



## MEMORANDUM

January 15, 2021

TO: Men's and Women's Water Polo Conference Commissioners and Head Coaches.

FROM: Brian Streeter, secretary-rules editor,  
NCAA Men's and Women's Water Polo Rules Subcommittee.

SUBJECT: NCAA Men's and Women's Water Polo Rules Updates and Preseason Reminders.

As we approach the start of the 2020-21 seasons for men's and women's water polo, I would like to wish the entire membership the best of luck during the coming season. This season will present new challenges for competition, but our goal is to provide a safe and equitable competitive arena for all student-athletes, coaches and officials.

The NCAA Water Polo Rules Subcommittee approved a waiver earlier this fall to address concerns regarding mitigating the potential spread of COVID-19. The waiver of Rule 2.2.c reads as follows:

For the 2020-21 season for men's and women's water polo, the interval time between periods and halftime shall be increased to allow for the bench area to be sanitized to permit teams to switch bench areas (Rule 2.2.c).

The current playing rules require interval times between the first and second period and third and fourth period be three minutes and the interval time between the second and third period be five minutes. No specific time was designated to allow venues to complete sanitizing within local guidelines.

As conferences continue to develop pre-game and in-game protocols, **please note that nail checks of athletes remain a required playing rule and must be accommodated for in game protocols.** While maintaining responsible physical distance to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 is a priority, the safety of student-athletes in the water from potential cuts does remain a focus of the playing rules.

If you have any questions regarding NCAA Water Polo playing rules, please contact Brian Streeter ([bfs6@psu.edu](mailto:bfs6@psu.edu)) or Ben Brownlee ([bbrownlee@ncaa.org](mailto:bbrownlee@ncaa.org)).

cc: NCAA Men's Water Polo Committee  
NCAA Women's Water Polo Committee  
Selected NCAA staff

National Collegiate Athletic Association

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