



**BC Summer Swimming Association**  
SWIMMING | DIVING | WATER POLO | SYNCHRO

# Water Polo

## **Rules of the BC Summer Swimming Association**

The following rules govern all BC Summer Swimming Association activities. These have been approved by the BCSSA Board of Directors and are in effect until any changes are approved by the Board.

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## **VISION STATEMENT**

To be a leading sport organization, fostering a culture of inclusiveness, fun, and achievement.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The BC Summer Swimming Association (BCSSA) promotes, and encourages the development of athletes and volunteers through participation in speed swimming, diving, water polo and synchronized swimming.

## **CORE VALUES**

Through its member clubs, BCSSA provides opportunities for training, competition and activities in communities throughout BC and surrounding areas.

BCSSA promotes the development of an individual's capacity to achieve excellence and life skills through participation in competitive aquatic activities.

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## 1. DEFINITIONS

**"BCSSA CLUB HOSTED MEET"** – means a swim meet offering events in all competitor age groups and categories at which BCSSA-registered swimmers representing three or more clubs compete using the Rules of Swimming as defined by BCSSA Rules and Regulations.

**"Club"** – means a duly registered club in good standing with the BCSSA and must be an incorporated Society in British Columbia and be members in good standing under the Society Act.

**"FINA"** – means the Federation Internationale de Natation – the international aquatic body that regulates and controls competitions in the four aquatic sports world-wide.

**"May"** – means that an action is optional at the discretion of the person identified as the decision-maker.

**"Official"** – means a person charged with responsibility to serve in a particular position of responsibility.

**"Pool Area"** – means any area of the competition under the jurisdiction of the referee.

**"Shall"** – means that an action is mandatory, so there is no discretion associated with it.

**"Should"** – means that an action is preferred under normal circumstances.

**"SNC"** – means Swimming Canada (or Swimming Natation Canada), the national governing body recognized by FINA.

**"Swim meet"** – means a swimming competition involving two or more clubs with officials appointed for the express purpose of judging the correctness of each stroke and disqualifying swimmers who violate infractions observed.

## **2. REGISTRATION**

### **2.1. CLUB REGISTRATION**

#### **2.1.1. Existing Clubs**

- A registered club is a member of the BCSSA during the period of May 1<sup>st</sup> of one year to April 30<sup>th</sup> of the following calendar year.
- Each club must be an incorporated Society in British Columbia that is in good standing under the *Society Act*.
- Each club must pay an annual BCSSA membership fee in advance by forwarding payment to the appropriate Regional Registrar by April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Regional Registrar shall forward fees paid plus a club membership list of participating clubs to the BCSSA Office, on or before April 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. The BCSSA may assess a penalty to any club that submits its registration fees after the deadline.
- Each club must complete and submit an annual affiliation form and apply for BCSSA Directors and Officers liability insurance coverage by March 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

#### **2.1.2. New Clubs**

2.1.2.1 To register a new club, the following criteria must be met:

- The club must include five (5) or more competitors.
- The club must include two (2) or more families.
- There must be an executive in place with a minimum of three (3) individuals.
- The club must have a budget.

- The club must not unduly infringe on any current BCSSA club.
- The club must have purposes and activities consistent with the purposes of the BCSSA and a commitment to furthering the success of the Region and the BCSSA in advancing the BCSSA's purposes.

2.1.2.2 A group that wishes to register a new club with BCSSA must:

- Apply to the appropriate Regional Board for Regional approval.
- If approved by the Regional Board, the Regional Director shall submit the application to the Provincial Board of Directors for final approval. All applications must be submitted to the BCSSA before January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Pay the club membership fee on or before April 1st to the Regional Registrar.
- Incorporate as a Society in British Columbia and be in good standing as per the requirements of the *Society Act* prior to April 1st of the year the group wishes to join the BCSSA.
- A group wishing to register may appeal any decision by the Regional Board or the Provincial Board to the BCSSA Appeals Committee.

## **2.2. INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION – GENERAL**

### **2.2.1. Registration Requirements**

- A competitor or coach shall not participate in BCSSA activities – including training,

competing, coaching or otherwise taking part in club activities – at any time of year until fully registered with a BCSSA club.

- Clubs shall register all competitors and coaches in their correct age divisions and categories.
- At the time of registration, the specific aquatic activities of each competitor shall be correctly designated.
- All new registrants shall provide proof of age such as a birth certificate or a care card.
- Each registration shall be validated by the club before a competitor's first competition.

### **2.2.2. Sanctions for Not Meeting Requirements**

- A club that allows a competitor to participate in a BCSSA activity before that individual is correctly registered shall be subject to immediate suspension, as governed by the section entitled Disciplinary Action in these rules and regulations.
- A penalty of up to \$1,000 may be assessed by the BCSSA Board of Directors to a region or club that fails to submit its registration database or fees by the deadlines set out in this section.

## **2.3. INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION – COMPETITIVE SEASON**

### **2.3.1. Registration Timing**

- The competitive season is May 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- All competitors shall be registered with the Region by the second Thursday of July in

order to be eligible to compete at the Regional and Provincial Championships.

- A competitor who wishes to register with BCSSA during the competitive season but after the second Thursday of July may do so, but will be ineligible to compete at the Regional and the Provincial Championships. All applicable provincial, regional and club fees for such a late registrant shall be paid and submitted to the Provincial Registrar by September 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **2.3.2. Registration Database and Fees**

- An annual Provincial individual registration fee shall be established by the BCSSA Board of Directors prior to the beginning of each competitive season.
- Each Regional Board may levy Regional fees by such amounts as may be deemed necessary for regional activities or expenditures.
- Each club shall submit a club competitive season individual registration database for each aquatic sport, and fees, to the Regional Registrar by the second Thursday of July.
- The Regional Registrar shall submit each club's registration database and fees to the Provincial Registrar by the Monday two weeks prior to the Swimming Regional Championships.
- Clubs shall submit any fees relating to late registrants to the Regional Registrar by September 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **2.4. INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION – NON-COMPETITIVE SEASON**

### **2.4.1. Registration Timing**

- The non-competitive season is October 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Clubs may commence registration and programs for the non-competitive season on September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The closing date for non-competitive season registrations is April 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year.

### **2.4.2. Registration Database and Fees**

- A non-competitive season provincial registration fee shall be established by the BCSSA Board of Directors each year.
- Each Regional Board may levy Regional fees by such amounts as may be deemed necessary for regional activities and expenditures.
- Each club shall submit a club non-competitive season individual registration database, and fees, to the Regional Registrar by May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The Regional Registrar shall submit each club's registration database and fees to the Provincial Registrar by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **2.5. PROTESTS REGARDING COMPETITOR ELIGIBILITY**

### **2.5.1. Responsibilities**

- All matters of competitor eligibility are the responsibility of the Provincial Registrar.
- Any club wishing to protest the eligibility of a competitor shall, at the earliest opportunity,

forward the protest in writing to the Regional Director, along with any relevant documentation.

- Anonymous protests of competitor eligibility shall not be investigated.

