5-Meter Line

Situation: A player within the 5-meter area puts up two hands in an attempt to block a shot. The referee blows a whistle for the foul when the ball is in the air. The ball goes into the goal, untouched by any player. What should be the award of the referee?

Ruling: The referee awards a penalty foul and does not count the goal. The goal does not count because the ball was in flight towards the goal when the referee blew the whistle for a foul (Rule 14-6-a).

Rule 22-2-b Two-Hand Shot Block Inside 5-Meter Line

Situation: A player within the 5-meter area puts up two hands in an attempt to block a shot. The ball goes into the goal, untouched by any player. The referee then blows the whistle for the foul. Should the referee count the goal? Should the referee award a penalty foul?

Ruling: Since the goal scored, the goal counts and the referee should not award the penalty foul against the player who put up two hands.

Rule 22-2-c Two-Hand Block of a Pass Inside 5-Meter Line

Situation: A player within the 5-meter area puts up two hands to block or to attempt to block a pass. What action should the referee take?

Ruling: It is a penalty foul for a defending player to commit any foul within the 5-meter area but for which a goal would probably have resulted. Therefore, if the defending player intentionally blocks or attempts to block a pass with two hands which prevents a probable goal, a penalty foul is awarded. It is not a penalty foul if the ball is being passed to a player who is in such a position that the pass would not have led to a probable goal.

Rule 22-6 Player Not Entitled to Participate Entering the Field of Play

Situation: A player was removed for the remainder of the game upon the award of a third personal foul. The red flag was raised properly and was observed by the referees. Later in the game, the player entered during live time after a change in possession as a substitute for an excluded player and was observed by the desk shortly after. What should the exclusion secretary and referee do?

Ruling: The exclusion secretary should blow the whistle as soon as the player with three personal fouls is observed. The referee should remove the player, the substitute for that player should be in the re-entry area, the game clock reset to the time of entrance of the illegal player, a penalty throw awarded, and the substitute may enter after the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3.

Rule 22-6 Player Not Entitled to Participate Entering Field of Play

Situation: A team attempted a live-time substitution. However, the substitute entered the field of play from the re-entry area before the departing player left the field of play at the re-entry area. What should be the call of the referee?

Ruling: It is a penalty foul for a player not entitled to participate to enter the field of play. This substitute was not entitled to participate before the original player left the field of play at the re-entry area as there are now eight players on that team in the field of play. Therefore, the substitute is excluded for the remainder of the game and a penalty foul is awarded. The penalty throw is taken with a player in the re-entry area. (See also Rule 5-1.)

Rule 22-8 Penalty Foul in the Last Minute

Situation: A penalty foul is awarded in the last minute. The coach does not signal to the referee if the coach wants to take a penalty throw or to keep the ball. Should the referee conduct the penalty throw?

Ruling: Even though it is the responsibility of the coach to give a clear signal without delay (Appendix B, Figure Z) if the team wishes to maintain possession of the ball or by showing five fingers to request a penalty throw, the referee must take the ball from the pool. If the coach did not give a clear signal as to his/her preference, the referee must verify the decision of the coach and then restart play either with the penalty throw or by the team on offense restarting play by taking a free throw on or behind the half distance line as after a time-out. The possession clock is reset.

Rule 22-8 Award of Penalty Foul in the Last Minute

Situation: A penalty foul was awarded for either misconduct or for a minor act of misconduct committed after a third personal foul, an exclusion foul. If this situation occurred in the last minute of the game or in the last minute of the second overtime period or at any time during sudden-victory overtime periods, may the coach elect to maintain possession of the ball in lieu of taking the penalty throw?

