



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WATER POLO COMMITTEES
JULY 15, 2026, ELECTRONIC VOTE**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

- **Video review protocol.** The men's and women's water polo committees approved the video review protocol to be used at the NCAA water polo championships effective for the 2026-27 academic year [Attachment]. Video review was adopted as a permissive playing rule for the postseason only in April 2026.

Committee Chairs: Ted Minnis, Harvard University, The Ivy League
Wes Yourth, University of the Pacific, West Coast Conference
Staff Liaisons: Karen Kirsch, Championships and Alliances
Brittney Jackson, Division I Governance and Member Services

NCAA Men's and Women's Water Polo Committees July 15, 2026, Electronic Vote	
Attendees:	
Matt Anderson, Connecticut College.	
Andrea Lapointe, Harvard University.	
Daniel Leyson, University of California, Davis.	
Greg Lonzo, Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps Colleges.	
Ted Minnis, Harvard University.	
Erica Monteabaro, University of California, Irvine.	
Meghan Morphy, Gannon University.	
Wes Yourth, University of the Pacific.	
Absentees:	
David Alberstein, Secretary-Rules Editor.	
Natalie Benson, California State University, Fresno.	
Brian Kelly, Iona University.	
Guests in Attendance.	
None.	
NCAA Staff Liaisons in Attendance:	
Brittney Jackson and Karen Kirsch.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
None.	



NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WATER POLO VIDEO REVIEW PROTOCOL

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this video review protocol is to promote the accuracy, integrity and transparency of decision-making in water polo through the assistance of technology.

2. APPLICABILITY AND AUTHORIZATION

This protocol applies where video review technology is in place and authorized for use during a game under the NCAA Men's and Women's Water Polo Rules. The decisions of the referees in water polo games remain final, including in circumstances where a video review occurs under this protocol. The referees may make any appropriate decision under this protocol following a video review.

3. SCOPE

Video review may be conducted only for the following circumstance(s):

- Goal/no goal situations during postseason play (i.e., during the National Collegiate Men's and Women's Water Polo Championships), limited only to whether the ball fully crossed the goal line.

4. VIDEO REVIEW SOURCES

Sources to be used for video review must be third party, professional video sources. Allowable sources include, but are not limited to, broadcast video, streaming video and video obtained from dedicated fixed camera systems intended to monitor progress of the game. Use of video prepared by team videographers, video prepared in support of referee evaluations and amateur video provided by nonparticipants is prohibited.

For games authorized to use video review, the video source(s) approved for use shall be identified and communicated to all participants before the start of the game. Video sources not identified before the game shall not be considered in support of video review.

5. VIDEO REVIEW INITIATION

Video review may be initiated by the referees on their own initiative. In addition, each team is allowed to submit one head coach's challenge of a decision made by a referee during the game subject to the provisions of Section 7 (head coach's challenges).

6. GAME STOPPAGE FOR VIDEO REVIEW

If it is deemed necessary to conduct a video review, whether initiated by the referees or by a coach's challenge, the referee will stop the game at the next appropriate moment and will signal that there will be a video review by the motion of creating a square with one's index fingers. An appropriate moment for game stoppage may be, but is not necessarily limited to, when:

- a. There is a stoppage in play resulting from a foul, a corner throw, a goal or a timeout;
- b. The team in possession of the ball would neither lose nor gain a clear advantage from the game being stopped; or
- c. Neither team has possession of the ball.

In any event, a video review may be conducted no later than at the conclusion of the first possession after the occurrence that is to be the subject of the review. No video review can be conducted after that point.

7. HEAD COACH'S CHALLENGES

To signal a head coach's challenge, the head coach (or acting head coach) must drop a red flag on the deck between the team's defensive six-meter line and the halfway line and make the video review hand signal (the motion of creating a square with one's fingers).

A head coach's challenge may be made only with respect to a referee's perceived failure to conduct a video review of any circumstances that may be reviewed under Section 3 (scope). A head coach's challenge may not be made to challenge a decision made as a result of a video review.

If a head coach's challenge is requested when it is not permitted as described in this section, the challenge is invalid and will be rejected. Also, the team that made the invalid challenge will have used its one challenge and will not be able to make any further challenges for the remainder of the game.

