



## FINA WATER POLO RULES 2005 - 2009

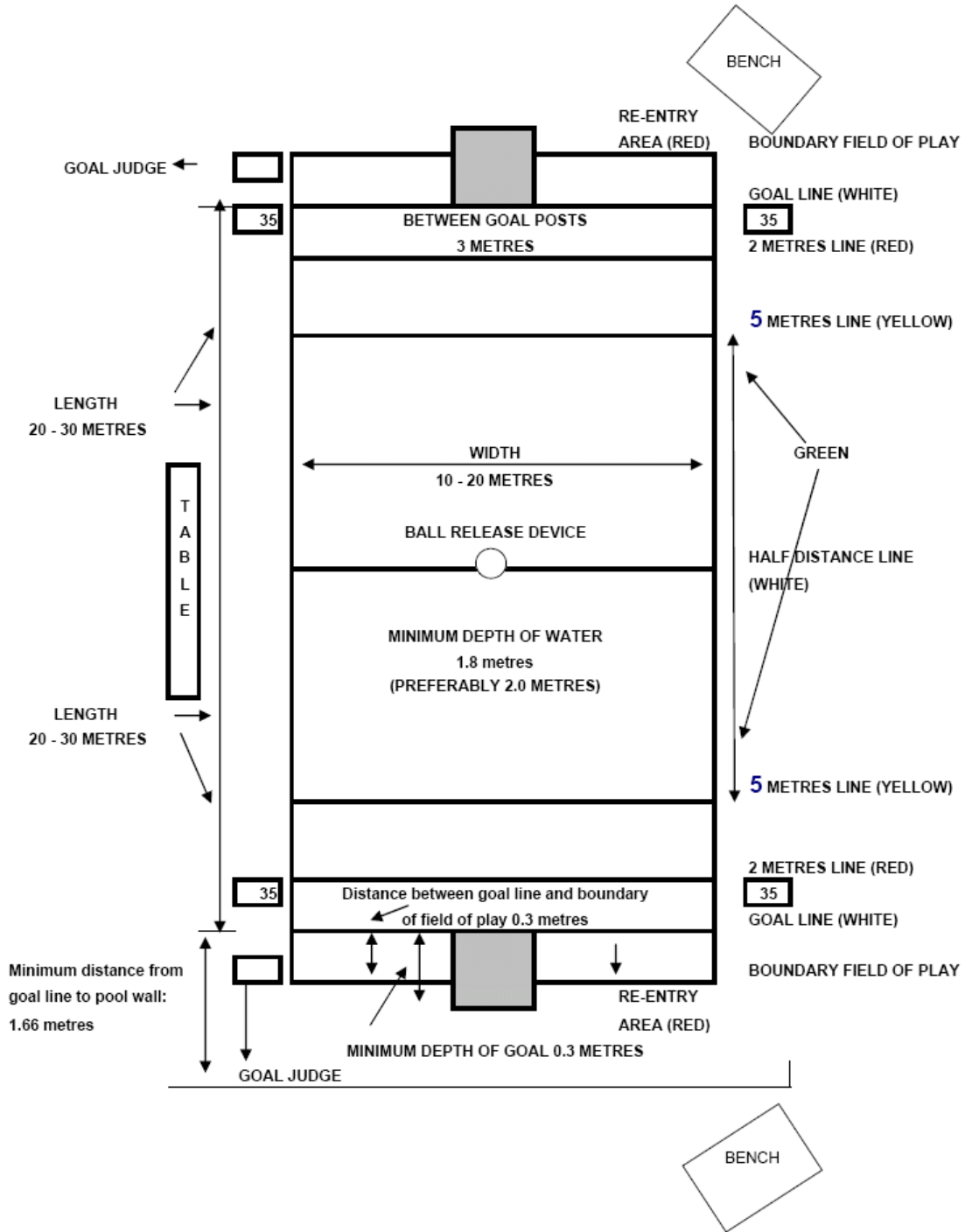
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### WP 1 FIELD OF PLAY & EQUIPMENT

**WP 1.1** The promoting organisation shall be responsible for the correct measurements and markings of the field of play and shall provide all stipulated fixtures and equipment.

**WP 1.2** The layout and markings of the field of play for a game officiated by two referees shall be in accordance with the following diagram:



**WP 1.3** In a game officiated by one referee, the referee shall officiate on the same side as the official table, and the goal judges shall be situated on the opposite side.

**WP 1.4** The distance between the goal lines shall be not less than 20 metres and not more than 30 metres for games played by men. The distance between the goal lines shall be not less than 20 metres and not more than 25 metres for games played by women. The width of the field of play shall be not less than 10 metres and not more than 20 metres. The boundary of the field of play at each end shall be 0.30 metres behind the goal line.

**WP 1.5** For FINA events the dimensions of the field of play, water depth and temperature, and light intensity shall be as set forth in FR 7.2, FR 7.3, FR 7.4 and FR 8.3.

**WP 1.6** Distinctive marks shall be provided on both sides of the field of play to denote the following:

- (a) white marks - goal line and half distance line
- (b) red marks - 2 metres from goal lines
- (c) yellow marks - 5 metres from goal lines

The sides of the field of play from the goal line to the 2 metre line shall be marked in red, from the 2 metre line to the 5 metre line shall be marked in yellow and from the 5 metre line to the half distance line shall be marked in green.

**WP 1.7** A red mark shall be placed at each end of the field of play, 2 metres from the corner of the field on the side opposite to the official table, to denote the re-entry area.

**WP 1.8** Sufficient space shall be provided to enable the referees to have free movement from end to end of the field of play. Space shall also be provided at the goal lines for the goal judges.

**WP 1.9** The secretary shall be provided with separate red, white and blue flags, each measuring 0.35 metres x 0.20 metres.

## WP 2 GOALS

**WP 2.1** Two goal posts and a crossbar, rigidly constructed, rectangular with a dimension of 0.075 metres facing the field of play and painted white shall be located on the goal lines at each end, equal distances from the sides and not less than 0.30 metres in front of the ends of the field of play.

**WP 2.2** The inner sides of the goal posts shall be 3 metres apart. When the water is 1.50 metres or more in depth, the underside of the crossbar shall be 0.90 metres from the water surface. When the water is less than 1.50 metres in depth, the underside of the crossbar shall be 2.40 metres from the floor of the pool.

**WP 2.3** Limp nets shall be securely fastened to the goal posts and crossbar to enclose the entire goal area and shall be attached to the goal fixtures in such a manner as to allow not less than 0.30 metres clear space behind the goal line everywhere within the goal area.

## WP 3 THE BALL

**WP 3.1** The ball shall be round and shall have an air chamber with a self-closing valve. It shall be waterproof, without external strapping or any covering of grease or similar substance.

**WP 3.2** The weight of the ball shall be not less than 400 grammes and not more than 450 grammes.

**WP 3.3** For games played by men, the circumference of the ball shall be not less than 0.68 metres and not more than 0.71 metres, and its pressure shall be 90-97 kPa (kilo Pascal's)(13-14 pounds per square inch atmospheric).

**WP 3.4** For games played by women, the circumference of the ball shall be not less than 0.65 metres and not more than 0.67 metres, and its pressure shall be 83-90 (kilo Pascal's) (12-13 pounds per square inch atmospheric).

## WP 4 CAPS

**WP 4.1** Caps shall be of contrasting colour, other than solid red, as approved by the referees, but also to contrast with the colour of the ball. A team may be required by the referees to wear white or blue caps. The goalkeepers shall wear red caps. Caps shall be fastened under the chin. If a player loses the cap during play, the player shall replace it at the next appropriate stoppage of the game when the player's team is in possession of the ball. Caps shall be worn throughout the entire game.

**WP 4.2** Caps shall be fitted with malleable ear protectors which shall be the same colour as the team's caps except that the goalkeeper may have red protectors.

**WP 4.3** Caps shall be numbered on both sides with numbers 0.10 metres in height. The goalkeeper shall wear cap no. 1 and the other caps shall be numbered 2 to 13. A substitute goalkeeper shall wear a red cap numbered 13. A player shall not be allowed to change his cap number during the game except with the permission of a referee and with notification to the secretary.

**WP 4.4** For international games, the caps shall display on the front the international three letter country code and may display the national flag. The country code shall be 0.04 metres in height.

## WP 5 TEAMS AND SUBSTITUTES

**WP 5.1** Each team shall consist of seven players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper and who shall wear the goalkeeper's cap, and not more than six reserves who may be used as substitutes. A team playing with less than 7 players shall not be required to have a goalkeeper.

**WP 5.2** All players not in the game at that time, together with the coaches and officials with the exception of the head coach, shall sit on the team bench and shall not move away from the bench from the commencement of play, except during the intervals between periods or during timeouts. The head coach of the attacking team shall be allowed to move to the 5 metre line at any time. Teams shall only change ends and benches at half time and before the start of the second period of any extra time. The team benches shall both be situated on the side opposite to the official table.

