



## Referee Newsletter: February 24, 2012

*Ed Reed, Coordinator of Officials*

### Late Assignments April 14-15<sup>th</sup> and April 21-22<sup>nd</sup> Weekends

The late season assignments have been posted on the CWPB website:

[http://collegiatewaterpolo.com/Officiating/assignments/2012\\_Women\\_Assignments](http://collegiatewaterpolo.com/Officiating/assignments/2012_Women_Assignments)

Some of you have already confirmed the assignments, for those that haven't please email me with confirmation. It's important you **confirm with me ASAP**, especially those that haven't from the earlier assignments. When you confirm, I color code your block under the master schedule. This way, I can keep track of any potential problems.

### Focus Points

So far this season the tournaments have gone well. However, there are a few points that need to be continually emphasized at all levels during the women's season.

1. **Suit grabbing**- Be on top of this right from the very beginning. Send the message through **an exclusion foul** that suit grabbing will not be tolerated. I think you will find the coaches in agreement and happy it is being called. **Send the message early!!!**

2. **Perimeter lock-ups**- It is not uncommon for the offensive player on the perimeter to extend their hand out to the defender as the defender moves quickly to cover the perimeter player. At the same time, the defender will extend their hand onto the offensive player. Initially it can be a mutual and neutral situation, what happens after this initial contact can determine whether a **defensive exclusion or an offensive contra foul** should be called pending who gains the illegal advantage. If the defender uses a leverage holding position to prevent offensive flow (driving) an **exclusion foul** should be called. If the offensive player uses holding leverage to maintain safe



separation to receive a pass, a **contra or offensive foul** should be called. In both situations, an advantage needs to be gained or lost to justify that call. If in doubt, a **no call** is appropriate.

3. **Straight arming with the ball in hand-** When an offensive perimeter player receives a pass and uses a straight arm push or hold to fend off the defender this is a **contra or offensive foul**. By using the hand and arm to keep the defender at a safe distance, while holding the ball, is an advantage gained giving the player time and better sight to pass. Calling this foul from the far-side in the backcourt position (P4 & 5) can be difficult at times. Position yourself well and watch the reaction of the defender. If the defender can't move in close to defend or reach for the throwing arm then something might be wrong.



4. **Hand checking a drive attempt-** We want to see offensive movement and flow. Without offensive motion the game becomes more physical and revolves into wrestling matches. Thus, making the game more difficult to call, frustrating players and coaches. Hand checking hinders good driving attempts forcing the drives to stop or deviate from their intended path. Be aware of defenders that press out into the offensive players on the perimeter, extending an arm and hand to make contact. Pending the aggressiveness and intent to slow the offensive flow through hand-checking or holding, an **exclusion foul** should be called.



5. **Double lock-up on the Perimeter-** More often than not, I've found in reviewing game video, the offensive player is usually the instigator when double arm lock-up occurs. Once the offensive player establishes a leveraged position on a defender with his or her hips up, it is easy to push off the defender and move to the ball when it is passed. The offensive player must let go of the defender before the ball is passed or a **contra (offensive foul)** called. A similar situation to a center forward who has established a double lock-up at



set position (**NCAA page 11 PoE #3**). This situation was illustrated on the CWPA Video Test #1 (<http://dartfish.tv/ChannelHome.aspx?CR=p7695>).

6. **Not playing the ball**- Intentionally fouling on the perimeter can be a definite defensive advantage. The defender fouls, then drops back to cover the area behind, which usually discourages passing directly into the center forward. Thus, forcing the ball to continue around the perimeter where similar sequences can make an offense focused on the center forwards ability to get the ball, very difficult. **Timing of the defenders foul is critical** when calling the perimeter. If the defender is playing “the person” and not the ball, there is a fine line between an **ordinary foul** and calling an **exclusion foul**. The level of physicality can be curbed early in a game if the message is sent to the players properly in a timely fashion. “Play the ball and avoid aggressive movements that signal premature movements such as sinking, holding or coming down hard on the perimeter player, before the ball arrives”. Don’t be afraid to call an **exclusion foul** if the defender is overly aggressive or intentionally fouls before the ball arrives.



7. **Automatic ordinary fouls called on the**

**perimeter**- Fouls on the perimeter should be earned and not be give-a-ways. Especially when it is outside the 5M line and directly in front of the goal. If the defender makes a mistake and impedes the offensive player who is not holding the ball, call the **ordinary foul**. However, a **no call** can be the best choice when the offensive player is trying to draw a foul and the defender is playing good defense by not impeding in any way. If necessary, call a **contra or offensive foul** when the offensive player aggressively ducks or moves into the defender’s personal space, repeatedly trying to draw a foul. This can be a player safety issue (**head butts**)!

