



## **NCAA Water Polo Interpretations and Clarifications 2020 – 2021**

**February 17, 2021  
COVID-19 Related Waiver**

The Water Polo Rules Subcommittee has approved a playing rules waiver related to COVID-19.

**Rule 2 – Section 2 – Team Bench, Changing Ends** – A waiver is approved for the 2020-21 season to permit teams to remain at the same bench for the entire game. If the home institution or local health policy directs that teams shall not change ends of the pool as provided by Rule 2.2, the visiting team shall have the choice as to at which end of the pool they would like to sit during the game.

**Clarification** – Rule 2, Section 2 does not mandate the crossing of teams during interval time. Teams may change ends by rotating around the pool clockwise, avoiding passing by each other and allowing the venue staff time to clean the benches prior to the teams arriving to the new end. Interval time was extended this past year, just for the convenience of the host school, giving them time to clean the benches as teams switch ends.

**Clarification** – Rule 1, Section 8, requires that the team benches be located on the same side of the pool. Benches shall not be placed at corners diagonal from one another.

**Rule 1 – Section 11** Use of artificial communication devices.

No item may be used on the bench to get the attention of a player or referee other than the head coach's voice.

**Rule 2 – Section 5 Art. 1 (Note)**

A meeting of captains and officials shall take place prior to the game. Due to COVID, all participants should wear a mask when meeting. Some conferences have requested this not occur. However, it is important for the officials to review rules of the game, etc., and the wearing of masks by all involved will assist in providing a safe environment for those participating in the pre-game meeting. Pre-game finger nail checks also need to be completed before the start of a game to maintain a safe playing environment. Wearing masks by all during the finger nail checks will assist in maintaining a safe environment for all involved.

**Rule 4 – Section 6 Art. 3 Regular Time-outs**

The air horn is the designated device to be used to signal a time out, if not heard by voice or seen by showing a T formation with the coach's hands. By rule, coaches are not to have conversations with an official during play.

**Rule 4 – Section 25. Leaving Field of Play**

The rule reads, “If a player voluntarily leaves the field of play, under the sideline or goal line other than their own re-entry area, they shall be permitted to re-enter the field of play from the re-entry area nearest to that player’s goal line or from anywhere after one of the following:

- a. A goal is scored.
- b. A time-out; or
- c. End of the period.”

**Clarification** – When the player who left the field of play reaches their own re-entry area, they may re-enter the field of play immediately. If a goal is scored, a time-out is called, or the period ends before the player reaches their re-entry area, the player may re-enter from anywhere.

**November 13, 2020**

**Rule 5 – Section 4. Corner Throws – Where Taken**

The rule reads, “The corner throw shall be taken by a player of the attacking team from the 2-meter mark on the side nearest where the ball crossed the goal line. The throw need not be taken by the nearest player but shall be taken without undue delay. A player taking a corner throw may shoot directly once put in play (a) fake the shot, (b) swim and shoot without passing or (c) pass to another player.”

**Clarification** – The player has the three options listed in Rule 5.4 when taking a corner throw. The player taking the corner throw is permitted shoot directly or once the ball is put in play, fake then shoot, swim and shoot without passing or pass to another player.