



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WATER POLO COMMITTEES
APRIL 7, 2026, VIDEOCONFERENCE**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome and announcements.** Staff welcomed the committee to the call.
2. **Approval of 2026-27 and 2027-28 playing rules recommendations.** The men's and women's water polo committees reviewed and approved rules changes submitted by the men's and women's water polo rules working group, which included:
 - a. Permit the use of video review during NCAA postseason when available.
 - b. Amend that each team shall consist of seven players in the water, only one of whom shall be provided goalkeeper privileges provided a goalkeeper's cap is worn.
 - c. Permit officials to determine if the entry of an excluded player would have affected whether a goal would have been scored provided the signal was given without undue delay.
 - d. Resumption of play after a regular timeout following a timeout requested by the team scored upon.
 - e. Protocol to address a change of ends request prior to or during the pregame meeting.
 - f. Amend acts of simulation committed by the team in possession of the ball and the team not in possession of the ball. In both cases, play shall be restarted as after a timeout, and the offending player shall be assessed a minor act of misconduct but shall not be excluded.
 - g. A player excluded for a minor act of misconduct during interval time may not reenter the game until 20 seconds of playing time has elapsed.
 - h. Align the penalty for early entry to be the same regardless of the position of the excluded player, with no game exclusion assessed in either case.
 - i. Team awarded a free throw on or behind the half-distance line with a new possession clock and will start play as after a goal.
 - j. Penalties to address failure to properly serve a game suspension, which would include an additional two-game suspension for the player and head coach.

The committees agreed the rules working group should address any outstanding rules interpretations issues during the off-year of the rules change cycle.

3. **National Collegiate committee review.** Staff provided an update on the review of National Collegiate committees, including the timeline and goals for the review. The committees noted

that the current composition (i.e., five voting members, with the secretary-rules editor as a non-voting member) works well and agreed that the two committees should remain separate.

4. **Banquets.** The committees agreed that both championships should continue to have a banquet as it enhances the experience. The committees directed staff to ensure that future hosts receive clear expectations (e.g., program is appropriate length, ample food available, guest speakers with a message that resonates with water polo student-athletes) to ensure a positive experience for participants.
5. **Selection criteria.** The committees discussed shared concerns with the current Rating Percentage Index calculation. The men's committee has previously reviewed an adjusted RPI that weighs nonconference contests differently. The women's committee will review similar data at the annual meeting. The committees noted that other selections metrics (e.g., KPI, NPI) may be worth reviewing in the future as well.

Committee Chairs: Ted Minnis, Harvard University, The Ivy League
Wes Yourth, University of the Pacific, West Coast Conference

Staff Liaison: Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances

NCAA Men's and Women's Water Polo Committees April 7, 2026, Joint Videoconference	
Attendees:	
David Alberstein, Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Natalie Benson, California State University, Fresno.	
Brian Kelly, Iona University.	
Andrea Lapointe, Harvard University.	
Daniel Leyson, University of California, Davis.	
Greg Lonzo, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges.	
Ted Minnis, Harvard University.	
Erica Montebaro, University of California, Irvine.	
Meghan Morphy, Gannon University.	
Wes Yourth, University of the Pacific.	
Absentees:	
Matt Anderson, Connecticut College.	
Guests in Attendance.	
Steve Redding, National Coordinator of Officials.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Karen Kirsch.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Stanley Broaden, Kerstin Hunter and Autumn Monaghan.	