



**Referee Newsletter:**

**January 3, 2015**

*Ed Reed, Coordinator of Officials*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR !!**

## **Women's Season Availability and Invitation Tournaments**

CWPA women's *varsity* schedule is available on the CWPA website. January 4<sup>th</sup> is the listed deadline for submission. However, I will extend that until Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> since there wasn't an email notification, only CWPA web posting. The CWPA Club Availability will not be available until sometime next week. Website link:

<http://collegiatewaterpolo.org/officiating/assignments/index>

The CWPA Board of Governors approved assignments of officials, for all CWPA teams sponsoring invitational tournaments, to go through the CWPA Coordinator of Officials. Invitational tournaments at the beginning of the season are great opportunities to evaluate, mentor and expose talented young officials to high-level varsity games. With a lot of tournament games a good size crew can be assigned with a CWPA-TC member to evaluate.

If water polo is to continue to grow as an NCAA sport it is imperative for everyone to work together and improve the quality of officiating and strengthen the number of officials that can become eligible for the championship season. As happened with the men's season all conference championships will fall on the same date. Referees are independent contractors and can choose which conference championships they wish to be eligible for. This makes it even more imperative that CWPA become proactive in developing depth and quality of referees. ***Referees that have been contacted by CWPA coaches for invitation tournaments this winter/spring should contact me immediately.*** Assignments are not official until they come from the CWPA office and Coordinator of Officials.

Officials making themselves available for varsity games should also put in for club tournaments. Senior officials that have experience with season ending championships can make huge contributions to the CWPA by becoming mentors and passing on their expertise.

Remember, MAAC tournaments do not pay for travel expenses except for the VMI tournament (institution selection) and season ending championship.

**Awarding a Penalty Shot per Rule 22-2\*\*\* special note: The contents in the following information is not meant to be a change in the rules rather, clarifications to help the officials become more consistent in applying the rules as written.**

In recent discussions between members of the NEG and the referees they are evaluating, it has become clear that the decision about whether or not to award a penalty shot per Rule 22–2 varies significantly between officials. The intent of this document is to clarify what the NCAA Water Polo Rules Subcommittee expects in the application of this rule.

Rule 22-2 states: "**For a defending player to commit any foul within the 5-meter area but for which a goal probably would have resulted.**" As with every rule in the rule book, this is a judgment call by the referee and the better referees will have a process by which they make this decision. This process involves a number of questions the referee must ask and answer in order to arrive at the correct decision:



**(1) Did the action under consideration take place within the 5-meter area?** The answer to this question is determined by the head position of the offensive player. If the offensive player's head is anywhere inside the 5-meter area the answer to this question is yes and question #2 becomes relevant. If the offensive player's

head is outside the 5-meter area the referee cannot award a penalty but should be patient and fully apply the Advantage rule (7-3) before calling an exclusion.

**(2) Did the defending player commit any foul?** If the offensive player is clearly holding the ball then unless the defending player's actions involve Pulling the Goal Over (Rule 21-5), Splashing (Rule 21-7), or rise to the level of Misconduct (Rule 21-12) or Flagrant Misconduct (Rule 21-14) no call is appropriate. If the offensive player is in control of, but not holding, the ball the defending player may commit a number of fouls including, Impeding (Rule 20-9), Holding, Sinking, or Pulling Back (Rule 21-9), or Use of Two Hands (Rule 21-10), which could result in the awarding of a penalty throw depending on the answers to question #3.

**(3) if not for the foul inside the 5-meter area, would a goal probably have resulted?** This of course is the crux of the question for the referee. Here are some FAQs (with comments from the NEG) for the referee to consider when deciding whether a probable goal has been prevented by the actions of the offensive and defensive players:

*(a) Must the offensive player be directly facing the goal with the defender directly behind him/her?* This is probably the easiest situation for the referee to make a decision. If the offensive player is directly facing the goal and in control, of (but not holding) the ball, this is a probable goal situation and if the defender commits a foul, a penalty throw is absolutely within the Range of Acceptable Calls. (RAC). The better referee will be patient and fully apply the Advantage rule to see if the offensive player can score the goal, making a no-call within the RAC as well. In this situation, an exclusion foul would not be considered within the RAC.

*(b) Can the offensive player be 90-180 degrees facing the cage with the defender on his/her back?* If the offensive player is in control of the ball and working to improve his or her positional

advantage (i.e., trying to turn to face the cage or create separation in order to shoot the ball) and the defender commits a foul, the referee has several options. Being patient and fully applying the Advantage rule to allow the offensive player to "finish" might result in a no call and an exciting scoring opportunity. But if the offensive player can't finish as a result of a defensive foul a penalty is certainly within the RAC. An exclusion may actually advantage the defense rather than the offense, perhaps turning a probable goal situation into a 6-5 opportunity.

(c) *What kind of position must the defender have to "avoid" the penalty being called?* A defensive player who has given up positional advantage must clearly demonstrate that they are not fouling or run the risk of having the referee whistle a penalty. Having both hands clearly out of the water and not leaning on the offensive player with the upper body or using the legs to hold, demonstrates to the referee that the defensive player is trying not to foul and allow the offensive player to try to finish. If the defender's teammates "drop" or "crash" to help, the defender still must clearly demonstrate that they are not fouling and thus preventing a probable goal.

(d) *Is the offensive player in control of or trying to establish control of the ball?* An offensive player who is holding the ball is clearly in control of the ball. An offensive player working to gain control of the ball in order to shoot must be given that opportunity. Fully applying the Advantage rule would mean a no-call is clearly within the RAC. If the offensive player gains control but is not holding the ball, and the defender commits a foul to prevent the scoring opportunity, the penalty is within the RAC. If the offensive player loses control of the ball and it is stolen without a foul by the defensive team, a no-call is within the RAC.