### **2.5.2. Process**

- On receipt of a protest, the Regional Director shall form an investigation committee that includes the Regional Director, the president of the club whose competitor is alleged to be ineligible and others at the discretion of the Regional Director.
- The Committee shall investigate the protest. This may include interviewing any persons who may reasonably assist with the investigation and other activities at the discretion of the investigation committee. The committee shall prepare a written summary of its findings.
- Within 30 days of the Regional Director's receipt of the protest, the investigation committee shall issue a written ruling on the competitor's eligibility, providing copies of this decision to the club that made the protest, the parent(s) of the competitor and the Provincial Registrar.
- The parents of the competitor or the club making the protest may appeal the investigation committee's decision within seven days of receiving the written ruling by submitting the appeal in writing to the Provincial Registrar.
- If the decision of the investigation committee is appealed, the committee shall

provide to the Provincial Registrar the following:

- ✓ the written summary of the committee's findings; and,
  - ✓ any written evidence received by the committee.
- If the Provincial Registrar determines that no investigation was carried out or that the investigation did not consider all relevant information that was available, the Provincial Registrar shall form an investigation committee to conduct an investigation.
  - The Provincial Registrar shall make a written ruling on the appeal within ten days of receiving the appeal and provide this ruling to the club making the protest, the competitor alleged to be ineligible and the Regional Director. The ruling of the Provincial Registrar shall be final.

## **2.6. COMPETITOR TRANSFER – COMPETITIVE SEASON**

**2.6.1.** Competitors may not transfer between clubs after the second Thursday of July.

### **2.6.2. Intra-Region Competitor Transfer**

- The transfer of a competitor between two clubs within the same region requires the approval of the presidents or designates of each club.
- A transfer shall be initiated by the competitor using the transfer form available from the BCSSA.
- The receiving club registrar shall submit the transfer form, signed by the relevant club

presidents or designates, to the Regional Registrar.

- The competitor shall not be required to pay any additional Regional or Provincial fees. Club fees are the responsibility of the competitor.

### **2.6.3. Inter-Region Competitor Transfer**

- The transfer of a competitor between two clubs in different regions requires the approval of the presidents or designates of each club and the two Regional Directors or designates.
- The transfer shall be initiated by the competitor using the transfer form available from the BCSSA.
- The transfer form shall be signed by the club president or designate and Regional Director of the home region prior to sending it to the second region.
- The receiving club registrar shall submit the transfer form, signed by the relevant club presidents or designates and the Regional Directors or designates to the Regional Registrar.
- The competitor shall not be required to pay any additional Provincial fee but may be required to pay any Regional fee assessed by the receiving region. Club fees are the responsibility of the competitor.

## **2.7. COMPETITOR TRANSFER – NON-COMPETITIVE SEASON**

### **2.7.1. Process**

- A competitor may transfer between clubs during the non-competitive season by registering with the receiving club and paying all applicable fees.
- A transfer form is not required for a competitor transfer during the non-competitive season.

## **2.8. ASSIGNMENT TO A SECOND CLUB TO COMPETE IN AN ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINE**

### **2.8.1. What is Permitted**

- A competitor may become a member of a second BCSSA club in order to compete in an aquatic discipline not offered by the home club, as long as the registration takes place prior to the Monday before the second Thursday of July.
- If another club in the competitor's home region offers the desired second discipline, then such an assignment may only be made within the same region as the competitor's home club.
- If no club in the competitor's home region offers the desired second discipline, then such an assignment may be made to a club in a different region.

### **2.8.2. Process**

- When registering a competitor for a second aquatic discipline, the second club shall indicate the name of the competitor's home club on the assignment form, available from the BCSSA.

### **2.8.3. Intra-region Competitor Assignment**

- A competitor wishing to compete in a discipline not offered by their home club but offered by another club in the same region shall initiate the assignment process to another club in the region using the assignment form, available from the BCSSA.
- The competitor shall not be required to pay any additional Regional or Provincial fees. Club fees are the responsibility of the competitor.

### **2.8.4. Inter-Region Competitor Assignment**

- A competitor wishing to participate in a discipline not offered by any club in their region shall initiate the assignment process to a club in a different region using the assignment form, available from the BCSSA.
- An assignment to a club in a different region requires written approval from the two clubs and the two Regional Directors involved.
- The assignment form shall be signed by the club president or designate and Regional Director of the home region prior to sending it to the second region.
- The receiving club registrar shall submit the assignment form, signed by the relevant club presidents or designates and the Regional Directors or designates to the Regional Registrar.
- The competitor shall not be required to pay any additional Provincial fee but may be required to pay any Regional fee assessed

by the receiving region. Club fees are the responsibility of the competitor.

### **2.8.5. Exceptions to Intra-Region and Inter-Region**

- Competitor Assignment may be approved by the home club, receiving clubs, the Regional Directors and the Director of the specific aquatic discipline by June 1st of each year.

## **2.9. VISITING COMPETITOR**

### **2.9.1. What is Permitted**

- A visiting competitor is a competitor registered with one BCSSA club who wishes to participate in activities with a different club for a limited time. Such participation is at the discretion of the visited club.
- Should a visiting competitor take part in competition, the visiting competitor shall be considered competing for the competitor's home club.

### **2.9.2. Process**

- The visited club shall confirm that the visiting competitor is duly registered with the home club prior to permitting their participation in club activities.
- The competitor shall pay any applicable Regional and club fees.

## **2.10. REGISTRATION OF COACHES**

### **2.10.1. Registration Requirements**

- All coaches must be registered as BCSSA participants as provided for in this section.

- Prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, each club must obtain, keep on file and forward a copy to the BCSSA Office of a current criminal record check for each coach aged 19 or older. These steps must be completed prior to permitting the coach to carry out duties with the club that year.
- Each club shall ensure that its head coach is certified to a minimum of NCCP Fundamentals Coach (or equivalent) or trained and in the process of obtaining such certification.

### **2.10.2. Coach Rosters**

- Each club shall submit a coach roster form to the BCSSA Office by May 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- In the event that a club hires a coach after the May 15<sup>th</sup> coaches roster submission deadline, all necessary documentation must be submitted to the Regional Registrar within seven days of hiring. The Regional Registrar shall forward this information to the Provincial Registrar within seven days of receipt.

### **3. CONDUCT**

#### **3.1. GENERAL**

##### **3.1.3. Responsibilities**

- BCSSA shall treat its clubs, competitors, coaches, officials and others fairly and with respect and integrity: emotionally, intellectually, physically, culturally, socially and spiritually.
- In order that all participants experience meaningful and gratifying opportunities in a safe, sportsmanlike environment, all participants, including competitors, employees, volunteers and spectators, shall:
  - ✓ Respect and understand the principles of good sportsmanship.
  - ✓ Promote safety, ensure fun, enjoyment and good competition.
  - ✓ Eliminate behaviours and actions that detract from a positive environment.
  - ✓ Not tolerate abuse or harassment by anyone during any BCSSA activities.
- All adult participants at BCSSA activities shall intervene if they observe inappropriate behaviour.
- Any physical or verbal assault of a meet official by any individual is a major offense and shall be reported by the Referee to the BCSSA President for consideration of disciplinary action. The offender shall be ordered from the area of the meet and barred from re-entry for the remainder of the meet.

## **3.2. COMPETITORS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **3.2.1. All competitors shall:**

- Respect and compete by the BCSSA rules.
- Resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Respect other competitors.
- Respect all coaches and officials.
- Support all efforts to eliminate verbal and physical abuse from BCSSA activities.
- Accept responsibility for one's actions and behaviour.

### **3.2.2. Disqualification**

During a meet, the referee may cause a competitor to be scratched from the rest of the meet for:

- Using obscene or abusive language in the pool area, including the dressing room.
- Causing wilful damage.
- Interfering with officials in the performance of their duties.
- Exhibiting other irresponsible behaviour.

