

# NCL Referee Review Guide

14 and under; 16 and under; 19 and under; MLWP (senior)

**2015-2016**



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## Important Changes to NCL Rules

- Timeout rules
  - 1 timeout / quarter (1:00) for 16U and 19U
  - 1 substitution timeout / quarter (0:20) for 14U
  - 2 timeouts / game for MLWP
- Zero-tolerance for violence
  - All violent plays are considered a brutality
  - Misconduct is only for verbal abuse of officials or another participant and for illegal substitution
  - If a player is disqualified (“rolled”) from the remainder of the game, complete Incident Reporting Form
  - Inappropriate application of this rule will result in an automatic failure of evaluation and will affect future selection for Championship events
- Zero-tolerance for abusive language and influential commentary towards referees
  - Team benches are not permitted to yell any commentary towards any game official or volunteer
  - Yellow and red cards should be strictly used from the beginning of the match
  - Inappropriate application of this rule will result in an automatic failure of evaluation and will affect future selection for Championship events
- Review scoresheet post-game and sign:
  - Final period is ended with a row of “Xs”, reconcile exclusions and goals, red cards and yellow cards are assigned to a specific person, hat substitutions are assigned to a specific person and times are included, timeouts are assigned to the appropriate team and have specific times.

## Excerpt from C'Mon Ref Workshop at 2015 Summit

**WP 21.8** To impede or otherwise prevent the free movement of an opponent who is not holding the ball, including swimming on the opponent's shoulders, back or legs. "Holding" is lifting, carrying or touching the ball but does not include dribbling the ball.

### Clarification:

To understand what advantage means. As an example, if a referee thinks that there is a potential shot from the perimeter, an ordinary foul should not be called in the hole. It must also be remembered that the foul of impeding can be committed by the player who is in possession of the ball.

For example: a player in possession of the ball impeding the defender by (a) a push off by their hand or elbow (b) pushing the opponent back with the back of their head (c) by the use of their foot in a pushing or kicking motion.

(Reference NCAA rule change for 14/15 and 15/16)

The center remains the most difficult area of the game to officiate. The attack referee must apply the advantage rule to allow the center forward an opportunity to work for a position of advantage, but must also control the level of physicality between the center forward and the center defender. Although it is to be expected that the players in the center will compete for positional advantage, if the physicality rises to an unacceptable level, the referee must identify the initiator and apply the appropriate penalty, regardless of the location of the ball. If it becomes clear that neither player is attempting to compete for position and the level of physicality is unacceptable, a double exclusion is appropriate (note change to Rule 21-15 – shot clock not reset).

When the ball arrives at the center, if the 2MG commits a foul (impeding) that takes away a passing opportunity and the center can no longer play the ball, an ordinary foul should be called. Otherwise a no-call is appropriate as the center works for positional advantage. Allows the referee to call a foul if it would be to the advantage of the attacking team and promote the offense.

If the center gains a positional advantage and the 2MG holds, sinks or pulls back the center, thus preventing a shooting opportunity, an exclusion should be called.

If the center is fouled inside the 5-meter line while facing the goal and in control of – but not holding – the ball, a penalty should be assessed. If the center earns the penalty it should be called. Referees should not make the center "earn it twice."

If the center commits a foul in order to gain or maintain a positional advantage, an offensive foul should be called.)

**View:**

“Correct No Call” NT video clips

“Exclusion” NT video clip

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nv4ljdyds09u1ba/AADDiTPLO-Ppi46CiH3b5vLJa?dl=0>

**WP 21.12** To kick or strike an opponent intentionally or make disproportionate movements with that intent.

[Note. The offence of kicking or striking can take a number of different forms, including being committed by a player in possession of the ball or by an opposing player; possession of the ball is not a decisive factor. What is important is the action of the offending player, including if the player makes disproportionate movements in an attempt to kick or strike, even if the player fails to make contact.

One of the most serious acts of striking is elbowing backwards, which can result in serious injury to the opponent. Similarly, serious injury can occur when a player intentionally head butts into the face of an opponent who is marking the player closely. In these circumstances, the referee would also be justified in punishing the offence under WP 21.14 (Brutality) rather than under WP 21.12]

**WP 21.14** To commit an act of brutality (including to play in a violent manner, kicking, striking or attempting to kick or strike with malicious intent) against an opponent or official, whether during actual play, during any stoppages, timeouts, after a goal has been scored or during intervals between periods of play.

