

Case Book (Situations) for the 2009-10 NFHS Water Polo Rules
Including Applicable Cases from 2007-08 and 2008-09 Case Books
(revised 8-24-09) New or revised situations are marked with an asterisk.

Rule 1: Field of Play and Equipment

Rule 1-1: Pregame Inspection; Rule 1-4: Pool Dimensions; and Rule 7-7: Referee Reporting Responsibility

Situation: The referee noted in the pregame inspection that the pool to be used for the game was 75 feet wide. No sidelines were available. What is the responsibility of the referee in this situation?

Ruling: The width of the water polo course may not exceed 20 meters (66 feet). The referee must inform the administrator in charge before the game of the requirement to have sidelines (marked correctly) in place to decrease the size of the pool to the correct maximum width. After the game, the referee must report this deficiency to the state association office, school athletic director and assigning authority, unless determined otherwise by state association policy, in order that this may be corrected.

*Rule 1-1: Sounds of Clock Buzzers and Rule 7-7: Referee Reporting Responsibility

Situation: The referee noted in the pregame inspection that the buzzer for the expiration of time on the game clock has the same sound as that of the buzzer on the shot clock. What is the responsibility of the referee in this situation?

Ruling: The requirement for a difference in the sounds of the buzzers of the game clock and of the shot clock was published July 1, 2007, and was effective July 1, 2009. The referee must report this deficiency to the administrator in charge and afterwards to the state association office, school athletic director and assigning authority, unless determined otherwise by state association policy, in order that this may be corrected. To temporarily solve the problem, the referee should instruct either the game timer or the shot clock timer to sound an air horn or whistle when the game clock reaches 0:00. This is usually the responsibility of the shot clock timer, as the shot clock is blanked when less than 30 seconds remain in a period and a new period of possession is awarded.

*Rule 1-6: Pool Markings and Rule 7-7: Referee Reporting Responsibility

Situation: The referee noted in the pregame inspection that the institution did not have correctly colored sidelines, cones and long, horizontal markers of the correct color on the pool deck. What should be the action of the referee prior to the game?

Ruling: The pool course must be marked correctly, in accordance with the current rules, effective July 1, 2007. However, the institution is not required to have all the possible deck markings. The referee must check that all measurements are taken from the goal line. The requirement to have the 2-meter mark measured only in meters was published July 1, 2008, effective July 1, 2009. Correctly colored sidelines are required if the pool width exceeds 20 meters or 66 feet. If there are horizontal markings on the pool deck, it is preferable that these markings extend down over the side of the pool so that they are clearly visible from the water and from the other side of the pool. Cones are not required if the sidelines are marked correctly or, if sidelines are not required, if there are correct markings for the goal line, 2-meter line, 5-meter line and half-distance line on the pool deck. However, the use of cones of adequate size, color, and weight on the pool deck is to be encouraged as these are very easy for players, coaches and referees to see during the game. The referee must report any deficiency to the administrator in charge and afterwards to the state association office, school athletic director and assigning authority, unless determined otherwise by state association policy, in order that this may be corrected.

Rule 1-6: Non-Conforming Pool Markings and Rule 7-7: Referee Reporting Responsibility

Situation: A pool course was of the correct dimensions, but the markings (color and position) in the sidelines, the markings (color and position) on the pool deck and the color and placement of cones did not agree with each other (a painted mark on the pool deck was 6 inches from the change in color of the sidelines which was slightly different from the location of the cones). What should be the action of the referee prior to the game?

Ruling: One type of boundary marking (sidelines, cones, or deck markers) does not take precedence over the other types of markings. The referee must point out major deficiencies to the administrator in charge or, if no administrator is present, to the coach. Any possible change in markings should be made at that time and both teams informed which marking is the correct marking, if they still differ. After the match, the referee must report any issues with the course markings to the state association office, school athletic director and assigning authority, unless determined otherwise by state association policy, in order that this may be corrected.

*Rule 1-7: Size of the Re-Entry Area; Referee Reporting Responsibility

Situation: The referee noted that the size of the re-entry area was 2 yards in length rather than 2 meters in length. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee must point out this deficiency to the administrator in charge. After the match, the referee must report this issue with the course markings to the state association office, school athletic director and assigning authority, unless determined otherwise by state association policy, in order that this may be corrected.

Rule 1-7: Re-Entry Area

Situation: The re-entry area was not marked on the end line at either end of the pool. An excluded player from the visiting team entered the field of play during play at the signal of the referee for a change in possession. At the next stoppage, without taking away the advantage, the home team coach protested, saying that the player entered outside the re-entry area and should have been penalized for entering the field of play improperly (Rule 21-13). What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: Since the area was not marked at either end of that coach's pool and since neither the referee nor the exclusion secretary considered the player to be outside the unmarked boundary, the protest should be denied. The referee, however, should have noted this deficiency during the pregame inspection of the facility and should not have started the game until the re-entry area was marked at the correct position by using a towel, cone, etc. The referee should report the lack of required pool markings to the administrator in charge, the state association and the assigning authority, unless determined otherwise by state association policy, in order that this may be corrected.

Rule 1-7: Re-Entry Area

Situation: The re-entry area on the end lines or pool wall was marked in red at one meter on the boundary line at both ends of the field of play, instead of at the required two meters. An excluded player re-entered the field of play outside the marked area at approximately 1.5 meters. The exclusion secretary blew the whistle for an improper re-entry. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: Since the player entered the field of play outside the marked re-entry area, the re-entry shall be considered an improper re-entry and Rule 21-13 shall be applied. The referee, however, should have noted this error in pool marking during the pregame inspection of the facility and should have had the host mark the re-entry areas correctly before the game began. The referee should report the lack of required pool markings to the administrator in charge, the state association, and the assigning authority, in order that this may be immediately corrected.

Rule 1-12: Use of Video

Situation: A player's nose is broken in a game. During the game, the coach requests to use his/her game tape to prove that an opposing player deliberately hit the player. Is this allowed?

Ruling: No. The use of videotapes by officials to make decisions related to the game, during the game, is prohibited.

*Rule 1-12: Use of Video

Situation: One team's video showed behavior of a coach that would merit the award of a red card. This was not detected by the referees during the game. Can video review be used to award a red card after a game?

Ruling: No. The use of replay or television monitoring by officials to make decisions related to the game is prohibited. Individual state associations may develop policy regarding the electronic recording of games and uses of the video.

Rule 3: The Ball

Rule 3-5, Rule 8-3: Ball Retrieval Over Goal Line

Situation: A ball went over the goal line and remained outside the field of play. A second ball landed in a similar area. The goalkeeper then left the field of play to retrieve one of the balls. What should the referee call in this situation?

Ruling: The referee should exclude the goalkeeper for 20 seconds for leaving the field of play without permission (Rule 21-4). To prevent this situation from occurring, five game-quality balls must be available for all championship games and are recommended for all games, one with the referee and two at each bench. When a ball goes out of bounds over the goal line, the coach must have a team member from the bench immediately retrieve the ball and return it to the bench. If the coach does not do this, the referee shall warn the coach and, at the next occurrence, shall give the coach a yellow card.

Rule 3-5: Ball Retrieval Over Sideline

Situation: The ball landed between the sideline and pool wall. The player swam under the sideline, retrieved the ball and swam back into the field of play. What should be the referee call in this situation?

Ruling: The referee should exclude the player for 20 seconds for leaving the field of play without permission (Rule 21-4). The player should retrieve a ball only if it is immediately outside the field of play where the player may reach over the sideline to retrieve the ball without leaving the field of play. (See also Rule 19-1.)

Rule 4: Caps

*Rule 4-2 and Rule 4-3: Color of Ear Guards

Situation: May the goalkeeper on the visiting team wear a red and white paneled cap with dark ear guards?

Ruling: No. The ear guards on the cap of the visiting goalkeeper must be white as an aid to the rapid identification of this player as a member of the visiting team. The ear guards of the goalkeeper of the home team must be dark to match those on the caps of the dark (home) team. They may be red only if the home team caps are red. Rule 4-6 provides that if the caps do not meet specifications, the game may be played if there is mutual agreement of both teams and of the referees that the cap numbers are clearly visible. After the match, the referee must report this issue with the cap to the state association office, school athletic director and assigning authority, unless determined otherwise by state association policy, in order that this may be corrected (Rule 4-6 and Rule 7-7).

Rule 4-5: Goalkeeper's Swim Cap Color

Situation: During the pregame meeting, the referee noted that the visiting goalkeeper wore a white swim cap under the water polo cap. Is this permitted?

Ruling: Yes. Rule 4-5 states that the color of the goalkeeper's swim caps must be red or a color which matches the color of the water polo cap as closely as possible. Therefore, the swim cap worn by a visiting goalkeeper may be white or red, either color of which matches a panel in the water polo cap of the goalkeeper. This rule allows all members of a team to wear swim caps of the same color.

Rule 4-6: Lack of Adherence of Water Polo Caps to Rules

Situation: During the pregame meeting, the referee noted that the visiting goalkeeper wore a solid red water polo cap. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should inform the captain that the cap is not in compliance with the rules and the cap should be changed. If the team does not have the correct cap and is not able to borrow one from the other team, the usual method of handling this situation is to allow the game to proceed as opposed to forfeiting the game, but the referee should inform the administrator in charge of the lack of adherence of the cap to

the rule. After the match, the referee must report this issue with the cap to the state association office, school athletic director and assigning authority, unless determined otherwise by state association policy, in order that this may be corrected (Rule 4-6 and Rule 7-7).

Rule 5: Teams and Substitutes

Rule 5-1: Number of Players, Illegal Player

Situation: A player received a third personal foul, an exclusion foul, at 6:04 in the fourth period and was immediately substituted. The scorekeeper raised the red flag and lowered it after the substitution. Later in the period a goal was scored at 1:04. The player with the third personal foul entered the field of play at that time after the goal and was observed by the desk at 0:46, just as a goal was scored by that team. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: Since a desk error was not involved, the referee should remove the player for the remainder of the game, remove the goal scored at 0:46, reset the game clock to 1:04, reset the shot clock, and award a penalty throw (Rule 22-6), with the substitute for the player with three personal fouls in the re-entry area until the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3.

***Rule 5-1 and Rule 7-9-a: Entry of a Player with Three Personal Fouls Not Red-Flagged by Desk**

Situation: The blue team was leading 4-2. Blue player #5 was excluded for 20 seconds at 4:23 in the second period, that foul making his/her third personal foul. The desk failed to signal this with the red flag. Blue #5 re-entered play immediately after the extraman goal was scored by the white team at 4:15 (making the score 4-3). Play continued with the white team scoring an additional two goals, making the score 4-5. During this time, white player #6 received his/her third personal foul, an exclusion foul. The error on blue #5 was not noticed until the next period immediately after blue player #3 scored a goal, making the score 5-5 at 3:13 in the third period. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should call the ball out and ask the coach of the white team which option the coach prefers:

(1) To go back to the time that blue player #5 with the third personal foul entered the game (at the time that the extraman goal scored at 4:15) in the second period, taking away all goals scored except the extraman goal scored at 4:15 and all fouls awarded during this period of time (there were no cards, misconduct or flagrant misconduct fouls awarded during this time). The referee should remove blue #5 and restart the game with a score of 4-3 in favor of the blue team, with the clock reset to 4:15, the time of the extraman goal **OR**

(2) To not reset the clock, keeping all goals and fouls awarded during this time (including any goals scored by blue #5), remove blue #5 at this time (3:13 in the third period) for the remainder of the game, score blue 5, white 5.

***Rule 5-2: Position of Head Coach**

Situation: After a goal, may the head coach walk up to half to make substitutions and to talk with the team?

Ruling: Yes. Although the rule states “the head coach may freely advance along the pool side”, it is generally understood that this means up to the half-distance mark. (The half-distance mark is specified as the maximum position of the head coach under the description of the 30-second time-out.)

Rule 5-2-2: Assistant Coach

Situation: The assistant coach stands behind the goal line during play. What is the penalty for this action?

Ruling: The assistant coach must remain seated on the bench at all times except during a time-out or after a goal or during a lengthy stoppage of play. The assistant coach may also move behind the bench to take care of or to speak to a player behind the bench. However, if the assistant coach stands during play, the referee may issue a warning followed by a yellow card. If the assistant coach stands, moves up to the 5-meter line **and** coaches, the referee shall issue a red card immediately.

***Rule 5-2: Role of Assistant Coach During Play**

Situation: The rule requires the assistant coach to sit on the bench during play. May the assistant coach call out instructions to players during play?

Ruling: Yes. There is no rule prohibiting the assistant coach from speaking to players during play, provided that the assistant coach is seated. The assistant coach may not speak to the referee, however, at any time during a game.

*Rule 5-2: Role of Assistant Coach with Counter Balls

Situation: Rule 3-5 provides that if there are not goal judges, it is recommended that there should be two balls at each bench and one with the referee. May the assistant coach throw in a counter ball? To enable the throw, may the assistant coach stand for the throw and then immediately sit down again?

Ruling: The assistant coach may throw in a counter ball. The assistant coach may stand to throw in the counter ball as long as the assistant coach then immediately sits down after the throw. The rule requiring the assistant coach to sit on the bench at all times does not pertain to this type of action. The assistant coach may not shout out instructions to the players while standing or comment to the referees at any time.