## **3.3. COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **3.3.1. Requirements**

- BCSSA has adopted the National Coaching Certification Program Code of Ethics (the "Code"), its principles and its ethical standards, to establish and maintain high standards among BCSSA coaches and to

ensure that all coaches act in a manner respectful of the dignity of all competitors.

- Clubs shall require all coaches to read and sign an acknowledgement, available from the BCSSA, affirming that they will adhere to the Code. Clubs shall forward a copy of the forms to the BCSSA and keep copies on file.

### **3.4. OFFICIALS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **3.4.1. Requirements**

- Officials shall promote adherence to BCSSA rules by all participants.
- Officials shall show professionalism through respect for all participants, knowledge of the rules and consistent application of the rules, thereby demonstrating integrity and neutrality.

### **3.5. PARENTS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

Parents shall make all reasonable effort to:

- Maintain self-control at all times.
- Not force your child to participate in sports.
- Understand that your child participates in BCSSA activities for his/her enjoyment, not yours.
- Teach your child that doing one's best is more important than winning.
- Encourage your child to compete fairly and by the rules.
- Respect and support all officials.
- Applaud good performances from all competitors.
- Not yell at, or ridicule your child.

- Teach your child to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from BCSSA activities.

### **3.6. HARASSMENT POLICY**

#### **3.6.1. Requirements**

- The BCSSA shall maintain a Harassment Policy and make it available through the BCSSA office.
- This policy applies to all competitors, employees, volunteers and spectators involved with BCSSA activities.
- The BCSSA shall work to prevent harassment by providing awareness, education and training programmes.
- All participants shall treat harassment as a serious matter to be dealt with fairly and in consideration of the protection of individual rights and dignity of all people involved.

### **3.7. COMMUNICATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

#### **3.7.1. Requirements**

- While communicating on matters related to the BCSSA, all participants, including competitors, employees, volunteers and spectators shall adhere to the principles of respect, courtesy, common sense and dignity.
- The BCSSA Board of Directors and staff shall treat information provided by clubs and individuals in accordance with the BCSSA Privacy Policy and British Columbia's *Personal Information Protection Act*.

## **3.8. GENDER EQUITY**

### **3.8.1. Requirements**

- The BCSSA shall work to promote gender equity, which is the principle and practice of just, fair and equitable allocation of resources and opportunities for both genders.
- All participants, including competitors, employees, volunteers and spectators shall ensure that gender equity is a key consideration in all BCSSA activities.

## **3.9. DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

### **3.9.1. Responsibility**

- The BCSSA Board of Directors or the President or designate may initiate disciplinary action against any club, competitor, coach, official or other person.
- Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, suspension from any or all BCSSA activities.
- Any club, competitor, coach, official or other person who has been disciplined may appeal a Discipline Committee decision to the BCSSA Appeals Committee.

### **3.9.2. Disciplinary action may be initiated for any of the following reasons:**

3.9.2.1 non-payment of any BCSSA fees, dues, levies, fines, assessments or charges; or,

3.9.2.2 for cause, which may include but not be limited to:

- failure to comply with BCSSA rules;
- failure to adhere to BCSSA policies;

- actions or behaviour endangering the health or well-being of a competitor, official, coach, volunteer, spectator or others; or
- failure to submit required documents or other information required by the BCSSA.

### **3.9.3. Disciplinary action shall follow these procedures:**

- 3.9.3.1 Upon initiating disciplinary action or being notified by the BCSSA Board of Directors that disciplinary action will be initiated, the President or designate shall establish a Discipline Committee.
- 3.9.3.2 The committee shall include three members of the BCSSA Board of Directors, or appointed designates, plus a non-voting chairperson.
- 3.9.3.3 Where the President or designate deems the situation to be urgent, the President or designate may immediately impose disciplinary action, subject to timely review by the committee.
- 3.9.3.4 The President or designate shall, within a reasonable period of time, provide the affected club or individual with a written explanation of the matter resulting in disciplinary action.
- 3.9.3.5 The committee shall assess the matter, including any disciplinary action that has already been imposed.
- 3.9.3.6 The committee may, at its discretion, gather evidence and interview individuals with knowledge of the matter.

3.9.3.7 The committee shall make a decision on what steps are necessary to resolve the matter. This may include disciplinary action.

3.9.3.8 The committee chair shall notify, in writing, all relevant parties of the decision rendered by the committee.

### **3.10. ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORTS**

#### **3.10.1. Responsibility**

3.10.1.9 Clubs must report all accidents and incidents, in writing, to the BCSSA office within seven days, using the applicable BCSSA form.

### **3.11. BCSSA APPEALS COMMITTEE**

#### **3.11.1. What Can Be Appealed**

- Any club, competitor, coach, official or other person may appeal any decision or application of BCSSA rules to the BCSSA Appeals Committee.
- In order for an appeal to be considered, the club or person wishing to appeal shall provide the following to the BCSSA Office:
  - ✓ A written description of the matter being appealed, including the reasons why the decision should be changed.
  - ✓ A \$100 filing fee.

#### **3.11.2. Formation of an Appeals Committee**

Upon receipt of an appeal, the President or designate shall establish a BCSSA Appeals Committee composed of three members of the BCSSA Board of Directors, or designates, plus a non-voting chairperson.

### **3.11.3. Appeals Committee Authority**

- The committee may uphold, reverse or vary the decision that is being appealed, based on the evidence it receives, as long as the committee's decision is consistent with BCSSA rules.
- Where an appeal relates to a BCSSA rule that gives a decision-maker discretion (generally indicated by the word "may"), then the committee may use the same type of discretion in its decision.
- Where an appeal relates to a BCSSA rule that does not give a decision-maker discretion (generally indicated by the word "shall"), then the committee shall not have discretion on that matter.
- The decision of the committee shall be final.

### **3.11.4. Appeals Committee Process**

- The committee shall conduct its business in private.
- The committee shall make a reasonable effort to complete its work in a timely manner.
- The committee shall give the appellant and the individual whose decision is being disputed opportunities to present their cases to the committee.
- The committee shall review any additional evidence it considers relevant to the appeal.
- The committee chair shall provide the committee's decision in writing to the appellant and the individual whose decision is being disputed.
- The filing fee shall be returned if the appeal is successful.

## **4. WATER POLO**

The rules of Water Polo have been established by FINA and are accepted as the standard reference for BCSSA Water Polo competitions. Some adaptations of these rules have been made to accommodate the unique nature of BCSSA competition.

### **4.1. COMPETITOR CATEGORIES**

A competitor's age as of December 31<sup>st</sup> each year shall be used to determine the competitor category. The competitor categories for water polo are:

U12	11 & Under
U14	12 & 13
U16	14 & 15
U18	16 to 18
Senior	18 & Over

Protests of perceived breaches of competitor eligibility are to be submitted as soon as possible to the appropriate registrar following the compilation of any documentation necessary to support the protest.

### **4.2. COMPETITOR ELIGIBILITY**

**4.2.1.** All water polo players shall declare all aquatic participation between October 1<sup>st</sup> of the previous year through to April 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year.

**4.2.2.** Players who misrepresent their aquatic participation may be disqualified from all BCSSA competition within the current season. A disqualification shall take effect immediately and be in effect for twelve (12) months from the date of the disqualification.

#### **4.2.3. Player Eligibility**

4.2.3.1 Player eligibility rules will be defined by the BCSSA Board. A player must be eligible to participate in BCSSA Water Polo on the

BCSSA member team registration date.

