



2005 – 2009 FINA Water Polo Rules Interpretations

1. What if a defensive player attempts to block a shot with 2 hands?
 - a. If the player attempts to block a shot with two hands, the player shall be punished with a penalty shot when the defensive player is inside the 5 meter area and an exclusion foul when the defensive player is outside the 5 meter area.

NOTE: The defensive player does not have to touch the ball and a shot does not have to be taken. The player is being punished for intent.
2. May a field player who replaces an excluded goalkeeper assume the privileges of the goalkeeper?
 - a. No, a field player who replaces an excluded goalkeeper must play the position without the privileges of the goalkeeper. If the player attempts to play the ball with two hands, a penalty throw shall be awarded.
3. When brutality is called what is the signal for the substitute to re-enter.
 - a. When a player is excluded for brutality the secretary, after 4 minutes, will signal the substitute to re-enter the field of play with two flags, one yellow flag and the other flag of the corresponding cap color.
4. What happens if a defensive player deflects a pass and sends the ball out over the goal line?
 - a. Play shall be restarted with a corner throw. This action is considered as deliberately sending the ball over the goal line.
5. What happens if there is a brutality during interval time, timeout or after a goal?
 - a. If a brutality is called during interval time, timeout or after a goal, the referee will exclude the player with a substitute after 4 minutes. Play will be restarted by the referee blowing the whistle to start play in the normal manner, then immediately stopping play, and then a penalty shot shall be taken. If the penalty shot is scored, the defending team will start play with a free throw at the half distance line. If the shot is missed, play will continue in the normal manner.
6. What if there are simultaneous brutalities by a player of both teams during an interval?
 - a. If simultaneous brutalities are called during interval time, the referee will exclude both players with substitution after 4 minutes of play. The game shall be restarted in the normal manner with a sprint, and once one team has gained possession, the referees will stop the game and award a penalty throw to the team that gained possession. The first penalty shot will be taken which will result in a goal or no goal. Play will be stopped and the second penalty shot will be taken by the other team which will result in a goal or no goal. Referees will then award a free throw on the half distance line to the team that gained possession on the sprint.
7. What if there are simultaneous brutalities by players of both teams during a timeout or after a goal?
 - a. If simultaneous brutalities are called during a timeout or after a goal, the referees will exclude both players with substitution after 4 minutes of play. The first penalty shot (taken by the team that normally would have possession) will result in a goal or no goal. Play will be stopped and the second penalty shot will be taken which will result in a goal or no goal. The referees will then award a free throw on the half distance line to the team that normally would have gained possession after the timeout or after the goal.
8. What happens when a defensive player re-enters improperly?
 - a. If a defensive player re-enters the field of play improperly, the player is excluded for an additional 20 seconds and a penalty throw is awarded to the attacking team. However, on the score sheet only one additional personal foul (marked as E.P.) shall be recorded against the offending player.
9. What happens when an offensive player re-enters improperly?
 - a. If an offensive player re-enters the field of play improperly, the player is excluded for an additional 20 seconds and a free throw is awarded to the opposing team. On the score sheet an additional personal foul shall be recorded against the offending player.
10. What happens when a team is awarded a penalty throw in the last minute of regulation time or the last minute of the second extra time period?
 - a. If a team is awarded a penalty throw in the last minute of regulation time or the last minute of the second extra time period, the coach may request to maintain the possession of the ball in lieu of taking the penalty throw. The coach must show the referee immediately by crossing arms in front of the chest to signal possession, or show 5 fingers to request a penalty throw. If a team requests possession, play shall be restarted on the half distance line or behind the half distance line with a new possession clock.
11. What happens when the ball is sent out of the side of the field of play following a shot having last been touched by a field player of the defending team?
 - a. A free throw is awarded to the defending team. This situation is covered under the same Rule as a shot having last been touched by a field player of the defending team and the ball going over the goal line.
12. What happens if a player of a team commits misconduct or any other offense during the interval between periods, during a timeout, or prior to the restart after a goal?
 - a. The player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game and the substitute shall be eligible to re-enter immediately prior to the restart of the game.

NOTE: If the exclusion is during interval time the game will restart with a sprint for the ball; after a timeout with a free throw to the team that requested the timeout; following the goal with a free throw to the team which was defending before the goal was scored.