



## **Water Polo Rules Comparisons NFHS 2012-13 Rules – NCAA 2012-14 Rules Prepared August 20, 2012**

**Note:** The following listing of the comparison of the NFHS and NCAA water polo rules has been prepared for convenience to officials and coaches. Although helpful to identify differences, only the current published rules books for the respective organizations are official. Official interpretations should be requested from the respective organization for which the ruling would apply.

(New differences between the two sets of rules are shaded. The rule numbers provided are those of the NFHS.)

### **Points of Emphasis**

#### **Points of Emphasis #4: Putting the Ball Into Play**

**NFHS** – As an aid to the game clock operator and to the players, the referee administering the free throw shall point with the arm held horizontally in the direction of the attacking team and then drop the arm down to a vertical position when the ball has been put into play.

**NCAA** – The referee administering the free throw shall point with the arm held horizontally in the direction of the attacking team and will drop the arm to a vertical position when the ball has been put in play. (Rule 19-2-Note)

#### **Points of Emphasis-Note 1,2: Risk Management Warnings**

**NFHS** – Players shall enter the water feet first at all times. ... Before the start of the game, referees shall meet with facility personnel...to ascertain the location of emergency supplies, such as first aid supplies, should any be required.

**NCAA** – There are no risk management warnings.

### **Rule 1: Field of Play and Equipment**

#### **Rule 1-1: Pregame Inspection**

**NFHS** – Inspection of game balls by referees to ensure compliance with rules is specifically required prior to the game.

**NCAA** – No specific requirement for inspection of game balls, although referees usually inspect them prior to the game.

#### **Rule 1-1: Pregame Inspection**

**NFHS** – Each state association shall establish its requirements for reporting deficiencies. This usually consists of reporting deficiencies to the administrator in charge at the site and afterwards to the state association office, school athletic director and assigning authority in order that these may be corrected, unless determined otherwise by state association policy.

**NCAA** – Referees shall report deficiencies to the administrator in charge at the site and afterwards to the conference commissioner and the assigning authority in order that these may be corrected.

### **Rule 1-2: Clocks, Score**

**NFHS** – The game clocks, the shot clocks and the score must be equally visible to both teams, the referees and score table personnel. If there is no scoreboard, there must be a visible display (flip cards, chalkboard, etc.) of the score, maintained by the score table.

**NCAA** – There is no requirement that the score must be visible to referees and table, although this is the expected method of display.

### **Rule 1-2: Clocks, Score**

**NFHS** – The shot clocks shall display the time remaining in the period of possession only in whole numbers.

**NCAA** – There is no requirement for the use of only whole numbers on shot clocks, although this is the usual method of display.

### **Rule 1-7: Re-entry Area**

**NFHS** – Description of depth of the re-entry area is the same and is located in the 2012-13 NFHS Casebook.

**NCAA** – The depth of the re-entry area will be determined by the pool configuration, but shall include the space in the shape of a rectangle immediately behind the boundary line. Unless clearly marked by lane lines and/or the back wall of the pool, the referees should notify the captains in the pregame meeting of the specific boundaries of the re-entry area.

### **Rule 1-12: Use of Video**

**NFHS** – The use of electronic equipment to visually record games is not prohibited by the rules. Individual state associations may develop policy regarding the electronic recording of games and uses. However, it is considered unsporting to use electronic equipment for visual replay for coaching purposes during the game or during any intermission. Further, the use of replay, television monitoring or any electronic equipment by the officials to make decisions related to the game is prohibited.

**NCAA** – There is no playing rule that prohibits a non-participating institution from videotaping games. Conference or local rules may prohibit this action. Video review is not permitted during the course of a game. However, conferences may have rules allowing the conference to utilize video after a game to determine if an incorrect student-athlete is serving a postgame suspension, to determine if flagrant misconduct occurred that was not detected in game or to further penalize a participant for unsportsmanlike conduct.

