



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

August 2, 2023

Application of Simulation Rule – Yellow Card – Rule 7-10.

Clarification: Simulation is covered under Rule 7, Section 10, which in part states, “Upon the first act of simulation committed by a player of each team, the referee will issue a simulation yellow card to that player’s entire team. Subsequent acts of simulation by members of that team will be penalized as a minor act of misconduct against the offending player (Rule 7-12). This procedure applies to each team separately. It applies regardless of whether the acts of simulation are committed by the offense or the defense.”

Because Rule 7, Section 10 is silent on the application of the advantage rule, questions have arisen regarding the procedure to be followed by the referees to administer the yellow card for the first act of simulation by each team. Based on experience with the simulation rule during the 2022-23 men’s and women’s seasons, the following clarification is provided.

The first act of simulation should be called when it occurs, but subject to the provisions of the Advantage Rule.

To facilitate the administration of the simulation yellow card under this clarification, the referees may use the provisions of the Rule 3-6-3-b Note on pages 21-22 of the rules, which states:

“It is not required that the referee stop play to issue a yellow card, and play should not be stopped if doing so would result in an advantage for the offending team. If a yellow card is issued without stopping play, the referee may wait until the next normal stoppage in play to notify the head coach of the offending team, the score table and the other referee as to whom the yellow card was issued.”

Issuing a yellow card without stopping play is often referred to as a “walking yellow card.” Examples of situations in which a walking yellow card could be issued for the first act of simulation without resulting in an advantage for the offending team include, but are not limited to:

- Simulation by the defensive team
- Simulation by the offensive team in situations during the transition or counterattack that would afford the offending team the opportunity to move down the pool and set up their offense while the simulation yellow card is being administered.

When issuing a walking yellow card for simulation, the referee should give the simulation signal so that participants know immediately why the card is being displayed.

For questions regarding this clarification, please contact NCAA Water Polo Secretary Rules Editor, Dave Alberstein – albersteind@gmail.com.