



## MEMORANDUM

April 6, 2006

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**TO:** Men's and Women's Water Polo Head Coaches, Commissioners and Officials

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

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Rules Interpretations and Questions

The following are interpretations based on questions that have been submitted.

- Situation:** The team in blue caps has possession of the ball when a double exclusion is called with 12 seconds remaining in a period. The team in blue caps retains possession of the ball and the period ends with the team in blue caps still in possession of the ball. Do the teams start even-up at the beginning of the next period? If not, when do the excluded players reenter the field of play?

**Ruling:** The period begins with a sprint for the ball with both excluded players or their substitutes still in the exclusion areas. If the team with white caps gains possession from the sprint, both excluded players (or their substitutes) may reenter the field of play. If the team with blue caps wins the sprint, both players remain in the exclusion area until 6:52, when both excluded players are waved in, or until the earliest occurrence of one of the events described in Rule 21-3 (change of possession or goal). (Rule 21-3)
- Situation:** A penalty foul is called on a player on the team with blue caps. During the resulting penalty throw taken by a player on the team with white caps, a player from the white team takes a position approximately .5 yard behind and slightly to the right of the shooter. Is this permitted?

**Ruling:** No. All players shall be at least 2 meters from the player taking the throw. When the referee controlling the taking of the throw is satisfied that the players are in their correct positions, the referee shall signal for the throw to be taken. (Rule 23-2 and Rule 23-3)

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3. Situation: A penalty foul is called on a player on the team with blue caps. During the resulting penalty throw taken by a player on the team with white caps, two players from the team on defense (blue caps) take up positions on either side of the shooter, with each one three meters to the side of the shooter. Are players from the team on offense (those with white caps) permitted to be inside either or both of these defensive players?

Ruling: One player on the defending team shall have the first right to take position on each side of the player taking the throw. However, if a player on the defending team does not take up position two meters from the shooter, a player of the team on offense is permitted at that position within the defensive player as long as that player is no less than two meters away from the shooter. (Rule 23-2)
4. Situation: A referee starts play after a goal while one player is leaving the field of play but is still within the field of play at approximately the 7-meter line and the substitute is under water inside the goal line on her way into the field of play. What should the action of the referee be in this situation?

Ruling: If a referee starts a period, after a timeout or after a goal with an extra player in the water, the referee shall stop play, remove the extra player, reset both clocks and restart play in the usual manner. A personal foul shall not be charged to that player. (Rule 5-1)
5. Situation: Is the answer to the above question the same if the player who is leaving the pool but is still at the 7 meter line swimming towards the goal line turns at the whistle and swims towards play at the same time as her substitute is swimming under the goal line going into play?

Ruling: Since the referee started play before the substitution was completed, the referee shall stop play, remove the extra player, reset both clocks and restart play in the usual manner. A personal foul shall not be charged to either player. (Rule 5-1)
6. Situation: The referees have provided sufficient opportunity and time for substitutions after a goal and the appropriate number of players are at the appropriate locations in the field of play. The referee blows the whistle for the restart. After this time, an eighth player enters the field of play to substitute.

Ruling: If both teams have the correct number of players and, in the opinion of the referees, any substitutions are completed, the referee may blow the whistle to start play. In that case, if a substitute then enters the field of play, Rule 22-8 may be applied (a penalty throw awarded and the substitute excluded for the remainder of the game). However, if a player exits at the exclusion area and then the substitute enters the field of play from the exclusion area, this is considered to be a live-time substitution and is permissible according to the rules. (Rule 5-6)

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7. Situation: Both the white and the dark water polo caps for a team are marked with team identification and the manufacturer's logo of the correct size. Is this permitted on the white caps?  
Ruling: All team caps may have team identification and a single manufacturer's or distributor's normal label or trademark, not to exceed 2 1/4 square inches in area. (For additional details of the NCAA regulations, please refer to the NCAA Manual.)
8. Situation: A coach plans to change goalkeepers in the middle of a period. May the substitute goalkeeper leave the team bench area for the purpose of warming up without balls in an adjacent pool or portion of the competition pool that is separated from the game course beyond a bulkhead?  
Ruling: No. All players not in the game shall sit on the team bench and shall not move away from the bench from the commencement of play, except during the intervals between periods, when called on to substitute and during a timeout (with the exception described for inclement weather). (Rule 5-2)

If you have questions, please contact us ([ccrawfor@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:ccrawfor@mail.sdsu.edu); [bkalbus@mindspring.com](mailto:bkalbus@mindspring.com); [bret@wraeng.com](mailto:bret@wraeng.com))

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