4.2.3.2 A BCSSA player can only participate in Water Polo activities during the competitive season that have been approved by a BCSSA Standing Committee which includes; the Provincial Water Polo Director and two Regional Directors, as appointed by the President.

4.2.3.3 The following are ineligible to play BCSSA Water Polo:

4.2.3.3.1. An athlete not registered with BCSSA.

4.2.3.3.2. An athlete who is registered in the wrong age category.

4.2.3.3.3. An athlete under suspension due to brutality.

4.2.3.4 An athlete who has attended at any of the following events will be deemed ineligible:

4.2.3.4.1. NCL U19 Championship Round Tournament (See NCL Handbook for details).

4.2.3.4.2. Any Canadian Select League (CSL) and Major League Water Polo (MLWP) (or its equivalent) games or tournament. See Water Polo Canada Web site for dates and locations.

4.2.3.4.3. Any individual participating on a Water Polo Canada National Age Group Team (U16, U18 and U19). Evaluation camps will be exempt.

4.2.3.4.4. Those named to Team BC's final selected roster during the BCSSA season (May 1<sup>st</sup> – Aug 31<sup>st</sup>) will be

eligible to play BCSSA water polo provided those athletes “play up” and compete in a higher age category within the BCSSA.

4.2.3.4.5. Additional Exemptions will be considered at the Board level and reflected in the Board Minutes.

4.2.3.5 Athletes are encouraged to participate in National Age Group Evaluation Camps. Athletes are also encouraged to play with the Team BC program.

*(\*Note 1: A selected team also includes BCWPA clubs if they have attended one of these events.)*

*(\*Note 2: This exclusion of elite players is based on the tenet that BCSSA Water Polo is developmental in nature and that increased participation is to be encouraged. It further recognizes that the elite level players have adequate opportunities for both training and playing through National and International competition and other summer programs. Additional Exemptions will be considered at the board level and reflected in the minutes.)*

A player may appeal on one occasion only to the BCSSA Water Polo Director, for permission to return to BCSSA Water Polo after attending the NCL finals, participating on a National Team Program, a Water Polo Canada sponsored event or an international trip as a member of Team BC between May 1<sup>st</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **4.2.4. Team Eligibility**

4.2.4.1 Each team shall consist of a minimum of 7 players, goalkeeper included, per team; three of whom must be girls, and three of whom must be boys. A minimum of three girls/boys must be in the water at all times; except as provided in 2.

4.2.4.2 If a team has only three girls/boys and due to exclusions is reduced to two eligible girls/boys, the team will play one member short with only two girls/boys in the water.

4.2.4.3 If there is a further exclusion the team will play two members short with only one girl/boy in the water.

4.2.4.4 If all girls/boys from one team are excluded from the game, the team will forfeit the game.

#### **4.2.4.5 Forfeits:**

4.2.4.5.1. A forfeit will occur when an ineligible player is participating, or if a team does not have 2 members of each sex to start the game.

4.2.4.5.2. A forfeit will occur when less than 6 members of a team are present at the start of the game.

4.2.4.5.3. A forfeit will occur when a team does not satisfy the minimum player requirements at the end of the first period of play of the scheduled game.

4.2.4.5.4. A forfeit will result in a score of 7-0 in favour of the winning team. Any exemption requests must be brought to the BCSSA Board of Directors at the Fall Board Meeting. Where it is established to the

satisfaction of the Club, Regional or Provincial Registrar that a water polo player has contravened the provision of the Rules and Regulations, that Registrar shall notify the Regional Director. The Regional Director shall disqualify the player and shall notify in writing: the player, the club president and the appropriate Registrars. The water polo player, or the club, may exercise the right to appeal any decision under these rules to the Appeals Committee of the BCSSA whose adjudication and decision shall be final.

#### **4.3. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- 4.3.1.** All Regions shall organize and conduct a Regional Championship to qualify the competitors for the Provincial Championship. It shall be the responsibility of each Regional Director to ensure that the Regional Championship is properly organized and conducted.
- 4.3.2.** All water polo players must have participated at a BCSSA Water Polo competition prior to being eligible to play at Regionals. All competitors must have been listed on a game roster. *A Water Polo competition is a competition between two (2) or more clubs using the rules of Water Polo as defined in the BCSSA rule book.*
- 4.3.3.** If a Regional Championship cannot be scheduled, a request for an exemption must be submitted to the President of BCSSA one week prior to Swimming Regionals. When an exemption is granted, competitors are

responsible to put on a scrimmage at Regionals to be eligible to compete at Provincials.

**4.3.4.** All water polo players will be checked for eligibility by the Regional Registrar or designate.

**4.3.5.** An individual may only appear on 2 water polo teams at Regionals.

*(\*Note 1: If an error is found before the competition begins, the entry form(s) will be returned to the club for correction. If an error is found after the competition begins, the player is still eligible for the first 2 teams he/she played for but is ineligible for the third team. A fine of up to \$100 may be assessed against a club for improper team registration.)*

**4.3.6.** Any coach who has coached a team during the season will not be permitted to play with that team.

**4.3.7.** Where it is established that a player is ineligible the tournament chair shall be notified immediately. Any games played by the ineligible player shall be forfeited and the ineligible player shall not be allowed to play in the rest of the tournament.

#### **4.4. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**4.4.1.** The BCSSA Board of Directors shall organize and conduct the annual Provincial Championship to be held in the second half of August each year. The following shall be adhered to:

4.4.1.1 There shall be no changes to the Provincial Championship Rules and Regulations after March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

4.4.1.2 The Provincial Championship Meet Package shall be circulated to all BCSSA clubs no later than May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

4.4.1.3 Competitors must be correctly registered with the BCSSA for the current season.

4.4.1.4 There shall be a Provincial Trophy awarded to the top Region in each of the four aquatic sports.

4.4.1.5 All entries must be submitted to the BCSSA Office by the date (and time) indicated in the Provincial Meet Package.

#### **4.4.2. Qualifiers**

4.4.2.1 The top team in each water polo division from Regional Championships shall qualify for Provincials.

4.4.2.1.1. (\*Note 1: There will be opportunities for clubs who do not qualify for Provincial Championships through the Regional Qualification standards. These opportunities are available as there is not representation in Water Polo from all eight Regions. Clubs who do not qualify for Provincials and want to have a team enter the Provincial Water Polo Tournament need to contact the BCSSA Water Polo Director. Those clubs will be entered into a draw for the available Provincial Entries.)

4.4.2.2 A water polo entry form to provincials should include the roster of 13 players and 2 listed Alternates. Individuals may be listed as an alternate on more than one form. Once an Alternate replaces a player on the roster, that alternate may not be used as an alternate on another team. Once a player on a roster is replaced by an alternate, that

player may not return to that team for the duration of that tournament.

4.4.2.3 An individual may only appear on 2 water polo teams at Provincials.

*(\*Note 1: If an error is found before the competition begins, the entry form(s) will be returned to the club for correction. If an error is found after the competition begins, the player is still eligible for the first 2 teams he/she played for but is ineligible for the third team. A fine of up to \$100 may be assessed against a club for improper team registration.)*

4.4.2.4 Any coach who has coached a team during the season will not be permitted to play with that team.

4.4.2.5 Where it is established that a player is ineligible the tournament chair shall be notified immediately. Any games played by the ineligible player shall be forfeited and the ineligible player shall not be allowed to play in the rest of the tournament.