## **Rule 3: The Ball**

### **Rule 3-1: Description of Ball; Rule 3-6: Authenticating Mark**

**NFHS** – The ball shall be round and yellow or gold. The ball may have colored areas, such as panels, pentagons or circles, provided that it retains a predominant yellow or gold color. The ball must have the NFHS authenticating mark.

**NCAA** – The ball shall be round, predominantly yellow or gold in color, and have the traditional 18 panels.

### **Rule 3-5: Number of Balls**

**NFHS** – At least five game-quality balls must be available for all championship games and are recommended for all games.

**NCAA** – At least five game-quality balls must be available for all games.

## **Rule 4: Caps**

### **Rule 4-1-1,2,4: Team Identification on Caps**

**NFHS** – The middle panel (or middle two panels in caps divided into quarters) on both the home and visiting caps may contain, without restriction as to the size or number, school logos, school name, school mascot and/or other school information. Schools have until **July 1, 2015** to be in compliance with the rule requiring only school information in the middle panel(s) and with the rule requiring additional cap numbers (Rule 4-4-2) on the middle panel(s) of the cap. The manufacturer's logo, if one is present, is already required to be on the central panel.

**NCAA** – The middle panel of both the dark and white caps may have a school logo, name or mascot design, as long as the background remains a contrasting color (or white in the case of the white caps). The caps may also have one visible manufacturer’s logo in the middle area of the cap only, not allowed on the sides of the caps.

**Rule 4-1-3: Piping on Cap**

**NFHS** – Caps for the players of either team may have piping of any single solid color not to exceed a width of 1 cm around the edges of the cap and/or on the seams of the cap. The piping must be solid, not dashed or double.

**NCAA** – Caps for the players of either team may have piping of any color not to exceed a width of 1 cm around the edges of the cap and/or on the seams of the cap.

**Rule 4-4-1: Cap Numbers**

**NFHS** – Cap numbers may have a very narrow inconspicuous border, such as light grey. The large central part of the number on the dark cap must be white or yellow. The large central part of the number on the white cap must be a dark color.

**NCAA** – Numbers must be a single solid color with no border.

**Rule 4-4-1: Numbers on Goalkeepers Caps**

**NFHS** – If there are additional goalkeepers, it is recommended that the additional goalkeepers have numbers 1A, 1B, etc.

**NCAA** – If there are additional goalkeepers, the additional goalkeepers shall have numbers 1A, 1B, etc.

**Rule 4-4-2: Small Cap Numbers**

**NFHS** – There may be two additional cap numbers located on the middle panel of the cap, one on the front and one on the back, each a minimum of 4 centimeters in height. (As of **July 1, 2015**, it will be required to have these cap numbers on the front and on the back of the caps.)

**NCAA** – No additional cap numbers described or specified for middle panel(s) on the caps.

**Rule 5: Teams and Substitutes**

**Rule 5-1-3: Number of Players, Illegal Player**

**Situation:** The exclusion secretary fails to signal a player’s third personal foul, a penalty foul, before the penalty shot was taken and missed. How is play restarted?

**NFHS** – The penalty shot is not retaken if missed. The ball is put into play at a location depending upon the outcome of the missed penalty shot (it is put in play by the goalkeeper of the opposing team if the ball was shot over the goal, by a corner throw if the goalkeeper deflected the ball over the goal line, at the point the ball rebounded into the field of play by the team that regained possession of the ball, etc.).

**NCAA** – The penalty shot is retaken if missed.

**Rule 5-2-3: Team Benches**

**NFHS** – 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, times when both coaches may stand and coach. The referee may issue a warning, followed by a yellow card, and then a red card for violation of these rules by the assistant coach.

**NCAA** – 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, times when both coaches may stand and coach. (See Rule 7-4 for additional information.)

**Rule 5-4-1: Apparel and Articles Likely to Cause Injury**

**NFHS** – Players shall wear non-transparent, one-piece swim suits. Suits shall completely cover the buttocks and breasts. The women’s suit must have a solid high back with broad straps (style optional for goalkeeper).