*Rule 5-4-1: Women's Suits

Situation: In the pregame meeting and inspection of players prior to a women's game, the referee noted that one of the goalkeepers wore a water polo suit with narrow straps and low back. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The goalkeeper may wear a low back competitive suit, but the straps must be at least 1" in width. If the straps are very narrow (spaghetti straps), the referee should inform the player and coach of the requirement, and ask her to change suits. If no suit is available, the referee should allow the player to compete, but must report this to the state association office, school athletic director and the assigning authority, unless determined otherwise by state association policy, in order that this may be corrected.

*Rule 5-4-1: Women's Suits

Situation: The referee notes that the players on a women's team are wearing suits that differ in color and style from each other. What action should the referee take?

Ruling: No action. Although all suits must be non-transparent and one piece, there is no rule they must be of the same style and color as long as the style conforms with the rules.

*Rule 5-4-3: Suit Replacement

Situation: In a tournament, with 44 seconds remaining in the period, a player on offense from the blue team grabbed the suit of a player on the white team and caused exposure. The referees excluded the blue player for 20 seconds and turned the ball over. The coach of the white team immediately called a 30 second time-out. Since the suit of the white player was ripped, the player put a new suit over the old one, taking longer than 30 seconds. May the referee turn the ball over to the other team? May the referee change the 30 second time-out into a regular two-minute time-out?

Ruling: If a replacement suit is readily available at the team bench and if the coach notified the referees before the game that replacement suits are immediately available at the bench, the player may put the suit on over the original suit, usually remaining in the water while doing this, and then continue play. No maximum time is specified in the rules for the replacement of either a suit or cap, but the suit or cap replacement must not take away the advantage. This was not an issue in this case since play was stopped for the time-out. In addition, a referee may not change a 30 second time-out into a regular time-out, even if it takes longer than 30 seconds to put on the suit.

Rule 5-4-3: Zippers

Situation: The zipper on the suit of a field player is unzipped or broken. What action should the referee take?

Ruling: A zipper which is not fully zipped or is broken is considered to be an article which is likely to cause injury to either that player or to another player. If the zipper becomes unzipped during the game, the

player should zip up the suit at the next appropriate stoppage of the game, when that player's team is in possession of the ball, without taking away the advantage (Rule 7-3), just as in the cap replacement rule (Rule 4-1). If the zipper can not be zipped up at that time or if the zipper is broken or suit is torn, the referee shall remove the player, allow the immediate entrance of a substitute, and the original player may be substituted in after the problem is corrected. No foul is charged to that player. This rule applies to the goalkeeper as well as to the field players if the goalkeeper's suit has a zipper. However, if the coach has replacement suits available at the bench and the coach has informed the referee before the game of the availability of replacement suits, the player may immediately put on a suit over the original suit and continue play.

Rule 5-4-3: Articles Likely to Cause Injury

Situation: A player requests permission to wear a padded cast or a finger splint. Should the referee allow this?

Ruling: No. The referee needs to judge each article for its potential to cause injury. A padded cast on an arm could cause injury to another player as it is heavier than the normal limb. A finger splint could cause a serious eye injury. With these devices, there is also the real possibility that the player wearing these devices could suffer additional injury to the injured area, as the cast or splint do not offer complete protection. Therefore, both these articles are prohibited by the rules.

*Rule 5-4-3: Finger Splint or Cast

Situation: The referee notes in the pregame inspection that a player is wearing a finger splint and has a release signed by a physician or trainer. Should the referee permit the player to play with the splint?

Ruling: No. The referee needs to judge each article for its potential to cause injury; however, both a finger splint and a cast, even if padded, are regarded as articles likely to cause injury, either to the player wearing the item or to an opponent, and both are specifically prohibited in the rules. The waiver (release) is to be used for items such as goggles, a face mask, or a nose guard composed of a plastic or similar material designed not to cause injury upon impact.

Rule 5-4-3: Articles Likely to Cause Injury

Situation: The referee noted that an injured player was wearing a nose guard or face mask made of high impact plastic and soft rubber during a game to protect the nose or orbit from further injury. What is the action of the referee?

Ruling: Although these would usually be regarded as articles likely to cause injury either to the player wearing the article or to an opposing player, the nature of these particular protective devices is that they would not be likely to cause injury. Therefore, after the player, parents, prescribing physician and institution are informed of the rules and interpretations regarding the use of this type of appliance and they provide a signed release which covers the state association, the conference, and the referees from any liability, the player could use this type of device. This release must be provided to the referees before each game. Each state association should establish its procedures for the type of form used.

Rule 5-4-3: Articles Likely to Cause Injury

Situation: In order to participate safely, a player requires prescription goggles due to eye surgery. The athlete has written clearance from the doctor and parents. Since goggles are prohibited, the school has contacted the state association and received written permission as this special goggle does not appear likely to cause injury due to the special material. The letter is provided to the referee prior to competition.

Ruling: Correct procedure. The rule requires removal of articles likely to cause injury, but permits the referee to exercise discretion in making that determination. In this situation, an article that is generally prohibited can be considered by the state association if addressing a special need.

*Rule 5-4-3: Articles Likely to Cause Injury

Situation: The referee observes a water polo player wearing a nose stud or a ring in the nose or lip during the pregame meeting. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should require the player to remove these or similar items. These items are jewelry and are regarded as articles likely to cause injury, particularly to the player wearing these items.

Rule 5-5-2: Substances on Body

Situation: A player was detected with oil on the body after the start of the game. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should remove the player from play with immediate substitution and instruct the player to remove the oil. The player may later return to play as a substitute after the referee has checked the player. This is the same procedure followed for sharp nails. Players needing to wear sunscreen should use a product that is not oily or greasy in its final form when applied to the body.

Rule 5-6: Time of Substitution

Situation: A coach makes a substitution during a temporary stoppage of play, such as while a referee is resetting a clock. Should the referee allow this substitution?

Ruling: No. Players may not be substituted during a temporary stoppage of play, such as while a player is retrieving a cap, while a referee is checking on an injury, or while the referee is resetting a clock.

Rule 5-6: Player Not Entitled to Participate Entering Field of Play

Situation: A team attempted a live-time (direct) substitution. However, the substitute entered the field of play from the re-entry area before the departing player left the field of play at the re-entry area. What should be the call of the referee?

Ruling: It is a penalty foul for a player not entitled to participate to enter the field of play. This substitute was not entitled to participate before the original player left the field of play at the re-entry area as there are now eight players on that team in the field of play. Therefore, the substitute is excluded for the remainder of the game and a penalty foul is awarded. The penalty throw is taken with a player in the re-entry area. (See also Rule 22-6.)

Rule 5-6: Method of Substitution

Situation: A live-time (direct) substitution occurred during a game as soon as the ball turned over and that team was counterattacking down the field of play. The player leaving the pool swam under the end line halfway between the goal and the sideline. The substitute entered from the re-entry area as soon as that player left the field of play. What should be the call of the referee?

Ruling: The rule states that in a live-time substitution, the player must exit the field of play at the re-entry area nearest that player's own goal line and that the substitute may not enter the field of play at the re-entry area until the player has visibly risen to the surface of the water within the re-entry area. The substitute who entered the field of play is, therefore, considered to be a player not entitled to participate in the play at that time (Rule 22-6). The player entering is excluded for the remainder of the game and a penalty throw is awarded, with the substitute in the re-entry area. No foul is charged against the player who left the field of play.

*Rule 5-6: Method of Direct Substitution

Situation: In a live-time (direct) substitution, the player leaving the field of play swam under the end line near the goal and then swam to the re-entry area. The substitute player then entered the field of play from the re-entry area. What is the ruling?

Ruling: The substitute player entering the pool in this case has committed no violation since the player leaving the pool arrived in the re-entry area before the substitute entered the field of play. Although the rule states that the player exiting the pool must exit at the re-entry area, any penalty awarded is usually against the player entering the field of play incorrectly, rather than against the player leaving the field of play under the end line at any position as opposed to leaving the field of play directly at the re-entry area. Therefore, as long as the substitute player entering the field of play did not enter until the player leaving the field of play arrived in the re-entry area, no foul is charged.

Rule 6: Officials

Rule 6-1: Desk Observers

Situation: The visiting team has two official observers at the scoring table. The observers cheer after each goal for their team. What action should the referee take?

Ruling: The official observers at the scoring table are considered to be part of the desk officials and must act in a neutral, professional manner during a game. The desk supervisor, if present, or the referees must order the observers to cease this action or leave the scoring table.

Rule 7: Referees

Rule 7-1: Authority of Referee

Situation: A player from one team shot the ball. The referee immediately signaled a goal. The goal judge immediately signaled no goal. Which takes precedence?

Ruling: The referee has complete authority over the goal judges and desk officials; therefore, the ruling is that the goal scored.

*Rule 7-1-3: Uniform of Referees

Situation: One of the referees in a tournament game wore a white shirt and white shorts. The state association had not made an adjustment in the rules for heat-related issues. What action should the tournament director or school administrator take?

Ruling: The tournament administrator or school administrator must report violations of this rule to the state association so that this may be corrected for subsequent games.

Rule 7-2: Altering Decision

Situation: The whistle was blown for a foul. One referee pointed towards one end of the pool, indicating a change in possession. The other referee pointed towards the original offensive end. Players of the team then on defense turned to swim towards the opposite end of the pool. The referee pointing in that direction, however, dropped the hand and the team maintaining possession of the ball continued its offense. What should the referees have done in that situation?

Ruling: If the hand signals of the two referees differ (if, for example, the referees point in opposite directions), the ball should be called out of the water; play is resumed as quickly as possible when neither team has an advantage.

Rule 7-3: Advantage Rule: Time of Award of Card

Situation: A coach kicked over a deck marker cone in anger. The referee decided to issue the coach a yellow card. The referee blew the whistle to issue the yellow card while the non-offending team was countering down the pool. Is this the correct time?

Ruling: No. The rule states that the referee shall whistle to stop play to administer a red or a yellow card without taking the advantage away from the non-offending team. Therefore, the referee should have waited until the conclusion of the counterattack, then stopped play, called the ball out of the pool, showed the appropriate card, and then put the ball back into play. A goal may not be scored by a direct shot on goal in this instance.

*Rule 7-4-1: Control Over Conduct; Representative of the School on Bench

Situation: The only coach on the bench receives a red card. Must there be a representative of the school available to oversee the team when the head coach has been excluded?

Ruling: Yes. There shall be at least one authorized school staff member, such as a head coach, assistant coach, athletic administrator, etc., on the bench to oversee the team and bench personnel at all times. Only those persons meeting the state association standards shall be eligible to meet this requirement. If the head coach received a red card, the referees shall allow two minutes for an authorized school staff member to take the bench to assume coaching responsibilities. If no authorized school staff member is available, the game shall be declared a forfeit. During the next NFHS game, the coach who received the red card may

not be on the team bench because of the carry-over penalties with the issuance of a red card, but another coach or official school representative may be the designated coach on the bench.

*Rule 7-4-1: Control Over Conduct; Representative of the School on the Bench

Situation: Before the game, the referee observed that there was only one coach and no other representatives of the institution on the bench. Should the referee take any action?

Ruling: There is no requirement that the referee take any action prior to the game. To prevent a potential delay later in the game, however, the referee could ask the coach if he/she wanted to declare another representative of the school prior to the game.

*Rule 7-4-2: Control Over Conduct; Coach-Referee Discussions

Situation: The head coach approached a referee at half time, walking down to the other end of the pool past the other team's bench to the location of the referees. The referee, however, did not allow any conversation with the coach, stating that the coach could not walk past the other team's bench. Is this the correct call?

Ruling: No. The head coach may address the referee at this time. The rule provides that the head coach and captain may address the referees at intervals between periods, during time-outs, or with the permission of the referee or, in the case of the head coach, when filing a protest. They may only discuss rule clarifications and misapplication of rules with the officials at these times, not judgment calls made by the referees. The referee has to either allow the coach to come to the position of the referees or the referee should move to where the coach is located.

Rule 7-4-4,5: Control Over Conduct

Situation: The referee issued a yellow card to the bench because players were standing. One player on the bench later commented loudly on a referee's call. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should issue a red card to that player. No warning or yellow card is issued to an individual athlete. That player is excluded for the remainder of the game and for the next game.

Rule 7-4-5: Location of Coach Issued a Red Card

Situation: A coach is issued a red card. The coach remained in one corner of the pool, away from the field of play. Is this allowed?

Ruling: No. The referee must require the coach or other team official to leave the pool facility. The referee can forfeit the game if the coach refuses to leave. The issuance of the red card must be reported to the state association or other appropriate governing organization, as directed by the state association and to the principal of the offender's school.

*Rule 7-4-6: Issuance of Red Card

Situation: A referee issued a red card to a coach during a game. Must the referee stop play and call the ball out of the pool in order to award the card?

Ruling: Yes. The rule requires that when a yellow or red card is issued, the referee shall whistle to stop play without taking the advantage away from the nonoffending team, call the ball out of the pool and show the appropriate card. The referee must also notify the game secretary as to whom the card was issued. If a referee on the opposite side of the pool from the scoring table issues the red or yellow card, that referee must notify the referee on the side of the scoring table who must then inform the secretary. The referee shall then put the ball back into play. A goal may not be scored by a direct shot on goal.