Should this occur during the game the offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game and must leave the competition area and a penalty throw awarded to the opposing team. The offending player may be substituted when four minutes of actual play have elapsed.

Should the incident occur during any stoppage, timeout, after a goal or interval between periods of play, the player shall be excluded for the remainder of a game and must leave the competition area. No penalty throw shall be awarded. The offending player may be substituted when four minutes of actual play have elapsed and play will restart in the normal manner.

If the referee/s call simultaneous brutalities or actions of play in a violent manner on players of opposing teams during play, both players are excluded for the remainder of the game with substitution after four minutes of actual play have elapsed. The team, which had possession of the ball, will first shoot a penalty throw followed by the other team shooting a penalty throw. After the second penalty throw, the team, which had possession of the ball, will restart play with a free throw on or behind the half distance line.

**Clarification:**

There will be zero tolerance in the NCL for violent acts committed in the water. Any elbows, knees, head-butts, or other physical action intentionally directed towards an opponent will result in a brutality. These restrictions will be called much more strictly and severely from the opening game of the season.

**View:** “Violent Play” NT video clips

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nv4ljdyds09u1ba/AADDiTPL0-Ppi46CiH3b5vLJa?dl=0>

**WP 21.11** Upon a change of possession, for a defending player to commit a foul on any player of the team in possession of the ball, anywhere in the attacking team’s half court of the field of play.

(Note: This Rule is to be applied if the team losing possession of the ball attempts to restrict the attack of the other team by committing a foul on any attacking player before that player has crossed the half distance line.)

**Clarification:**

(Reference NCAA rule change for 14/15 and 15/16) Calling the Transition. As a team transitions from defense to offense, referees must identify where, if at all, the team going to offense has a potential advantage.

If the defender uses two hands to foul in transition, he or she should be excluded.

If the defense commits an ordinary foul that would promote the attack if called, a free throw should be awarded.

Both referees must fully apply the advantage rule as the team on offense attempts to create a goal-scoring opportunity. This may mean that in a single possession the referees may withhold the whistle one time and exclude a defender the very next sequence. Referees must control the physicality of play in the backcourt, but under certain circumstances, a referee may choose not to call a foul if the players involved are well behind the ball or are not likely to be involved in the advantage situation as it develops.

Also, if an offensive player has gained a position of advantage over the defender but then slows down or stops in order to “draw an ejection,” the referee must be in position to see whether the defender actually commits a foul, which takes away the offensive player’s advantage, before calling a foul. Otherwise a no-call may be appropriate.

Finally, if an offensive player gains an advantage by committing a foul, an offensive foul must be called.

## Renewed Focus on Referee/Coach Interactions

As the NCL grows there will be more reliance on younger developing officials who will need the support of league officials and coaches as they mature. The [Officials Training and Certification Program \(“OTCP”\)](#) trains and certifies officials to support athletes in their long-term development through competition. Referees are expected to achieve outcomes and are constantly being evaluated. It is critical that officials are able to implement the rules of the game **free from bias** so they can be assessed accordingly and provided with an action plan for professional development.

Referring to the outcome *Decrease the aggressive tone and influential rhetoric towards officials*; the Committee has decided to implement a **zero-tolerance** policy regarding the aforementioned forms of communication towards referees, delegates, minor officials and volunteers. Effectively, the Committee will empower and encourage referees and delegates to implement the already existing rules regarding misconduct and influence as outlined in FINA WP 7.5 and WP21.13.

- The bench is not be permitted to comment on officials (referees, delegates and minor officials) interpretation of rules with the intent of influencing decisions
  - Example: Athletes or coaches cannot vocalize their opinion regarding an application of any rule or request a call to be made by an official.
    - The head coach will be held accountable for the actions of his/her athletes.
  - Result of infraction for head coach: automatic yellow card for first infraction, red card for ensuing infraction.
  - Result of infraction for other bench staff (*excluding* athletes): automatic red card for first infraction.
- Bench will not be permitted to use foul language towards athletes, referees, delegates, minor officials, volunteers or any actor in the arena.
  - Example: Cannot use explicit language (“swear words”) while play is ongoing, during pre-game meetings, during timeouts, intervals breaks or during post-game meetings.
    - The head coach will be held accountable for the actions of his/her athletes.
  - Result of infraction for head coach: automatic yellow card for first infraction, red card for ensuing infraction.
  - Result of infraction for other bench staff (*including* athletes): automatic red card for first infraction.
- The head coach is permitted and encouraged to communicate with officials in a cordial manner during interval breaks.
  - Example: Asking questions on rule clarifications and interpretations as to prepare athletes for upcoming quarter.