**NCAA** – Players shall wear identical, nontransparent, one-piece swimsuits. The women’s suit must have a solid high back with broad straps.

### **Rule 5-4-1: Non-conforming Suits**

**NFHS** – If a player's suit does not meet specifications for suits as described in the rules, the player will be required, if possible, to change suits. If this is not possible and if the game is played with non-conforming suits, the referee must notify the state or district association of the offending team of the nature of the offense so that this deficiency will be corrected in the future. The state association will also assess the appropriate penalty.

**NCAA** – Rule 7-7-1 states that referees report non-conforming suits to the conference commissioner and assigning authority, who then reports this to the appropriate athletics director. Usually still play the game and report as in Rule 7-7-1.

### **Rule 5-4-2: Size of Commemorative (Memorial) Patch**

**NFHS** – Size on cap/suit not to exceed four square inches, with written state association approval.

**NCAA** – Size not to exceed 2 1/4 square inches.

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

**NFHS** – Articles likely to cause injury include jewelry, medical or religious medals, watches, swim goggles, and sharp fingernails and toenails. Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodation to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, allow an otherwise illegal piece of equipment, create risk to the athletes/others or place opponents at a disadvantage. Allowed are mouth pieces, prescription goggles, nose guards of type designed for contact sports, face masks, foam helmets, etc. Release is described, but not included in rules.

**NCAA** – Medical and religious medals are not specifically included as articles likely to cause injury but assume they would not be allowed; remainder of list of articles likely to cause injury is the same. Procedure established for use of prescription goggles, nose guards of type designed for contact sports, face masks and for other similar items. Release included in Appendix F.

### **Rule 5-4-3: Foam Helmets**

**NFHS** – Foam helmet specifically allowed with proper approval form.

**NCAA** – Foam helmet not specifically included in the list of permitted equipment. Foam helmets were included as permitted objects in an NCAA Interpretation distributed in 2011 and in the 2011 NCAA Casebook.

### **Rule 5-5-1: Pregame Meeting and Inspection**

**NFHS** – Meeting is specified for captains and referees (coaches not required to attend). By state association adoption, the head coach of each team may be required to attend this meeting.

**NCAA** – Meeting is specified for captains and referees; coaches may attend this meeting.

### **Rule 5-5-2: Substances on Body**

**NFHS** – If the presence of oil or grease is detected after play has started, the player is removed from play and must remove the oil and/or grease before returning later to the game as a substitute. Note 2: By individual state association adoption, a player detected wearing oil or grease after play has started shall be excluded from the remainder of the game with immediate substitution.

**NCAA** – If a player is detected wearing oil or grease after play has started, the player must remove the foreign substance before the player can reenter the pool as a substitute.

### **Rule 5-6-1: Direct (Live-Time) Substitution**

**NFHS** – Three-parts of rule are included in rules book: (1) if substitute player enters water before player leaving water leaves at the re-entry area, the entering player is excluded for remainder of game with substitute in re-entry area; penalty shot awarded; substitute player enters immediately if penalty shot scores; if missed, enters after 20 seconds (Rule 5-6-1, Note 1); (2) if exiting player leaves under sideline or end line at any place other than the re-entry area while the sub is still in the re-entry area, the exiting player is excluded for 20 seconds, swims to the re-entry area, and that player or a substitute can enter after 20 seconds (Rule 5-6-1, Note 2); (3) if exiting player leaves under side line or end line and then substitute enters immediately from re-entry area, the

referee blows whistle, player leaving pool at wrong spot is excluded for 20 seconds and player entering is removed with no penalty as player entered due to error of exiting player (Rule 5-6-1, Note 2 interpretation).  
**NCAA** – Rule is the same, but the second and third parts are only in the 2011 NCAA case book.