Rule 7-5: Coach Behavior

Situation: A coach continually loudly criticized the referee, running down the sideline yelling at the referees. The actions of the coach incited similar behavior in the crowd. What action should the referee take?

Ruling: The referee should immediately issue a red card to the coach and order the removal of the coach from the entire precincts of the pool as the behavior of the coach prevents the referees from carrying out

their duties in a proper and impartial manner. The referee may also abandon the game (Rule 7-6) if the behavior of coaches, players or spectators prevents the game from being brought to a proper conclusion. The issue of the red card also includes the additional punishment of exclusion from the next game and must be reported as provided in Rule 7-7.

*Rule 7-7: Referee Reporting Responsibility

Situation: Must a red card be reported to the athletic director of the institution of the offending team?

Ruling: The referee must report the issuance of a red card, misconduct, flagrant misconduct, and fighting to the state association and the commissioner of the local association (when applicable) who will then be responsible for notifying the principal of the offending school. The referee usually also reports this to the assigning authority. Each state association shall establish its requirements for reporting.

*Rule 7-7: Referee Reporting Responsibility

Situation: The referee excluded a player from the remainder of the game for misconduct. How should the referee report this offense?

Ruling: Misconduct is now a reportable offense to the state association. Each state association determines whether an additional game suspension is required for the foul of misconduct and how this should be reported.

Rule 7-8: Checking and Signing Scoresheet

Situation: This rule recommends that one of the referees check the scoresheet after each period, particularly for score and number of time-outs taken. Should the referee keep track of the number of fouls issued to each player and inform a coach, when asked, how many personal fouls a player has?

Ruling: No. The referee is not responsible for keeping track of the number of personal fouls issued to each player and should not answer such a question. Each team may have an observer at the desk who may convey this information to the coach. If a coach is uncertain of the number of fouls charged to a particular player and if there is not an exclusion board, a team official may check with its representative at the desk or, at an appropriate moment, with the scorekeeper, but may not ask the referee.

Rule 7-8: Checking and Signing Scoresheet

Situation: Flagrant misconduct, a fight, and players entering the field of play during the fight occurred near the end of a game. The referees imposed the correct penalties, but did not notify the game secretary of the ruling of flagrant misconduct/fighting as required by the rules. The secretary recorded these as exclusion fouls, not as flagrant misconduct fouls, on the scoresheet. The referees signed that scoresheet after the game.

Ruling: The scoresheet is the official record of the game. The referees erred in signing a scoresheet that did not have the correct notation of these reportable fouls. The referee must check to verify that yellow and red cards, misconduct, flagrant misconduct, minor acts of misconduct and any punishment (penalty fouls) awarded subsequent to a third personal foul are recorded on the scoresheet as there are follow-up penalties for certain of these behaviors.

*Rule 7-9: Correctable Errors

Situation: The referee included errors made by players and coaches (such as a coach for calling a time-out at a time not allowed, a player swimming under the end line to retrieve a ball, or the substitute for an excluded player entering the field of play as soon as the excluded player left) in the definition of correctable errors. Is this correct?

Ruling: No, the definition of a correctable error includes technical errors by desk officials, equipment malfunction, and misapplication of rules by referees, errors which should be corrected in the interest of fairness. It does not include errors made by coaches or players.

Rule 7-9-b: Signal for Re-Entry of Player

Situation: A player is excluded for 20 seconds. The player is waved in at the proper time (both the game clock and the shot clock showed that 20 seconds had elapsed at the time of the wave-in) and the player came under the lane line with 9 seconds remaining on the shot clock as a goal scored. That team's coach stated the player was waved in incorrectly and the goal should be removed. What should be the ruling of the referee?

Ruling: The referee has the authority to determine if the error was significant. In order to disallow a goal, the error must have affected play. In this case, the flag was not late and the player coming under the lane line with 9 seconds remaining on the shot clock would be a typical response time. The referee should take no action.

Rule 7-9-h: Timing Error

Situation: The score was tied in a game. The team with white caps had the ball with 12 seconds remaining in the game and with two seconds remaining on the shot clock. The player with the ball was fouled outside the 5-meter line and the ball was knocked a few feet away. While the player was retrieving the ball, the shot clock expired. What should the referee do in this situation?

Ruling: The referee must take the ball from the water, reset the shot clock to two seconds, put two seconds back on the game clock, and then give the ball back to the player in the white cap to take the free throw. That player can not take a direct shot on goal as the ball may not be shot if the referee calls the ball out to correct a clock error (Rule 14-3-e). Although this action takes away the advantage (Rule 7-3) from the player with the ball and is against the spirit of Rule 7-9 (correctable errors), there is no other way within the rules to handle this. For example, if the referee motioned to the players to play on, the referee could not know with certainty that all players understood the situation (that they were to ignore the shot clock buzzer). In addition, if the player did not take and score a direct shot, the referee would have had to then stop play to correct the game clock error as two seconds had been run off in error. Also, the shot clock may have expired or not, depending upon the action of the player with the ball, in which case the ball might need to be turned over to the blue team.

*Rule 7-9-h: Timing Error

Situation: The referees excluded a player with 2 seconds remaining in the game. The game clock operator did not stop the clock so the clock buzzer sounded before the referee had restarted play. The referee concluded the game at that point, saying the team could not have scored with 2 seconds remaining. What should the referee have done?

Ruling: Since the time of the exclusion was at :02 (there was no disagreement on the time), the referee should have restarted play. The referee should not judge whether a team could score in the time run off in error. A player could have passed to a player who could have tipped it in the goal, since the goal would count if the buzzer sounded while the ball was in the air from the second player.

*Rule 7-9-h: Timing Error

Situation: With 20 seconds remaining in a game and with the score 4-3 in favor of the blue team, a player was excluded from the blue team. The game concluded without a goal scored or additional personal foul assessed. At that point, the losing coach protested that the game clock had been started incorrectly after that exclusion. Investigation revealed that the coach was correct. The game clock had started when one player passed the ball back to the player who the referee had indicated should put the ball into play. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referees verified that the error had occurred with four seconds being run off before the clock should have started. The referee reset the game clock to the time of the exclusion and the teams replayed the last 20 seconds of the game.

*Rule 7-10, Replay of Protested Game; Rule 5-6-2: Substitution During a Temporary Stoppage of Play

Situation: In the above situation, the protest was resolved after the conclusion of the game. Must each team restart the game with the same seven players that were in the pool for the last 20 seconds of the game? In this case, there were only 20 seconds to be replayed. In other cases, a much longer period of

time or even the entire game must be replayed. What principle must be applied to determine which players are eligible to play?

Ruling: Rule 5-6 states that players may not be substituted either from the re-entry area or from the side of the pool during a temporary stoppage of play, such as while a player is retrieving a cap, while a referee is checking on an injury or while the referee is resetting a clock. However, in the case above, the protest was made after the game was concluded; therefore, this should not be considered a temporary stoppage of play. In addition, there was no way of accurately determining which players were in the field of play for the last 20 seconds of the game other than the excluded player (that player or a substitute must be in the re-entry area). The principle to be followed is that if a game (or portion of a game) is to be replayed, then goals, fouls (including minor act of misconduct), and time-outs that occurred during the time to be replayed are lined through on the scoresheet; however, flagrant misconduct, misconduct, red cards, and yellow cards are not removed (not lined through) and are still recorded on the scoresheet. (See also Rule 5-1)

Rule 7-9-k: Interruption of Extra Player Situation

Situation: With 4:53 remaining in the game, the team with blue caps had a two goal lead and was defending a man-down situation. The white team set up its power play offense and for 17 seconds maintained possession and successfully passed the ball in order to set up an appropriate shot on goal. With three seconds remaining in the white team's man-up situation, a stray ball from an adjacent warm-up area behind the goal entered the field of play. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: If the entrance of the ball affects play, the referee should stop the game, remove the ball, instruct the timekeepers to reset the game clock and shot clock, and restart the extra player situation. It would not be in the spirit of Rule 7-9 for the referees to restart play with three seconds remaining on the player advantage situation. The offense would not have enough time to benefit from its advantage. The player with the ball who was outside the 5-meter line could not take a direct shot on goal because the referee had called for the ball (Rule 14-3-e). Knowing this, the defense would press the other five offensive players, most likely preventing a goal in the remaining three seconds. Similar action should also be taken if a lane line holding the goal in place breaks, the clock fails, etc., if the event affects the extra player advantage situation.

*Rule 7-9-k: Correctable Error During an Extraman Situation

Situation: A player who had lost his/her cap was excluded. Several players on that team had two personal fouls. The referee informed the desk that he thought the excluded player was cap number 4, who had only one personal foul. The scorekeeper waved the player in at the end of 20 seconds. It was then immediately discovered that the player was cap #6, rather than cap #4, and that cap #6 now has three personal fouls and is not eligible to play. What should the referee and/or exclusion secretary do?

Ruling: The exclusion secretary should immediately blow the whistle and inform the referee that the player has three personal fouls. The referee should remove that player for the remainder of the game, reset the clock to the time of the re-entry of that player (the time of the expiration of the exclusion), reset the shot clock to 10 seconds, and restart play. The time is reset to the time the player re-entered rather than the time of the exclusion because the exclusion time had expired without an extraman goal being scored. The shot clock was not reset as no shot had been taken and possession had not changed.

*Rule 7-10: Protest Involving Teams From Two or More Conferences

Situation: In a tournament, a protest involved teams from two different conferences. How should this protest be handled?

Ruling: If the protest is not handled by the referees and there is no tournament committee, the rule states that the protest is to be settled by the sponsoring conference or agency. If the tournament was sponsored by a particular team in a conference, the appropriate governing authority shall be the conference to which the host school belongs, per state association policy.

Rule 7-10: Protest Over Misapplication of Rules

Situation: The coach of the losing team in a situation where the referee restarted play with a 6 on 5 instead of a 6 on 4 extra player situation (due to a misapplication of the rule) filed a protest after the game within the correct time period. The protest was upheld at the site. Should the entire game be replayed at a later date or should play be resumed at the point of the referee error the same day?

Ruling: Play should resume at the point of the error that same day and all goals and fouls assessed during this time period (from the error to the end of the game) shall not count, except that the following cards and fouls shall remain as issued: any issuance of a yellow or red card, any instance of misconduct excluding minor acts of misconduct, and any instance of flagrant misconduct, including fighting. This is the procedure described in Rule 5-1 for a similar referee error.

*Rule 7-10: Who Can File a Protest

Situation: If one coach realizes that the referees have made a serious error in the application of a rule during a game in a tournament, can that coach file a protest during the game, even if that protest would seem contrary to that team's interests?

Ruling: There is nothing in the protest rule that prevents either team from filing a protest during a game. Since it could be advantageous for both teams to only replay part of one period instead of three periods, for example, if the protest were filed by the injured team after the game, either team has the right to file a protest so that the issue is looked at sooner rather than later.

*Rule 7-11: Forfeit

Situation: Two teams were scheduled to play a tournament game at 5:30 pm, but the start of the game was delayed due to the late completion of a game earlier that day. One coach informed the other coach that his/her team could not change the game time to an earlier start time as those games were also running late, could not stay later to play the game, and must leave because of travel arrangements. What is the outcome of the game?

Ruling: Unless there is mutual consent of both teams to either reschedule or cancel the game, the game is recorded as a forfeit in favor of the team which was able and ready to play the game at any time.

*Rule 8-3: Ball Retrieval Over End Line

Situation: The ball went over the end line. The goalie went under the end line to retrieve the ball and then returned to the field of play. What action should the referee take?

Ruling: The referee should exclude the player for 20 seconds for leaving the field of play without permission (Rule 21-4). The coach should have a player from the bench retrieve the ball and return it to the bench. The goal judge, if present, or the coach from the bench, should throw in a counter ball.

Rule 9: Timekeepers

Rule 9-1: Timing of Time-outs

Situation: The school does not have timing equipment that allows the game timer to readily time time-outs. Who shall time the time-outs in this situation?

Ruling: The referees must determine before the game if it is referee or if it is the game timer who will time the regular time-outs and give the warning signal (see also Rule 6-2 and Rule 12-1-1). If the school has the proper timing equipment, the game timer shall time the time-outs and give the warning signal. If the school does not have the proper equipment to time time-outs, the referees shall continue timing regular time-outs. In addition, the referees by the rules must time the 30-second time-outs if these are used as a tournament option, unless there is a time-out secretary at the desk.

*Rule 9-2: Resetting the Shot Clock

Situation: A player threw a ball into a vacant area of the pool before the expiration of 30 seconds possession. What should the referee do in this situation? What should the shot clock timer do?

Ruling: Since the foul of wasting time has been eliminated, neither the referee nor the shot clock timer should take any action until the buzzer on the shot clock sounds for the expiration of 30 seconds

possession. At that time, the referee shall blow the whistle. The shot clock is then reset and both the game clock and the shot clock are started when the ball is put into play by the opposing team.

*Rule 9-2 Time Displayed on Shot Clock

Situation: The game clock-shot clock console is set by the host so that if the shot clock is reset when less than 30 seconds remain in the period, the shot clock assumes the time on the game clock. Is this correct?

