



**NCAA WATER POLO PLAYING RULES  
INTERPRETATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS  
2023 – 2024**

**August 2, 2023**

**Probable Goal – Rule 8.**

**Clarification:** Rule 8 in the NCAA Water Polo Rules describes fouls that are penalty fouls, which result in the award of a penalty throw to the opposing team. This rule clarification is focused on Rule 8, Section 2, which states that it is a penalty foul for a defending player to commit any foul within the 6-meter area “but for which a goal probably would have resulted.” Note 1 in Section 2 lists seven specific examples of fouls that are offenses within the meaning of this rule. These examples are stated in the rule to be in addition to other offenses preventing a “*probable goal.*” The following is provided to clarify the circumstances that should exist in determining whether a situation is such that there is a probable goal:

When an offensive player has the ball inside the 6-meter area in situations not otherwise addressed in Rule 8, the following circumstances should exist for there to be a probable goal:

- The offensive player should be facing the goal.
- The offensive player should have an open path to the goal, with no defender other than the goalkeeper cutting off the open path.
- The offensive player should have control of the ball.

“Control of the ball” is defined in a separate rule clarification, “Definitions of Possession and Control of the Ball,” also dated August 2, 2023.

For questions regarding this clarification, please contact NCAA Water Polo Secretary Rules Editor, Dave Alberstein – [albersteind@gmail.com](mailto:albersteind@gmail.com).