As mentioned above, the application of the yellow and red cards is not new nor is it an NCL specific rule. The Committee would like to ensure young officials are protected from abusive behaviours and are provided with ample opportunity to test their abilities without undue pressures and influence. As indicated in FINA WP7.1 “the referee shall be in absolute control of the game”.



## Sections for referees to review from the 2015-2016 NCL Handbook

### 2. General Rules

#### 2.1. Rules of play

- 2.1.1. The rules of play for all categories shall be in accordance with FINA WP Rule Book, except where specified elsewhere in this document.
- 2.1.2. In the event the FINA Technical Water Polo Committee (TWPC) and/or FINA Bureau modifies the rules of play, the NCL will implement the new rules immediately.
- 2.1.3. Teams are not required to have a second goaltender. Any goaltender is required to wear a red cap with the number 1, 13, 14 or 15.
- 2.1.6. There will be zero tolerance for violent acts committed in the water. Any elbows, knees, head-butts or other physical action intentionally directed towards an opponent will result in a brutality.
- 2.1.7. 14 and under category: teams will be permitted to request one (1) 20 second timeout per quarter for substitution.
- 2.1.8. 16 and under and 19 and under categories: teams will be permitted to request one (1) timeout per quarter.
- 2.1.9. MLWP (senior) categories: teams will be permitted to request a maximum of two (2) timeouts throughout the entire game.
- 2.1.10. WPC will be adopting the following new FINA rules adopted by the FINA TWPC and FINA Bureau October 2014:
  - 2.1.10.1. Teams shall play with five (5) field players and a goaltender for a maximum of six (6) athletes in the water.
  - 2.1.10.2. The field of play will be a maximum of 25 meters from goal line to goal line for both male and female competitions. The width shall be no larger than 20 meters from goal line to goal line.
  - 2.1.10.3. Male competitions shall be played with a female sized ball (i.e. Mikasa 6009).

#### 2.2. Team Eligibility

- 2.2.4. A maximum of fifteen (15) players and three (3) certified staff are permitted to sit on the team bench, all of whom must appear on the online team roster form. Teams' may rotate players and coaches each match.

## 2.4. Duration of the Game

- 2.4.1. 14 and under and MLWP(senior) games shall consist of four (4) quarters of seven (7) minute stop time with a two (2) minute interval break between periods.
- 2.4.2. 16 and under and 19 and under games shall consist of four (4) quarters of eight (8) minute stop time with a two (2) minute interval break between periods.
- 2.4.3. Regular season games or preliminary games during the Championship competitions (East/West Nationals, National Finals and Senior Nationals) will not have any extra time and scores that are tied at the end of regulation will remain as a tie.
- 2.4.4. Elimination or qualification games during the Championship competitions (East/West Nationals, National Finals and Senior Nationals) ending with a tied score at the end of regulation will proceed to a shootout to determine the winner. The FINA shootout procedure will be applied.

## 3. Officials

### 3.1. Definition

- 3.1.1. Officials are defined as referees, minor officials and delegates. Referees and delegates are to be selected and appointed by the NTO Coordinators<sup>1</sup>. It is the responsibility of each host club to supply a sufficient amount of minor officials for each hosted game.
- 3.1.4. Delegates will represent WPC at each NCL match and ensure the rules and regulations of this Handbook are being applied. The Delegate will be responsible to submit discipline reports and referee evaluations on a timely fashion to the League Coordinator.