Ruling: No. Rule 9-2 states that the timekeeper shall turn off (blank) the shot clock when less than 30 seconds remain in the period and a new 30-second period of possession is awarded. Note: By default in some new timing systems, the shot clock is set so that the shot clock assumes the game time when the shot clock is reset when less than 30 seconds remain in the period. This default setting should be changed so that the shot clock blanks when it is reset when there is less than 30 seconds in the period in order to eliminate confusion on the part of the coach and players and to conform with the rules.

Rule 10: Secretaries

*Rule 10-2: Duties of the Exclusion Secretary and Rule 21-17: Interfering with Play

Situation: A player was excluded for the second time and then interfered with play while leaving the pool. A penalty foul was awarded against the excluded player, that foul making that player's third personal foul. The exclusion secretary raised the red flag to indicate that this is the third foul on that player. Does the exclusion secretary also blow the whistle?

Ruling: No. Even though the exclusion secretary usually blows the whistle and raises the red flag when a third personal foul is a penalty foul since substitution must take place before the penalty shot, that is not true in this case since the penalty throw is taken with the substitute for the excluded player in the re-entry area. Therefore, the exclusion secretary shall only raise the red flag.

Rule 11: Duration of the Game

Rule 11-5: Tournament Variation: 30-Second Time-Out

Situation: The coach on offense during a tournament called a 30-second time-out. The players swam to the side of the pool to listen to the coach. Is this permitted?

Ruling: Yes. The referee will sound the warning signal at 20 seconds (Rule 9-1, Note 2). Both teams must be ready to start at the end of 30 seconds.

*Rule 11-5: Tournament Variation: 30-Second Time-out

Ruling: The team on offense called a 30-second time-out to move the team to the other end of the pool. Both teams were ready to start after 20 seconds. Is the referee allowed to restart the game at this time?

Ruling: The referee usually gives the warning signal for a 30-second time-out at 20 seconds and starts play at 30 seconds. Due to the shortness of the 30-second time-out, it is usually not shortened even if both teams are ready a few seconds earlier.

Rule 12: Time-outs

Rule 12-2: Excluded Player Leaving Water During Time-out

Situation: An excluded player climbed from the water during any regular time-out or during a 30-second time-out in a tournament to meet with the team and then moved down the deck to the re-entry area to enter the pool when signaled. What action should the referee take?

Ruling: No action. During a time-out (either regular or 30-second) an excluded player may leave the water, meet with the team and then move down the deck to the re-entry area. If the coach is substituting for the excluded player, the excluded player does not have to go to the re-entry area before a substitute can enter the pool at the appropriate time.

Rule 12-3-1: Starting After Time-out

Situation: A time-out was called during regular play. After the warning whistle at 1:45, the teams lined up to resume play as after a time-out. The referee threw the ball on the half distance line even though the player taking the free throw was approximately 5 yards behind half. What should the referee have done?

Ruling: After a time-out (with the exception of a time-out called before a corner throw or penalty throw), the players may take any position in the field of play and one member of the team in possession of the ball must put the ball in play at or behind the half distance line. The referee should throw the ball to the player who signals that he/she is the player putting the ball into play as long as the player is behind the half distance line at the conclusion of the time-out.

*Rule 12-3-1: Time-out After the Award of a Corner Throw

Situation: A corner throw was awarded. The team on offense immediately called a time-out. How is the ball put into play after the time-out and what time should be displayed on the shot clock?

Ruling: The shot clock must be reset to 30 seconds when a corner throw is awarded (Rule 9-2-f). When a time-out is requested before the taking of a corner throw (or penalty throw), that throw shall be maintained. Therefore, play is restarted by taking the corner throw, with players taking any position in the field of play with the shot clock reset.

*Rule 12-3-2: Starting after a Time-out After Goal Was Scored

Situation: The team in blue caps scored a goal with 15 seconds remaining in the period. The team in white caps immediately called a time-out. How should play be restarted after the time-out?

Ruling: A player from the team in white caps shall put the ball in play after the time-out at or behind the half-distance line on the whistle of the referee as after a time-out. Players may take any position in the field of play.

*Rule 12-3-3: Starting After Time-out

Situation: When 30 seconds remained in a regular time-out, the players on the team on offense moved down to the offensive end of the pool. Should the referee allow this?

Ruling: No, unless the coach calling the time-out had just notified the referee that the team wanted to resume play early. The referee must inform the other team and give the warning signal at that time. If this notification of shortening had not occurred, teams may not take up their positions to restart until the referee signals when 15 seconds remain in the time-out. In this case if the coach had not requested to start early, the referee must motion the players to return to their half of the course.

Rule 12-4: Additional Time-out Requested by Team on Offense

Situation: The coach of the team in possession of the ball requested a fourth time-out by signaling with an air horn. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee must stop the game on the signal of the coach. Play shall be restarted by a player of the opposing team putting the ball into play at or behind the half distance line as after a time-out. The referee may not ignore the signal.

Rule 12-5: Defense Calls Time-out When Offense Has Possession of Ball

Situation: The coach of the team on defense signaled for a time-out when it appeared that the team on defense was about to take possession of the ball but the team on offense still actually had possession of the ball. What action should the referee take?

Ruling: Since the coach on defense called for a time-out, the referee blew the whistle and awarded a penalty shot as the team on defense was not entitled to call for a time-out at that time. The referee may not ignore the call for a time-out.

Rule 12-5: Defensive Team-Additional Time-out

Situation: The team on defense called a time-out with an air horn during a one on nobody. What should be the action of the referee and does this count as a time-out for the team?

Ruling: The referee should blow the whistle, stopping play, and then award a penalty throw to the team on offense. This request for a time-out does not count as a time-out for the team on defense. If the referee believed that this action was a deliberate effort by the coach on defense to stop the fast break

and prevent the scoring of a goal, the action of the coach could be regarded as disruptive behavior and the referee could issue the coach a red card (Rule 7-4).

Rule 13: The Start of Play

***Rule 13-1: Coin Toss**

Situation: The head coach of one of the teams in a tournament game requested a coin toss prior to the start of the game, stating that the sun was a factor. The program contained the wording that the team in dark caps start at the right of the scoring table. Should the referee grant this request?

Ruling: Yes. Either team has the right to request a coin toss prior to a game. In addition, either coach can request that the teams change ends and benches after each period and overtime period (Rule 5-2-3).

Rule 14: Method of Scoring

***Rule 14-1: Authority of Referee**

Situation: If one referee signals a goal and the other referee signals no goal, which call shall prevail?

Ruling: The call by the referee calling the attacking situation shall prevail, unless both referees agree that the attacking referee was out of position to observe the goal line.

Rule 14-3-c: Shooting a Goal Throw

Situation: The ball goes out of bounds over the goal line and is awarded to the goalkeeper. May the goalkeeper take a direct shot at the other goal?

Ruling: Yes. If the ball enters the goal, passing fully over the goal line, the referee must award the goal.

***Rule 14-3-c: Shooting a Goal Throw**

Situation: The ball was shot over the goal. The coach threw a replacement ball to the goalkeeper who then took a direct shot on the goal. If the ball entered the goal, does the goal count?

Ruling: Yes. The goal counts if the goal is scored on an immediate shot from a goal throw.

Rule 14-3-c: Direct Shot on Goal

Situation: The rule states that in order to score a goal at least two players of either team but excluding the defending goalkeeper must intentionally play or touch the ball except, for example, at the taking of an immediate shot from a goal throw. May a field player taking a goal throw take a direct shot on goal?

Ruling: Yes. A goal throw can be taken by any player of the team from anywhere within the 2-meter area, but shall be taken by the player nearest to the ball (Rule 16-2).

***Rule 14-3-d: Direct Shot on Goal**

Situation: A foul is committed behind the 5-meter line. One of the players behind the point of the foul took an immediate direct shot at the goal and scored. Does the goal count? Must the referee indicate where the ball is to be put in play before the player may shoot in this situation?

Ruling: The goal counts. There is nothing in the rules to require that the referee point to the precise spot from which a direct shot may be made or to the exact player who may take this shot. Rule 14-3 specifically states that, if after the award of a foul outside 5 meters, the ball is inside 5 meters or closer to the defending team's goal, a goal may be scored under this rule if the ball is returned without delay to either the place where the foul was committed, to any place on the same line as the foul or to any place behind the line of the foul, provided the shot is then immediately made from that position.

Rule 14-3-d: Direct Shot on Goal

Situation: A foul is awarded outside 5 meters. The ball is to the left of a right-handed shooter. The player picks the ball up with the right hand and moves in one continuous motion counterclockwise to shoot a direct shot. Should the resultant goal be allowed?

Ruling: Yes, provided that the action is in one continuous motion.

Rule 14-3-d: Method of Shooting a Direct Shot

Situation: A player is fouled outside the 5-meter line. The shooter picked up the ball with the left hand, immediately transferred the ball to the right hand and shot the ball, which then entered the goal. There is otherwise no fake, hesitation or delay in the direct shot. Should the referee count the goal?

Ruling: No. The player must pick the ball up with the hand with which he/she intends to shoot. Transferring the ball from one hand to the other is putting the ball into play. The player may sweep the ball along the water from one hand to the other without putting it into play and then take a direct shot. If the foul is awarded outside 5 meters with the ball inside 5 meters, the player may get the ball and move back to the line of the foul. The player may transfer the ball to the other hand while getting back to the correct position to take the free throw.

*Rule 14-3-d: Method of Shooting a Direct Shot

Situation: A player was fouled at 7 meters, with the ball at 3 meters. The player closest to the ball passed the ball back to the player at 7 meters who immediately took a direct shot on goal. Is this goal allowed?

Ruling: Yes. The goal is allowed provided that the player receiving the ball immediately took the direct shot on goal.

Rule 14-6-e: Illegal Shot

Situation: A player is fouled inside the 5-meter line and takes a direct shot on goal. The defender puts up two hands. Should the referee award a penalty shot?

Ruling: No. The referee should turn the ball over to the defense since the ball was shot illegally (see also Rule 14-3) and the goal does not count.

Rule 16: Goal Throws

*Rule 16-2: Method of Taking a Goal Throw (revised)

Situation: A player, other than the goalkeeper, took the goal throw. Should the referee allow this?

Ruling: Yes. A goal throw may be taken by any player of the team anywhere within the 2 meter area. The player should be the player nearest to the ball. Therefore, if the ball is shot over the goal and the coach on the bench throws a ball in, the goalkeeper is the player who usually puts the ball into play. If the ball goes behind the goal line but is within or just behind the end line, the closest player to the ball gets the ball (without leaving the field of play) and puts the ball into play.

*Rule 16-2, 17-2, 20-15: Ball Out of Bounds Over Sideline

Situation: A defending goalkeeper tipped a shot over the sideline. To which team should the referee award the ball? To which team should the referee award the ball if a defending field player tipped a shot over the sideline?

Ruling: The referee should award the ball to the offense if the defending goalkeeper tipped the shot over the sideline at or behind the point at which the ball went over the sideline. The player on offense must put the ball into play at or behind the point at which the ball went over the sideline. This ball may not be shot because it went out over the sideline. If a defending field player tipped a shot over the sideline, the ball is put in play by the defense (which may include the goalkeeper) at the point where the ball went over the sideline or at any point behind this point. This ball may not be shot, even if the goalkeeper puts the ball in play at or behind the 2-meter line, because the ball went out over the sideline.

Rule 16-2, Rule 14-3–Note f: Direct Shot from Ball Leaving Side of Field of Play

Situation: A white defending field player tipped a shot over the sideline. After the ball was given to the white goalkeeper to put into play, the goalkeeper took a direct shot on goal and the ball entered the goal. Should the referee allow the goal?

Ruling: No. The goal should not be counted since a goal may not be scored directly from the restart after the ball leaves the side of the field of play at a point inside or outside the 2-meter line. However, the ball may be shot and a goal scored if the ball went over the goal line and is awarded to the goalkeeper at or behind the 2-meter line.

Rule 16-2: Method of Taking a Goal Throw

Situation: In taking a goal throw, the goalkeeper raised the ball behind the head and the ball touched the back of a wall goal or, in the case of a floating goal, the ball went completely behind the goal line. One referee awarded a goal to the opposing team. The other referee signaled a corner throw. Which is correct?

Ruling: Neither should be awarded. The referee should allow the game to continue as the ball was not in play at the time it was behind the goal line.

Rule 17: Corner Throw

Rule 17-1: Rebounding Ball

Situation: The offense shot and the ball rebounded off the goalkeeper or off the face of the goal. The rebounding ball struck a defender, and the ball then bounced over the goal line out of bounds. To which team should the referee award the ball?

Ruling: The referee should award a corner throw to the offense. The actual shot was completed when the ball rebounded off the goalkeeper or off the face of the goal. Since the rebound after the shot then subsequently struck a defender and the ball then bounced from the defender over the goal line, the referee should award a corner throw because the team on defense last touched the ball.

Rule 18 Neutral Throws

*Rule 18-1: When Awarded

Situation: A player from each team was excluded when neither team had possession of the ball. How should the game be restarted? When may the excluded players re-enter the field of play?

Ruling: The game is restarted with a neutral throw. Both excluded players may enter after the next change in possession after the neutral throw provided that the entering players have reached their re-entry areas.

