

## **Wisdom of a Wednesday (on a Tuesday)**

### **September 22, 2020**

It is my sincere hope that this finds you and your loved ones healthy and happy. While I am not certain what exactly the New Year will hold, I do know that when we all are able to get back on deck, there will be plenty of water polo to keep us all busy. Please ensure that you are game ready, both physically and mentally.

The winter brings its own unique challenges to our sport, with the addition of Covid-19, it will not be a season for the unprepared.

### **NCAA Announcements**

On Wednesday, September 16, the Division I Council approved a package of proposals to move the 2020 fall championships to the spring of 2021. The recommendations now go to the Division I Board of Directors for approval. The Board of Directors is expected to make their decision this week.

#### *Men's water polo*

The finals site is scheduled for March 20-21, with a six-team bracket. All six teams will be automatic qualifiers. Normally, the championship has seven teams and includes a play-in round.

Regular-season play will be conducted Jan. 16-March 6, with selections March 7.

You can read more at the link below:

<https://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/media-center/news/di-council-approves-moving-fall-championships-spring>

#### *Women's Water Polo*

The season is set to begin as usual in early January with their championship being conducted the second weekend in May. Should any further updates become available on either championship, I will let you know as soon as I know.

### **Referee School**

December 5<sup>th</sup> is the new date for the NCAA Referee School. The format will be the same as mentioned before – three 2 hour sessions on a single day with make-up sessions afterward for those who cannot attend.

#### *Tentative Schedule (PST)*

##### **9-11am**

Covid-19 Officiating

Enhanced Referee Procedures

## New Rules Part 1

### **1-3pm**

Referee/Coach Interaction

Advantage & Hierarchy of Fouls

### **4-6pm**

New Rules Part 2

Professionalism

## **New Rules**

When you register with Arbiter, you will receive a Welcome Pack which includes a spiral bound rule book. If you have not been able to sign up yet, the new rules are listed below:

- 1.6 6-meter marking, 5-meter penalty shot
- 1.18 Ball pressure - men's ball
- 1.19 Ball pressure - women's ball
- 2.2 Allow standing or sitting in the bench area for all
- 2.4.7 Require replacement caps and suits
- 3.6.3 Referee - clearly identify action taken
- 4.19 Goalkeeper Movement - anywhere in the pool
- 4.20.4 Offensive player options, fouled outside 6-meters
- 4.25 Method of Making the Ball Live outside 6-Meters
- 5.4 Corner Throw- How Taken
- 5.10 Free Throws - Where Taken
- 5.13 Free Throws - How Taken
- 7.3.6 Substitute wearing a goalies cap
- 7.4 Leaving the Water
- 7.23 Tactical Foul

You can download a pdf version of the rules or purchase a rule book by going to the NCAA link below:

<http://www.ncaapublications.com/p-4615-2020-21-and-2021-22-water-polo-rules-interpretations.aspx>

Starting this week, I will start guiding everyone through the new rules. If you have been officiating or watching FINA/USAWP events last year, or early this year, almost all of these rules will be very familiar to you (please keep in mind that a couple key rules were NOT adopted - NO substitution on the fly, NO reduced shot clock and NO automatic penalty inside 6 meters).

More to follow...

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