

Wisdom of a Wednesday (on a Thursday)

March 11, 2021

I hope this WOW finds you and your loved ones doing well. As the men's season comes a close, I wanted to thank all the teams, coaches, conferences and referees for their commitment to making this season happen. The college water polo community is clearly strong and resilient.

As the women's season gets into full swing with conference play, please find below a couple Referee Reminders. Once again, thank you for your continued commitment to the referee craft and to college water polo.

Center Play and Simulation

The definition of simulation has not been changed, nor has any new interpretation been added for the 2020-2022 Rules Book.

Here is the rule:

Rule 7, Section 10, Article 1:

To simulate begin fouled. Simulation means an action taken by a player with the apparent intent of causing a referee to award a foul incorrectly against an opposing player. A player on defense that commits an act of simulation shall be excluded for 20 seconds. If a player on offense commits an act of simulation, it will result in a turnover.

Simulation occurs when there is **clearly** no foul. Demonstrating to the officials that a foul is being committed is NOT a violation of the rules. Players must give a clear indication that NO foul is being committed if simulation is to be called.

To hold, sink, pull back are exclusions or, if committed by the offense, turnovers. In applying the rules, officials are expected to call these violations when they occur regardless of the type of defense that is being played.

Below is a quick summary of the Referee Reminders:

To hold, sink, or pull back are exclusions, regardless of the type of defense that is being played, or turnovers if committed by the offense.

When simulation is **clearly** observed by the official, the exclusion or turnover should be called.

The Advantage Rule must be applied fully and may not be used as an excuse for refraining from blowing the whistle when needed to protect player safety.

Thank you to Dave Alberstein, Alan Korsgaden and Sandy Nitta for their assistance on the content of these Referee Reminders.

As always, more to come...

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