**WP 5.3** The captains shall be playing members of their respective teams and each shall be responsible for the good conduct and discipline of his team.

**WP 5.4** Players shall wear non-transparent costumes or costumes with a separate undergarment and before taking part in a game shall remove any articles likely to cause injury.

**WP 5.5** Players shall not have grease, oil or any similar substance on the body. If a referee ascertains before the start of play that such a substance has been used, he shall order it to be removed immediately. The start of play shall not be delayed for the substance to be removed. If the offence is detected after the play has started, the offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game and a substitute permitted to enter the field of play immediately from the re-entry area nearest to his own goal line.

**WP 5.6** At any time in the game, a player may be substituted by leaving the field of play at the re-entry area nearest to his own goal line. The substitute may enter the field of play from the re-entry area as soon as the player has visibly risen to the surface of the water within the re-entry area. If a goalkeeper is substituted under this Rule, the substitute shall be required to wear a goalkeeper's cap. No substitution shall be made under this Rule between the time a referee awards a penalty throw and the taking of the throw, except at a timeout.

**WP 5.7** A substitute may enter the field of play from any place:

- (a) during the intervals between periods of play, including any periods of extra time;
- (b) after a goal has been scored;
- (c) during a timeout;
- (d) to replace a player who is bleeding or injured.

**WP 5.8** A substitute shall be ready to replace a player without delay. If the substitute is not ready, the game shall continue without the substitute and, at any time, the substitute may then enter the field of play from the re-entry area nearest to the substitute own goal line.

**WP 5.9** A goalkeeper who has been replaced by a substitute may, if the player returns to the game, play in any position.

**WP 5.10** Should a goalkeeper retire from the game through any medical reason, the referees shall allow an immediate substitution, subject to one of the players taking the goalkeeper's cap.

## **WP 6 OFFICIALS**

**WP 6.1** For FINA events the officials shall consist of two referees, two goal judges, timekeepers and secretaries, each with the following powers and duties. Such officials shall also be provided wherever possible for other events, except that in a game refereed by two referees and no goal judges, the referees shall assume the duties (but without making the specified signals) allocated to the goal judges in WP 8.2.

*[Note. Depending on the degree of importance, games can be controlled by teams of four to eight officials, as follows:*

*(a) Referees and goal judges:*

*Two referees and two goal judges; or two referees and no goal judges; or one referee and two goal judges.*

*(b) Timekeepers and secretaries:*

*With one timekeeper and one secretary: The timekeeper shall record the periods of continuous possession of the ball by each team, in accordance with WP 20.17. The secretary shall record the exact periods of actual play, timeouts and the intervals between periods, maintain the record of the game as set out in WP 10.1 and shall also record the respective periods of exclusion of players ordered from the water in accordance with the Rules.*

*With two timekeepers and one secretary: Timekeeper No. 1 shall record the exact periods of actual play, timeouts and the intervals between periods. Timekeeper No. 2 shall record the periods of continuous possession of the ball by each team, in accordance with WP 20.17. The secretary shall maintain the record of the game and perform all other duties as set out in WP 10.1.*

*With two timekeepers and two secretaries: Timekeeper No. 1 shall record the exact periods of actual play, timeouts and the intervals between periods. Timekeeper No. 2 shall record the periods of continuous possession of the ball by each team, in accordance with WP 20.17. Secretary No. 1 shall maintain the record of the game as set out in WP 10.1(a). Secretary No. 2 shall carry out the duties set out in WP 10.1(b), (c) and (d) relating to the improper re-entry of excluded players, improper entry of substitutes, exclusion of players and the third personal foul.]*

## WP 7 REFEREES

**WP 7.1** The referees shall be in absolute control of the game. Their authority over the players shall be effective during the whole time that they and the players are within the precincts of the pool. All decisions of the referees on questions of fact shall be final and their interpretation of the Rules shall be obeyed throughout the game. The referees shall not make any presumption as to the facts of any situation during the game but shall interpret what they observe to the best of their ability.

**WP 7.2** The referees shall whistle to start and restart the game and to declare goals, goal throws, corner throws (whether signalled by the goal judge or not), neutral throws and infringements of the Rules. A referee may alter a decision provided it is done before the ball is put back into play.

**WP 7.3** The referees shall refrain from declaring a foul if, in their opinion, such declaration would be an advantage to the offending player's team. The referees shall not declare an ordinary foul when there is still a possibility to play the ball.

*[Note. The referees shall apply this principle to the fullest extent. They should not, for example, declare an ordinary foul in favour of a player who is in possession of the ball and making progress towards his opponents' goal, because this is considered to give an advantage to the offender's team.]*

**WP 7.4** The referees shall have the power to order any player from the water in accordance with the appropriate Rule and to abandon the game should a player refuse to leave the water when so ordered.

**WP 7.5** The referees shall have the power to order the removal from the precincts of the pool any player, substitute, spectator or official whose behaviour prevents the referees from carrying out their duties in a proper and impartial manner.

**WP 7.6** The referees shall have the power to abandon the game at any time if, in their opinion, the behaviour of the players or spectators, or other circumstances prevent it from being brought to a proper conclusion. If the game has to be abandoned the referees shall report their actions to the competent authority.

## WP 8 GOAL JUDGES

**WP 8.1** The goal judges shall be situated on the same side as the official table, each on the goal line at the end of the field of play.

**WP 8.2** The duties of the goal judges shall be:

- (a) to signal by raising one arm vertically when the players are correctly positioned on their respective goal lines at the start of a period;
- (b) to signal by raising both arms vertically for an improper start or restart;
- (c) to signal by pointing with the arm in the direction of the attack for a goal throw;
- (d) to signal by pointing with the arm in the direction of the attack for a corner throw;
- (e) to signal by raising and crossing both arms for a goal;
- (f) to signal by raising both arms vertically for an improper re-entry of an excluded player or improper entry of a substitute.

**WP 8.3** Each goal judge shall be provided with a supply of balls and when the original ball has gone outside the field of play, the goal judge shall immediately throw a new ball to the goalkeeper (for a goal throw), to the nearest player of the attacking team (for a corner throw), or as otherwise directed by the referee.

## WP 9 TIMEKEEPERS

**WP 9.1** The duties of the timekeepers shall be:

- (a) to record the exact periods of actual play, timeouts and the intervals between the periods;
- (b) to record the periods of continuous possession of the ball by each team;
- (c) to record the exclusion times of players ordered from the water in accordance with the Rules, together with the re-entry times of such players or their substitutes;
- (d) to audibly announce the start of the last minute of the game and of the last minute of the second period of any extra time;
- (e) to signal by whistle after 45 seconds and at the end of each timeout.

**WP 9.2** A timekeeper shall signal by whistle (or by any other means provided it is distinctive, acoustically efficient and readily understood), the end of each period independently of the referees and the signal shall take immediate effect except:

- (a) in the case of the simultaneous award by a referee of a penalty throw, in which event the penalty throw shall be taken in accordance with the Rules;
- (b) if the ball is in flight and crosses the goal line, in which event any resultant goal shall be allowed.

## WP 10 SECRETARIES

**WP 10.1** The duties of the secretaries shall be:

- (a) to maintain the record of the game, including the players, the score, timeouts, exclusion fouls, penalty fouls, and personal fouls awarded against each player;
- (b) to control the periods of exclusion of players and to signal the expiration of the period of exclusion by raising the appropriate flag; except that a referee shall signal the re-entry of an excluded player or a substitute when that player's team has retaken possession of the ball;
- (c) to signal with the red flag and by whistle for any improper re-entry of an excluded player or improper entry of a substitute (including after a signal by a goal judge to indicate an improper re-entry or entry), which signal shall stop play immediately;
- (d) to signal, without delay, the award of a third personal foul against any player as follows:
  - (i) with the red flag if the third personal foul is an exclusion foul;
  - (ii) with the red flag and a whistle if the third personal foul is a penalty foul.

## WP 11 DURATION OF THE GAME

**WP 11.1** The duration of the game shall be four periods each of **eight** minutes actual play. Time shall commence at the start of each period when a player touches the ball. At all signals for stoppages, the recording watch shall be stopped until the ball is put back into play by the ball leaving the hand of the player taking the appropriate throw or when the ball is touched by a player following a neutral throw.

**WP 11.2** There shall be a two-minute interval between the **first and second periods and between the third and fourth periods and a five-minute interval between the second and third periods**. The teams, including the players, coaches and officials, shall change ends before starting the third period and the **second** period of any extra time.