Ruling: Yes, the coach may elect to maintain possession of the ball in this situation, in lieu of taking a live-time penalty throw, with the substitute for the excluded player in the re-entry area. If the third personal foul is a penalty foul and the player committed a minor act of misconduct after this foul while leaving the pool, there would be immediate substitution, and the first penalty throw is a dead-time penalty throw. The second penalty throw is a live-time penalty throw and the coach may elect to maintain possession of the ball in lieu of taking that live-time penalty throw. If the coach does elect to maintain possession of the ball, the team will be awarded a free throw on or behind the half distance line with a new possession clock and will start play as after a time-out.

Rules 22-8 and Rule 21-11 Flagrant Misconduct Foul in the Last Minute

Situation: An act of flagrant misconduct is committed by a player on the white team in the last minute of the game. The blue team is ahead by one goal. Should the referee ask the coach of the blue team if he/she prefers to take the penalty throw or to maintain possession of the ball?

Ruling: Yes. By the rule the referee must ask the coach his/her preference although here there may be no advantage to be gained by the coach declining to take the penalty throw and keeping the ball. This is because the penalty throw awarded for flagrant misconduct is a dead-time penalty throw, with the substitute out for 20 seconds or until the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3. The team retains possession of the ball, whether the shot is made or missed, restarting play as after a time-out.

Rules 22-8 and 21-11 Simultaneous Flagrant Misconduct During the Last Minute of the Game or During the Last Minute of Overtime

Situation: Simultaneous flagrant misconduct fouls are committed by a player of each team during the last minute of the game, during the last minute of overtime, or at any time during sudden-victory overtime. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: If simultaneous flagrant misconduct by players of both teams occurs during the time frame described, the referee must remove both players for the remainder of the game, with their substitutes in the re-entry areas. The coach whose team was in possession of the ball will decide whether each team will shoot a dead-time penalty shot or whether the team in possession of the ball will maintain possession of the ball and be awarded a free throw at or behind half as after a

time-out. The substitutes are out for 20 seconds or until the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3 whether the penalty shots are made or missed. The shot clock is reset.

Rule 23: Penalty Throws

Rule 23-2 Penalty Throw

Situation: The goalkeeper is excluded and, on the way out, interferes with play, resulting in the award of a penalty throw. A field player takes the place of the goalkeeper in the goal with the goalkeeper in the exclusion area during the taking of the penalty throw. The field player comes forward with both hands outstretched to the side in an attempt to block the penalty throw. The player blocks the penalty throw with one hand out of bounds over the goal line. What should the referee call?

Ruling: The referee should call a penalty foul against that player because the field player in the goal does not have the privileges of a goalkeeper. It is a penalty foul if a field player raised two hands in an attempt to block a shot inside the 5-meter area, no matter how high the player raised the hands or if the player blocked the ball with one or both hands or if the player did not actually touch the ball or if the shot missed the goal completely. The player should retake the penalty shot. However, if the penalty shot scored, the goal would count and no foul would be awarded against the field player in the goal.

Rule 23-2 Penalty Throw

Situation: On the penalty throw described in the above situation, the defensive field player in the goal raised only one hand and blocked the ball with one hand out of bounds over the goal line. What throw should the referee award?

Ruling: The referee should award a goal throw because the player in the goal is a field player, not a goalkeeper (Rule 16-1). The defensive field player in the goal may take the goal throw (Rule 16-2).

Rule 23-2 Position of Other Players and Goalkeeper

Situation: A penalty foul is awarded against a player on the blue team. The head coach of the blue team directed one of the field players to take the goalkeeper's place in the goal for the taking of the penalty throw. Should the referee allow this?

Interpretation: No. The goalkeeper is the only person who can defend a penalty throw, provided that there is a player in a goalkeeper's cap in the water at that time. The rule that states this most clearly is Rule 23-2: "With floating goals, the defending goalkeeper shall be positioned between the goal posts, with no part of the goalkeeper's body beyond the goal line at water level....Should the goalkeeper be out of the water, another player may take the position of the goalkeeper but without the goalkeeper's privileges and limitations."

Rule 23-3 Position of Referee Administering the Penalty Throw

Situation: The referee administers a penalty throw while standing on the goal line. Should this be allowed?