Rule 19: Free Throws

Rule 19-1-a: Ball over Sideline

Situation: A defender deflected a pass over the sideline. The nearest player on the team on offense swam over the sideline out of the field of play to get the ball, returned to the field of play, and is about to put the ball into play. Should the referee allow that player to put the ball into play?

Ruling: No. The player on offense is allowed to reach over the sideline to retrieve a ball and put the ball into play at that point, but the player may not leave the field of play to do so without the permission of the referee. Since the player left the field of play without the permission of the referee to retrieve the ball, the referee should exclude the player for 20 seconds and turn the ball over to the opposing team. (See also Rule 3-5, Rule 8-3 and Rule 21-4.)

Rule 20: Ordinary Fouls

*Rule 20-5: Using the Bottom

Situation: A field player was excluded for pushing off the bottom at a point approximately seven meters from the goal in a deep pool (two meters or more in depth). Is this the correct call?

Ruling: No. Using the bottom is an ordinary foul, even if the player uses the bottom to play the ball or to tackle an opponent or during a man-down situation. If the player commits this foul within the 5-meter area but for which a goal would probably have resulted, a penalty throw shall be awarded to the opposing team (Rule 22-2).

*Rule 20-5 and Point of Emphasis #22: Using the Bottom

Situation: A defensive field player was excluded for pushing off the bottom at approximately seven meters from the goal in a shallow pool (less than two meters in depth). Is this the correct call?

Ruling: Yes. Using the bottom is an exclusion foul in a shallow pool. This also applies in the shallow end of a shallow-deep pool. If the player committed this foul within the 5-meter area but for which a goal would probably have resulted, a penalty throw shall be awarded to the opposing team (Rule 22-2).

*Rule 20-8: Using Two Hands to Block a Pass

Situation: A player used two hands outside the 5-meter line to block a pass. The referee blew the whistle for an ordinary foul. Is this correct?

Ruling: No. It is an exclusion foul to attempt to block a shot or pass with two hands. It is an ordinary foul to touch the ball not being shot or passed with two hands at the same time.

*Rule 20-8: Using Two Hands

Situation: During an extraman situation, a shot was taken with three seconds remaining on the game clock. The ball rebounded off the goalkeeper to a player of the team on offense. The ball made contact with both hands of that player who then pushed the ball into the goal with two hands as the buzzer sounded for the conclusion of the game. Does the goal count?

Ruling: No, the goal does not count. It is an ordinary foul to play or touch the ball with two hands at the same time, whether it is a player on offense or on defense.

*Rule 20-9: Impeding; Rule 20-10: Pushing or Pushing Off

Situation: A player of the team in possession of the ball impeded an opponent or pushed or pushed off from an opponent before a free throw, goal throw or corner throw is taken. What should the referee call?

Ruling: It is an ordinary foul for a player of either the team on offense or on defense to impede or push off from an opponent either before or after the ball is put into play. If the team on offense commits an ordinary foul, the ball is turned over.

Rule 20-15: Ball Out of Bounds Over Sideline

Situation: The offense sends the ball out of the side of the field of play by a bad pass. To whom is the ball awarded and where?

Ruling: The referee should award the ball to the closest player on defense on or behind the point at which the ball went over the sideline

*Rule 20-16: Keeping the Ball More Than 30 Seconds Without Shooting

Situation: The goalkeeper received a pass from the player putting the ball in play after a goal was scored by the other team. Does the team on offense have the responsibility to advance the ball towards the offensive end of the pool?

Ruling: No. A team can hold the ball for 30 seconds without advancing the ball. The wasting time rule has been removed from the rules.

*Rule 20-16: Keeping the Ball More Than 30 Seconds Without Shooting

Situation: When four seconds remained on the shot clock, a player in a blue cap on offense made a poor pass to another player on the blue team. That player missed the pass and the ball landed between two players, one from each team. The player in the blue cap recovered possession of the ball. Should the shot clock timer have reset the shot clock when the ball landed between the two players?

Ruling: No. The shot clock timer should not reset the shot clock. The ball must come into the possession of the opposing team. Therefore, in this situation, possession remains with the team on offense until the team on defense clearly takes possession of the ball. This is true also if the team on defense, for example, touched the ball either in flight or on the water without gaining possession.

*Rule 20-16: Keeping the Ball More Than 30 Seconds Without Shooting

Situation: The blue team was in possession of the ball with six seconds remaining on the game clock and four seconds remaining on the shot clock at the end of the 4th period. A player on the blue team threw the ball into a vacant corner of the field of play and that team started swimming towards the other end of the pool. Should the referee immediately blow the whistle for wasting time (stalling)? Should the shot clock timer immediately reset (blank) the shot clock?

Ruling: No. The foul is to retain possession of the ball for more than 30 seconds without shooting. The directions to the referee (Rule 9-2) state that if a player throws the ball into a vacant corner of the field of play before the expiration of the shot clock, the referee shall not blow the whistle until the buzzer of the shot clock sounds, indicating that the possession time has expired. (The statement that it is permissible for a referee to award an ordinary foul under this rule before the 30 seconds possession period has elapsed has been removed from the rules.) The shot clock is then reset and both the game clock and the shot clock are restarted when the ball is put into play by the opposing team at the location of the ball.

*Rule 20-16: Resetting the Shot Clock Before Possession Time Elapsed; Rule 7-9: Correctable Errors; Rule 9-2: Resetting the Shot Clock

Situation: A player from the blue team, ahead by one goal, with six seconds remaining on the game clock, four seconds remaining on the shot clock, threw the ball into a vacant corner of the field of play. One referee immediately blew the whistle for wasting time and pointed to the other end of the pool, indicating a change in possession. Is this correct?

Ruling: No. The first referee should not have blown the whistle until the shot clock time elapsed with only two seconds remaining in the game. The other referee must immediately blow the whistle to stop play as the first referee's call was made in error and, in the interest of fairness, this error should be corrected. In order to do that, that referee, after blowing the whistle, must call for the ball, reset the game clock to 6 seconds, reset the shot clock to 4 seconds, and give the ball back to the team originally on offense and restart play when neither team has an advantage.

*Rule 20-16: Time-out Called After a Correctable Error

Situation: The coach of the team that had been on defense in the above situation immediately called for a time-out when the referee blew the whistle to turn the ball over when the player from the blue team threw the ball in a vacant corner of the pool, with 6 seconds remaining in the game and 4 seconds remaining on the shot clock. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The other referee must immediately blow the whistle as the first referee's whistle was blown in error. The referees must remove the ball from the field of play, reset the game clock to 6 seconds, the shot clock to 4 seconds, and give the ball back to the offense to put into play when neither team has an advantage. In addition, no penalty is charged against the team in white caps for calling a time-out at this time.

*Rule 20-16: Time-out Called When Neither Team Has Possession

Situation: When 32 seconds remained in the 4th period, the team in blue caps, ahead by one goal, took possession of the ball. When 4 seconds remained in the possession period (six seconds in the game), the blue team threw the ball in a vacant corner of the pool, the referee did not blow the whistle, the clocks continued running, and simultaneously the coach of the team on defense immediately called a time-out. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The stalling rule (Rule 20-16) has been eliminated, effective July 1, 2009. Therefore, if a player on the blue team threw the ball into a vacant area of the pool before the expiration of 30 seconds, the referee shall not blow the whistle until the shot clock expires (Rule 9-2). In this situation, the blue team relinquished possession when a player deliberately threw the ball away; the team in white caps would not gain possession until reaching the ball. Therefore, neither team had possession of the ball. In that case, the referee must award the ball back to the team that did not call the time-out, the team with blue caps in this example. No penalty shot should be awarded.

Rule 21: Exclusion Fouls

Rule 21 (General): Change in Calls When Ball is at Set

Situation: The instructions to referees have changed since 2005-06 where the distributed instructions stated that "It is also correct to call an ordinary foul at set when the ball is on the perimeter and the two players at set are starting to get overly physical. This call can be thought of as a warning to the two

players, and the next time an offensive foul or exclusion can be called.” The Points of Emphasis from 2006-07 and later do not contain these two sentences. Why were they removed?

Ruling: These two sentences were removed from the Points of Emphasis for several reasons:

1. This call is confusing to the team on offense. The players at set do not know that this is intended as a warning to them. The ball would be put in play on the periphery where the ball is, so the players would not know that the whistle was meant for the players at set. Even if they did look up at the referee, the referee would be pointing where the ball is to be put into play, which is on the periphery, not at set. In fact, if the referee did point at set to indicate that the players there are overly physical, the player on the periphery could think that this is where the ball is to be put into play and pass the ball there for the free throw.
2. The call takes away the advantage from the offense. Rule 7-3 states that the referees shall refrain from declaring a foul if, in their opinion, such declaration would be an advantage to the offending player’s team. If the play is overly physical at set, the referee should make the appropriate call there (an offensive foul or an exclusion foul or a double exclusion foul).
3. The direction commonly given to referees that a referee may call this a few times in a game as a warning is not appropriate as, if the action is a foul, it should be called. If it is not a foul, it should not be called. A coach should not have to warn players that this may be called a few times in a game so don’t be surprised.

Rule 21-2: Method of Leaving the Field of Play

Situation: An excluded player exited the side of the field of play under the sideline and swam directly to the re-entry area. The referee made no call. Is this correct?

Ruling: This is correct because an excluded player may swim from the field of play at any point on the goal line or sideline in order to reach the re-entry area.

Rule 21-2, Rule 21-3-1, Rule 21-4: Method of Leaving the Field of Play

Situation: In a 25-yard pool with wall goals and with walls instead of sidelines on the sides of the field of play, an excluded player climbed from the pool and walked to the re-entry area. What is the call of the referee?

Ruling: The player is excluded from the remainder of the game. An excluded player must not leave the water to reach the re-entry area.

Rule 21-2: Illegal Entry

Situation: An excluded player exited the field of play at the end of the pool approximately two yards from the re-entry area and swam under water to the re-entry area. The referee signaled for play to go in the other direction after a shot went out of bounds over the goal line (this signal being the signal for re-entry) just as that player (still under water) reached the re-entry area. The substitute for that player swam under the line marking the re-entry area into the pool before the head of the excluded player appeared above the surface of the water in the re-entry area. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should exclude the player entering the field of play for 20 seconds and turn the ball over because the head of the excluded player must appear in the re-entry area before either that player or a substitute for that player can re-enter the pool. The ball should be put into play at or behind the point nearest the infraction (at or behind the 2-meter line closest to the player’s re-entry area). Note: This is regarded as an improper entry of a player on offense as the ball had turned over (Rule 21-13).

Rule 21-3: Substitution for an Excluded Goalkeeper During the Exclusion Period

Situation: A goalkeeper was excluded for 20 seconds. The team on offense immediately called a time-out. The team on defense during that time-out substituted a different goalkeeper (with a goalkeeper’s cap) into the goal for an exiting field player and another field player took the place of the excluded goalkeeper in the re-entry area. Is this allowed?

Ruling: No. The excluded goalkeeper is considered to be that team’s goalkeeper even though this player is in the re-entry area. That field player’s replacement can only be another field player, not a goalkeeper

in a goalkeeper's cap. The referee should not allow this substitution and does not start play until the situation is corrected.

*Rule 21-3: Signal for Re-entry of Excluded Player

Situation: A player is excluded. Should the referee watch the clock and wave in the excluded player at the end of 20 seconds?

Ruling: No. The duty of the exclusion secretary is to wave in the excluded player at the conclusion of the exclusion time. The defensive referee shall signal re-entry by a hand signal when the excluded player's team has retaken possession of the ball during actual play.

*Rule 21-3: Signal for Re-entry of Excluded Player

Situation: Should the excluded player watch the referee or watch the exclusion secretary in order to know when to re-enter the pool at the end of 20 seconds?

Ruling: The excluded player should watch the exclusion secretary at the desk in order to know when to re-enter at the end of the exclusion period. It is not a duty of the referee to signal the passage of 20 seconds and the excluded player should not have to guess which person to watch for the passage of the exclusion time. Before 20 seconds have elapsed, the excluded player may re-enter upon the referee's signal of a change in possession. The exclusion secretary does not raise the flag unless 20 seconds have elapsed.

*Rule 21-3: Re-entry of an Excluded Player

Situation: Usually the exclusion secretary waves in the excluded player or substitute after 20 seconds of actual play have elapsed. When does the exclusion secretary not wave in the excluded player or substitute at this time?

Ruling: The exclusion secretary would not raise the flag of the appropriate color if the excluded player has not reached the re-entry area when 20 seconds have elapsed (Rule 21-3); if the head of the excluded player has not risen above the surface of the water in the re-entry area before that player or a substitute may enter (Rule 21-2); if the excluded player climbed from the side of the pool and did not go to the re-entry area (the substitute may not enter until after a time-out, a goal or at the start of the next period) (Rule 21-2); or if the excluded player has three personal fouls and is no longer eligible to play and was not substituted for (Rule 21-3).

*Rule 21-3: Re-entry of an Excluded Player

Situation: If the ball is stolen when 10 seconds remain in an exclusion or if possession changes because the referee awards an offensive foul, the referee turns and starts to walk towards the other end of the pool with the hand pointing to that end of the pool. May the excluded player re-enter (1) if the referee motions with the other hand for the player to enter? (2) if the referee does not motion with the other hand for the player to enter but is pointing with one arm towards the other end of the pool and walking that way?