#### **4.4.3. Tournament Schedule**

4.4.3.1 The Tournament schedule will be determined by the number of teams in each division playing.

#### **4.4.4. Scoring for Round Robin**

4.4.4.1 Teams will be awarded:

2 points for a win

1 point for a tie

0 point for a loss

#### 4.4.5. Tie Breaking Procedures

##### 4.4.5.1 At the end of Round Robin Play:

- a) points
- b) game results between the tied teams
- c) lowest goals against
- d) goal differential
- e) coin toss

##### 4.4.5.2 Championship Round:

Should the score be tied at full time in any game for which a definitive result is required, sudden death overtime will commence three minutes after the completion of regulation time. The teams will play a maximum of two, five-minute running time periods. Assignment of defending ends will be decided by a coin toss. The team that scores the first goal will be declared the winner.

If, at the end of two overtime periods the score is still tied, the winner will be decided by a shootout. Five players from each team will alternately shoot on the opposing goalkeeper in goal. The same goal in deep water will be used by both teams. The shot by each player will be taken in the same manner as a penalty throw. If after five players from each team have completed their shots and the score is still tied, then the shooting will continue with the same five players, in the same order, until there is a score differential when each team has had an equal number of shots.

#### **4.4.6. Tournament Scoring**

4.4.6.1 Points will be awarded to the teams in the final standings as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	9 Points
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	7 Points
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	6 Points
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	5 Points
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	4 Points
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	3 Points
7 <sup>th</sup> Place	2 Points
8 <sup>th</sup> Place	1 Point

#### **4.5. POOL AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

##### **4.5.1. Pool Specifications**

4.5.1.1 The Pool Layout Specifications as set out in the FINA RULES OF WATER POLO, require that a pool be 30 metres in length by 20 meters wide, and no less than 1.8 metres deep throughout the course.

The participative nature of BCSSA Water Polo, and the scarcity of pools, requires BCSSA to be flexible with pool requirements.

4.5.1.2 The following are recommendations for BCSSA competition:

4.5.1.2.1. minimum 6 lanes wide by a maximum of 25 metres long,

4.5.1.2.2. minimum depth at the deep end 1.8 metres,

4.5.1.2.3. minimum depth at the shallow end 1.2 metres,

4.5.1.2.4. end and side walls can form the boundaries for the field of play.

4.5.1.3 The pool shall be well lit [extra outdoor lighting may be necessary for outdoor games played in the evening].

## 4.5.2. Equipment Requirement

4.5.2.1 Goals: Refer to FINA Water Polo Rules, except in U12 competition, where teams will compete using “junior” sized nets (2.15 m x 0.75m)

4.5.2.2 Field of Play: Refer to FINA Water Polo Rules

4.5.2.3 Water Polo Caps: Refer to FINA Water Polo Rules

4.5.2.4 The Ball: Refer to FINA Water Polo Rules

4.5.2.5 Team Benches:

Both team benches shall be situated on the side, opposite the officials’ table at each end of the pool.

4.5.2.6 Sun Screen:

BCSSA will allow the use of non-greasy sunscreen.

4.5.2.7 Minor Officials’ Table and Equipment:

4.5.2.7.1. A minor officials’ table shall be provided for each game.

a) The Secretary shall be provided with an official Game Report form, writing instrument, 1 red flag and a whistle.

b) The first Timekeeper shall be provided with stopwatches, 1 whistle, and 1 orange, 1 blue and 1 white flag.

c) The second Timekeeper shall be

provided with a shot clock system. Visible clocks shall show the time of possession in a descending manner (that is, to show the possession time remaining).

- d) The two Goal Judges shall each be provided with: 1 white flag, 1 red flag and a supply of balls (3).

All flags should measure 0.35 metres x 0.20 metres.

## **4.6. TEAMS**

### **4.6.1. Team Eligibility**

See Section [4.2.4.](#)

### **4.6.2. Player Eligibility**

See Section [4.2.3.](#)

### **4.6.3. Player / Coach**

4.6.3.1 All coaches and players not in the water, shall sit on the team bench and shall not move away from the bench at the commencement of play, except during the intervals between periods. The Head Coach may move but not beyond his/her 4m line. The Head Coach of a U12 team may advance to half court to coach but may not engage in discussion with the referee. At the sole discretion of the referee this exception may be rescinded at any time during the game. Teams shall change ends and benches at half time of regulation time and after the first period of overtime. Teams shall change ends and benches after each period of play when playing in a Shallow/Deep pool or when playing in a pool where sun in the players' eyes is a factor.

*(\*Note 1: If both teams agree, they may choose to change at half time only.)*

#### 4.6.4. Substitutions: Refer to FINA Water Polo Rules

### 4.7. OFFICIALS

#### 4.7.1. Dress Code

4.7.1.1 All officials should wear white clothing and shoes. Shoes should conform to local pool regulations.

*(\*Note 1: The objective is uniformity of attire. The meet organizing committee may elect to use colours other than white, provided they supply the garments.)*

The organizing committee may supply distinctive badges or ribbons for all officials.

#### 4.7.2. Referees

4.7.2.1 A minimum of one Referee is required for all BCSSA competitions. For Regional and Provincial Championships, two Referees are required. The Referees are in absolute control of the game. Their authority over the players is effective during the entire time that they and the players are within the precincts of the pool. The Referees shall use a shrill whistle. Referees shall be approved by BCSSA.

4.7.2.2 **Attacking Referee** shall have the direction of play from his/her left to right when facing the pool.

4.7.2.3 **Defensive Referee** shall have the direction of play from his/her right to left when facing the pool.

*(\*Note 1: Referees, at BCSSA tournaments and*

*Provincial Championships, are asked to guide themselves in the best interest of the development of Water Polo players and teams in British Columbia. It is important that Referees be knowledgeable, flexible, and willing to help athletes, coaches and parents learn the sport of Water Polo.)*

4.7.2.4 The Referees shall be in absolute control of the game. Their authority over the players shall be effective during the whole time that they and the players are within the precincts of the pool. All decisions of the Referees on questions of fact shall be final and their interpretation of the Rules shall be obeyed throughout the game. The Referees shall not make any presumption as to the facts of any situation during the game, and shall interpret what they observe to the best of their ability.

4.7.2.5 The Referees shall whistle to start and restart the game to declare goals, goal throws (whether signalled by the Goal Judge or not), neutral throws and infringements of the Rules. A Referee may alter his/her decision provided it is done so before the ball is put back into play.

4.7.2.6 The Referees shall refrain from declaring a foul, if in their opinion, such a declaration would be an advantage to the offending player's team. This shall be known as the Circumstance of Advantage.

4.7.2.7 Circumstance of Advantage

*(\*Note 1: The Referees shall apply this principle to the fullest extent. They should not, for example, declare an ordinary foul in favour of a player who is in possession of the ball and*

*making progress towards his opponent's goal. This is considered giving an advantage to the offender's team.)*

- 4.7.2.7.1. The Referees shall have the power to order any player from the water in accordance with the appropriate Rule and to abandon the game should a player refuse to leave the water when so ordered.
- 4.7.2.7.2. The Referees shall have the power to order the removal from the precincts of the pool, any player, substitute, spectator or official whose behaviour prevents the Referees from carrying out their duties in a proper and impartial manner.
- 4.7.2.7.3. The Referees shall have the power to abandon the game at any time, if in their opinion, the behaviour of the players or spectators, or other circumstances prevent the game from being brought to a proper conclusion. If the game has to be abandoned, the Referees shall report their actions to the Tournament Director and the Provincial Water Polo Director.