Ruling: This is acceptable as there is no particular point specified in the rules for the referee to administer the penalty throw. This lack of specificity in designating the position of the referee when the whistle is blown allows the referee controlling the taking of the throw to determine the most advantageous position for that referee to watch the shooter, the defensive players and the goalkeeper.

Rule 23-3 Role of the Back Court Referee in a Penalty Throw

Situation: The front court referee prepared to administer a penalty throw. The back court referee took a position farther behind in the back court. The front court referee raised the arm to administer the penalty throw, blew the whistle and lowered the arm. At the same time, the back

court referee blew a whistle to indicate interference. The player shot and scored the penalty shot. Should the goal be allowed?

Ruling: Yes. The front court referee, the referee controlling the throw, is responsible for lining up the players. The back court referee should not blow a whistle during the administration of the penalty throw. Since the whistles were simultaneous, the goal counts and no interference should be called.

Rule 23-4 Taking of a Penalty Shot

Situation: After the referee blew the whistle for the penalty shot but before the ball left the hand of the shooter, the defensive players on either side of the shooter moved forward towards center cage. Is this permitted?

Ruling: Yes. After the whistle but before the ball is released, the defensive player on either side of the shooter may move forward at an angle towards the goal as long as the player does not interfere with the penalty shot. After the ball is released, the defensive players may move towards the shooter.

Rule 23-4 Method of Taking the Penalty Throw

Situation: A penalty throw is awarded. The player picks up the ball with the left hand and immediately transfers the ball to the right hand and then waits for the referee's signal for the penalty throw. The penalty shot scores. Should the referee count the goal?

Ruling: Yes. If the player transfers the ball to the right hand before the referee signals for the throw, there is no violation of the rule that the player shall immediately throw the ball with an uninterrupted movement directly at the goal. If the player transfers the ball from one hand to the other after the referee signals for the penalty throw to be taken, then the throw will be disallowed and the ball turned over (Rule 23-4, Rule 20-13). There is no rule specifying the speed at which the ball must travel to the goal. The shooter may lob the ball, for example, provided that the shot is taken without delay.

Rule 25: Accident, Injury and Illness

Rule 25-1 Leaving the Field of Play

Situation: The referee stops play for an injury, malfunctioning equipment or to replace a cap. May the players hang on the side of the field of play in a pool without sidelines or move under the sideline to hang onto the pool wall?

Ruling: The referee must indicate to the players if they can hang on the side of the pool or if they must remain within the field of play. The referee usually requires the players to remain within the field of play in the case of a cap off or missing or for resetting a clock. If there is a lengthy equipment malfunction, the referee may indicate that the players may move to their bench. Otherwise, players should not leave the field of play nor hang on the sidelines, etc., without the referee's permission.

Appendix A: Instructions for the Use of Two Referees

Appendix A-18 Award of Goal Throw Versus Corner Throw

Situation: A shot is taken and missed. The back court referee signals for a corner throw, the front court referee signals for a goal throw. Which call takes precedence?

Ruling: The signal for the corner throw takes precedence over that for a goal throw. If the goal throw was awarded by mistake, the referees should confer and reverse the decision, awarding a corner throw.

Appendix B: Signals to be Used by Officials

Appendix B-F, G, CC Referee Signals for Exclusion Fouls

Situation: The referee needs to distinguish between the fouls of flagrant misconduct, misconduct, and a minor act of misconduct because of differing penalties. What signals should the referee use?

Ruling: The referee crosses the arms down across the abdomen for flagrant misconduct (Fig. G), rotates both hands round one another for exclusion from the remainder of the game (usually for misconduct) (Fig. F) and makes a rolling motion with one arm instead of two arms for a minor act of misconduct (Fig. CC). In addition the referee must notify the scoring table verbally of these fouls and the scorekeeper must record the nature of the foul (for example E-flagrant misconduct, E-misconduct, or E-MAM).