Ruling: Yes, in both cases. The player may enter as the referee's signal to award the throw or the change in possession qualifies as the re-entry signal, provided that the excluded player has reached the re-entry area in accordance with the rules.

*Rule 21-3: Re-entry area

Situation: The rule states that the excluded player or a substitute shall be permitted to re-enter the field of play when signaled when 20 seconds of actual play have elapsed provided that the player is in the re-entry area. If the flag is raised and if the excluded player goes under the end line in the re-entry area but swims underwater a short distance towards the center of the pool before the player's head surfaces, should this be considered an illegal re-entry?

Ruling: No. There is no requirement that the excluded player must emerge from the re-entry area into an area within the imaginary continuation of the boundary of the re-entry area (in other words, there is no requirement that the player may only swim directly straight ahead into the field of play rather than entering on a diagonal from the re-entry area).

Rule 21:3 Entry of a Substitute

Situation: A player on the white team was excluded. A player on the blue team immediately took a direct shot on goal. The shot went over the goal line and the referee blew the whistle to award the ball to the white team. The excluded player turned, before reaching the re-entry area, and started to swim towards the other end of the pool. Before the ball was put into play after the direct shot, the coach of the white team called a time-out. Should the referee exclude this player for not going to the re-entry area before swimming towards the other end of the pool?

Ruling: No. During a time-out or between periods or after a goal, an excluded player is not required to go to the re-entry area before meeting with the team. Play should be restarted after the time-out even-up.

Rule 21-3: Entry of a Substitute

Situation: Should the excluded player in this situation have been charged with a penalty foul for interfering with play (Rule 21-17) after the exclusion, based on the fact that the player, although starting to swim towards the corner, immediately turned on the change of possession, and started swimming towards the offensive end?

Ruling: No. The player was not considered to interfere in this example, as the direct shot was taken immediately after the exclusion and the coach of the team now on offense called a time-out immediately after this action before the restart of play. However, if the excluded player had interfered with the direct shot or with any of the players then on offense on the player's way towards the re-entry area, a penalty foul should be called.

*Rule 21-4, Rule 25-1: Leaving the Water

Situation: What is the definition of a player leaving the field of play as opposed to a player leaving the water or leaving the pool?

Ruling: The field of play is defined as the area between the sidelines and the end lines. Leaving the field of play usually refers to a player going under the sideline or under the end line but the player is still in the water. Leaving the pool or leaving the water usually refers to a player climbing out of the pool onto the pool deck or sitting on the steps. If a non-excluded player leaves the field of play without the permission of the referee, the player receives an exclusion foul. If an excluded player leaves the pool other than from the re-entry area or leaves the pool to walk on the deck to the re-entry area, the player is excluded for the remainder of the game.

Rule 21-5 Guarding a Player Taking a Free Throw

Situation: A field player guarding a player who is taking a free throw has one arm raised behind the head but the body and arm are within inches of the offensive player. May the referee call interference with the free throw?

Ruling: Yes. There is no set distance the defensive player has to be away from the offensive player with his/her hand straight up or behind the head; the rule is that the defensive player can not interfere with the free throw. For example, the raised hand might be behind the head of the defensive player, but if that defending player is so close that the offensive player cannot make a throwing motion without hitting the defensive player, the defender has to back away or be called for interfering with the free throw. However, the offensive player may not unnecessarily lean or make some extraordinary arm motion into the defender to create this contact; that is, the free throw should be in a normal throwing motion.

Rule 21-5: Guarding a Shooter on a Direct Shot on Goal

Situation: A player is fouled at the 6-meter line. The player picks the ball up and attempts a direct shot on goal. How may a defender guard this player?

Ruling: There is no difference in how a player may guard a player who is attempting a direct shot on goal or who is attempting to pass. The guard may have only one arm up, which may be straight up or behind the guard's head, an appropriate distance away so that the guard is not considered to be interfering with

the free throw. The penalty for interference is either an exclusion foul if the defender is outside the 5-meter line or a penalty foul if the defender is inside the 5-meter line.

Rule 21-5: Interfering with Free Throw

Situation: A defender gives the appropriate space to the offensive player for a free throw or direct shot outside the 5-meter line, but the defender is aggressively waving his/her hand behind the head in an attempt to cover more area to block a shot. Should the defender be excluded?

Ruling: The rule is that the defender can not interfere with the taking of a free throw, goal throw, corner throw or direct shot on goal. There is no set distance that the defender must be away from the person putting the ball in play or taking a direct shot – the key is that the defender can not interfere. If the referee considers that the distance away is such that the defender is not interfering, the defender can wave a hand, either behind the head or directly above the head in an effort to shot block.

*Rule 21-6, Rule 22-2: Use of Two Hands (revised)

Situation: A player put two hands up to show that the player is not fouling the attacking player. Should the referee allow this? Are there other examples where the use of two hands might be permissible?

Ruling: The player may put two hands up in this situation, on the perimeter, for example, but the player may not put up two hands if the offensive player is attempting to shoot or pass (in each of these cases the player must be prepared to immediately drop one hand if the situation changes). Note: It is usually relatively easy to distinguish between a defender who is trying to show he/she is not fouling as opposed to a defender raising both hands to block a shot or pass. If an offensive player with his/her back to the goal attempts to shoot, the defender who had raised two hands to show he/she was not fouling must immediately lower one hand. Impermissible use of two hands include the following: a player may not put up two hands to block or to attempt to block a shot or pass outside the 5-meter area (exclusion foul); a player may not put up two hands to block or attempt to block a shot within the 5-meter area (penalty foul); a player may not put up two hands to block or attempt to block a pass to prevent a probable goal inside the 5-meter area (penalty foul); a player may not put up two hands to block or attempt to block a pass which would not lead a probable goal inside the 5-meter area (exclusion foul).

*Rule 21-6: Blocking a Pass or Shot with Two Hands Outside the 5-Meter Area

Situation: It is an exclusion foul to attempt to block a pass or shot with two hands outside the 5-meter area. The defender of the intended receiver of a pass puts up two hands to attempt to block a pass. The referee excludes that defender for 20 seconds. Is this correct?

Ruling: Yes. The defender of the intended receiver of the pass may only put up one hand to attempt to block a pass to that player. Therefore, the referee should exclude the defender for 20 seconds.

*Rule 21-7: Splashing Intentionally

Situation: A player inside the 5-meter line splashes a player outside the 5-meter line. What should the referee call?

Ruling: The referee should exclude the player for 20 seconds. The penalty issued depends on the location of the face splashed, not on the location of the defender. In this case, the player on offense (the player splashed) was outside the 5-meter line; therefore, an exclusion foul is called. If the player splashed is inside the 5-meter line and is attempting to shoot, a penalty foul should be called.

Rule 21-10-1: Location of Player Excluded from Remainder of Game for Misconduct or 3 Personal Fouls

Situation: A player excluded from the remainder of the game for misconduct or for being charged with three personal fouls leaves the team bench for the stands. Should the referee allow this?

Ruling: No. The player must remain on the team bench with cap on for the remainder of the game in the case of either misconduct or for being charged with three personal fouls. The player is required to leave the team bench if the player receives a red card or is excluded for flagrant misconduct but must then remain in the bleachers for the remainder of the game under direct supervision. That player may not

communicate with the team, team officials or referees until after the period of the jurisdiction of the referees (five minutes after the conclusion of the game, unless there is a protest).

Rule 21-10-1: Minor Act of Misconduct Turning Into Misconduct

Situation: A player commits an exclusion foul and then that player makes a few minor comments to the referee. However, the player's comments escalate before the referee has blown the whistle to call the minor act of misconduct. What should the referee call?

Ruling: The referee should exclude the player for the remainder of the game for misconduct. Play is restarted with a substitute in the re-entry area.

Rule 21-10-1, Rule 21-10-2: Taunting a Player

Situation: A player taunts another player. What should the referee call?

Ruling: This depends on the severity of the offense. The referee may call a minor act of misconduct or misconduct.

Rule 21-10-1: Swearing

Situation: An excluded player swears at the referee while leaving the pool. The referee awards an additional exclusion foul of a minor act of misconduct. Is this the correct call?

Ruling: No. The referee should exclude the player for the remainder of the game for misconduct.

Rule 21-10-1: Misconduct Committed by a Player in the Re-entry area

Situation: A player is excluded for the first time. After being in the re-entry area for several seconds, the player spoke to his/her coach on the bench, making a remark critical of the referee. What should be the action of the referee if the referee overhears this comment?

Ruling: Although the referee should not focus on discussions between the coach and players, if the referee does hear the remark and feels it is directed at him/her, the referee may award that player a second exclusion foul for the minor act of misconduct or may exclude the player for the remainder of the game for misconduct for showing disrespect to the referee. If the referee excludes the player for the remainder of the game, a substitute must replace that player in the re-entry area. In either case, the re-entry time of the excluded player is 20 seconds from the time of the second foul and the shot clock is reset.

Rule 21-10-1: Misconduct After a Goal

Situation: A player in a white cap sinks a player in a blue cap who has just scored a goal. The referee calls misconduct, excludes the white player for the remainder of the game and awards the ball to the blue team. Is this the correct call?

Ruling: No. This action occurred after a goal during what is commonly called "dead time" or interval time. If the referee feels that the action of the player in the white cap merits a misconduct call, the referee must exclude the player for the remainder of the game and the teams start even up with a free throw taken by the team in white caps as after a goal.

*Rule 21-10: Misconduct or Minor Act of Misconduct during a Time-out **REVISION OF RULE 21-10**

Situation: Either misconduct or a minor act of misconduct was committed during a time-out. Is the shot clock reset before play is resumed?

Answer: No. The shot clock is not reset in this situation. Although usually the shot clock is reset after the award of an exclusion foul, this is an exception since the act of misconduct or minor act of misconduct was committed during a time-out, which is an example of interval time. The shot clock is not reset when a time-out is called. The player who committed misconduct is excluded for the remainder of the game with immediate substitution. After the conclusion of the time-out, the game starts even up with a free throw by the team that was in possession of the ball before the time-out was called. If a minor act of misconduct is committed during a time-out, that player is excluded for 20 seconds with immediate substitution. After the conclusion of the time-out, the game starts even up with a free throw by the team that was in possession of the ball at the time the time-out was called. The excluded player, provided that this foul was

not that player's third personal foul, can return later to the game as a substitute.

Rule 21-10-1 Misconduct After First Personal Foul, an Act of Misconduct

Situation: A player is disrespectful to the referee while exiting the pool after being excluded from the remainder of the game for misconduct, that player's first personal foul.

Ruling: The player is excluded for the remainder of the game and a penalty throw is awarded. If the player continues to be disrespectful to the referee, the referee should also issue a red card to the player. The player receiving the red card is also excluded from the next game. The substitute may enter after the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3.

The following four cases are complete descriptions of the procedure to be followed if misconduct or a minor act of misconduct is committed after an exclusion foul or after a penalty foul. The complete table is on page 132 of the NFHS rules book.

Rule 21-10-2: Minor Act of Misconduct After First Personal Foul, a Penalty Foul

Situation: A player is charged with a penalty foul, that player's first personal foul. The player then committed a minor act of misconduct, an exclusion foul, before the penalty shot is taken. Should the player (or substitute) be in the re-entry area for the taking of the penalty throw?

Ruling: Yes. If the penalty shot is scored, the player may enter immediately. If not, the player is out until the occurrence of one of the events described in Rule 21-3.

Rule 21-10-2: Minor Act of Misconduct After Second Personal Foul, a Penalty Foul

Situation: A player committed a minor act of misconduct immediately after that player is charged with a penalty foul, the penalty foul being that player's second personal foul. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: Since the minor act of misconduct was that player's third personal foul (an exclusion foul), the referee removed the player for the remainder of the game and conducted the live-time penalty throw with the substitute for that player in the re-entry area. If the penalty throw is scored, the substitute enters immediately. If it is missed, the substitute may not enter until the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3.

Rule 21-10-1, 2: Misconduct or MAM after Third Personal Foul, an Exclusion Foul

Situation: A player committed the foul of misconduct or the foul of a minor act of misconduct while exiting the pool after committing that player's third personal foul, an exclusion foul. The referee excluded the player for the remainder of the game for committing his/her third personal foul, with the substitute in the re-entry area, and then awarded a live-time penalty shot for the foul of misconduct or the minor act of misconduct after a third personal foul. Is this the correct procedure?

Ruling: Yes. As soon as the exclusion secretary sees the signal for misconduct or for a minor act of misconduct after the third personal foul, an exclusion foul, the exclusion secretary must immediately raise the red flag and blow the whistle. The substitute may not enter for 20 seconds or the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3, and a penalty throw is awarded.

Rule 21-10-1, 2: Misconduct or MAM after Third Personal Foul, a Penalty Foul

Situation: A player committed the foul of misconduct or the foul of a minor act of misconduct while exiting the pool after committing that player's third personal foul, a penalty foul. The referee excluded the player for the remainder of the game for committing the third personal foul, the substitute enters immediately, and then the referee awards first a dead-time penalty shot for that penalty foul and then a live-time penalty shot for the foul of misconduct or for the foul of a minor act of misconduct after a third personal foul. Is this the correct procedure?

