

World Water Polo Referees Association

<http://wwpra.org/>



## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR FINA WATER POLO RULES 2014 Meeting with Chairman of TWPC FINA, Mr. Gianni Lonzi**

The FINA Water Polo Congress that was held recently in Cancun, Mexico ideas and comments about our game was discussed and raised. A concerning statistic was that referees whistle approximately 150 times per game (approximately 80 times for ordinary fouls).

Referees may use **HAND SIGNALS** in many occasions instead of whistling E.G: start and restart of the game, taking penalty shot.

If referees watch the game they can see that many fouls are unnecessary and therefore must stop whistling these types of fouls.

Referees must see all fouls but award only those, which have an effect on the game, or the action. Advantage must be a priority part of water polo.

### **WP 20: ORDINARY FOULS**

**WP20.1 NOTE:** *The referees must award ordinary fouls in accordance with Rules to enable the attacking team to develop an advantage situation. However, the referees MUST have regard to the special circumstance of WP 7.3 – (ADVANTAGE).*

Many fouls are awarded as a result of simulation, or players demand,

*“Give me a foul”.*

Referees should award ordinary fouls only if the foul was actually committed.

Players head under the water does not mean that a foul was committed. Fouls cannot be a gift. Ordinary fouls should be awarded only if an attacking player loses possession of the ball as a result of the foul. The same criteria should be used when awarding a contra-foul. Contra-fouls should be awarded, when there is clear advantage as a result of the foul and ball is in the area. It is very important to note that this foul has a big influence on the game and that the ball is in the area. Nobody understands a contra-foul that is awarded when the ball is far away.

**REFEREES SHOULD AVOID AWARDING NON IMPORTANT FOULS.  
(INCONSEQUENTIAL FOULS)**

In practice, if referees delay when awarding an ordinary foul for an attacking player,

many times they pass the ball without foul. Also many fouls are awarded even if the player who commits the foul is already moving back from the attacker, and has no intention to continue with the impeding. This situation can be left without signalling a foul. Reducing unnecessary fouls, referees will step backwards and allow the players play the game.

### **WP 21: EXCLUSION FOULS**

Exclusion fouls are major fouls and an important decision and advantage to the opposite team. That is why referees should apply this rule within the spirit of the game and advantage.

It is difficult to watch the games with 30 or more exclusions. Referees should apply the rule: WP21.13: AGGRESSIVE OR PERSISTANT FOUL PLAY (exclusion with substitution).

Many exclusion fouls are awarded automatically. When referees award exclusion fouls they MUST see a clear intention of the attacker's action, to score a goal, move with the ball and on the other hand a clear intention of the defender to stop this action, prevent a goal or pass. Exclusion fouls must be avoided when the foul has no influence on the game. Sometimes an ordinary foul instead of an exclusion foul (centre-forward position) is a better decision. With an ordinary foul, the attacking team remains in possession of the ball. We cannot punish a defender if they show a clear intention to get to the ball (not the attacker). Exclusion foul MUST have clear influence on the game. Referee must see all fouls, but award the ones important for the game.

### **WP 22: PENALTY FOUL.**

- The foul must be committed inside the 5 meter line.
- The attacker must be facing the goal completely.
- The attacker is not holding the ball.
- The attacker's intention is to score a goal.
- The pass to the attacker must be correct.

### **SUMMARY.**

The goal is to reduce unnecessary whistling.

Instead of a whistle, sometimes referees can use hand signals to explain a situation.

Apply advantage in spirit of the game.

Referee should interfere only when it's important and necessary for the spirit of the game according to the rules.

WWR committee

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