



2014-15 WATER POLO MAJOR RULES CHANGES

- 1-12-1d** A player removed for flagrant misconduct or for receipt of a red card shall not communicate directly or indirectly with his/her team by use of electronic devices.
- Rationale:** The rule is broadened to ban communication with team personnel by a player who has been removed from the bench area to the spectator stands.
- 4-4-2** Rescinds the requirement regarding four numbers on the cap to the change of requiring that a third number be placed on the front or back of the cap, preferably on the back, by July 1, 2015.
- Rationale:** The previous requirement for the addition of two numbers (four total) left no room for any type of school identification and promotion of team spirit. The addition of one additional number, front or back, with back preferred, will serve the original intent to assist in excluded player identification.
- 4-5** Only swim caps are allowed to be worn under the water polo cap.
- Rationale:** No other type of head gear is allowed under the cap as the water polo cap should conform closely to the head.
- 7-3** Referee has discretion to award any ordinary, exclusion or penalty foul based on whether it will give an advantage to the attacking team.
- Rationale:** The advantage rule has been strengthened and clarifies that the rule applies to ordinary, exclusion and penalty fouls.
- 7-10-2** Protests must be filed at the time of the incident, at the next goal or time-out, or the start of the next period. If the incident occurs in the fourth quarter, the coach follows the same procedure or has five minutes after the game, whichever occurs first, to file a protest.
- Rationale:** Specifies procedure for filing a protest that now avoids unnecessary replay of the part of the game not involved in the protest.
- 10-1a** The scorekeeper shall record the starting and ending time of the game on the scoresheet.
- Rationale:** Specifies what shall be recorded on the official scoresheet by the scorekeeper. Ending time of the game may be important in the event of a protest near the end of the contest.
- 12-6** If a time-out is called when neither team has possession of the ball, the team that did not call the time-out is awarded a penalty throw.
- Rationale:** This change strengthens the punishment for a team that calls a time-out when neither team is in possession of the ball.

14-3-5e If there is a correctable clock error, a goal can be scored when the referee calls for the ball.

Rationale: Clarifies a goal may be scored when referee calls for the ball if a correctable error is committed.

14-3-5h New A goal cannot be scored on a direct shot from a corner throw.

Rationale: Specifies a goal may not be scored by a direct shot under this rule when taking a corner throw, as direct shots must be taken outside the 5-meter line and a corner throw must be taken from the 2-meter mark.

19-4 Clarifies water polo related actions taken by a player putting the ball into play when taking a free throw.

Rationale: Clarifies what water polo actions constitute putting the ball in play.

20-14 Changed the foul of a goalkeeper going beyond or taking the ball beyond the half-distance line from an ordinary foul to an exclusion foul.

Rationale: If the goalkeeper goes beyond half, the goalkeeper is acting as an extra field player, giving the team an unfair advantage. This action should be an exclusion foul rather than an ordinary foul.

12-21-1 The shot clock shall not be reset when the team that was in possession of the ball retains possession.

Rationale: There is no reason to reward a team that is keeping possession of the ball a new shot clock.

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1-7 Interpretation is added to provide consistency in the process to be followed when a modification of the re-entry area is necessary.

6-2 This article was deleted as the duties of officials are detailed in Rules 9 and 10.

14-3-3 The rule is reworded to provide a better understanding and application. The NOTES are deleted as they are now covered in Free Throw, Rule 19. Figures 1 and 2 are moved to Rule 19.

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1-2, 1-6b NOTE, 1-7 NOTE 2, 1-12-1, 1-12-2, 2-2, 5-5-2 NOTE 3, 7-7b NOTE, 20-17, 21-11, 24-2