



NCAA Water Polo Rules Clarifications 2021 to Present

Dave Alberstein

NCAA Water Polo Rules Secretary/Editor



Penalty Throws

Clarified 9/22/21

The penalty throw must be taken (released) from the 5-meter line. Nothing in the rules prohibits the shooter from lining up outside the 5-meter line.

Once the whistle is blown the shot must be:

- Taken (released) at the 5-meter line
- Taken immediately with an uninterrupted movement directly at the goal.

ALL defensive players, not just those to the side of the shooter, must be AT LEAST 2 METERS from the shooter.

Protective Equipment

Clarified 1/3/23



Protective equipment must be approved via written email from the NCAA Rules Secretary/Editor.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Face masks
- Protective/prescription goggles
- Finger or thumb protective devices
- Q collars.





Protective Equipment

Continued...

Protective equipment does not include:

- Mouthguards
- Routine application of athletic tape.

The rule is on page 16 in the Water Polo Rules Book (Rule 2.4.5), and detailed guidance for coaches and trainers is provided in the 1/3/23 clarification.



Improper vs. Illegal Entry

Clarified 3/1/23

Improper entry (Rule 7.15) and illegal entry (Rule 8.6) are two rules that are similar but sometimes confused with one another – please note that each has different penalties for violation.



Improper vs. Illegal Entry

Continued...

IMPROPER ENTRY

Is committed by a player who is otherwise eligible to participate in the game.

- Early entry of an excluded player.
- Entry from the wrong place or in the wrong manner.
 - ◇ Offensive violation – EXCLUSION
 - ◇ Defensive violation – PENALTY



Improper vs. Illegal Entry

Continued...

ILLEGAL ENTRY

Is committed by a player who is not entitled to participate in the game.

- Player with 3 personal fouls or otherwise dismissed from the remainder of the game.
- Eighth player in the field of play.

Offensive OR **Defensive** violation results in a **PENALTY AND EXCLUSION** from the remainder of the game.

Application of Simulation Rule



Clarified 8/2/23

Clarified that the simulation yellow card can be issued as a walking yellow card to avoid providing an advantage to the offending team.

Examples include:

- Simulation by the defense
 - ◇ Apply the advantage rule
 - Do not take away a scoring opportunity due to a defensive foul.
- Simulation by the offense during transition
 - ◇ Apply the advantage rule
 - Do not give the offense a double advantage of the warning foul and a full front court set up.

Probable Goal

Clarified 8/2/23



Clarified minimum conditions necessary for a probable goal situation to exist.

For an offensive player with the ball inside 6-meters, the following circumstances should exist for a probable goal:

- The player should be facing the goal
- The player should have an open path to the goal, except for the opposing goalkeeper
- The player should have control of the ball.

Possession and Control of the Ball



Defined

Clarified 8/2/23

Possession

- A team has possession of the ball if one of its players is controlling or holding the ball, or if the referee has blown the whistle and awarded possession of the ball to the team.

Control

- A player has control of the ball if the player is holding the ball, or if the ball is in reach and that player is clearly in the best position to determine what happens to the ball next.

Ball Out of Bounds



Clarified 9/23/23

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

- As shown in the picture, the ball need not be touching the water.



**For more information on these
clarifications or any other rules
please contact:**

Dave Alberstein
NCAA Water Polo Rules Secretary/Editor
albersteind@gmail.com