### **4.7.3. Minor Officials**

- 4.7.3.1 For each game where a shot clock is used, a minimum of three (3) minor officials (a Secretary and two Timekeepers) are required. For games without a shot clock two (2) minor officials (a Secretary and one Timekeeper) are required. Each team shall provide the Secretary with a list of players and cap numbers prior to the commencement of the game.

#### 4.7.3.2 Duties of the Secretary shall be:

- a) to maintain the record of the game including the players, the score, timeouts, exclusion fouls & penalty fouls awarded against each player.
- b) to record the exclusion times of players ordered from the water in accordance with the Rules.
- c) to signal with the red flag and by whistle for the improper re-entry of an excluded player due to three personal fouls or improper entry of a substitute (including after a flag signal by a Goal Judge to indicate an improper re-entry or entry), this signal shall stop play immediately.
- d) to signal with a red flag and a whistle (if necessary), without delay, the award of a third personal foul against any player.

#### 4.7.3.3 Duties of the First Timekeeper shall be:

- a) to time the exact periods of actual play, timeouts, and the intervals between periods;
- b) to signal by whistle the end of each timeout;
- c) to signal by raising the orange flag at one minute remaining in each period and to lower the orange flag at 10 seconds remaining in each period.
- d) to audibly announce the start of the last minute of the game and the last minute of the second period of any extra time.
- e) to signal by whistle (or by other distinctive means), the end of each period.

- f) to signal the expiration of a penalty by raising the flag corresponding with the colour of the cap of the re-entering player.

4.7.3.4 Duties of the Second Timekeeper shall be:

4.7.3.4.1. To operate the shot clock to record possession time. The clock shall be reset:

- a) when the ball has left the hand of the player shooting at goal. If the ball rebounds into play from the goal post, crossbar or the goalkeeper, the possession time shall not recommence until the ball comes into the possession of one of the teams;
- b) when the ball comes into the possession of the opposing team. Possession shall not include the ball merely being touched in flight by an opposing player;
- c) when the ball is put into play following the award of an exclusion foul, penalty foul, goal throw, corner throw or neutral throw.

#### **4.7.4. Goal Judges**

4.7.4.1 The Goal Judges shall be situated on the same side as the minor officials' table, one on each goal line.

4.7.4.2 Duties of the Goal Judges shall be:

- a) to signal with the red flag when the players are correctly positioned on their

respective goal lines at the start of a period;

- b) to signal with the white flag an improper start or restart;
- c) to signal with the white flag for a goal throw;
- d) to signal with the red flag for a corner throw;
- e) to signal with both flags for a goal (The Referee shall be responsible for awarding goals.)
- f) to signal with the red flag for an improper re-entry of an excluded player or improper entry of a substitute.
- g) to immediately throw a new ball to the goalkeeper (for a goal throw), to the nearest player of the attacking team (for a corner throw), or as otherwise directed by the Referee when the original ball has gone outside the field of play.

## **4.8. RULES OF THE GAME**

### **4.8.1. Duration of the Game**

- 4.8.1.1 The duration of the game shall be four periods of seven minutes running time or five minutes stop-time. Time shall commence at the start of each period when a player touches the ball. At all signals for stoppages, the recording watch shall be stopped until the ball is put back into play by the ball leaving the hand of the player taking the appropriate throw or when the ball is touched by a player following a neutral throw.

4.8.1.2 There shall be a two-minute interval between periods.

4.8.1.3 A visible game clock shall show the time in a descending manner (that is, to show time remaining in a period).

#### **4.8.2. Tie-Breaking Procedure**

4.8.2.1 Should the score be tied at full time in any game for which a definitive result is required, sudden death overtime will commence three minutes after the completion of regulation time. The teams will play a maximum of two, five-minute running time periods. Assignment of defending ends will be decided by a coin toss. The team that scores the first goal will be declared the winner.

4.8.2.2 If, at the end of two overtime periods the score is still tied, the winner will be decided by a shootout. Five players from each team will alternately shoot on the opposing goalie in goal. The same goal in deep water will be used by both teams. The shot by each player will be taken in the same manner as a penalty throw. If after five players from each team have completed their shots and the score is still tied, then the shooting will continue with the same five players, in the same order, until there is a score differential and each team has had an equal number of shots.

#### **4.8.3. Timeouts**

4.8.3.1 Each team shall be entitled to two timeouts in any game, including any extra time. The duration of the timeout shall be one minute. A timeout may be requested at

any time by the coach of the team in possession of the ball calling “timeout” and signalling to the Referee with the hands forming a T-shape. If a timeout is requested, the Referee shall immediately stop the game by whistle.

4.8.3.2 Play shall be restarted on the whistle of the Referee by the team in possession of the ball putting the ball into play on the half distance line, except that:

4.8.3.2.1. If the timeout is requested before the taking of a penalty throw or corner throw, that throw shall be maintained;

4.8.3.2.2. If the timeout is requested in a game using stop time, after a goal has been scored, the Referees shall restart the play and then immediately stop the play for the requested timeout.

4.8.3.2.3. If the timeout is requested in a game using running time, after a goal has been scored, the Referee shall immediately call the timeout,

*(\*Note 1: The possession clock continues from the recommencement of the play after the timeout.)*

4.8.3.3 If the coach of the team in possession of the ball requests a third or additional timeout, the game shall be stopped and play shall then be restarted by a player of the opposing team putting the ball into play on the half distance line.

4.8.3.4 If the coach of the team not in possession of the ball requests a timeout, the game shall be stopped and a penalty throw awarded to the opposing team.

4.8.3.5 At the restart following a timeout, players may take any position in the field of play, subject to the Rules relating to the taking of penalty throws and corner throws.

#### **4.8.4. The Start of Play**

Before the start of the game and in the presence of the Referees, the captains shall toss a coin, the winner, to have the choice of ends.

##### **4.8.4.1 Period Start**

4.8.4.1.1. At the start of each period, the players shall take up positions on their respective goal lines, at least one metre from the goal posts. Not more than two players shall be allowed between the goal posts. No part of a player's body shall be beyond the goal line at water level.

*(\*Note 1: At the commencement to the periods of play, the Referee shall decide to start the teams from the goal line or the two-metre line.)*

4.8.4.2 When the Referees are satisfied that the teams are ready, a Referee shall blow the whistle to start and then release the ball into play on the half distance line.

4.8.4.3 If the ball is released giving one team a definite advantage, the Referee shall call for the ball and award a neutral throw on the half distance line.

#### **4.8.5. Restarting After a Goal:**

4.8.5.1 After a goal has been scored, the players shall take up positions anywhere

within their respective halves of the field of play. No part of a player's body shall be beyond the half distance line at water level. A Referee shall restart the game by blowing the whistle. At the time of the restart, actual play shall resume when the ball leaves the hand of a player of the team not having scored the goal. A restart not taken in accordance with this Rule shall be retaken.

#### **4.9. METHOD OF SCORING**

**4.9.1.** A goal shall be scored when the entire ball has passed fully over the goal line, between the goal posts and underneath the crossbar.

**4.9.2.** A goal may be scored from anywhere within the field of play; except that the goalkeeper shall not be permitted to go or touch the ball beyond the half distance line.

