



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

September 13, 2023

Ball Out of Bounds.

Clarification: Ball out of bounds is discussed in several places in the NCAA Water Polo Rules. Rule 1, Section 13, Article 2 states that the ball is deemed out of bounds if it touches the goal line lane line. Rule 5, Section 1 addresses the ball going out of bounds over the goal line. Rule 6, Section 14 addresses the ball going out of bounds over the side line. In the latter two rules, the ball is deemed to be out of bounds if the entire ball crosses the goal line (not between the goal posts and under the crossbar) or side line. In the case of pools that do not have side line lane lines, the ball is deemed to be out of bounds if it rebounds from the side of the pool above the water level.

Questions have arisen regarding whether the ball should be deemed out of bounds if a player holding the ball reaches with the ball over the side line or the goal line in such a manner that the entire ball crosses the line but the ball does not touch the water. Examples of instances where this might occur include a player near the side line being pressured by a defender while trying to pass the ball, or a player at the 1 or 6 positions during 6-on-5 play moving inside the two-meter line with the ball in the hand that is closest to the goal line.

The rules cited above make no mention of the ball having to touch the water to be deemed out of bounds. The only requirement is that the entire ball must cross over the side line or the goal line, or that the ball must touch the side wall above the water level or touch the goal line lane line.

Accordingly, if a player holding the ball reaches with the ball over the side line or over the goal line in such a manner that the entire ball crosses the line, the ball is to be deemed to be out of bounds.

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