### **Rule 5-7, Rule 7-4-3,4, Rule 7-9-c, Rule 13-3: Substitutes**

**NFHS** – Usual method (Rule 7-9-c and Rule 13-3) of handling situation if a referee starts a period, after a time-out or after a goal with an extra player or with too few players, the referee shall stop play, correct the situation, reset both clocks and restart play. If the delay in making substitutions persists, the referee may issue a warning to the coach, followed by a yellow card (Rule 7-4-3,4). A referee may also consider Rule 5-7 that a substitute shall be ready to replace a player without delay. If the substitute is not ready, the game shall continue without the substitute; the substitute may enter from the re-entry area during play.

**NCAA** – Usual method (Rule 13-3) of handling if referee starts a period, after a time-out or after a goal with an extra player or too few players, the referee shall stop play, correct the situation, reset both clocks and restart play. Rule 5-8 also states that a substitute shall be ready to replace a player without delay. If the substitute is not ready, the game shall continue without the substitute; the substitute may enter from the re-entry area during play.

### **Rule 6: Officials**

#### **Rule 6-1, 6-2: Number of Referees**

**NFHS** – In high school competition the officials shall consist of two referees... The use of one referee is allowed only in extenuating circumstances. The use of goal judges is optional. Interpretation: Extenuating circumstances could include transportation problems, sudden illness, assigning error, etc.

**NCAA** – To the extent possible there should be two referees at every game; in extenuating circumstances there may be only one referee and two goal judges.

### **Rule 7: Referees**

#### **Rule 7-1: Requirement for Rules Test**

**NFHS** – There is no NFHS requirement for referees to register, and take and pass the referee test yearly; state or local associations may have this requirement.

**NCAA** – Referees are required to register with the NCAA, and to take and pass the referee test yearly.

#### **Rule 7-1-1,2: Authority of Referee**

(In both organizations the jurisdiction of the referees ends 5 minutes after end of game or after any protest procedure has been completed).

**NFHS** – Referees must arrive at the pool at least 15 minutes before start of the game. Jurisdiction begins 15 minutes before the game. The referees retain clerical authority until the completion of any reports, including those imposing disqualifications that are in response to actions occurring while the referees had jurisdiction. State associations may intercede in the event of unusual incidents that occur before, during or after the referees' jurisdiction has ended or in the event that a contest is terminated prior to the conclusion of regulation play.

**NCAA** – Jurisdiction begins 30 minutes before the game and ends five minutes after the conclusion of the game or when any protest procedure has been completed.

#### **Rule 7-1-3-Interpretation 1: Advertising on Referee's Shirt**

**NFHS** – Unless determined otherwise by state association policy, no advertising is permitted on the referees' attire. A manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference not to exceed approximately 2 1/4 square inches in area and not to exceed approximately 2 1/4 inches in any dimension is permitted on the uniform as this is not considered to be advertising. If a tournament shirt is provided, both referees must wear this or both must wear the white uniform.

**NCAA** – The white uniform worn by a referee may not have any advertising other than the logo of the tournament host if alternative uniforms are supplied by the tournament host.

### **Rule 7-1-3-Interpretation 2: Attire of Referees**

**NFHS** – When a state association must deal with extreme heat and humidity and there is concern for the officials working in these conditions, the individual state association may make a temporary adjustment and permit the wearing of white shorts to address heat-related issues. If shorts are authorized, both referees must dress alike. Both must wear white long trousers or both must wear white shorts.

**NCAA** – Shorts and sandals are not permitted. A tournament director, however, may authorize shorts if required by weather conditions. If shorts are authorized, both referees must wear white shorts or both must wear long white trousers.

### **Rule 7-4-3: Control Over Conduct**

**NFHS** – If a coach or team official is disruptive or if the assistant coach or other team official stands instead of remaining seated on the bench, that person may be issued a warning by the referee. Note: A coach may also be issued a warning if the coach, in the opinion of the referee, persistently takes too long to substitute after a goal or at other times.