**4.9.3.** A goal may be scored by any part of the body except the clenched fist. A goal may be scored by dribbling the ball into the goal. At the start or any restart of the game, at least two players (of either team, excluding the defending goalkeeper) must intentionally play or touch the ball except at the taking of:

- a) a penalty throw;
- b) a free throw thrown by a player into his own goal;
- c) an immediate shot from a goal throw; or
- d) an immediate shot from a free throw awarded outside 5 metres, except in the U12 category, given that regulation size nets are in play.

*(\*Note 1: A goal may be scored by a player*

*immediately shooting from outside 7 metres after the player's team has been awarded a free throw for a foul committed outside 7 metres. If the player puts the ball into play, a goal can then only be scored if the ball has been intentionally touched by another player, other than the defending goalkeeper.)*

**4.9.4.** If, at the award of a foul, the ball is closer to the defending team's goal, a goal may be scored under this Rule if the ball is returned without delay to the place where the foul was committed and the shot is then immediately made from that position.

**4.9.5.** A goal may not be scored under this Rule direct from the restart following:

- a) a timeout
- b) a goal
- c) an injury, including bleeding
- d) the replacement of a cap
- e) the Referee calling for the ball
- f) the ball leaving the field of play
- g) any other delay.

**4.9.6.** A goal shall be scored if, at the expiration of 35 seconds possession or at the end of a period, the ball is in flight and enters the goal.

4.9.7 In U12 competition, a player will record a maximum of four goals per game. Any goals scored after the fourth recorded goal by an individual player will be counted as a turnover by the referees. This rule will only be enforced if junior size nets are in play.

*(\*Note 1: In the circumstances of this Rule, if the*

*ball enters the goal after hitting the goal post, crossbar, goalkeeper or other defending player, and/or bouncing off the water, a goal shall be allowed. If the end of the period has been signalled and the ball is then played or touched intentionally by another attacking player on its way into the goal, the goal shall not be allowed.*

*If the ball is in flight towards the goal in the circumstances of this Rule and the goalkeeper or another defending player pulls down the goal, or within the player's own 4 metre area a defending player other than the goalkeeper stops the ball with two hands or arms or punches the ball to prevent a goal being scored, the Referee shall award a penalty throw if, in the Referee's opinion, the ball would have reached the goal line if the offence had not occurred.*

*If the ball, which is in flight towards the goal in the circumstances of this Rule, lands on the water and then floats completely over the goal line, the Referee shall award a goal, only if the ball floats over the goal line immediately due to the momentum of the shot.)*

## **4.10. THROWS**

### **4.10.1. Goal Throws**

4.10.1.1 A goal throw shall be awarded:

- a) when the entire ball has passed fully over the goal line excluding between the goal posts and underneath the crossbar, having last been played or touched by a player of the attacking team;
- b) when the entire ball has passed fully over the goal line between the goal posts and underneath the crossbar, or strikes the goal posts, crossbar or the defending goalkeeper direct from:

- i. a free throw awarded inside 7 metres;
- ii. a free throw awarded outside 7 metres
- iii. not taken immediately;
- iv. a goal throw not taken immediately;
- v. a corner throw.

4.10.1.2 The goal throw shall be taken by the defending goalkeeper from anywhere within the goalkeeper's 2m area. If the goalkeeper is out of the water, the goal throw shall be taken by another defending player. A goal throw not taken in accordance with this Rule shall be retaken.

*(\*Note 1: There should be no undue delay in taking a free throw, goal throw or corner throw, which must be taken in such a manner so as to enable the other players to observe the ball leaving the thrower's hand. The thrower is permitted to dribble the ball before passing to another player. The throw can thus be taken immediately, even though the thrower cannot at that moment find a player to whom the player might pass the ball. On such an occasion, the player is allowed to take the throw either by dropping it from a raised hand on to the surface of the water or by throwing it in the air and then swimming with or dribbling the ball. In either case, the throw must be taken so that the other players are able to observe it.)*

#### **4.10.2. Corner Throws**

4.10.2.1 A corner throw shall be awarded when the entire ball has passed fully over the goal line excluding between the goal posts and underneath the crossbar, having last been

played or touched by a player of the defending team.

4.10.2.2 The corner throw shall be taken by a player of the attacking team from the 2m mark on the side nearest to which the ball crossed the goal line. The throw need not be taken by the nearest player but shall be taken without undue delay.

4.10.2.3 At the taking of a corner throw no players of the attacking team shall be within the 2m area.

### **4.10.3. Neutral Throws**

4.10.3.1 A neutral throw shall be awarded:

- a) when, at the start of a period, a Referee is of the opinion that the ball has fallen in a position to the definite advantage of one team;
- b) when one or more players of each team commit a foul at the same moment which makes it impossible for the Referees to distinguish which player offended first;
- c) when both Referees blow their whistles at the same moment to award ordinary fouls to the opposing teams;
- d) when the ball strikes or lodges in an overhead obstruction.

4.10.3.2 A neutral throw shall be taken at approximately the same lateral position as the event occurred. A Referee shall throw the ball up into the air, between the two players, in such a manner as to allow the players of both teams to have equal opportunity to reach the ball. A neutral

throw awarded within the 2m area shall be taken on the 2m line.

4.10.3.3 If, at a neutral throw, the Referee is of the opinion that the ball has fallen in a position to the definite advantage of one team, the Referee shall call for the ball and retake the throw.

#### **4.10.4. Free Throws**

4.10.4.1 A free throw shall be taken at the place where the foul occurred, except:

4.10.4.1.1. if the ball is further from the defending team's goal, the free throw shall be taken from the location of the ball;

4.10.4.1.2. if the foul is committed by a defending player within his/her 2m area, the free throw shall be taken on the 2m line closest to where the foul was committed or, if the ball is outside the 2m area, from the location of the ball;

4.10.4.1.3. where otherwise provided for in the Rules.

*(\*Note 1: A free throw taken from the wrong position shall be retaken.)*

4.10.4.2 The time allowed for a player to take a free throw shall be at the discretion of the Referees; it shall be reasonable and without undue delay but does not have to be immediate. It shall be an offence if a player who is clearly in a position, ready to take a free throw and does not do so.

4.10.4.3 The responsibility for returning the ball to the player who is to take the free throw

shall be that of the team to which the free throw is awarded.

4.10.4.4 The free throw shall be taken in a manner to enable the players to observe the ball leaving the hand of the player taking the throw, who shall also then be permitted to carry or dribble the ball before passing to another player. The ball shall be in play immediately when it leaves the hand of the player taking the free throw.

#### **4.10.5. Penalty Throws**

4.10.5.1 A penalty throw will be awarded to a team when a penalty foul has been called against the other team.

4.10.5.2 A penalty throw shall be taken by any player of the team to which it is awarded (except the goalkeeper) from any point on the opponents' 4m line.

4.10.5.3 All players shall leave the 4m area and shall be at least two metres from the player taking the throw. On each side of the player taking the throw, one player of the defending team shall have the first right to take position. The defending goalkeeper shall be positioned between the goal posts with no part of the 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.

4.10.5.4 When the Referee controlling the taking of the throw is satisfied that the players are in their correct positions, the Referee shall signal for the throw to be taken by whistle and by simultaneously

lowering an arm from a vertical to a horizontal position.

