



2005 – 2009 FINA Water Polo Rules Change Summary

1. The length of the field of play for women's games is 25 meters.
2. The substitute goalkeeper shall wear red cap number 13.
3. Periods shall be 8 minutes long with a 5 minute interval at half time, 2 minute interval between 1st and 2nd periods and between 3rd and 4th periods; 5 minute interval before start of extra time; and a two minute interval between the two extra time periods.
4. Teams change ends before starting the third period and before starting the 2nd period of any extra time.
5. In the case of a penalty shoot out, if the goalkeeper is excluded during the shootout, a player from the 5 nominated players may replace the goalkeeper without the goalkeeper's privileges; following the taking of the penalty shot, the excluded goalkeeper may be substituted for by an alternate goalkeeper (as long as the player is eligible to play).
6. A timeout may be called after a goal by the team which will have possession of the ball and players shall immediately return to their halves of the field of play.
7. After a timeout the ball may be put into play on the half-distance line or anywhere behind the half distance line.
8. The time of the possession clock is reduced from 35 to 30 seconds.
9. The 4 meter and 7 meter line are eliminated and combined to be a 5 meter line. Markings for the side of the field of play are white for the goal line and half distance line, red from the goal line to the two meter line, yellow from the 2 to the 5, and green from the 5 to mid-pool. Penalty shots are given for those penalty fouls committed inside the 5 meter line, and the penalty shot is taken from the 5 meter line. A player may take an immediate shot from outside the 5 meter line for a free throw awarded outside the 5 meter line.
10. The head coach may come out to the 5 meter line when the coach's team is on offense.
11. A corner throw is awarded if a shot is tipped out by the goalkeeper or if a defending player deliberately (including tipping a pass) sends the ball over the goal line.
12. A goal throw is awarded if the shot is tipped out by a field player of either team (i.e., if the ball was last touched by any player other than the goalkeeper of the defending team). Goal throws may be taken by the goalkeeper or any member of that team from inside the 2 meter area. The throw must be taken by the player nearest the ball.
13. It is an exclusion foul to attempt to play or block a shot with two hands outside the 5 meter area. NOTE: The player does not actually have to touch the ball and a shot does not have to be actually taken; the player is being punished for intent.
14. It is a penalty foul for a defending player intentionally to play or attempt to play the ball or block a shot with 2 hands inside the 5 meter area. It is also a penalty foul for a defending player intentionally to block or attempt to block a pass with two hands inside the 5 meter area. See note to #13.
15. Misconduct is now defined as the use of unacceptable language, violent or persistent foul play, to refuse obedience to or show disrespect for a referee or official, or behavior against the spirit of the Rules and likely to bring the game into disrepute. The separate rule for disrespect is eliminated.
16. For brutality, a penalty shot is awarded, the player is removed for the remainder of the game, and the offending player may be substituted after 4 minutes.
17. For a double exclusion foul, both players are excluded and the offensive team maintains possession of the ball with a new 30 second possession clock. If neither team has possession, then a neutral throw is given.
18. For illegal reentry of an excluded player: if this offense occurs by the team not in possession of the ball, the offending player shall be excluded for 20 seconds and a penalty shot awarded to the opposing team; if this offense occurs by the team in possession of the ball, the offending player shall be excluded for 20 seconds and a free throw awarded to the opposing team. In both cases the offending player will receive one additional personal foul.
19. A team awarded a penalty throw in the last minute may elect not to take the penalty throw and instead may elect to keep possession of the ball with a free throw at half and a new 30-second clock.