### 3.2. Selection Criteria

- 3.2.1. The OWG shall provide a list of referees and delegates in their jurisdiction to their respective NTO coordinators.
- 3.2.2. Referees must have the following minimum Officials Training and Certification Program (OTCP) level to be eligible to referee NCL matches.
  - 3.2.2.1. 16 and under, 19 and under and MLWP (senior) regular season: Provincial “trained” or higher.
  - 3.2.2.2. 14 and under and 16 and under Eastern and Western Championships and Nationals Finals: Provincial “trained” or higher.
  - 3.2.2.3. 19 and under National Finals and Senior National Championships: Provincial “certified” or higher.

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<sup>1</sup> Referee assignments for regular season games and the championship events will be based on performance, commitment and attitude.

3.2.3. NTO coordinators will attempt to schedule delegates who are certified OTCP evaluators eligible to evaluate Provincial and National level referees where possible.

3.2.4. Referees and delegates will be appointed based on geography and performance evaluations.

### 3.3. Payments and allowances

3.3.1. Referees and delegates will be paid \$CAD25 / game. All referees and delegates will receive \$CAD0.35 / KM.

3.3.2. In order for the delegates and referees to receive their honorarium they must proof and sign the scoresheet.

3.3.3. In order for delegates and referees to receive their travel allowance they must submit a Google Map link from their departing address to the competition venue address to their NTO coordinator. Referees and delegates will be permitted to expense parking and tolls within reason.

3.3.4. WPC will pay travel (flight and ground) and accommodations for referees and delegates where necessary.

3.3.5. Referees and delegates will receive a \$35 per diem when they are at the competition venue for more than 5 hours consecutively or are travelling more than 200 kilometres one way.

3.3.6. Referees receiving an evaluation will not be paid their honorarium.

3.3.7. The payment schedule for officials are as follows:

3.3.7.1. December 15th

3.3.7.2. March 31st

3.3.7.3. June 15th

3.3.8. In the event the dates above fall on a weekend or statutory holiday, payments will be processed on the next business day.

### 3.4. Expectations of a WPC Referee

3.4.1. Referees are required to be on deck and in uniform at least 30 minutes prior to game time.

3.4.2. A failure to arrive on time, or if an assignment is missed altogether, the referee shall be reprimanded with a \$50 sanction in which will be deducted from their honorarium.

3.4.3. Referee uniform is defined as the official NCL golf shirt, white pants, white belt and white shoes.

3.4.4. A failure to dress in an appropriate manner – as defined in 3.4.2. – will result in the referee forfeiting their game honorarium and game allowance.

- 3.4.5. It is the responsibility of the delegate to include in their written report the status of the referee if there is a breach of rule 3.4.

## 5. Judiciary

### 5.2. Responsibilities and Authority

- 5.2.1. The NCL incident reporting form found in Appendix E: Incident Reporting Form must be completed by game officials (referees and delegates) and submitted to the League Coordinator for all incidents defined in section 5.1. within 24-hours after the conclusion of the match / incident.

## 6. Code of Conduct

### 6.4. Referees' Responsibilities

- 6.4.1. Be responsible for the safety and well-being in conjunction with the team coach, be responsible for behaviour of players during warm up, game time and post activity on the pool deck.
- 6.4.2. Represent yourself to the best of your ability in a neutral manner as a referee of WPC.
- 6.4.3. Represent yourself to the best of your ability in a professional manner as a representative of WPC.

## Conflicts of Interest

- WPC will attempt to not assign referees who are registered with a club to officiate games within that club.
- Officials who are dually registered as a coach/athlete will not be permitted to officiate games within the same age category and gender. Priority of assignments for regular season and Championship games will be given to those officials who are independently registered as a referee.

## Minimum Age Standards

- Referees must be at least 18 years of age to travel for Water Polo Canada events. Travel being defined as any event where referees is required to stay in a hotel at the expense of Water Polo Canada.
- Referees must be at least 1 year older than the age group they are officiating.
  - For example, must be at least 17 years of age to referee 16U NCL games.
  - The exception being MLWP, where a referee must be at least 20 years of age.

## Minimum Certification Standards

	Minimum Standard	Eligible for Evaluation
14U East/West National Championships	Provincial "trained"	Provincial "trained"
16U NCL Regular Season + Championships + Finals	Provincial "trained"	Provincial "trained"
19U NCL Regular season	Provincial "trained"	National "trained"
MLWP Regular season	Provincial "trained"	National "trained"
19U National Finals	Provincial "certified"	National "trained"
Senior Nationals	Provincial "certified"	National "trained"