

Wisdom of a Wednesday (on a Friday)

February 5, 2021

I hope this WOW finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy.

With two weekends of men's games having been played and the first weekend of women's games being this weekend, I have gathered some observations from referees that have been able to whistle. It is my hope that you will find these insights beneficial.

Mike Reid

- Plan on getting to the site much earlier than before.
- Get nail checks done before the players get in the water if possible.
- The captains meeting was conducted with the players in the water, socially distanced, and referees masked and socially distanced.
- One goal was scored from a 2-meter throw – NEW RULES!
- So happy to be back on deck, but nervous too! Once the game started, it was water polo and very much like it used to be.

Chad Packer

- Masks worked well. Took a little to figure out the right combination, but in the end, whistle sounded the same.
- Different walking out on deck just 15 minutes before the game (CWPA protocol) so had to re-think his usual pre-game rituals.
- New rules were adapted to quickly by the players.
- Odd to see the 5-meter cone and a 6-meter cone but got used to it.
- So great to be back on deck!

Scott Voltz

- Players were looking to take advantage of shooting outside 6-meters so the new signal was key for making it clear to all they were eligible to shoot.
- Most were good about putting the ball in play, but did remind himself a couple times to stay with the player taking the free throw to ensure it was actually put in play.
- COVID–19 protocols delayed some substitutions because of the masks but was not significant.
- Looking forward to whistling again!

Darren Spiritosanto

- Having the benches back 6 feet from the goal line was nice.
- Important to make sure the ball is put in play after all fouls and stoppages.

Peter Sophabmixay

- Make sure to familiarize yourself with the protocols of the conference in which you are whistling. They are not all the same.
- Know the requirements for masks/whistles (if any) so you are prepared.
- Ensure the coaches know the in-game protocols, especially if they are from a different conference than the host.

I hope that the time comes quickly when we are all more comfortable and even more of us are allowed to be back on deck enjoying the sport we all love. Please make sure you know the protocols and rules involved at the institutions/conferences you will be working before accepting the assignment. Accept or turn back any assignments in a timely fashion.

As always, more to come...

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