**WP 11.3** Should the scores be level at full time in any game for which a definite result is required, any continuation into extra time shall be after an interval of five minutes. There shall then be played two periods each of three minutes actual play with an interval of **two minutes for the teams to change ends**. If at the end of the two periods of extra time the score is equal, there shall be a penalty shoot out to determine the result.

[**Note.** If a penalty shoot out is necessary, the following procedure shall be followed:

- (a) if it involves the two teams having just completed a game, the shoot out will begin immediately and the same referees will be used
- (b) otherwise, the shoot out will occur 30 minutes following the completion of the final game of that round, or at the first practical opportunity. The referees involved in the most recent game of that round will be used, provided they are neutral
- (c) if two teams are involved the respective coaches of the teams will be requested to nominate five players and goalkeeper who will participate in the penalty shoot out; the goalkeeper may be changed at any time provided the substitute was listed amongst the team list in that game
- (d) the five players nominated will be required to be listed in order and that order will determine the sequence in which those players will shoot at their opponents goal; the sequence cannot be changed
- (e) no players excluded for the game are eligible to be listed amongst those players to shoot or substitute as goalkeeper
- (f) if the goalkeeper is excluded during the penalty shoot out, a player from the nominated five players may substitute for the goalkeeper but without the privileges of the goalkeeper; following the taking of the penalty shot, the player may be substituted by another player or alternate goalkeeper
- (g) shots will be taken alternately at either end of the pool and all players with the exception of the player shooting and defending goalkeeper will be required to be seated on team bench
- (h) the team to shoot first will be determined by toss
- (i) should teams still be tied following the completion of the initial five penalty shots, the same five players shall then take alternate shots until one team misses and the other(s) score
- (j) if three or more teams are involved, each team will shoot five penalty shots against each of the other teams, alternating at each shot. The order of the first shot will be determined by draw.]

**WP 11.4** Any visible clock shall show the time in a descending manner (that is, to show the time remaining in a period).

## **WP 12 TIMEOUTS**

**WP 12.1** Each team shall be entitled to three timeouts in any game . The third timeout may only be requested during extra time. The duration of the timeout shall be one minute. A timeout may be requested at any time, including after a goal, by the coach of the team in possession of the ball calling “timeout” and signalling to the secretary or referee with the hands forming a T-shape. If a timeout is requested, the secretary or referee shall immediately stop the game by whistle and the players shall immediately return to their respective halves of the field of play.

**WP 12.2** Play shall be restarted on the whistle of the referee by the team in possession of the ball putting the ball into play on or behind the half distance line, except that if the timeout is requested before the taking of a penalty throw or corner throw, that throw shall be maintained.

*[Note. The possession clock continues from the recommencement of the play after the timeout.]*

**WP 12.3** If the coach of the team in possession of the ball requests an additional timeout to which the team is not entitled, the game shall be stopped and play shall then be restarted by a player of the opposing team putting the ball into play at the half distance line.

**WP 12.4** If the coach of the team not in possession of the ball requests a timeout, the game shall be stopped and a penalty throw awarded to the opposing team.

**WP 12.5** At the restart following a timeout, players may take any position in the field of play, subject to the Rules relating to the taking of penalty throws and corner throws.

### **WP 13 THE START OF PLAY**

**WP 13.1** Before the start of the game and in the presence of the referees, the captains shall toss a coin, the winner to have the choice of ends.

**WP 13.2** At the start of each period, the players shall take up positions on their respective goal lines, about one metre apart and at least one metre from the goal posts. Not more than two players shall be allowed between the goal posts. No part of a player's body shall be beyond the goal line at water level.

**WP 13.3** When the referees are satisfied that the teams are ready, a referee shall blow the whistle to start and then release or throw the ball into play on the half distance line.

**WP 13.4** If the ball is released or thrown giving one team a definite advantage, the referee shall call for the ball and award a neutral throw on the half distance line.

### **WP 14 METHOD OF SCORING**

**WP 14.1** A goal shall be scored when the entire ball has passed fully over the goal line, between the goal posts and underneath the crossbar.

**WP 14.2** A goal may be scored from anywhere within the field of play; except that the goal keeper shall not be permitted to go or touch the ball beyond the half distance line.

**WP 14.3** A goal may be scored by any part of the body except the clenched fist. A goal may be scored by dribbling the ball into the goal. At the start or any restart of the game, at least two players (of either team but excluding the defending goalkeeper) must intentionally play or touch the ball except at the taking of:

- (a) a penalty throw;
- (b) a free throw thrown by a player into the player's own goal;
- (c) an immediate shot from a goal throw; or
- (d) an immediate shot from a free throw awarded outside 16 metres.

*[Note. A goal may be scored by a player immediately shooting from outside 16 metres after the player's team has been awarded a free throw for a foul committed outside 16 metres. If the player puts the ball into play, a goal can then only be scored if the ball has been intentionally touched by another player, other than the defending goalkeeper.*

*If at the award of a foul the ball is inside 16 metres or closer to the defending team's goal, a goal may be scored under this Rule if the ball is returned without delay to either the place where the foul was committed, to any place on the same line as the foul or to any place behind the line of the foul provided the shot is then immediately made from that position.*

*A goal may not be scored under this Rule direct from the restart following:*

- (a) a timeout
- (b) a goal
- (c) an injury, including bleeding
- (d) the replacement of a cap
- (e) the referee calling for the ball
- (f) the ball leaving the side of the field of play
- (g) any other delay.]

**WP 14.4** A goal shall be scored if, at the expiration of 5 seconds possession or at the end of a period, the ball is in flight and enters the goal.

*[Note. In the circumstances of this Rule, if the ball enters the goal after hitting the goal post, crossbar, goalkeeper or other defending player, and/or bouncing off the water, a goal shall be allowed. If the end of the period has been signalled and the ball is then played or touched intentionally by another attacking player on its way into the goal, the goal shall not be allowed.]*

*If the ball is in flight towards the goal in the circumstances of this Rule and the goalkeeper or another defending player pulls down the goal, or within his own 5 metre area a defending player other than the goalkeeper stops the ball with two hands or arms or punches the ball to prevent a goal being scored, the referee shall award a penalty throw if, in the referee's opinion, the ball would have reached the goal line if the offence had not occurred.*

*If the ball which is in flight towards the goal in the circumstances of this Rule lands on the water and then floats completely over the goal line, the referee shall award a goal only if the ball floats over the goal line immediately due to the momentum of the shot.]*

## WP 15 RESTARTING AFTER A GOAL

**WP 15.1** After a goal has been scored, the players shall take up positions anywhere within their respective halves of the field of play. No part of a player's body shall be beyond the half distance line at water level. A referee shall restart the game by blowing the whistle. At the time of the restart, actual play shall resume when the ball leaves the hand of a player of the team not having scored the goal. A restart not taken in accordance with this Rule shall be retaken.

## WP 16 GOAL THROWS

**WP 16.1** A goal throw shall be awarded:

- (a) when the entire ball has passed fully over the goal line excluding between the goal posts and underneath the crossbar, having last been touched by any player other than the goalkeeper of the defending team;
- (b) when the entire ball has passed fully over the goal line between the goal posts and underneath the crossbar, or strikes the goal posts, crossbar or the defending goalkeeper direct from:
  - (i) a free throw awarded inside 5 metres;
  - (ii) a free throw awarded outside 5 metres not taken in accordance with the Rule;
  - (iii) a goal throw not taken immediately;
  - (iv) a corner throw.

**WP 16.2** The goal throw shall be taken by any player of the team from anywhere within the 2 metre area. A goal throw not taken in accordance with this Rule shall be retaken.

*[Note. The goal throw shall be taken by the player nearest to the ball. There should be no undue delay in taking a free throw, goal throw or corner throw, which must be taken in such a manner so as to enable the other players to observe the ball leaving the thrower's hand. Players often make the mistake of delaying the throw because they overlook the provisions of WP 19.4, which permit the thrower to dribble the ball before passing to another player. The throw can thus be taken immediately, even though the thrower cannot at that moment find a player to whom to pass the ball. On such an occasion, the player is allowed to take the throw either by dropping it from a raised hand on to the surface of the water (figure*

1) or by throwing it in the air (figure 2) and then swim with or dribble the ball. In either case, the throw must be taken so that the other players are able to observe it.]

Figure 1



Figure 2



## WP 17 CORNER THROWS

**WP 17.1** A corner throw shall be awarded when the entire ball has passed fully over the goal line excluding between the goal posts and underneath the crossbar, having last been touched by the goalkeeper of the defending team or when a defending player deliberately sends the ball over the goal line.

**WP 17.2** The corner throw shall be taken by a player of the attacking team from the 2 metre mark on the side nearest to which the ball crossed the goal line. The throw need not be taken by the nearest player but shall be taken without undue delay.

