



2022-23 and 2023-24 Proposed Men's and Women's Water Polo Rules Changes
The following rules changes were approved by the NCAA Water Polo Rules Subcommittee and the Playing Rules Oversight Panel. They will be incorporated into the rules book for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons.

Rule	Change and Rationale
1.16 Ball Description	Delete the words predominantly yellow or gold in color. Rationale: This proposed change will allow for a variety of game ball designs. With this change, the colored panels will still be manufactured, but now the programs may request designs that are fitting to their distinctive school colors and logos, tournaments and events.
2.1.1 Number of Players, Illegal Player	Add that a second player entering play wearing a goalkeeper's cap to the definition of an illegal player. Rationale: The current rule does not clearly specify that only one player in the field of play may wear a goalkeeper's cap at a time. The proposed change will clarify that point and will also clarify that a second player who enters play while wearing a goalkeeper's cap is an illegal player.
3.6 Referees – Control Over Conduct	When issuing a Yellow/Red card, the referee must follow the same procedures as required for issuing a Red card. The referee will stop play for the issuance of the Yellow/Red card to the head coach. Rationale: The current rule for issuing a Yellow/Red card does not indicate whether play must be stopped for issuance of a Yellow/Red card. By providing a clear indication that the Yellow/Red card has been issued, there will be less confusion by coaches.
4.12 30-Second Timeout	The defensive team will be permitted to call a 30-second timeout at a time the defense is permitted to call a full timeout. Rationale: The current rule does not permit the defensive team to call a 30-second timeout. The proposed change would treat 30-second and full timeouts the same.
4.13 (NEW Section 13)Referee	The referee, at their discretion, when there is a potentially injured athlete, may call an injury timeout that will not be charged against either team.

– Injury Timeout	Rationale: The current rules do not give the referee the authority to stop play for a concern of player safety or injury.
4.20 Goals – How Scored	<p>Add to the cases in which a player can take a direct shot following removal of the ball from the pool as follows: “When the referee stops play for a replacement of a cap or zipping up a suit following awarding of a corner throw.”</p> <p>Rationale: In the previous rules cycle, players were permitted to shoot directly on a corner throw. If the ball is removed from the water prior to the corner throw to address cap and suit issues, the corner throw cannot be directly shot. This proposal would allow the replacement of a cap or zipping of a suit without the offense losing the benefit of being permitted to directly shoot the corner throw.</p>
4.20.4 Goals – How Scored	<p>Delete the second paragraph which states “This applies only to a foul committed by the defense. If the offense commits a foul, the throw is taken from the location of the ball when the team awarded the free throw takes possession of the ball.</p> <p>Rationale: This Article describes the shooting options for a player taking a free throw outside of the 6-meter line. If the offense commits a foul on the perimeter and the counter attacking player takes possession of the ball, swims down the pool one-on-goalie, the ball cannot be shot without first passing it to another player.</p>
4.21 Note 2 Goals – Expiration of Time	<p>Revise Note 2 to read: “If the ball that is in flight toward the goal in the circumstances of this rule lands on the water and then crosses completely over the goal line, the referee shall award a goal only if the ball crosses the goal line due to the momentum of the shot.”</p> <p>Rationale: The current Note states that the referee shall award a goal only if the ball floats over the goal line immediately due to the momentum of the shot. The use of “floats” and “immediately” can present issues with administering this situation.</p>
4.25 Leaving the Field of Play	<p>Add the following language to Interpretation b: (but not given a misconduct).</p> <p>Rationale: Adding the proposed language will clarify that while an excluded player who leaves the pool prior to reaching the re-entry area is excluded from the remainder of the game, the player is not given a misconduct. The proposed language is consistent with that in Rule 7 Section 16, which states that a player who interferes with a penalty throw "shall be excluded from the remainder of the game (but not given a misconduct)".</p>

<p>6.15 Keeping the Ball Without Shooting</p>	<p>Reduce the length of the women’s shot clock from 0:35 to 0:30.</p> <p>Rationale: A reduction in the women’s shot clock would reduce the opportunity for holding and grabbing that occurs.</p>
<p>7.10 Simulation</p>	<p>Change the penalty for Simulation from a turnover when on offense and an exclusion foul when on defense to a team Yellow card for the first offense by a team. Subsequent calls for simulation on that team will be considered a Minor Act of Misconduct on the offending player.</p> <p>Rationale: The Water Polo Rules Subcommittee believes that simulating or faking that a foul is occurring to you is an act of unsportsmanlike conduct. The first violation by a team will result in a warning to the entire team. If a team continues, the offending player(s) will receive a MAM.</p>
<p>7.12.1 Minor Acts of Misconduct</p>	<p>Change the article to read “An exclusion foul with a 20-second period of exclusion will be awarded for minor acts of misconduct (MAM) that are not sufficient to warrant exclusion of the remainder of the game. Minor Acts of Misconduct are for players directing minor comments or gestures toward the referee. Minor taunting, gestures, shoving, pushing or sinking a member of the opposing team or simulation are considered example of Minor Acts of Misconduct.”</p> <p>Rationale: This change provides a cleared description of a MAM, distinguishing it from a regular exclusion foul and a misconduct foul.</p>