



**NCAA MEN’S AND WOMEN’S WATER POLO PLAYING RULES
INTERPRETATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS
2024 – 2025**

March 6, 2025

Deflected Rebounds, Corner Throws and Goals – When Awarded.

NCAA Water Polo Rule 5, Section 3, “Corner Throws – When Awarded,” contains the following interpretation:

“Interpretation: If a defensive player deflects a pass and sends the ball out over the goal line, play shall be restarted with a corner throw. This action is considered as deliberately sending the ball over the goal line.”

This interpretation also applies when a shot is taken and the ball strikes the goal or the goalkeeper and rebounds into the field of play. When the ball rebounds (i.e., is no longer moving forward toward the goal) the shot is considered to be complete, and any subsequent deflections are treated as deflections of a pass.

If the rebounding ball strikes a defensive player and is deflected out over the goal line, but not into the goal, it is to be treated as a deflected pass. Play shall be restarted with a corner throw, except if time in the period expired while the shot was in the air prior to the rebound, in which case no corner throw can be awarded.

Consistent with this interpretation, if the rebounding ball strikes a defensive player and is deflected across the goal line into the goal, it is likewise to be treated as a deflected pass. In this case, a goal is awarded to the player who took the shot, except if time in the period expired while the shot was in the air prior to the rebound, in which case no goal can be awarded. If time in the period expires while the shot is in the air and the ball does not rebound, Rule 4, Section 22 (Goals – Expiration of Time), shall apply.

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