



## MEMORANDUM

March 8, 2006

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

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

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

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

Subject: Rules Interpretations and Questions.

In the past few weeks, several rules questions have been submitted. In addition, please review the interpretations issued August 30, 2005, on the NCAA web site

- Situation: A coach of a team not participating in a tournament requests permission to videotape games in the tournament. Is there a rule prohibiting this?

Ruling: There is no playing rule which prohibits a non-participating institution from videotaping games. Conference or local rules may prohibit this action.
- Situation: A tournament has a timeout secretary assigned whose duty it is to time the timeouts. The duties of the timeout secretary are to give the warning signal at 1:45 that the teams may take up their positions to restart play and then again at 2:00 minutes to signal the end of the timeout. The timeout secretary observed a coach give the signal requesting a timeout. The referee did not blow the whistle to award the timeout. May the timeout secretary signal by whistle or air horn the award of the timeout?

Ruling: No. There are situations where the referee does not award a requested timeout (such as if the team on defense requests a timeout at times not permitted by the rules); therefore, only the referee may award a timeout. (Rule 12-5 and Appendix E, p. 106)

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3. Situation: A player is excluded for the second time. This player interferes with play when leaving the pool. The referee awards a penalty throw. Does the exclusion secretary signal the referee by whistle that this is the player's third foul before the taking of the penalty throw, as directed in Rule 10-d?

Ruling: No. The exclusion secretary raises the red flag to indicate that this player has three fouls, but does not blow the whistle because the penalty throw is taken with the substitute for the excluded player in the exclusion area rather than in the field of play.

4. Situation: A player is excluded and the coach immediately calls a 20-second timeout. During a regular or 20-second timeout may the excluded player leave the water to reach the reentry area? Is the excluded player in this situation required to go to the exclusion area before a substitute may be signaled to enter the pool at the conclusion of the exclusion period?

Ruling: The excluded player may leave the water during a timeout to meet with the team. That player then may either swim or walk to the exclusion area. If that player is being substituted, the player does not need to go to the exclusion area before the substitute may enter, when signaled. (Rule 12-3)

5. Situation: The host team wishes to use a center ball-release device at the start of each period of the game. Is this permitted?

Ruling: This is permitted by the rules (Rule 13-3). The referee may "release or throw the ball into play on the half-distance line".

6. Situation: A player wearing cap number 20 is excluded. How shall the referee signal this number to the players and scoring table?

Ruling: The referee shall show a clenched fist on each hand (inferred in Appendix B, Fig. W).

7. Situation: A coach received a red card during the game. The coach must leave the bench and may sit in the spectator stands during the remainder of that game and the next game. May the coach communicate with any member of the staff or referees during this time?

Ruling: No. The coach may not communicate with the team or team official or referees by any means (telephonic, hand gestures, vocal, etc.) during the game or during the entire time of the jurisdiction of the referees. This time begins 30 minutes before the game and ends five minutes after the conclusion of the game or when any protest filing procedure has been completed. The term "team official" includes any member of the staff of that institution. (Rule 7-1, 7-4) Note: a conference may institute a stronger penalty.

8. Situation: A player interferes with a penalty throw by kicking or splashing the shooter just as the shot is about to be taken. Is the player excluded for the remainder of the game?  
Ruling: The player is excluded for the remainder of the game. If the penalty shot was scored, the goal counts and the substitute enters immediately. If the penalty shot was not scored, the referee blows the whistle immediately after the shot is missed. The player is excluded for the remainder of the game and the penalty shot is retaken with the substitute in the exclusion area. If that shot is scored, the substitute enters immediately. If the shot is missed, the substitute enters after the earliest occurrence of one of the events referred to in Rule 21-3 (elapse of 20 seconds, goal scored, when excluded player's team takes possession of the ball, etc.). (Rule 21-17)
9. Situation: A white player is excluded and the blue team immediately scores an extraman goal. Both the coaching staff and the players on the bench of the white team stand, complaining about the call. The referee on the far side of the pool calls the ball out of the pool and shows a yellow card but does not inform the desk as to whom the card is to be charged. How should the referee inform the desk?  
Ruling: The referee must notify the secretary as to whom the card was issued. Since the referee is on the opposite side of the pool, the referee must be certain that the correct information is relayed to the secretary. It is recommended that the referee making the call communicate this information to the referee on the near side of the pool who must inform the secretary. (Rule 7-4)
10. Situation: Shortly before a game is to begin, both teams have only six players available to play. The two teams mutually agree that the game will be played. What is the ruling?  
Ruling: Each team must have seven players in order to play an official game. (Rule 5-1).
11. Situation: A player is excluded. A few seconds later one team takes a shot on goal. The ball goes over the goal. The backcourt referee indicates a change of possession by pointing to the other end of the pool. The attack referee blows his whistle, indicates a tip, and points to the corner for a corner throw. The excluded player enters on the signal for change of possession by the backcourt referee. What is the ruling?  
Ruling: The referees shall stop play and call the ball out of the water. The excluded player returns to the exclusion area to complete the remainder of the exclusion. No penalty is charged because of the referees' conflicting signals. Play is resumed when neither team has an advantage (Rule 7-2).
12. Situation: A player is excluded. Early in the exclusion period, without being waved in, the excluded player enters the pool and guards a player. The exclusion secretary notifies the referee of the illegal entry. The player is removed. What additional penalty should be charged?

Ruling: The referee shall award a penalty foul. If the penalty shot is scored, the player (or substitute) enters immediately. If the penalty shot is missed, the player (or substitute) is out for the remainder of the original exclusion period. (Rules 22-4 and 22-6)

13. Situation: The score is 7-6 with 23 seconds remaining in the game. The referee awards a corner throw. The team on offense (the team down a goal) calls a timeout. The referee restarted play after the timeout at half instead of with a corner throw. The coach calling the timeout objected, but the referee started with a free throw at half and the game concluded with no change in the score. The team calling the timeout protested the decision within the correct time frame.

Ruling: The last 23 seconds of the game shall be replayed, starting with the corner throw, since if the timeout is requested before the taking of a corner throw, the throw shall be maintained. (Rule 12-3).

14. Situation: A player wears a water polo suit that is zipped half-way up. May the referee instruct her to zip the suit up completely before resuming play?

Ruling: Yes. This is a safety issue as fingers or other body parts may be caught in the zipper. (Rule 7-4)

If you have questions, please contact us. ([ccrawfor@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:ccrawfor@mail.sdsu.edu) or [bkalbus@mindspring.com](mailto:bkalbus@mindspring.com) or "Bret Bernard" <[bret@wraeng.com](mailto:bret@wraeng.com)>, "Bret Bernard" [b3bernard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:b3bernard@sbcglobal.net))

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