*[Note. For method of taking throw, see note to WP 16.2]*

**WP 17.3** At the taking of a corner throw no players of the attacking team shall be within the 2 metre area.

**WP 17.4** A corner throw taken from the wrong position or before the players of the attacking team have left the 2 metre area shall be retaken.

## WP 18 NEUTRAL THROWS

**WP 18.1** A neutral throw shall be awarded:

- (a) when, at the start of a period, a referee is of the opinion that the ball has fallen in a position to the definite advantage of one team;
- (b) when one or more players of each team commit a foul at the same moment which makes it impossible for the referees to distinguish which player offended first;
- (c) when both referees blow their whistles at the same moment to award ordinary fouls to the opposing teams;
- (d) when the ball strikes or lodges in an overhead obstruction.

**WP 18.2** At a neutral throw, a referee shall throw the ball into the field of play at approximately the same lateral position as the event occurred in such a manner as to allow the players of both teams to have equal opportunity to reach the ball. A neutral throw awarded within the 2 metre area shall be taken on the 2 metre line.

**WP 18.3** If at a neutral throw the referee is of the opinion that the ball has fallen in a position to the definite advantage of one team, the referee shall call for the ball and retake the throw.

## WP 19 FREE THROWS

**WP 19.1** A free throw shall be taken at the place where the foul occurred, except:

- (a) if the ball is further from the defending team's goal, the free throw shall be taken from the location of the ball;
- (b) if the foul is committed by a defending player within the defender's 2 metre area, the free throw shall be taken on the 2 metre line opposite to where the foul was committed or, if the ball is outside the 2 metre area, from the location of the ball;
- (c) where otherwise provided for in the Rules.

A free throw taken from the wrong position shall be retaken.

**WP 19.2** The time allowed for a player to take a free throw shall be at the discretion of the referees; it shall be reasonable and without undue delay but does not have to be immediate. It shall be an offence if a player who is clearly in a position most readily to take a free throw does not do so.

**WP 19.3** The responsibility for returning the ball to the player who is to take the free throw shall be that of the team to which the free throw is awarded.

**WP 19.4** The free throw shall be taken in a manner to enable the players to observe the ball leaving the hand of the player taking the throw, who shall also then be permitted to carry or dribble the ball before passing to another player. The ball shall be in play immediately when it leaves the hand of the player taking the free throw.

*[Note. For method of taking throw, see note to WP 16.2]*

## WP 20 ORDINARY FOULS

**WP 20.1** It shall be an ordinary foul to commit any of the following offences (WP 20.2 to WP 20.18), which shall be punished by the award of a free throw to the opposing team.

*[Note. The referees must award ordinary fouls in accordance with the Rules to enable the attacking team to develop an advantage situation. However, the referees must have regard to the special circumstance of WP 7.3 (Advantage).]*

**WP 20.2** To advance beyond the goal line at the start of a period, before the referee has given the signal to start. The free throw shall be taken from the location of the ball or, if the ball has not been released into the field of play, from the half distance line.

**WP 20.3** To assist a player at the start of a period or at any other time during the game.

**WP 20.4** To hold on to or push off from the goal posts or their fixtures, to hold on to or push off from the sides or ends of the pool during actual play or to hold on to the rails except at the start of a period.

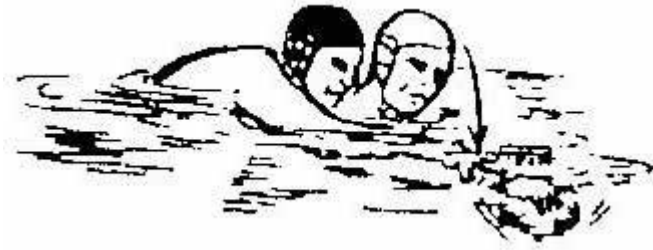
**WP 20.5** To take any active part in the game when standing on the floor of the pool, to walk when play is in progress or to jump from the floor of the pool to play the ball or tackle an opponent. This Rule shall not apply to the goalkeeper while within the goalkeeper's 5 metre area.

**WP 20.6** To take or hold the entire ball under the water when tackled.

*[Note. It is an ordinary foul to take or hold the ball under the water when tackled, even if the player holding the ball has the ball forced under the water as a result of the opponent's challenge (figure 3). It*

*makes no difference that the ball goes under the water against the player's will. What is important is that the foul is awarded against the player who was in contact with the ball at the moment it was taken under the water. It is important to remember that the offence can only occur when a player takes the ball under when tackled. Thus, if the goalkeeper emerges high out of the water to save a shot and then while falling back takes the ball under the water, the goalkeeper has committed no offence; but if the goalkeeper then holds the ball under the water when challenged by an opponent, the goalkeeper will have committed an infringement of this Rule and if the goalkeeper's actions prevented a probable goal, a penalty throw must be awarded under WP 22.2.]*

Figure 3



**WP 20.7** To strike at the ball with a clenched fist. This Rule shall not apply to the goalkeeper while within his 3 metre area.

**WP 20.8** To play or touch the ball with two hands at the same time. This Rule shall not apply to the goalkeeper while within his 3 metre area.

**WP 20.9** 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.

*[Note. The first thing for the referee to consider is whether the opponent is holding the ball, because if the player is doing so, the player making the challenge cannot be penalized for "impeding". It is clear that a player is holding the ball if it is held raised above the water (figure 4). The player is also holding the ball if the player swims with it held in the hand or makes contact with the ball while it is lying on the surface of the water (figure 5). Swimming with the ball (dribbling), as shown in figure 6, is not considered to be holding.*

Figure 5



Figure 4



Figure 6



A common form of impeding is where the player swims across the opponent's legs (figure 7), thus reducing the pace at which the opponent can move and interfering with the normal leg action. Another form is swimming on the opponent's shoulders. 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, figure 8 shows a player keeping one hand on the ball and trying to force the opponent away to gain more space. Figure 9 shows a player in possession of the ball impeding the opponent by pushing the opponent back with the head. Care must be taken with figures 8 & 9, because any violent movement by the player in possession of the ball might constitute striking or even brutality; the figures are intended to illustrate impeding without any violent movement. A player may also commit the offence of impeding even if the player is not holding or touching the ball. Figure 10 shows a player intentionally blocking the opponent with the player's body and with the arms flung open, thus making access to the ball impossible. This offence is most often committed near the boundaries of the field of play.]

Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

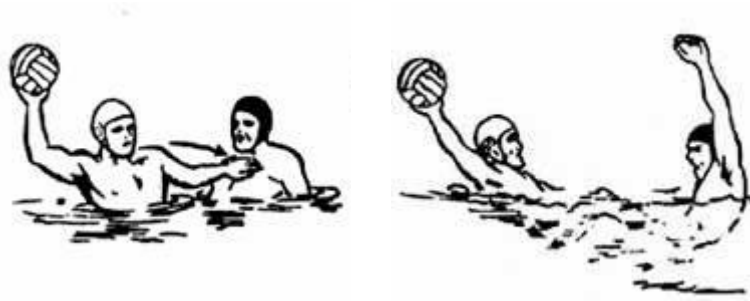


**WP 20.10** To push or push off from an opponent who is not holding the ball.

[*Note.* Pushing can take place in various forms, including with the hand (figure 11) or with the foot (figure 12). In the cases illustrated, the punishment is a free throw for an ordinary foul. However, referees must take care to differentiate between pushing with the foot and kicking - which then becomes an exclusion foul or even brutality. If the foot is already in contact with the opponent when the movement begins, this will usually be pushing, but if the movement begins before such contact with the opponent is made, then this should generally be regarded as kicking.]

Figure 11

Figure 12



**WP 20.11** For a player of the team in possession of the ball to commit an offence under WP 20.9 (to impede an opponent) or WP 20.10 (to push or push off from an opponent) before a free throw, goal throw or corner throw is taken.

**WP 20.12** To be within two metres of the opponents' goal except when behind the line of the ball. It shall not be an offence if a player takes the ball into the 2 metre area and passes it to another player who is behind the line of the ball and who shoots at goal immediately, before the first player has been able to leave the 2 metre area.

*[Note. If the player receiving the pass does not shoot at goal, the player who passed the ball must immediately leave the 2 metre area to avoid being penalised under this Rule.]*

**WP 20.13** To take a penalty throw other than in the prescribed manner.

*[Note. See WP 23.4 for method of taking a penalty throw.]*

**WP 20.14** To delay unduly when taking a free throw, goal throw or corner throw.

*[Note. See note to WP 16.2]*

**WP 20.15** For a goalkeeper to go or touch the ball beyond the half distance line.

**WP 20.16** To send the ball out of the side of the field of play, including the ball rebounding from the side of the field of play above water level.