**NCAA** – If a coach or team official is disruptive or if the assistant coach or other team official stands, that person may be issued a verbal warning by the referee. The referee may issue a warning to the coach if a coach takes too long to substitute after a goal or after a time-out, for example (see 2011 NCAA Casebook).

### **Rule 7-4-4: Issuance of a Yellow Card**

**NFHS** – Yellow card may be issued to head coach, assistant coach, other team officials on the bench or to the bench (the players collectively on the bench).

**NCAA** – Yellow card may be issued to the head coach, to the bench or to a player in water. A yellow card is a visible warning to the bench for behavior such as interfering with the duties of the officials or with the progress of the game, to the head coach for going beyond the area designated for the head coach or to other coaches or team officials for standing during the game.

### **Rule 7-4-4: Issuance of a Yellow Card to a Coach**

**NFHS** – A yellow card may be issued to the head coach if, in the opinion of the referee, he/she persistently takes too long to substitute after a goal or at other times after a warning. Specifically stated in rules that referee may issue a yellow card for a repeated offense.

**NCAA** – Not specifically stated in rules, but is in 2011 NCAA Casebook.

### **Rule 7-4-4: Issuance of a Yellow Card to a Player**

**NFHS** – Yellow card is not issued to an individual player in the water.

**NCAA** – Referee can issue a yellow card to an individual player in the water for unsporting behavior that does not in the opinion of the referee rise to the level of misconduct as a warning to all players on that team that future unsporting behavior by any player in the water from that team will be considered misconduct. Definition of unsporting behavior by a player in the water is that of the old minor act of misconduct.

### **Rule 7-4-4: Issuance of a Yellow Card**

**NFHS** – A yellow card may be displayed during the progress of the game without stoppage in play. At the next normal stoppage in play, without taking away the advantage of the non-offending team, the referee shall notify the coach of the offending team and the score table which coach or other bench personnel or the players collectively on the bench was issued the yellow card.

**NCAA** – If a yellow card is awarded during play, the referee may wait until the next normal stoppage in play to notify the head coach of the offending team, the score table, and the other referee as to whom the yellow card was awarded. The yellow card can be shown during play before there is the next normal stoppage of play.

### **Rule 7-4-5: Issuance of a Red Card**

**NFHS** – No specific time stated. However, rules do not preclude a referee from giving a red card to a coach, other team official or to a player who accosts a referee after a game.

**NCAA** – Referee may award a red card to a coach, team official or player for disruptive behavior at any time from 30 minutes before the game to five minutes after the conclusion of the game, or until any protest procedure has been completed (time during jurisdiction of the referees).

#### **Rule 7-4-5: Issuance of a Red Card**

**NFHS** – A coach or other team official must leave the pool facility and have no visual or electronic contact with the team. Athlete may be in the stands during the game but may not communicate with the team, team officials or referees. A state association may have specific rules governing if the coach or team official may be in audience or pool area during the next game, the game in which the suspension is being served.

**NCAA** – The person receiving the red card (coach, other team official, player) or who committed flagrant misconduct must leave the bench and may be in the bleachers during game, but may not communicate with the team, team officials or referees from 30 minutes before the game, during the game, and up to 5 minutes after the conclusion of the game or until any protest filing procedure has been completed. Rules regulate type of game in which next-game suspension may be served.

#### **Rule 7-5-Note 2: Spectator Whistling or Use of Air Horn**

**NFHS** – Referee can remove a spectator for persistently whistling during game, as the whistle can be confused with that of referee. After a warning to stop, the referee should request the host institution to remove the spectator from the premises. Same procedure for use of air horn by a spectator.

**NCAA** – Penalty for use of air horn included in the rules. If the referee considers that this behavior prevents the referees from carrying out their duties, the referee should ask event management staff to remove the spectator from the site. Whistling by a spectator in the stands is not included in rules, but is in 2011 NCAA Casebook.