In conclusion, current NCAA rules are designed to promote good offense while providing guidelines for the defense and clear consequences for a defender who commits a foul to break up an offensive advantage. The message is clear: if the presentation of the offensive player is one of trying to finish and score the goal, the referee should have the confidence and patience to allow the situation to play itself out. If the presentation of the defensive player is one of being under control and competing within the rules, then again the referee should have the confidence and patience to allow the situation to play itself out. If the presentation of the defensive player looks out of control or is overly physical, the referee must step in and make correct call. **The penalty shot is intended to restore a lost goal scoring opportunity as a result of a foul. Advantage goes to the offense, so long as they attempt to play offense.**

If you have questions or comments, please contact Dr. Bob Corb, National Coordinator of Officials: [ncaacoordinator@earthlink.net](mailto:ncaacoordinator@earthlink.net) or (562) 216-3328.

### **Unusual Situation Regarding The Calling of Time-Outs\*\*\*special note: This is not a rule change. Possession is a judgment call by the referee.**

I wanted to review an unusual situation that presented itself during a game (Timeout-Penalty Throw). I've had several conversations with Bob Corb regarding the calling of a time-out. This should be viewed as a judgment call by the referee. If the referee says that the team had possession/control of the ball, when they called timeout, the discussion is over and not subject to protest.

For example, after reviewing a particular game clip from an exclusion foul called, to the power play shot on goal and rebound it was very clear that the team shooting the ball had control of the area (no defender to challenge) when the timeout was called for by the horn signal. The offensive

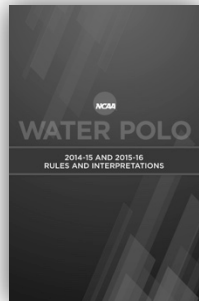
player was swimming to the ball to retrieve it and was a stroke or two away when the horn sounded. The attack referee acknowledged the timeout, the opposing coach protested loudly that nobody had possession and the two referees consulted on the bulkhead behind the goal. The perimeter referee made the decision to award the Penalty Throw based on the fact that the player wasn't touching the ball. The intent of RULE 12 SECTION 6, page 41 was to diminish the number of times a coach called timeout when it was not clear who had possession of the ball. ***The rule hasn't changed only the punishment.***

RULE 12 SECTION 1, page 40 A timeout may be requested at any time by the coach or by any player in the water of the team in possession of the ball calling "timeout" and signaling to the referee with the hands forming a T-shape, or the coach may signal with an air horn.

**NEW:** RULE 12, page 41 SECTION 6. If a team calls for a timeout when neither team has possession of the ball, the referee shall blow the whistle and award a **penalty throw** to the team that did not call the timeout, and take away the longest timeout available from the team that called the timeout improperly.

“ Rule 12-6 – Timeout Called When Neither Team Has Possession: Possession includes physically controlling the ball, holding the ball, or the referee's whistle indicating one team has been awarded the ball. Possession does not include when the ball is in the air on a pass or shot, nor does it include being closest to or merely touching the ball without physically controlling or holding the ball.” ***NCAA Interpretation Memorandum 9/5/2014***

Possession is ***not limited*** to touching the ball. Having the ball within reach can satisfy the definition of physical control. ***In the above example, a penalty throw was the right call*** the ball was not within arm's reach. Had the coach waited until the ball was within arm's reach and or touched through physical control before signaling timeout, a penalty throw would have been avoided.



## How Well Do You Know The Rules?

SITUATION #1- You are the Attack Referee following a break-a-way with a defender trailing a couple of body lengths behind. As the break-a-way player approaches the goal for a one on nobody, the goalie takes the goal and pulls it over so the player can't score a goal. What would you do in this situation?

- (1) Call a penalty foul immediately
- (2) Call a penalty foul and award the goalie with a yellow card
- (3) Call a penalty throw and exclude the goalie for 20 seconds (personal foul)
- (4) Call a penalty throw and exclude the goalie for the remainder of the game with substitution after the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3. A current field player may tend goal without goalie privileges.

This situation happened at the CWPA Southern Championship and at the CWPA Championship Tournament. The correct answer can be found on page 74 of the NCAA rulebook RULE 22 / PENALTY FOULS, Pulling Over Goal, SECTION 5. In both instances the correct application of the rule was not applied. "For a goalkeeper or any other defending player to pull over the goal completely with the object of preventing a probable goal. The offending player shall also be

excluded from the remainder of the game, with substitution after the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3”

SITUATION #2- A field player from a team commits his third personal foul (non penalty foul), leaves the pool and proceeds to rant and rave profanity. What would you do in this situation?

- (1) Upon receiving a third personal foul, exclude the player for the remainder of the game with substitution after the earliest occurrence referred to in Rule 21-3.
- (2) If the third personal foul is a penalty foul, the entry of the substitute shall be immediate.
- (3) After awarding the player with his third personal foul, award a misconduct foul and a penalty throw with the substitute entering immediately.
- (4) After awarding the player with his third personal foul, award a misconduct foul and a penalty throw with the substitute entering immediately if the penalty throw is scored.
- (5) If the player continues to be disrespectful to the referee before or after the penalty throw is taken, the referee may also award a red card to the player.

Although (1) and (2) are correct, the fact that the player continues to exhibit unacceptable behavior, warrants a misconduct foul, a penalty throw, and the substitute entering immediately if the penalty throw is scored. If the player continues to be disrespectful a red card may also be awarded. If the third personal foul is a penalty throw, the player is removed with immediate substitution and a second penalty foul awarded. The first penalty throw is dead-time and the second is live-time.