**WP 20.17** For a team to retain possession of the ball for more than ■ seconds of actual play without shooting at their opponent's goal. The timekeeper recording the possession time shall reset the clock:

- (a) when the ball has left the hand of the player shooting at goal. If the ball rebounds into play from the goal post, crossbar or the goalkeeper, the possession time shall not recommence until the ball comes into the possession of one of the teams;
- (b) when the ball comes into the possession of the opposing team. "Possession" shall not include the ball merely being touched in flight by an opposing player;
- (c) when the ball is put into play following the award of an exclusion foul, penalty foul, goal throw, corner throw or neutral throw.

Visible clocks shall show the time in a descending manner (that is, to show the possession time remaining).

*[Note. The timekeeper and referees must decide whether there was a shot goal or not but the referees have the final decision.]*

**WP 20.18** To waste time.

*[Note. It is always permissible for a referee to award an ordinary foul under this Rule before the 30 seconds possession period has elapsed.*

*If the goalkeeper is the only player of the team in their half of the field of play, it shall be deemed wasting time for the goalkeeper to receive the ball from another member of the goalkeeper's team who is in the other half of the field of play.*

*In the last minute, the referees must be certain that there is intentional wasting time before applying this Rule.]*

## **WP 21 EXCLUSION FOULS**

**WP 21.1** It shall be an exclusion foul to commit any of the following offences (WP 21.4 to WP 21.17), which shall be punished (except as otherwise provided by the Rules) by the award of a free throw to the opposing team and the exclusion of the player who committed the foul.

**WP 21.2** The excluded player shall move to the re-entry area nearest to the player's own goal line without leaving the water. An excluded player who leaves the water (other than following the entry of a substitute) shall be deemed guilty of an offence under WP 21.10 (Misconduct).

*[Note. An excluded player (including any player excluded under the Rules for the remainder of the game) shall remain in the water and move (which may include swimming underwater) to the re-entry position nearest to the player's own goal line without interfering with the play. The player may swim from the field of play at any point on the goal line and may swim behind the goal to reach the re-entry area provided the player does not interfere with the alignment of the goal.*

*On reaching the re-entry area, the excluded player shall be required to visibly rise to the surface of the water before the player (or a substitute) shall be permitted to re-enter in accordance with the Rules. However, it shall not be necessary for the excluded player to then remain in the re-entry area to await the arrival of an intended substitute.]*

**WP 21.3** The excluded player or a substitute shall be permitted to re-enter the field of play after the earliest occurrence of one of the following:

- (a) when 20 seconds of actual play have elapsed, at which time the secretary shall raise the appropriate flag provided that the excluded player has reached the re-entry area in accordance with the Rules;
- (b) when a goal has been scored;
- (c) when the excluded player's team has retaken possession of the ball (which means receiving control of the ball) during actual play, at which time the defensive referee shall signal re-entry by a hand signal;
- (d) when the excluded player's team is awarded a free throw or goal throw, the referee's signal to award the throw qualifies as the re-entry signal, provided that the excluded player has reached the re-entry area in accordance with the Rules.

The excluded player or a substitute shall be permitted to re-enter the field of play from the re-entry area nearest to the player's own goal line, provided that:

- (a) the player has received a signal from the secretary or a referee;
- (b) the player shall not jump or push off from the side or wall of the pool or field of play;
- (c) the player shall not affect the alignment of the goal;
- (d) a substitute shall not be permitted to enter in the place of an excluded player until that player has reached the re-entry area nearest to the player's own goal line.

After a goal has been scored an excluded player or a substitute may re-enter the field of play from any place.

These provisions shall also apply to the entry of a substitute when the excluded player has received three personal fouls or has otherwise been excluded from the remainder of the game in accordance with the Rules.

*[Note. A substitute shall not be signalled in by a referee and nor shall the secretary signal the expiration of 20 seconds exclusion period until the excluded player has reached the re-entry area nearest to the player's own goal line. This shall also apply to the re-entry of a substitute who is to replace a player excluded from the remainder of the game. In the event of an excluded player failing to return to the player's re-entry area, a substitute shall not be permitted to enter until a goal has been scored or at the end of a period.]*

*The primary responsibility for giving the signal for the re-entry of an excluded player or a substitute is with the defensive referee. However, the attacking referee may also assist in this regard and the signal of either referee shall be valid. If a referee suspects an improper re-entry or the goal judge signals such an improper re-entry, then the referee should first be satisfied that the other referee had not signalled the re-entry.*

*Before giving the signal for the re-entry of an excluded player or a substitute, the defensive referee should wait momentarily in case the attacking referee whistles to restore possession to the opponent's team. A change of possession does not occur merely because of the end of a period, but an excluded player or substitute shall be eligible to re-enter if the team wins the ball at the swim up at the start of the next period. If a player is excluded when the end of a period is signalled, the referees and the secretary shall ensure that the teams have the correct number of players before signalling for the restart.]*

**WP 21.4** For a player to leave the water or sit or stand on the steps or side of the pool during play, except in the case of accident, injury, illness or with the permission of a referee.

**WP 21.5** To interfere with the taking of a free throw, goal throw or corner throw, including:

- (a) intentionally to throw away or fail to release the ball to prevent the normal progress of the game;
- (b) any attempt to play the ball before it has left the hand of the thrower.

*[Note. A player is not to be penalised under this Rule if the player does not hear the whistle as a result of being under the water. The referees must determine if the actions of the player are intentional.*

*Interference with a throw may take place indirectly when the ball is hampered, delayed or prevented from reaching the player who is to take the throw, or it may occur when the execution of the throw is interfered with by an opponent blocking the direction of the throw (figure 13) or by disturbing the actual movement of the thrower (figure 14). For interference with a penalty throw, see also WP 21.16.]*

Figure 13

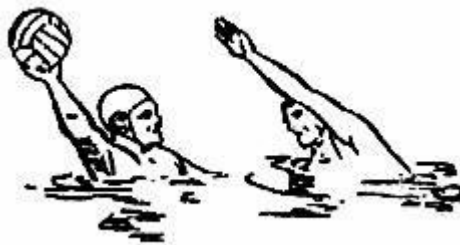


Figure 14



**WP 21.6** To attempt to play or block a shot with two hands outside the 5 metre area

*Note. If a defending player who is outside the 3 metre area raises two hands in an attempt to play or block a shot on a goal, the player shall be excluded.*

**WP 21.7** To splash in the face of an opponent intentionally.

*[Note. Splashing is frequently used as an unfair tactic but is often only penalised in the obvious situation when players are facing one another (see figure 15). However, it can also occur less obviously when a player produces a curtain of water with an arm, seemingly without deliberate intent, in an attempt to block the view of the opponent who is about to shoot at goal or to make a pass.]*

Figure 15



*The punishment for intentionally splashing an opponent is exclusion under WP 21.7 or a penalty throw under WP 22.2 if the opponent is inside the 3 metre area and is attempting to shoot at goal. Whether to award a penalty throw or an exclusion is decided solely by the positioning and actions of the attacking player; whether the offending player is inside the 3 metre area or outside is not a decisive factor.]*

**WP 21.8** To hold, sink or pull back an opponent who is not holding the ball. “Holding” is lifting, carrying or touching the ball, but does not include dribbling the ball.

*[Note. The correct application of this Rule is very important both as to the presentation of the game and in arriving at a proper and fair result. The wording of the Rule is clear and explicit and can only be interpreted in one way: to hold (figure 16), sink (figure 17) or pull back (figure 18) an opponent who is not holding the ball is an exclusion foul. It is essential that referees apply this Rule correctly, without personal arbitrary interpretation, to ensure that the proper limits to rough play are not exceeded. In addition, referees must note that an infringement of WP 21.8 within the 3 metre area which prevents a probable goal must be punished by the award of a penalty throw.]*

Figure 16



Figure 17

Figure 18



**WP 21.9** 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 (figure 19), which can result in serious injury to the opponent. Similarly, serious injury can occur when a player intentionally heads back 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 21.11 (Brutality) rather than under WP 21.9]*

Figure 19



**WP 21.10** To be guilty of misconduct, including the use of unacceptable language, violent or persistent foul play, to refuse obedience to or show disrespect for a referee or official, or behaviour against the spirit of the Rules and likely to bring the game into disrepute. The offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game, with substitution after the earliest occurrence referred to in WP 21.3.

*[Note If a member of a team commits any offence mentioned in this Rule during the interval between periods, during a time out or prior to the restart of play after his team has scored a goal, the player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game and substitution shall be permitted when, after the interval pause, the excluded player's team has taken possession of the ball (which means receiving control of the ball), or in the other situations, after the earliest occurrence referred to in WP 21.3.]*

**WP 21.11** To commit an act of brutality (including kicking or striking or attempting to kick or strike with malicious intent) against an opponent or official, whether during play (including any stoppages or timeouts) or the intervals between periods of play. The offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game and a penalty throw awarded to the opposing team. The offending player may be substituted when four minutes of actual play have elapsed.