#### **Rule 7-7: Referee Reporting Responsibility; Rule 21-10: Misconduct**

**NFHS** – Exclusion for remainder of game and reported to the state association, which reports it to the local association, which reports it to the principal of the offending school. Each association may decide if an additional game suspension is required for the foul of misconduct

**NCAA** – Exclusion for remainder of game. No additional game suspension for misconduct. Misconduct reported only to the conference commissioner, not the athletic director of the offender's institution.

#### **Rule 7-9: Correctable Errors**

**NFHS** – Must be detected by 5 minutes after the end of the game in order to be corrected. Example of frequently occurring correctable errors included in rules book.

**NCAA** – No deadline specified in rule, but protests must be filed within five minutes of the conclusion of the game. Definition of correctable errors included in rules book as well as the special case of a correctable clock error.

#### **Rule 7-9-m: Starting after Time-out**

**NFHS** – If the team in possession of the ball ends a time-out early and, in error, the game timer does not cancel the remainder of the time-out, resulting in a failure of the game clock to start, but play is restarted and a goal is scored before the error is discovered, the goal should be counted if, in the opinion of the referees, the goal would have counted if the clock had been started. The game and shot clocks shall then be set to reflect how much time the referees estimated had elapsed.

**NCAA** – Not described.

#### **Rule 7-10-Interpretation 2: Protests**

**NFHS** – A coach may file a protest after the referees have signed the scoresheet, provided that the referees are informed of the protest before five minutes have elapsed after the conclusion of the game and the written protest is completed by 15 minutes after the game.

**NCAA** – Not described.

#### **Rule 7-10-Note 3: Protests**

**NFHS** – Referee must provide reason for denial of protest (citing rule), in writing, and inform the coach of the reason for denial. The referee must file a written report to the state association of the protest and the reason for the decision.

**NCAA** – The written protest with the decision shall be attached to the scoresheet. This serves as the official record of the protest.

## **Rule 9: Timekeepers**

### **Rule 9-2: Blanking of Shot Clock**

**NFHS** – When less than 30 seconds remain in a period and a new period of possession is awarded.

**NCAA** – When less than 30 seconds (men's game) or 35 seconds (women's game) remain in a period and a new period of possession is awarded.

### **Rule 9-3: Goal Scored at End of Period**

**NFHS** – Time of goal is recorded as 0:00.

**NCAA** – Not described in rules, but this same statement is included in the 2011 NCAA Casebook.

## **Rule 11: Duration of the Game**

### **Rule 11-1: Length of Game**

**NFHS** – Seven-minute periods for varsity; recommend 6-minute periods for junior varsity, 5-minute periods for freshman-sophomore games.

**NCAA** – Eight minutes actual play in each period.

### **Rule 11-2: Interval at Half-time**

**NFHS** – Interval cannot be longer than 5 minutes.

**NCAA** – Interval cannot be longer than 5 minutes, unless for promotional considerations with agreement of both coaches

### **Rule 11-2: Interval between Periods**

**NFHS** – Two minutes

**NCAA** – Three minutes

### **Rule 11-3: Interval between Overtime Periods**

(In both sets of rules, games may not end in a tie. However, in NFHS there may be special tournament rules.)

**NFHS** – Five minutes before first overtime period, then two minutes between all subsequent overtime periods.

**NCAA** – Five minutes before first overtime period, then three minutes between all subsequent overtime periods.

### **Rule 11-3: Sudden-death Overtime**

**NFHS** – Called sudden-victory overtime.

**NCAA** – Called sudden-death overtime.

### **Rule 11-5-1: Tournament Variations**

**NFHS** – There may be tournament variations, provided teams are notified in advance of any special tournament rules and which team wears dark caps. Tournament variations may include length of periods, duration of period breaks, number, type and length of time-outs, type and duration of overtime, and requirement for overtime. For example, in a tournament with the group system of play, games may end in a tie (but this is not usual). Breaking a tie by means of a penalty shoot-out in a tournament is not allowed.

**NCAA** – There are no tournament variations; each game must be standard (including overtime). However, see Appendix D for some variation allowed in tournament advancement.