Ruling: Yes. As soon as the exclusion secretary sees the signal for misconduct or a minor act of misconduct after the third personal foul, a penalty foul, the exclusion secretary must immediately raise the red flag and blow the whistle. The substitute enters immediately as the third foul was a penalty foul.

The first penalty throw is a dead-time penalty throw. The second penalty throw is a live time penalty throw.

*21-10: Minor Act of Misconduct

Situation: A player is excluded for the third time. On the way out from the pool, the player committed a minor act of misconduct. A live-time penalty throw is awarded, with the substitute for that player in the re-entry area. The penalty shot rebounded from the goal post to a player on the team shooting the penalty shot. May the excluded player enter?

Ruling: No. There has been no change in possession. The player must remain out for 20 seconds or until the ball changes hands.

*Rule 21-10: Misconduct

Situation: A player committed misconduct after a third personal foul, an exclusion foul. The referee issued a red card. Is this the correct penalty?

Ruling: No. The referee should have awarded a penalty shot, with a substitute in the re-entry area. A red card would be issued if a player refuses to leave the water when so ordered after a call of misconduct.

*Rule 21-10: Minor Act of Misconduct and Rule 7-9: Correctable Errors

Situation: A player committed his/her third personal foul, an exclusion foul. The exclusion secretary raised the red flag. The player was substituted and play resumed with the substitute in the re-entry area and the team on offense scored a goal five seconds later. It was then realized that the referee on the opposite side of the pool from the desk had signaled that the player committed a minor act of misconduct during that player's exit from the pool and a penalty shot should have been awarded at that time. The referee removed the goal that had just scored and had the team take a penalty shot for a minor act of misconduct committed after a third personal foul. Is this the correct ruling?

Ruling: No. The extraman goal should not have been removed and the penalty shot should not have been taken. The team should not be penalized because either the referee calling the minor act of misconduct did not see the red flag or because the referee on the desk side did not relay the signal for the minor act of misconduct to the scorekeeper. Applying the principle of correctable errors (which includes the statement that technical errors by desk officials or misapplication of rules by referees should not affect the outcome of the game), the extraman goal should stand and the referee should not have conducted the penalty shot as a team could miss the penalty shot whereas the team had already scored the extraman goal.

Rule 21-10, Rule 21-2, Rule 7-9-e: Simultaneous Exclusion Foul and Misconduct Foul on Two Different Players

Situation (Part I): The referee excluded white player cap #2 for 20 seconds. White player cap #3 started to leave the field of play by mistake. The referee called for the ball and signaled to white player #3 that he/she was not excluded. The player, however, not understanding, splashed water which reached the referee. The referee signaled exclusion of that player from the remainder of the game for misconduct. How should the referee restart play?

Ruling: Player #2 (or substitute) and the substitute for player #3 should both be in the re-entry area and play should be resumed by the blue team with a 6 on 4. Even though the referee removed the ball from the field of play, the substitute for player #3 may not start play at this time since Rule 21-10 only provides for this immediate substitution if the misconduct was committed during an interval between periods, a time-out and prior to restart after a goal, no matter which team committed the foul. The act of a referee taking a ball out of the pool to clarify which player was excluded is not a time-out.

Situation (Part II): Should the referee have merely straightened out the situation in the previous question (an incorrect player leaving the field of play - Rule 21-2, Rule 7-9-e) as opposed to exclusion of the player for the remainder of the game for misconduct?

Ruling: No, since the referee had determined that the act of splashing the referee constituted misconduct. The rule regarding the referee stopping play, correcting the situation, and resetting the clocks assumes that the player leaving by mistake does not commit misconduct.

Situation (Part III): Could player #3 have been excluded for a minor act of misconduct for making a minor gesture to the referee?

Ruling: The referee has the sole power to determine if this act of misconduct was minor or major. The referee should have restarted play in either case with a 6 on 4.

Situation (Part IV): If the referee had determined that the splashing in this instance was a minor act of misconduct, should the referee have awarded a penalty shot?

Ruling: No. A penalty shot is awarded only if the same player commits a minor act of misconduct on the way out from the pool immediately after receiving the third personal foul.

Rule 21-10-1-c Personal Fouls Committed During and After a Penalty Throw

Situation: A 5-meter penalty is awarded to the blue team. After several warnings to an offensive and a defensive player concerning their positions and actions prior to the penalty shot, the referee excluded both players for the remainder of the game for misconduct prior to the penalty shot. The penalty shot was then taken with the substitutes for these players in the re-entry areas. The penalty shot was scored and the substitutes entered the pool. Prior to putting the ball into play, the goalkeeper of the white team was then excluded from the remainder of the game for misconduct. How should the referee restart play?

Ruling: The white team must substitute another goalkeeper (with the privileges of a goalkeeper) for the goalkeeper who was excluded for misconduct. The referee should start play with the teams even up with the white team putting the ball into play as after a goal.

*Rule 21-11, Articles 1-4: Flagrant Misconduct During the Game

Situation: A player committed flagrant misconduct during play or during interval time (during a time-out, between periods or after a goal). Is there a difference in how the penalty is awarded during these different times?

Ruling: The general penalty is the same in all cases. The player committing flagrant misconduct is excluded for the remainder of the game, a dead-time penalty throw awarded, the team shooting the penalty throw shall get the ball back at or behind the half-distance line as after a time-out whether the penalty shot is made or missed. The substitute for the excluded player must remain in the re-entry area for 20 seconds or until the earliest occurrence of an event referred to in Rule 21-3. If the act of flagrant misconduct occurred during a time-out, the team calling the time-out is still charged with the time-out and the penalty shot is not taken until after the conclusion of the time-out.

*Rule 21-11, Articles 1-3: Flagrant Misconduct During the Game

Situation: A player with a white cap was excluded during play. During the time before the ball was put into play (while the referee was removing the player and communicating this information to the scoring table), a player on the blue team committed an act of flagrant misconduct. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should take the ball from the water, remove the player who committed the act of flagrant misconduct from the remainder of the game, and allow the excluded white player to enter (as there was a change of possession due to the call of flagrant misconduct). The referee should then conduct the dead-time penalty throw. The team with the white caps will get the ball back, whether the penalty shot was made or missed, with the substitute for the player who committed flagrant misconduct in the re-entry area.

*Rule 21-11: Double Flagrant Misconduct During a Time-out or After a Goal (revised)

Situation: A double flagrant misconduct foul is called during a time-out or after a goal. How does the referee conduct the penalty throws and restart the game after the conclusion of the time-out or after the goal?

Ruling: The offending players are removed for the remainder of the game, with their substitutes in the re-entry areas. The first dead-time penalty throw is taken by the team that would normally have possession (the team which called the time-out or was in possession of the ball at the time a time-out was called by the defense or by the team on which the goal was scored). This results in a goal or no goal. The second team then takes a dead-time penalty throw. This results in a goal or no goal. The referee will then award a free throw on or behind the half distance line as after a time-out to the team that would normally have had possession after the time-out or after the goal. The substitutes may not enter until the earliest occurrence of one of the events described in Rule 21-3.

*Rule 21-11: Double Flagrant Misconduct When Neither Team Has Possession

Situation: A double flagrant misconduct foul is called when neither team has possession. How does the referee conduct the penalty throws and restart the game?

Ruling: The offending players are removed for the remainder of the game, with their substitutes in the re-entry areas. The first dead-time penalty throw is taken by the team that last had possession. This results in a goal or no goal. The second team then takes a dead-time penalty throw. This results in a goal or no goal. The referee will then conduct a neutral throw on the half distance line. The excluded players may not enter until the next change in possession after the neutral throw or until the earliest occurrence of one of the events described in Rule 21-3.

*Rule 21-12: Change in Rules Relating to Dead Time

Situation: In previous NFHS Water Polo Rules Books, there were rules relating to dead-time fouls, double dead-time fouls, and there were differing penalties for fouls of impeding or pushing or pushing off if the fouls were committed during dead time or live time. These rules are missing from the new rules book. What is the significance of this omission?

Answer: Previously the rules provided a different penalty for a foul committed during dead time (before the ball was put into play) as compared with live time (after the ball was put into play). There was also a difference in where the ball was put in play if there was a double exclusion during dead time or during live time. In practice, however, there was no difference and the term now used is “during play” to encompass both these periods of time. There is now no difference in the penalty awarded or in the location where the ball was put into play if the foul is committed before or after the ball is put into play. The wording in the new rules brings the language of the rules into conformance with actual practice.

*Rule 21-12: Re-entry after Double Exclusion

Situation: A double exclusion occurred when 3 seconds remained in a period when the team with blue caps had possession of the ball. Time expired with that team still retaining possession of the ball. The team with blue caps won the sprint at the beginning of the next period and the excluded player with the blue cap immediately entered the pool from the re-entry area. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The player should be excluded for 20 seconds and a free throw awarded to the opposing team (Rule 21-13) because there was no change of possession (Rule 21-3). To avoid this situation, it is suggested that in the case of a double exclusion near the end of the period the referee remind the benches and desk during the interval that both teams start down a player and which team had possession of the ball at the end of the period.

*Rule 21-12: Re-entry After Double Exclusion

Situation: In the above situation, when may the excluded player from the white team re-enter the pool?

Ruling: Since there was a change of possession when the blue player was excluded after the sprint and the ball was turned over to the team with white caps, the excluded player (or substitute) from the white team would re-enter at that time. The player with the blue cap must be in the re-entry area for 20 seconds or a change in possession.

*Rule 21-13: Entering Field of Play Improperly: Early Entry of an Excluded Player

Situation: An excluded player re-entered the pool early. The referee awarded a penalty throw and excluded the player from the remainder of the game. Is the correct ruling?

Ruling: No. If a player on the defensive team enters early or improperly, the player is excluded for an additional 20 seconds and a penalty throw awarded to the attacking team. If a player on the offensive team enters improperly, the player is excluded for an additional 20 seconds and a free throw awarded to the opposing team.

*Rule 21-13: Early Entrance of an Excluded Player

Situation: A player was excluded when 26 seconds remained in the period. The player re-entered during the 6 on 5 when 10 seconds remained on the shot clock when instructed by the coach. The exclusion secretary had not waved in the player. What is the penalty for the player on defense entering before the correct time?

Ruling: The player shall be excluded for an additional 20 seconds, a penalty throw awarded and the player receives an additional personal foul, marked EP on the score sheet. This situation resulted because the shot clock assumed the game time when the shot clock was reset when less than 30 seconds remained in the period. The coach, not realizing this, instructed the player to enter when the shot clock showed 10 seconds, assuming that 20 seconds would have elapsed on the exclusion. (Actually only 16 seconds had elapsed.) An excluded player should not re-enter the pool until signaled by either the exclusion secretary or by the referee if the ball turned over. To avoid this type of problem, Rule 9-2 requires that the shot clock is to be turned off (blanked) when less than 30 seconds remain in the period and a new 30-second period of possession is awarded.

*Rule 21-13: Entering Field of Play Improperly

Situation: A player was excluded. A few seconds later a penalty foul was awarded against a player from the same team. The penalty shot was conducted but the ball rebounded from the top of the goal into an area in the field of play away from players of either team. The excluded player re-entered the field of play. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: Because this offense was committed by a player of the team not in possession of the ball, the referee should blow the whistle and exclude the player for 20 seconds and award a penalty throw to the opposing team. One additional personal foul is recorded against the offending player (marked as EP).

Rule 21-14: Interference with Penalty Throw

Situation: Immediately after the referee blew the whistle for the taking of a penalty throw, the player on the right side of the shooter hit the shooter's arm before the shooter released the ball. The penalty shot did not score. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: It is a game exclusion for a person to interfere with the taking of a penalty throw, if this interference occurs before the referee blew the whistle or after the referee blew the whistle but before the shooter released the ball. It is considered interference if a defensive player on the side of the shooter moves towards the shooter or hits the player's arm (shooting arm or non-shooting arm) before the shooter releases the ball or if a defender takes other actions towards the shooter such as shouting, splashing or whistling. The offending player is excluded for the remainder of the game with the substitute in the re-entry area, and the penalty shot is retaken. If this penalty shot is scored, the substitute enters immediately. If the shot is missed, the substitute may not enter until after the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3.

Rule 21-14: Interference with Penalty Throw

Situation: If the player in the above case, who was interfered with scored the original penalty shot, what should the referee call?

Ruling: The penalty shot counts and the substitute enters immediately. The player who interfered with the penalty shot is excluded for the remainder of the game.

Rule 21-15: Goalkeeper Failure to Take Position on Goal Line

Situation: During the administration of a penalty throw, the goalkeeper comes forward before the shot is administered. What should the referee do?

Ruling: The referee should warn the goalkeeper. If the goalkeeper fails to take up the correct position on the goal line after having been warned once by the referee, the referee should then exclude the goalkeeper for 20 seconds. Another defending player may take the position of the goalkeeper but without the goalkeeper's privileges or limitations.

Rule 21-17: Excluded Player Interfering With Play

Situation: An excluded player swims through the 6-on-5 to reach the re-entry area. What should the referee call?

Ruling: If the referee believes there is interference with play, the referee awards a penalty throw and another personal foul against the excluded player. The penalty throw is taken with the excluded player (or substitute) in the re-entry area.