*[Notes. This Rule shall also apply if an act of brutality occurs during the intervals between periods and a penalty throw shall be awarded. These provisions shall not apply, however, before the game has actually commenced.*

*In the case of brutality at any time by a substitute who is not in the water during the play, the offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game. The captain of the team shall be ordered to remove from the water a player of the captain's choice and the team shall continue with one less player for four minutes. The player who has been removed can subsequently be used during the remainder of the game as one of the team's remaining players in the water and no personal foul shall be awarded in relation to the player's removal from the water.]*

**WP 21.12** For a player of the team not in possession of the ball to commit any of the following offences before a free throw, goal throw, corner throw or penalty throw is taken or for a player of either team to commit any of the following offences before a neutral throw is taken:

- WP 20.9 - to impede an opponent
- WP 20.10 - to push or push off from an opponent
- WP 21.4 to WP 21.11 - to commit an exclusion foul

The original throw (including any neutral throw) shall be maintained. The player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game where the Rules so provide.

**WP 21.13** For a player of each team to commit any of the following offences simultaneously before a free throw, goal throw, corner throw, penalty throw or neutral throw is taken:

- WP 20.9 - to impede an opponent
- WP 20.10 - to push or push off from an opponent
- WP 21.4 to WP 21.11 - to commit an exclusion foul

Both players shall be excluded and the team in attack shall maintain possession of the ball. Players shall be excluded from the remainder of the game where the Rules so provide.

*[Notes. Both players excluded under this Rule, shall be permitted to re-enter at the next earliest occurrence referred to in WP 21.3 or at the next change of possession.]*

*If the two players who have been excluded under this Rule are eligible to re-enter before they have reached their respective re-entry areas, the defensive referee may wave in each player as soon as they are ready to re-enter. The referee does not have to wait until both players are ready to re-enter.*

*The team in possession of the ball when the simultaneous fouls were committed shall restart the play by taking the free throw, goal throw, corner throw or penalty throw. In the case of a neutral throw, the referee shall restart the play in accordance with WP 18.]*

**WP 21.14** For a player of the team in possession to commit an offence under WP 21.4 to WP 21.11 (exclusion fouls) before a free throw, goal throw, corner throw or penalty throw is taken; except that:

- (a) the player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game where the Rules so provide;
- (b) if the offence is committed at the taking of a penalty throw, the penalty throw shall be maintained.

**WP 21.15** For an excluded player to re-enter or a substitute to enter the field of play improperly, including:

- (a) without having received a signal from the secretary or referee;
- (b) from any place other than the player's own re-entry area, except where the Rules provide for immediate substitution;
- (c) by jumping or pushing off from the side or wall of the pool or field of play;
- (d) by affecting the alignment of the goal.

If this offence is committed by a player of the team not in possession of the ball, the offending player shall be excluded and a penalty throw awarded to the opposing team.

If this offence is committed by a player of the team in possession of the ball, the offending player shall be excluded and a free throw awarded to the opposing team.

**WP 21.16** To interfere with the taking of a penalty throw. The offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game with substitution after the earliest occurrence referred to in WP 21.3 and the penalty throw shall be maintained or re-taken as appropriate.

*[Note. The most common form of interference with a penalty throw is when an opponent aims a kick at the player taking the throw, just as the throw is about to be taken. It is essential for the referees to ensure that all players are at least 2 metres from the thrower, to prevent such interference taking place. The referee should also allow the defending team the first right to take position.]*

**WP 21.17** For the defending goalkeeper to fail to take up the correct position on the goal line at the taking of a penalty throw having been ordered once to do so by the referee. Another defending player may take the position of the goalkeeper but without the goalkeeper's privileges or limitations.

**WP 21.18** When a player is excluded, the exclusion period shall commence immediately when the ball has left the hand of the player taking the free throw or when the ball has been touched following a neutral throw.

**WP 21.19** If an excluded player intentionally interferes with play, including affecting the alignment of the goal, a penalty throw shall be awarded to the opposing team and a further personal foul awarded against the excluded player. If the excluded player does not commence leaving the field of play almost immediately, the referee may deem this to be intentional interference under this Rule.

**WP 21.20** In the event of the game continuing into extra time, the exclusion period of any excluded player shall also continue into the extra time. Personal fouls awarded during the periods of normal time shall also carry forward into extra time and any player excluded under the Rules from the remainder of the game shall not be permitted to take part in any periods of extra time.

## WP 22 PENALTY FOULS

**WP 22.1** It shall be a penalty foul to commit any of the following offences (WP 22.2 to WP 22.7), which shall be punished by the award of a penalty throw to the opposing team.

**WP 22.2** For a defending player to commit any foul within the 5 metre area but for which a goal would probably have resulted.

*[Notes. In addition to other offences preventing a probable goal, it is an offence within the meaning of this Rule:*

- (a) for a goalkeeper or other defending player to pull down or otherwise displace the goal (figure 20);
- (b) for a defending player intentionally to play or attempt to play the ball or block a shot with two hands (figure 21);
- (c) for a defending player intentionally to block or attempt to block a pass with two hands;
- (d) for a defending player to play the ball with a clenched fist (figure 22);
- (e) for a goalkeeper or other defending player to take the ball under the water when tackled.

*It is important to note that while the fouls described above, and other fouls such as holding, pulling back, impeding, etc., would normally be punished by a free throw (and exclusion if appropriate), they become penalty fouls if committed within the 5 metre area by a defending player if a probable goal would otherwise have been scored.]*

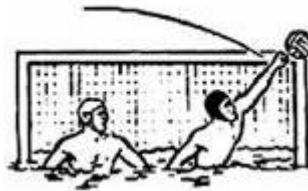
Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22



**WP 22.3** For a defending player within the 5 metre area to kick or strike an opponent or to commit an act of brutality. In the case of brutality, the offending player shall also be excluded from the remainder of the game, and a substitute may enter the field of play after four minutes of actual play have elapsed in addition to the award of the penalty throw.

**WP 22.4** For an excluded player intentionally to interfere with play, including affecting the alignment of the goal.

**WP 22.5** For a goalkeeper or any other defending player to pull over the goal completely with the object of preventing a probable goal. The offending player shall also be excluded from the remainder of the game, with substitution after the earliest occurrence referred to in WP 21.3.

**WP 22.6** For a player or substitute who is not entitled under the Rules to participate in the play at that time to enter the field of play. The offending player shall also be excluded from the remainder of the game with substitution. The substitute may enter the field of play after the earliest occurrence referred to in WP 21.3.

**WP 22.7** For the coach of the team not in possession of the ball to request a timeout or for a team official to take any action to prevent a probable goal; except that no personal foul shall be recorded for this offence.

**WP 22.8** If in the last minute of the game a penalty throw is awarded to a team, the coach may elect to maintain possession of the ball and be awarded a free throw. The timekeeper recording possession time shall reset the clock.

*[Note. It is the responsibility of the coach to give a clear signal without delay if the team wishes to maintain possession of the ball in accordance with this Rule.]*

## WP 23 PENALTY THROWS

**WP 23.1** A penalty throw shall be taken by any player of the team to which it is awarded, except the goalkeeper, from any point on the opponents' 5 metre line.

**WP 23.2** All players shall leave the 5 metre area and shall be at least two metres from the player taking the throw. On each side of the player taking the throw, one player of the defending team shall have the first right to take position. The defending goalkeeper shall be positioned between the goal posts with no part of his body beyond the goal line at water level. Should the goalkeeper be out of the water, another player may take the position of the goalkeeper but without the goalkeeper's privileges and limitations.

**WP 23.3** When the referee controlling the taking of the throw is satisfied that the players are in their correct positions the referee shall signal for the throw to be taken, by whistle and by simultaneously lowering the arm from a vertical to a horizontal position.

*[Note. The lowering of the arm at the same time as the signal by whistle makes it possible under any conditions, even amidst noise by spectators, to execute the throw in accordance with the Rules. As the arm is lifted, the player taking the throw will concentrate, for the player knows that the signal will follow immediately.]*

**WP 23.4** The player taking the penalty throw shall have possession of the ball and shall immediately throw it with an uninterrupted movement directly at the goal. The player may take the throw by lifting the ball from the water (figure 23) or with the ball held in the raised hand (figure 24) and the ball may be taken backwards from the direction of the goal in preparation for the forward throw, provided that the continuity of the movement shall not be interrupted before the ball leaves the thrower's hand.

*[Note. There is nothing in the Rules to prevent a player taking the throw with the player's back to the goal while the player adopts a half screw or full screw action.]*

Figure 23



Figure 24



**WP 23.5** If the ball rebounds from the goal post, crossbar or goalkeeper it remains in play and it shall not be necessary for another player to play or touch the ball before a goal can be scored.