### **Rule 11-5-2: Tournament Committee**

**NFHS** – If there is a tournament committee, the head coach may protest the referees' decision on a protest to the tournament committee. The composition of the tournament committee is not specified. If there is not a committee, the coach may refer a protestable referee decision to the state association, if permitted by the association.

**NCAA** – There is no description of a tournament committee, although in practice there is one at major tournaments. That committee may rule on protests.



**Rule 11-6: Replay of Game; Rule 7-4-5: Issuance of a Red Card to a Coach**

**NFHS** – The coach who has received a red card in the part of the game to be replayed may not coach in any part of the game to be replayed and must leave the facility.

**NCAA** – Same, except that the coach who has received a red card in any part of game to be replayed is allowed to be in the bleachers, but the coach may not interact with the referees, players, etc. until after the jurisdiction of the referees.

**Rule 12: Time-outs**

**Rule 12-1: Visible Display of Time-outs**

**NFHS** – Display of time-outs remaining is not required.

**NCAA** – Number of time-outs remaining (both regular and 30-second) shall be visible to both teams, maintained by the score table. It is recommended that an exclusion board be used to show the time-outs remaining, but the requirement for the visible display of time-outs may also be met by the use of flip cards or a white board.

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

**NFHS** – The ball is turned over. No time-out is charged against the team on offense that called the improper time-out, nor is a penalty shot awarded.

**NCAA** – The ball is turned over. It is not specified in rules that no time-out is charged nor penalty shot awarded, but rule is the same as NFHS. (See 2011 NCAA Casebook.)

**Rule 12-5: Time-out Called by Coach of Team on Defense**

**NFHS** – A penalty shot is awarded. No time-out is charged against the team on defense that called the improper time-out.

**NCAA** – A penalty shot is awarded. Not specified in the rules if a time-out is charged but 2011 NCAA Casebook states no time-out is charged.

**Rule 12-7: 30-Second Time-out**

**NFHS** – No 30-second time-out in the rules except as a tournament variation (see Rule 11-5).

**NCAA** – One per game; unused 30-second time-out carries over to overtime.

**Rule 14: Method of Scoring**

**Rule 14-3-Note 2: Direct Shot on Goal**

**NFHS** – The referee shall not use any signal, such as raising an arm or showing five fingers, to indicate that a player is eligible to shoot a direct shot on goal outside 5 meters after that player's team has been awarded a free throw for a foul committed outside 5 meters.

**NCAA** – If a free throw is awarded for a foul outside but within one meter of the 5-meter line, the referee administering the free throw will point with one arm horizontal to the body in the direction of the attacking team and shall point with the other arm diagonal to the body to the 5-meter line to indicate that a player is eligible to shoot a direct shot on goal after that player's team has been awarded a free throw for a foul committed outside 5 meters. See Appendix B, Fig. DD, for the referee signal.

**Rule 20: Ordinary Fouls**

**Rule 20-16: Time of Possession**

**NFHS** – 30 seconds for both men and women.

**NCAA** – 30 seconds for men, 35 seconds for women.

## **Rule 21: Exclusion Fouls**

### **Rule 21-10-2: Minor Act of Misconduct**

**NFHS** – A minor act of misconduct with a 20-second exclusion is awarded if a player directs minor comments, minor taunting, minor shoving or makes minor gestures to a referee or to a player on the opposite team or same team during play or during interval time. The penalty for a second minor act of misconduct committed by the same player or by another player on either team during play or during interval time is a second 20-second exclusion.

**NCAA** – The minor act of misconduct was removed as an exclusion foul. If a player in the water on either team commits unsporting behavior that does not, in the opinion of the referee, rise to the level of misconduct, the referee may issue a yellow card to that player as a warning to all players on that team that future unsporting behavior by any player in the water from that team will be considered misconduct. Examples of this type of behavior include a player directing minor comments to a referee such as “Call the foul” or “Where is the push-off?” or “He’s inside the two” or making minor gestures to the referee or minor comments (minor taunting) or gestures or minor shoving of a member of the opposing team or to a member of the same team as, for example, after a goal or after a personal foul. These actions were formerly defined as minor acts of misconduct.