If a coach's challenge is successful, the team that made the coach's challenge will retain its right to make only one additional coach's challenge during the game. Neither team is allowed to make more than two coach's challenges in a game, even if both are successful.

8. CONDUCT OF THE VIDEO REVIEW

During the stoppage of the game for video review, the referee will remove the ball from the water for the duration of the review. The referees shall, where possible, remain visible from the field of play. The officials shall prioritize the accuracy of their decision. There is no time limit for a video review or any obligation for the referee to conduct the review quickly.

During the stoppage of the game for video review, players in the water shall return to their bench areas. Players not in the water, coaches and staff shall remain in their bench areas. The referee

who is not conducting the video review will oversee and instruct the players of both teams so that they can take the correct positions on the restart of play. During a video review both teams may make substitutions in accordance with Rule 2-7-c.

The referee closest to the video review monitor will review the situation and make the decision to uphold or overturn the call or no-call in question. In doing so, the referee may, at the sole discretion of the referee, consult with the other referee, the national coordinator of officials, the secretary-rules editor and, in cases of goal/no goal reviews, the goal judges.

The result or score of a game will not be invalidated by any of the following, none of which are grounds for filing of a protest:

- a. Any malfunction of the video review technology;
- b. Any decisions involving a video review that are considered to be incorrect;
- c. Any decision to conduct or to not conduct a video review; or
- d. Any incident involving circumstances which are not reviewable under the scope of this protocol.

9. STANDARDS AND TERMINOLOGY FOR VIDEO REVIEW RESULTS

The results of a video review will be based on the following standards and described by the following terminology:

- a. The call on the deck is "Confirmed:" There is clear and convincing video evidence that the call under review is correct.
- b. The call on the deck "Stands:" There is no clear and convincing video evidence that the call under review is correct or not correct.
- c. The call on the deck is "Overturned:" There is clear and convincing evidence that the call under review is not correct.

10. VIDEO REVIEWS OF GOAL/NO GOAL SITUATIONS

When a referee has doubt as to whether a goal should be awarded, the referee will conduct a video review to decide whether to award a goal.

A coach's challenge regarding a goal/no goal situation is only valid and will be accepted only if it is signaled for within the following time limits:

- a. If a goal has been awarded, the challenge must be made before play is restarted after the award of the goal.
- b. If a goal is not awarded, the challenge must be made before the conclusion of the first possession after the decision not to award the goal.

- c. If a goal is or is not awarded on a shot at the end of a period of play, the challenge must be made within 15 seconds of the end of the period.
- d. If a goal is or is not awarded immediately before a timeout is called, the challenge must be made within the first 15 seconds of the timeout.

When a referee conducts a video review of a goal that has been awarded, the review is to be conducted immediately after the award of the goal. When a referee conducts a video review of a possible goal that has not been awarded, play is to be stopped to conduct the review at the next appropriate moment as specified in Section 6 (game stoppage for video review).

If a goal that has been awarded is confirmed during video review, the game will restart in the normal manner after a goal as described in Rule 4-25.

If a goal that has been awarded is overturned during video review, the game will restart with a free throw to be taken inside the defensive two-meter line by the goalkeeper or a field player of the team that would have been scored on if the goal had been confirmed. Field players for each team may take any position in their respective defensive halves of the field of play.

If a possible goal that has not been awarded is subsequently awarded during video review, the game will restart in the normal manner after a goal as described in Rule 4-25. The game clock will be reset to the moment when the goal would have been scored, and the shot clock will be reset. Any goals, personal fouls or timeouts that occur between the moment when the goal would have been scored and the time of the video review shall not be counted. Any yellow cards, red cards, and acts of misconduct (including flagrant misconduct) and their associated consequences that occur between the moment when the goal would have been scored and the time of the video review shall remain and be unaffected by the results awarding of the goal.

If a possible goal that has not been awarded is confirmed by the video review not to be a goal, the game will restart with a free throw by the team that was in possession of the ball when play was stopped for the review. The free throw will be taken at the position of the ball at the time the game was stopped for the video review. Neither the game clock nor the shot clock will be reset. Field players for each team may take any position in the field of play.

D. Alberstein

NCAA Water Polo Secretary-Rules Editor