**WP 23.6** If at precisely the same time as the referee awards a penalty throw the timekeeper whistles for the end of a period, all players except the player taking the throw and the defending goalkeeper shall

leave the water before the penalty throw is taken. In this situation, the ball shall immediately be dead should it rebound into play from the goal post, crossbar or the goalkeeper.

## **WP 24 PERSONAL FOULS**

**WP 24.1** A personal foul shall be recorded against any player who commits an exclusion foul or penalty foul. The referee shall indicate the offending player's cap number to the secretary.

**WP 24.2** Upon receiving a third personal foul, a player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game with substitution after the earliest occurrence referred to in WP 21.3. If the third personal foul is a penalty foul, the entry of the substitute shall be immediate.

## **WP 25 ACCIDENT, INJURY AND ILLNESS**

**WP 25.1** A player shall only be allowed to leave the water, or sit or stand on the steps or side of the pool during play in the case of accident, injury, illness or with the permission of a referee. A player who has left the water legitimately may re-enter from the re-entry area nearest his own goal line at an appropriate stoppage, with the permission of a referee.

**WP 25.2** If a player is bleeding, the referee shall immediately order the player out of the water with the immediate entry of a substitute and the game shall continue without interruption. After the bleeding has stopped, the player is permitted to be a substitute in the ordinary course of the game.

**WP 25.3** If accident, injury or illness, other than bleeding, occurs, a referee may at the referee's discretion suspend the game for not more than three minutes, in which case the referee shall instruct the timekeeper as to when the stoppage period is to commence.

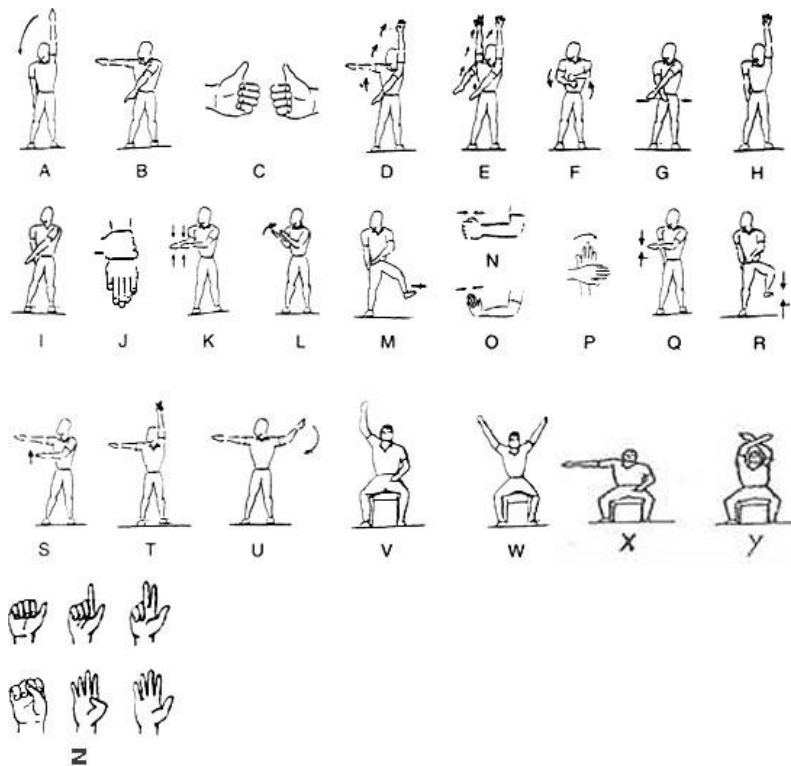
**WP 25.4** Should the game be stopped through accident, injury, illness, bleeding or other unforeseen reason, the team in possession of the ball at the time of the stoppage shall put the ball into play at the place of stoppage when the play is resumed.

**WP 25.5** Except in the circumstances of WP 25.2 (bleeding), the player shall not be allowed to take further part in the game if a substitute has entered.

**APPENDIX A  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF TWO REFEREES**

1. The referees are in absolute control of the game and shall have equal powers to declare fouls and penalties. Differences of opinion of the referees shall not serve as a basis for protest or appeal.
2. The committee or organisation appointing the referees shall have power to designate the side of the pool from which each referee shall officiate. Referees shall change sides of the pool before the start of any period when the teams do not change ends.
3. At the start of the game and of each period, the starting signal shall be given by the referee on the same side as the official table.
4. After a goal, the signal to restart shall be given by the referee who was controlling the attacking situation when the goal was scored. Before restarting, the referees shall ensure that any substitutions have been completed.
5. Each referee shall have the power to declare fouls in any part of the field of play but each referee shall give their primary attention to the offensive situation attacking the goal to their right. The referee not controlling the attacking situation (the defensive referee) shall maintain a position no closer to the goal being attacked than that player of the attacking team furthest back from the goal.
6. When awarding a free throw, goal throw or corner throw, the referee making the decision shall blow the whistle and both referees shall indicate the direction of the attack, to enable players in different parts of the pool to see quickly which team has been awarded the throw. The referee making the decision shall point to where the throw is to be taken if the ball is not at that position. Referees shall use the signals set out in Appendix B to indicate the nature of the fouls which they are penalising.
7. The signal for a penalty throw to be taken shall be made by the attacking referee, except that a player who wishes to take the throw with the left hand may request the defensive referee to make the signal.
8. When simultaneous free throws are awarded by both referees to the same team, the award shall go to the player awarded the throw by the attacking referee.
9. When simultaneous awards are made for ordinary fouls but for opposing teams, the award shall be a neutral throw, to be taken by the attacking referee.
10. When one referee awards an exclusion foul and at the same moment the other referee awards a penalty foul but for opposing teams, both the offending players shall be excluded and a neutral throw awarded.
11. When simultaneous awards are made by both referees and one is for an ordinary foul and the other is for an exclusion foul or penalty foul, the exclusion foul or penalty foul award shall be applied.
12. When players of both teams commit an exclusion foul simultaneously, whether during actual play or in dead time, the offending players shall be excluded and **the team in possession shall restart play with a free throw or, if the exclusion fouls are committed in dead time, with the free throw already awarded to the team in possession.**
13. In the event of simultaneous awards of penalty throws to both teams, the first throw shall be taken by the team last in possession of the ball. After the second penalty has been taken, the game shall be restarted with a neutral throw on the half distance line.

**APPENDIX B**  
**SIGNALS TO BE USED BY OFFICIALS**



**Fig. A** The referee lowers the arm from a vertical position to signal (i) the start of the period (ii) to restart after a goal (iii) the taking of a penalty throw.

**Fig. B** To point with one arm in the direction of the attack and to use the other arm to indicate the place where the ball is to be put into play at a free throw, goal throw or corner throw.

**Fig. C** To signal a neutral throw. The referee points to the place where the neutral throw has been awarded, points both thumbs up and calls for the ball.

**Fig. D** To signal the exclusion of a player. The referee points to the player and then moves the arm quickly towards the boundary of the field of play. The referee then signals the excluded player's cap number so that it is visible to the field of play and the table.

**Fig. E** To signal the simultaneous exclusion of two players. The referee points with both hands to the two players, signals their exclusion in accordance with Fig. D, and then immediately signals the players' cap numbers.

**Fig. F** To signal the exclusion of a player with substitution. The referee signals exclusion in accordance with Fig. D (or Fig. E if appropriate) and then rotates the hands round one another in such a way that is visible to both the field of play and the table. The referee then signals the excluded player's cap number to the table.

**Fig. G** To signal the exclusion of a player without substitution. The referee signals exclusion in accordance with Fig. D (or Fig. E if appropriate) and then crosses the arms in such a way that is visible to both the field of play and the table. The referee then signals the excluded player's cap number to the table.

**Fig. H** To signal the award of a penalty throw. The referee raises an arm with five fingers in the air. The referee then signals the offending player's cap number to the table.

**Fig. I** To signal that a goal has been scored. The referee signals by whistle and by immediately pointing to the centre of the field of play.

**Fig. J** To indicate the exclusion foul of holding an opponent. The referee makes a motion holding the wrist of one hand with the other hand.

**Fig. K** To indicate the exclusion foul of sinking an opponent. The referee makes a downward motion with both hands starting from a horizontal position.

**Fig. L** To indicate the exclusion foul of pulling back an opponent. The referee makes a pulling motion with both hands vertically extended and pulling towards his body.

**Fig. M** To indicate the exclusion foul of kicking an opponent. The referee makes a kicking movement.

**Fig. N** To indicate the exclusion foul of striking an opponent. The referee makes a striking motion with a closed fist starting from a horizontal position.

**Fig. O** To indicate the ordinary foul of pushing or pushing off from an opponent. The referee makes a pushing motion away from the body starting from a horizontal position.