### **Rule 21-11: Flagrant Misconduct**

**NFHS** – Player excluded from the remainder of the game, a dead-time penalty shot awarded and that team gets ball back at half as after a time-out. The player also excluded from next game. State association may add additional penalties. The player removed is sent to the bleachers, under supervision; the coach or other team personnel committing flagrant misconduct must leave the premises. The coach or player may be in the bleachers for the subsequent game.

**NCAA** – Player excluded from the remainder of the game and from the next game, a dead-time penalty shot awarded and that team gets ball back at half as after a time-out. Exclusion from remainder of the game and suspension from next game for the first offense; automatic two-game suspension for second incident; automatic three-game suspension with conference review for third incident in that season. The coach or player can be in the bleachers during subsequent game(s) exclusion.

### **Rule 21-11: Flagrant Misconduct for Fighting**

**NFHS** – The player is excluded from the remainder of the game and for the next game; the state association may add additional penalties; the location of players and coaches is the same as in flagrant misconduct.

**NCAA** – The player is excluded from the remainder of the game and suspended from the next two games for first offense; automatic suspension for three games for the second offense, with conference review; suspension for the remainder of season with conference review for the third offense.

## **Rule 23: Penalty Throws**

### **Rule 23-5: Skipping a Penalty Shot**

**NFHS** – A player may skip a penalty shot towards the goal. However, if the ball failed to skip and remained dead in the water (for example, two feet in front of the goal), the shooter can not take another shot at the goal unless the ball rebounds from the goalkeeper, goal post or crossbar. The referee should blow the ball dead for the ordinary foul of an improperly-taken penalty throw.

**NCAA** – Same description located in 2011 NCAA Casebook.

## **Rule 25: Accident, Injury and Illness**

### **Rule 25-2: Bleeding**

**NFHS** – If a player is bleeding or otherwise injured (see also Rule 25-3), the referee shall immediately stop play, remove the player and allow the entrance of a substitute. However, if the team has a regular time-out remaining (whether the team is on offense or defense), the referee shall ask the coach if he/she wishes to call a time-out instead of immediately replacing the player. If the bleeding stops, the wound covered, the suit or body appropriately cleaned, and/or the suit is changed and the player is able to resume play by the end of the time-out,

the player may continue to play. If the bleeding has not stopped or if the player has not otherwise recovered, a substitute may enter play and the injured player may return to the game at a later time.

**NCAA** – If a player is bleeding, the referee shall immediately order the player out of the water with the immediate entry of a substitute and the game shall continue without interruption. After the bleeding has stopped, the player is permitted to be a substitute in the ordinary course of the game.

**Rule 25-4: Concussion; Appendix H: Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion**

**NFHS** – Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.

**NCAA** – Information relating to the handling of concussions removed from Rule 25 and is located in Appendix G.

**Appendix E: Signals to be Used by Officials**

**Appendix E-Fig. CC: Referee Signal for Minor Act of Misconduct**

**NFHS** – The referee rotates one arm/forearm in a circular motion.

**NCAA** – Signal removed as the foul of a minor act of misconduct was removed from the rules.

**Appendix K: Guidelines on Handling Contests During Lightning Disturbances**

**Appendix K: Guidelines on Handling Contests During Lightning Disturbances**

**NFHS** – The administrator in charge or the referee should terminate play and have the players leave the pool when they hear thunder or see a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt; play should not be resumed until at least 30 minutes elapse after the last flash of lightning or the sound of thunder.

**NCAA** – The administrator in charge or the referee should terminate play and have the players leave the pool when the flash to bang time is 30 seconds or less; play should not be resumed until 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning or the sound of thunder.

**---** Television time-outs (NCAA Rule 12-8) – No reference in NFHS