



**NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WATER POLO PLAYING RULES
INTERPRETATIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS
2026-2027**

August 27, 2026

Participation by a Suspended Individual

Effective with the 2026-2028 NCAA Men's and Women's Water Polo Rules Book, the following provision was added to Rule 3, Section 6, Article 3: "If a suspended player, coach, or other nonplaying personnel illegally participates in any game, the original term of suspension shall be doubled."

A suspended individual is one that is not allowed to participate in a game as a result of flagrant misconduct, fighting, or receiving a Red Card in an earlier game. Questions have arisen regarding what actions the officials should take if it is discovered during a game that a suspended individual is participating.

Clarification: Administrative responsibility for ensuring that a suspended individual does not participate in the next game lies with the head coach, the athletic administration of the institution, and, in some cases, the institution's conference. Officials are not expected to keep track of who is serving a suspension. However, if it is brought to the officials' attention that a suspended individual is participating in the game, the officials should remove the individual and then continue the game to its conclusion. After the game, an Incident Report is to be filed through the NCAA Water Polo Central Hub as soon as possible, but not later than 24 hours after completion of the game, as required by Rule 3, Section 9, "Referees – Reporting Responsibility". The Incident Report form has been modified by adding a category of "Other" to accommodate a report of this nature. The report should specify who the suspended individual was and the actions taken by the officials. The ultimate resolution of the status of the game will be determined by those responsible for ensuring that the suspension is served.

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