**Fig. P** To indicate the ordinary foul of impeding an opponent. The referee makes a crossing motion with one hand horizontally crossing the other.

**Fig. Q** To indicate the ordinary foul of taking the ball under the water. The referee makes a downward motion with a hand starting from a horizontal position.

**Fig. R** To indicate the ordinary foul of standing on the bottom of the pool. The referee raises and lowers one foot.

**Fig. S** To indicate the ordinary foul of undue delay in the taking of a free throw, goal throw or corner throw. The referee raises a hand once or twice with the palm turned upwards.

**Fig. T** To indicate a violation of the two-metre Rule. The referee indicates the number 2 by raising the fore and middle fingers in the air with the arm vertically extended.

**Fig. U** To indicate the ordinary fouls of wasting time and expiry of 30 seconds' possession. The referee moves a hand in a circular motion two or three times.

**Fig. V** By a goal judge to signal for the start of a period, a goal throw or corner throw.

**Fig. W** By a goal judge to signal an improper start, restart or improper re-entry of an excluded player or substitute.

**Fig. X** By a goal judge to signal a goal throw or corner throw.

**Fig. Y** By a goal judge to signal a goal.

**Fig. Z** To indicate a player's cap number. To enable the referee to communicate better with the players and the secretary, signals are made using both hands if appropriate where the number exceeds five. One hand shows five fingers with the other hand showing additional fingers to make up the sum of the player's number. For the number ten, a clenched fist is shown. If the number exceeds ten, one hand is shown as a clenched fist with the other hand showing additional fingers to make up the sum of the player's number.

## APPENDIX C REGULATIONS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS IN WATER POLO

**PREAMBLE** : These Regulations contain basic regulations for fair play, ethical and moral behaviour, and general discipline in Water Polo .

These Regulations include measures related to incidents involving teams, water polo Federations, water polo sections of Member Federations, players, team leaders and officials, supporters, spectators but also involving officials or any other persons present at water polo matches.

The Regulations shall be in force from 1 August 2001 and replace the Code adopted by the FINA Bureau on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2001.

The purpose of these Regulations are to guarantee that the sport of Water Polo will be played in a fair manner without disturbance and to sanction incidents, which damage the image of Water Polo or bring it into disrepute.

### **Article 1. SUBORDINATE AND SUPPLEMENTARY TO FINA RULES**

These Regulations are subordinated and supplementary to all FINA Rules adopted by the FINA Congresses from time to time and the FINA Code of Conduct.

### **Article 2. OFFENCES BY OFFICIALS**

**2.1** The sanctions to be imposed for offences committed by any person appointed by FINA as delegate, referee, goal judge or serving at the table at any water polo match shall be suspension from participating further in the tournament in which the match occurred and a report shall be made to the FINA Bureau, or if the Bureau is not assembled, to the FINA Executive, for consideration of additional sanctions.

**2.2** If a person, appointed by FINA as a delegate, referee, goal judge or serving at the table at a water polo match, commits an offence referred to in these Regulations or the FINA Code of Conduct and involving cheating or partiality, the person shall be suspended up to life.

### **Article 3. OFFENCES AGAINST OFFICIALS**

**3.1** Any offence committed by any member of a team or team official shall result in a minimum suspension of one (1) match up to a maximum suspension of all water polo matches for one (1) year period.

**3.2** If the offence includes violence resulting in serious injury, use of any hard object or any other kind of violence against the body, the minimum suspension shall be for all water polo matches for one (1) year period up to a maximum of a lifetime suspension from water polo matches .

**3.3** If the offence is an attempt to commit an offence referred to in 3.2, the minimum suspension shall be three (3) matches up to a maximum suspension of all water polo matches for one (1) year period.

**3.4** Offences in 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 involve acts committed from 30 minutes before the beginning of the match until 30 minutes after the end of the match.

**3.5** If an offence referred to in 3.1, 3.2 or 3.3 is committed by any person other than a player or team official, the minimum sanction shall be a warning or exclusion from the venue up to a maximum sanction of suspension of the right to attend water polo matches for any period up to, and including, life.

**3.6** The minimum sanction for any offence under Article 3 may be increased for a second or subsequent offence by any individual.

### **Article 4. OFFENCES AGAINST TEAM MEMBERS OR TEAM OFFICIALS**

**4.1** For brutality, or any offence not covered in FINA Rules WP 20-22 committed by a player against other players or team officials, the minimum suspension shall be for one (1) match up to a maximum of all water polo matches for a one (1) year period.

**4.2** If the offence is committed by a team official against any player or team official, the minimum suspension shall be one (1) match up to a maximum of a lifetime suspension from water polo matches.

**4.3** If the offence is committed by any other person, the minimum sanction shall be expulsion from the venue up to a maximum of a suspension of the right to attend water polo matches for any period up to, and including, life.

**4.4** The minimum sanction for any offence under Article 4 may be increased for a second or subsequent offence by any individual.

#### **Article 5. OTHER OFFENCES**

**5.1** For any offence committed by any team member or team official against media representatives, spectators, pool staff or any other person present in the venue at the time of a match, the minimum suspension shall be from all water polo matches for a one (1) year period up to a maximum of suspension of the right to attend competitions for any period up to, and including, life.

**5.2** For oral or written statements of an abusive kind or nature and directed against FINA, any Federation, any organiser, authority or any other person, and which are not elsewhere covered in this Code, the minimum sanction shall be suspension for a period of six (6) months up to a maximum suspension for life.

**5.3** The minimum sanction for any offence under Article 5 may be increased for such period as the Management Committee deems appropriate.

#### **Article 6. OFFENCES COMMITTED BY TEAMS**

**6.1** If more than three members of the same team, including team officials, commit offences sanctioned in accordance with Articles 3, 4 or 5 in the same match, that team shall be sanctioned with disqualification from that match and a minimum suspension from the next match in the tournament to a maximum suspension from taking part in any competition organised by the same body for a period of one (1) year.

**6.2** Suspension in 6.1 means that the match or matches for which the team has been suspended shall be awarded to the opponent(s) with the goal score of 5-0.

#### **Article 7. PROCEDURES FOR IMPOSING SANCTIONS**

**7.1** Sanctions for offences in 3.1 and 3.5 shall be imposed by the Management Committee within 24 hours after the end of the match, with immediate notification to the player(s), team official(s), or other person(s) suspended.

**7.2** The Management Committee shall have the right to provisionally suspend any person or team who has committed offences in 2.1, 2.2, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 5.1, 5.2, and 6.1, subject to immediate written submission of the case to the FINA Bureau or, Board of the Organising body.

**7.3** Sanctions in accordance with 2.1, 2.2, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, and 6.1 shall be imposed by the Board of the Organising body.

**7.4** Sanction involving disqualification and suspension of a team from one or more matches in the same tournament shall be imposed by the Management Committee within 24 hours after the end of the match and immediate notification to the team officials, the Federation of the team and the Board of the Organising body.

**7.5** Sanctions involving suspension of a team in accordance with 6.1 for a period covering more than the actual tournament shall be imposed by the Board of the Organising body.

**7.6** As used in these Regulations "suspension" for offences other than in 3.1, 3.2, 3.5 and 4.1 shall mean, as may be specified by the Board of the Organising body, from competitions or that the individual sanctioned shall not participate in any or certain activities of FINA, the recognised continental organisations or any of FINA's Member Federations, in any discipline of FINA including acting as a competitor, delegate, coach, leader, physician or other representative of FINA, a recognised continental organisation or a Member Federation. A suspension shall take effect from the date specified by the competent authority.

**7.7** If a player or team official is suspended from a specific match, the team shall have the number of players or team officials on the bench reduced accordingly; provided that there is at least one (1) team official on the bench.

#### **Article 8. BURDEN OF PROOF**

**8.1** Referees, match officials or the competition management shall have the burden of establishing that offences in the Water Polo Rules and these Regulations have occurred.

**Article 9.**

**9.1** In imposition of any sanction, the nature of the offence, the circumstances under which it occurred, the gravity of the offence, the character of the action and other consideration that is in harmony with the objectives of FINA must be taken into account.

**Article 10. APPEALS**

**10.1** An individual sanctioned by the Management Committee may appeal to the Board of the Organising body within 21 days from the date of receipt of the decision including a sanction of the appealing party and further in accordance with the rules of the body concerned.

## AGE GROUP RULES - WATER POLO

**WPAG 1** All age group competitors remain qualified from 1 January to the following 31 December at their age at the close of day (12 midnight) on 31 December of the year of competition.

**WPAG 2** Age groupings for Water Polo for boys and girls are as follows:

15 years of age and under

16 and 17 years of age

18, 19 and 20 years of age

The age for Junior World Championships is 20 years and under.