Rule 22: Penalty Fouls

Rule 22-2-b: Two-Hand Shot Block Inside 5-Meter Line

Situation: A player within the 5-meter area put up two hands in an attempt to block a shot. The referee blew the whistle for the foul when the ball was in the air. The shot went out of bounds over the goal line, untouched by any player. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: The referee awards a penalty foul. The defending player does not have to touch the ball nor does a shot have to be taken. The player is being punished for intent.

Rule 22-2-b: Two-Hand Shot Block Inside 5-Meter Line

Situation: A player within the 5-meter area put up two hands in an attempt to block a shot. The referee blew a whistle for the foul when the ball was in the air. The ball went into the goal, untouched by any player. What should be the award of the referee?

Ruling: The referee should award a penalty foul and does not count the goal. The goal does not count because the ball was in flight towards the goal when the referee blew the whistle for a foul (Rule 14-6-a).

Rule 22-2-b: Two-Hand Shot Block Inside 5-Meter Line

Situation: A player within the 5-meter area put up two hands in an attempt to block a shot. The ball went into the goal, untouched by any player. The referee then blew the whistle for the foul. Should the referee count the goal? Should the referee award a penalty foul?

Ruling: Since the goal scored, the goal counts and the referee should not award the penalty foul against the player who put up two hands.

*Rule 22-2-b: Two-Hand Block of a Pass Inside 5-Meter Line

Situation: A player within the 5-meter area put up two hands to block or to attempt to block a pass which would have led to a probable goal. What action should the referee take?

Ruling: It is a penalty foul for a defending player to commit any foul within the 5-meter area but for which a goal would probably have resulted. Therefore, if the defending player intentionally blocks or attempts to block a pass with two hands which prevents a probable goal, a penalty foul is awarded.

*Rule 22-2-b: Two-Hand Block of a Pass Inside 5-Meter Line

Situation: A player within the 5-meter area put up two hands to block or to attempt to block a pass which would not have led to a probable goal. What is the ruling of the referee?

Ruling: It is not a penalty foul if the ball is being passed to a player who is in such a position that the pass would not have led to a probable goal. This defender is excluded for 20 seconds

Rule 22-6: Player Not Entitled to Participate Entering the Field of Play

Situation: A player was removed for the remainder of the game upon the issue of a third personal foul. The red flag was raised properly and was observed by the referees. Later in the game, the player entered during live time after a change in possession as a substitute for an excluded player and was observed by the desk shortly after. What should the exclusion secretary and referee do?

Ruling: The exclusion secretary should blow the whistle as soon as the player with three personal fouls is observed. The referee should remove the player, the substitute for that player should be in the re-entry area, the game clock reset to the time of entrance of the illegal player, a penalty throw awarded, and the substitute may enter after the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3.

Rule 22-8: Penalty Foul in the Last Minute

Situation: A penalty foul was awarded in the last minute. The coach did not signal to the referee if the coach wanted to take a penalty throw or wanted to keep the ball. Should the referee conduct the penalty throw?

Ruling: Even though it is the responsibility of the coach to give a clear signal without delay (Appendix B, Figure Z) if the team wishes to maintain possession of the ball or by showing five fingers to request a penalty throw, the referee must take the ball from the pool and must verify the decision of the coach if no clear signal was given. The referee then restarts play either with the penalty throw or by the team on offense restarting play by taking a free throw on or behind the half distance line as after a time-out. The possession clock is reset.

Rule 22-8 Award of Penalty Foul in the Last Minute: Rule 21-10: Misconduct

Situation: A penalty foul was awarded for either misconduct or for a minor act of misconduct committed after a third personal foul, an exclusion foul. If this situation occurred in the last minute of the game or in the last minute of the second overtime period or at any time during sudden-victory overtime periods, may the coach elect to maintain possession of the ball in lieu of taking the penalty throw?

Ruling: Yes, the coach may elect to maintain possession of the ball in this situation, in lieu of taking a live-time penalty throw, with the substitute for the excluded player in the re-entry area. If the third personal foul is a penalty foul and the player committed a minor act of misconduct after this foul while leaving the pool, there would be immediate substitution, and the first penalty throw is a dead-time penalty throw. The second penalty throw is a live-time penalty throw and the coach may elect to maintain possession of the ball in lieu of taking that live-time penalty throw. If the coach does elect to maintain possession of the ball, the team will be awarded a free throw on or behind the half distance line with a new possession clock and will start play as after a time-out.

*Rule 22-8 and Rule 21-11: Flagrant Misconduct Foul in the Last Minute of the Game

Situation: An act of flagrant misconduct was committed by a player on the white team in the last minute of the game. The player is excluded for the remainder of the game. The blue team was ahead by one goal. Should the referee ask the coach of the blue team if he/she prefers to take the penalty throw or to maintain possession of the ball?

Ruling: Yes. By the rule the referee must ask the coach his/her preference although here there may be no advantage to be gained by the coach declining to take the penalty throw and keeping the ball, since the penalty throw awarded for flagrant misconduct is a dead-time penalty throw. If the coach decides to take the penalty throw, the dead-time penalty throw is taken with the substitute for the excluded player in the re-entry area. The team retains possession of the ball, whether the penalty throw is made or missed and the substitute for the excluded player must remain in the re-entry area for 20 seconds or until the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3. The team starts play at the half-distance line as after a time-out with a new shot clock. If the coach declines to take the penalty throw, the substitute must remain in the re-entry area for 20 seconds or until the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3, and the team is awarded a free throw on or behind the half-distance line, the shot clock is reset, and the team will start play as after a time-out.

Rules 22-8 and 21-11: Simultaneous Flagrant Misconduct During the Last Minute of the Game or During the Last Minute of Overtime

Situation: Simultaneous flagrant misconduct fouls were committed by a player of each team during the last minute of the game, during the last minute of overtime, or at any time during sudden-victory overtime. What should be the action of the referee?

Ruling: If simultaneous flagrant misconduct fouls were committed by a player from each team during the time frame described, the referee must remove both players for the remainder of the game, with their substitutes in the re-entry areas. The coach whose team was in possession of the ball will decide whether each team will shoot a dead-time penalty shot or whether the team in possession of the ball will maintain possession of the ball and be awarded a free throw at or behind half as after a time-out. In either case, the substitutes for the excluded players must remain in the re-entry area for 20 seconds or until the earliest occurrence of an event described in Rule 21-3 whether the penalty shots are made or missed. The shot clock is reset.

Rule 23: Penalty Throws

Rule 23-2: Penalty Throw

Situation: The goalkeeper was excluded and, on the way out, interfered with play, resulting in the award of a penalty throw. A field player took the place of the goalkeeper in the goal with the goalkeeper in the re-entry area during the taking of the penalty throw. The field player came forward with both hands outstretched to the side in an attempt to block the penalty throw. The player blocked the penalty throw with one hand out of bounds over the goal line. What should the referee call?

Ruling: The referee should call a penalty foul against that player because the field player in the goal does not have the privileges of a goalkeeper. It is a penalty foul if a field player raised two hands in an attempt to block a shot inside the 5-meter area, no matter how high the player raised the hands or if the player blocked the ball with one or both hands or if the player did not actually touch the ball or if the shot missed the goal completely. The player should retake the penalty shot. However, if the penalty shot scored, the goal would count and no foul would be awarded against the field player in the goal.

Rule 23-2: Position of Other Players and Goalkeeper

Situation: A penalty foul was awarded against a player on the blue team. The head coach of the blue team directed one of the field players to take the goalkeeper's place in the goal for the taking of the penalty throw. Should the referee allow this?

Ruling: No. The goalkeeper is the only person who can defend a penalty throw, provided that there is a player in a goalkeeper's cap in the water at that time. The rule that states this most clearly is Rule 23-2: "With floating goals, the defending goalkeeper shall be positioned between the goal posts, with no part of the goalkeeper's body beyond the goal line at water level. . . .Should the goalkeeper be out of the water, another player may take the position of the goalkeeper but without the goalkeeper's privileges and limitations."

Rule 23-3: Position of Referee Administering the Penalty Throw

Situation: The referee administered a penalty throw while standing on the goal line. Should this be allowed?

Ruling: This is acceptable as there is no particular point specified in the rules for the referee to administer the penalty throw. This lack of specificity in designating the position of the referee when the whistle is blown allows the referee controlling the taking of the throw to determine the most advantageous position for that referee to watch the shooter, the defensive players and the goalkeeper.

*Rule 23-3: Role of the Back Court Referee in a Penalty Throw (revised)

Situation: The front court referee prepared to administer a penalty throw. The back court referee took a position farther behind in the back court. The front court referee raised the arm to administer the penalty

throw, blew the whistle and lowered the arm. At the same time, the back court referee blew a whistle to indicate interference. The player shot and scored the penalty shot. Should the goal be allowed?

Ruling: Yes. The front court referee, the referee controlling the throw, is responsible for lining up the players, the back court referee is watching for interference. Since the whistles were simultaneous, the goal counts, and the player who interfered with the shooter is excluded for the remainder of the game (Rule 21-14).

Rule 23-4: Taking of a Penalty Shot

Situation: After the referee blew the whistle for the penalty shot but before the ball left the hand of the shooter, the defensive players on either side of the shooter moved forward towards center cage. Is this permitted?

Ruling: Yes. After the whistle but before the ball is released, the defensive player on either side of the shooter may move forward at an angle towards the goal as long as the player does not interfere with the penalty shot. After the ball is released, the defensive players may move towards the shooter.

Rule 23-4: Method of Taking the Penalty Throw

Situation: A penalty throw is awarded. The player picks up the ball with the left hand and immediately transfers the ball to the right hand and then waits for the referee's signal for the penalty throw. The penalty shot scores. Should the referee count the goal?

Ruling: Yes. If the player transfers the ball to the right hand before the referee signals for the throw, there is no violation of the rule that the player shall immediately throw the ball with an uninterrupted movement directly at the goal. If the player transfers the ball from one hand to the other after the referee signals for the penalty throw to be taken, then the throw will be disallowed and the ball turned over (Rule 23-4, Rule 20-12). There is no rule specifying the speed at which the ball must travel to the goal. The shooter may lob the ball, for example, provided that the shot is taken without delay.

Rule 25: Accident, Injury and Illness

Rule 25-1: Leaving the Field of Play

Situation: The referee stopped play for an injury, malfunctioning equipment or to replace a cap. May the players hang onto the side of the field of play in a pool without sidelines or move under the sideline to hang onto the pool wall?

Ruling: The referee must indicate to the players if they can hang onto the side of the pool or if they must remain within the field of play. The referee usually requires the players to remain within the field of play in the case of a cap off or missing or for resetting a clock. If there is a lengthy equipment malfunction, the referee may indicate that the players may hang onto the sides of the pool or may move to their bench. Otherwise, players should not leave the field of play nor hang on the sidelines, etc., without the referee's permission.

*Rule 25-2: Bleeding

Situation: With 5 seconds remaining in a tournament game, the coach of the white team called a 30 second time-out. The referee discovered at that time that one of the players on the white team was bleeding. The referee called an injury time-out of three minutes, during which time the trainer stopped the bleeding. The player was then allowed back in the field of play and play was resumed. Is this the correct procedure for handling this type of injury?

Ruling: No. There is no 3-minute injury time-out in NFHS water polo. If there was bleeding, the player should have been immediately replaced by a substitute and play should have been resumed immediately after the conclusion of the 30-second time-out. After the bleeding stopped, the player would be permitted to enter the game as a substitute. The procedure is exactly the same for an injury that does not involve bleeding. The player is to be removed immediately and may return to the game at a later time after treatment (however, see exception in Rule 25-4).

Appendix A: Instructions for the Use of Two Referees

***#10: Simultaneous Exclusion and Ordinary Fouls**

Situation: If one referee calls an exclusion foul or penalty foul on the defense and, at the same time, the other referee calls an offensive turnover on the offense, which call prevails?

Ruling: The exclusion foul or the penalty foul on the defense. An offensive turnover is an ordinary foul.

Appendix B: Signals to be Used by Officials

Appendix B-F, G, CC: Referee Signals for Exclusion Fouls

Situation: The referee needs to distinguish between the fouls of flagrant misconduct, misconduct, and a minor act of misconduct because of differing penalties for these three fouls. What signals should the referee use?

Ruling: The referee crosses the arms down across the abdomen for flagrant misconduct (Fig. G); rotates both hands round one another for exclusion from the remainder of the game (usually for misconduct) (Fig. F); and makes a rolling motion with one arm instead of two arms for a minor act of misconduct (Fig. CC). In addition the referee must notify the scoring table verbally of these fouls and the scorekeeper must record the nature of the foul (for example E-flagrant misconduct, E-misconduct, or E-MAM).

***Fig H: To Signal the Award of a Penalty Throw, Fig. AA: To Indicate a Player's Cap Number**

Situation: A penalty foul was committed. How should the referee signal the scoring table that it was a penalty foul and to whom it should be charged?

Ruling: The referee should first hold up five fingers to indicate the penalty foul and then indicate the cap number to whom it should be charged. In this example the referee raised five fingers, lowered that hand and then raised four fingers on that hand. This indicates that the penalty foul is to be charged against the player with cap number four. The cap number must also then be verbally communicated to the desk.