



3rd March 2019

Amendments to Fina water polo Rules that came into force on 10th February 2019

Little guidance has been provided by Swim England at present so London Swimming Water Polo Committee have agreed **the following Rules** will be adopted and used, where possible, for water polo competition in London. In London Swimming water polo competitions, LWPL, and Thameside League. Other local county Leagues may also follow this guidance.

There are 6 other Amendments that will not be used at present, amendments 5, 6, 7, 13, 16, 18, in the attached FINA document

Rules Amendment #1

TO BE USED IF TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS

Rule WP 20 — Ordinary fouls (corner throw)

Existing rule: WP 20.15 – “The timekeeper recording the possession time shall reset the clock to 30 seconds: c) when the ball is put into play after awarding an corner throw”

PROPOSED rule: The timekeeper recording the possession time shall reset the clock to 20 seconds when a) the ball is put into play after awarding a corner throw, b) after a rebound after a shot which does not cause change of possession and c) after an exclusion.

TWPC Discussion notes and comments: The intent is that, from the start of static play, or a second possession in the same sequence, a team will have a maximum of 20 seconds of possession time left. If there is a corner throw awarded, the shot clock is reset to 20 seconds. If there is a rebound and the shooting team retakes possession of the ball, the shot clock is reset to 20 seconds. If there is a rebound and the defending team takes possession of the ball, the shot clock is set to 30 seconds. If there are more than 20 seconds on the clock at the time of the shot, the time will be reset to 20 seconds. If there is an exclusion, the time will be reset to 20 seconds, unless there was more time on the shot clock. If there is more than 20 seconds on the shot clock at the time of the exclusion, that greater time will remain. The team is not to lose time as a result of the exclusion, nor is the offending team to benefit from a reduction in possession time. If there is a double exclusion, the time is not to be reset and the time on the possession clock will remain the same.

Rules Amendment #2

Rule WP 19 — free throws

Existing rule: WP 19.1 – “A free throw shall be taken at the place where the foul occurred”

PROPOSED rule: A free throw shall be taken from the location of the ball, except a) 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 and b) where otherwise provided for in the Rules.

TWPC Discussion notes and comments: This change is intended to speed up the game by not requiring the return of the ball to the place of the foul. For any free throw awarded inside 2m., the player must still take the ball out to the 2m. line. See also the comments under Rules Amendment #8.

Rules Amendment #3

Rule WP 17 — Corner Throws

Existing rule: WP 17.2 – “The corner throws shall be taken by a player of the attacking team from the 2 m 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”

PROPOSED rule: A player taking a corner throw may a) shoot directly, b) swim and shoot without passing or c) pass to another player

TWPC Discussion notes and comments: The player taking the corner throw will not be restricted in taking actions, including shooting. This also contemplates a change to WP 14.3.

Rules Amendment #8

Rule WP 14 — Method of Scoring

Existing rule: WP 14.3(d) – “A goal may be scored by (d) an immediate shot from a free throw awarded outside 5 meters”

PROPOSED rule: (e) a shot from a free throw taken and awarded outside 6 meters after fake or dribble or putting the ball on the water [Note: when the player is not shooting directly, the ball must be put in play as described in the rules before faking and dribbling]

TWPC Discussion notes and comments: Both the ball and the free throw have to be outside of 6m. If the ball is inside 6m., the player cannot shoot. If the free throw was awarded inside 6m. and the ball is outside, the player cannot shoot. If the ball and the free throw are both outside 6m., the player can choose to shoot immediately or to visibly put the ball into play. After the player visibly puts the ball into play, the player can fake and shoot or swim and shoot. Once the player visibly puts the ball into play, the defender can attack the player with the ball. Visibly putting the ball into play means that the ball must leave the hand of the player with the ball.

Rules Amendment #9

Rule WP 14 — METHOD OF SCORING

Existing rule: WP 14.2 – “A goal may be scored from anywhere within the field play; except that the goal keeper shall not be permitted to go or touch the ball beyond the half distance line”

PROPOSED rule: The goal keeper is allowed to move beyond and touch the ball past the half distance line.

TWPC Discussion notes and comments: A goalkeeper can now go past the centre line and can shoot the ball from anywhere instead of passing it. The goalkeeper is also entitled to take a penalty shot or to be one of the players shooting in a shootout.

Rules Amendment #10

Rule WP 12 — time outs Existing rule: WP 12.1 – “Each team may request one timeout in each period of play”

PROPOSED rule: “Each team may request 2 timeouts during the game at any time, except after the awarding of a penalty throw, by the coach of the team in possession of the ball”

TWPC Discussion notes and comments: They may be called at any time a team has possession of the ball. The timeouts can be called in the same period or back to back. There are no restrictions on when the team may call them, as long as the team has possession of the ball. A team cannot call a timeout after the awarding of a penalty throw.

Rules Amendment #11

PROPOSED new rule: attacking a player from behind by defender in 6 m. area Inside the 6m. area, when a player is swimming with and/or is holding the ball and is impeded (attacked) from behind during an attempt to shoot, a penalty foul must be awarded. [Note: unless only the ball is touched by the defender]

TWPC Discussion notes and comments: If an attacking player with the intention to shoot has front position on a defender while moving toward the goal, the defender is not allowed to commit a foul without giving away a potential penalty shot to the attacker. This is stopping a probable goal and falls within the meaning of WP 22.2. The only way to defend from behind in this situation is for the defender to make contact only with the ball/hand of the attacking player. If the defender contacts the arm, back or shoulder, a penalty must be awarded. This will eliminate the potential decision and call of the referee that the ‘ball was in the hand’ that we saw in the past and which was incorrect in many cases. The referee should delay the call to see if the player is able to complete the action. If the player is not able to complete it, the referee must apply the rule.

Rules Amendment #15

Rule – Appendix B - Signals to be used by officials Existing rule: There is no current rule for this proposal

PROPOSED rule: (This rule is applied only in unclear situations around 6m line.) [Note: The signal to be used by the referee is to point with one hand in the air to indicate that the foul was outside the 6m.]

TWPC Discussion notes and comments: When the referee makes the signal, the signal indicates that the player is allowed to shoot. If there is no signal made by the referee, it means that the player is not allowed to shoot because either the foul or the ball was inside the 6m. area.