*(\*Note 1: The lowering of the arm at the same time as the signal by whistle makes it possible under any conditions, even amidst noise by spectators, to execute the throw in accordance with the Rules. As the arm is lifted, the player taking the throw will concentrate, for the player knows that the signal will follow immediately.)*

4.10.5.5 The player taking the penalty throw shall have possession of the ball and shall immediately throw it with an uninterrupted movement directly at the goal. The player may take the throw by lifting the ball from the water or with the ball held in the raised hand and the ball may be taken backwards from

4.10.5.5.1. the direction of the goal in preparation for the forward throw, provided that the continuity of the movement shall not be interrupted before the ball leaves the thrower's hand.

*(\*Note 2: There is nothing in the Rules to prevent a player taking the throw with a back to the goal while the player adopts a half screw or full screw action.)*

4.10.5.6 If the ball rebounds from the goal post, crossbar or goalkeeper it remains in play and it shall not be necessary for another player to play or touch the ball before a goal can be scored.

4.10.5.7 If, at precisely the same time as the Referee awards a penalty throw, the Timekeeper whistles for the end of a period,

all players except the player taking the throw and the defending goalkeeper shall leave the water before the penalty throw is taken. In this situation, the ball shall immediately be dead should it rebound into play from the goal post, crossbar or the goalkeeper.

## **4.11. FOULS**

### **4.11.1. Ordinary Fouls**

4.11.1.1 Any ordinary foul shall be punished by the award of a free throw to the opposing team.

*(\*Note 1: The Referees must award ordinary fouls in accordance with the Rules. However, the Referees must have regard to the special circumstance of Advantage. (See Section [4.7.2.6](#)))*

4.11.1.2 It shall be an ordinary foul to commit any of the following offences:

4.11.1.2.1. To advance beyond the goal line at the start of a period, before the Referee has given the signal to start. The free throw shall be taken from the half distance line;

4.11.1.2.2. To assist a player at the start of a period or at any other time during the game;

4.11.1.2.3. To hold on to or push off from the goal posts or their fixtures, to hold on to or push off from the sides or ends of the pool during actual play or to hold on to the rails except at the start of a period;

4.11.1.2.4. To take any active part in the game when standing on the floor of the pool, to walk when play is in progress or to jump from the floor of the pool to play the ball or tackle an opponent. This Rule shall not apply to the goalkeeper while within his/her 4m area;

4.11.1.2.5. To take or hold the entire ball under the water when tackled;

*(\*Note 2: It is an ordinary foul to take or hold the ball under the water when tackled, even if the player holding the ball has his/her hand forced under the water, with the ball, as a result of the opponent's challenge. It makes no difference that the ball goes under the water against the player's will. What is important is that the foul is awarded against the player who was in contact with the ball at the moment it was taken under the water. It is important to remember that the offence can only occur when a player takes the ball under when tackled. Thus, if the goalkeeper emerges high out of the water to save a shot and then while falling back takes the ball under the water, the player has committed no offence; but if the player then holds the ball under the water when challenged by an opponent, the player will have committed an infringement of this Rule and if the player's actions prevented a probable goal, a penalty throw must be awarded.)*

4.11.1.2.6. To strike at the ball with a clenched fist. This Rule shall not apply to the goalkeeper while within the goalkeeper's 4m area.

4.11.1.2.7. To play or touch the ball with two hands at the same time. This Rule shall not apply to the goalkeeper while within the goalkeeper's 4m area.

4.11.1.2.8. To impede or otherwise prevent the free movement of an opponent, who is not holding the ball, including swimming on the opponent's shoulders, back or legs. "Holding" is lifting, carrying or touching the ball, but does not include dribbling the ball.

*(\*Note 3: The first thing for the Referee to consider is whether the opponent is holding the ball. If the player is doing so, the player making the challenge cannot be penalized for "impeding". It is clear that a player is holding the ball if he/she holds it raised above the water. The player is also holding the ball if he/she swims with it held in his/her hand or makes contact with the ball while it is lying on the surface of the water. Swimming with the ball (dribbling) is not considered to be holding.*

4.11.1.3 A common form of impeding is where the player swims across his/her opponent's legs, thus reducing the pace at which the player can move and interfering with normal leg action. Another form is swimming on the opponent's shoulders. It must be remembered that the foul of impeding can be committed by the player who is in possession of the ball. (For example, a player keeping one hand on the ball and trying to force the opponent away to gain more space for himself/herself or a player in possession of the ball impeding the opponent, by pushing the player back with

his/her head.) Care must be taken because any violent movement by the player in possession of the ball might constitute striking or even brutality. A player may also commit the offence of impeding even if he/she is not holding or touching the ball, by blocking the opponent with the body and with arms flung open, thus making access to the ball impossible. This offence is most often committed near the boundaries of the field of play.)

4.11.1.3.1. To push or push off from an opponent who is not holding the ball.

*(\*Note 4: Pushing can take place in various forms, including with the hand or with the foot. In the cases illustrated, the punishment is a free throw for an ordinary foul.*

*However, Referees must take care to differentiate between pushing with the foot and kicking - which then becomes an exclusion foul or even brutality. If the foot is already in contact with the opponent when the movement begins, this will usually be pushing. However, if the movement begins before such contact with the opponent is made, then this should generally be regarded as kicking.)*

4.11.1.3.2. For a player of the team in possession of the ball to commit an offence (impede an opponent or push off from an opponent) before a free throw, goal throw or corner throw is taken.

4.11.1.3.3. To be within two metres of the opponents' goal except when behind the line of the ball. It shall not be an offence if a player takes the ball into the

2m area and passes it to another player who is behind the line of the ball and who shoots at goal immediately, before the first player has been able to leave the 2m area.

*(\*Note 5: If the player receiving the pass does not shoot at goal, the player who passed the ball must immediately leave the 2m area to avoid being penalized under this Rule.)*

4.11.1.3.4. To take a penalty throw other than in the prescribed manner.

4.11.1.3.5. To delay unduly when taking a free throw, goal throw or corner throw.

4.11.1.3.6. For a goalkeeper to go or touch the ball beyond the half distance line.

4.11.1.3.7. To send the ball out of the field of play, including the ball rebounding from the side of the field of play above water level.

4.11.1.3.8. For a team to retain possession of the ball for more than 35 seconds of actual play without shooting at the opponent's goal.

*(\*Note 6: The Timekeeper and Referees must decide whether there was a shot on goal or not. However, the Referees have the final decision.)*

4.11.1.3.9. To waste time.

*(\*Note 7: It is always permissible for a Referee to award an ordinary foul under this Rule before the 35-second possession period has elapsed.*

*If the goalkeeper is the only player of that team in that half of the field of play, it shall be deemed wasting time for the goalkeeper to receive the ball from another member of the team who is in the other half of the field of play.*

*In the last minute, the Referees must be certain that there is intentional wasting time, before applying this Rule.)*

#### **4.11.2. Personal Fouls**

4.11.2.1 A personal foul shall be recorded against any player who commits an exclusion foul or a penalty foul. The Referee shall indicate the offending player's cap number to the Secretary.

4.11.2.2 Upon receiving a third personal foul, a player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game with substitution according to [4.11.2.3.4](#). If the third personal foul is a penalty foul, the entry of the substitute shall be immediate.

#### **4.11.2.3 Exclusion Fouls**

4.11.2.3.1. It shall be an exclusion foul to commit any of the offences as outlined in [4.11.2.4](#). Minor Exclusion Fouls and [4.11.2.5](#). Major Exclusion Fouls which shall be punished (except as otherwise provided by the Rules) by the award of a free throw to the opposing team and the exclusion of the player who committed the foul.

4.11.2.3.2. When a player of each team commits an exclusion foul or a penalty foul simultaneously during actual play, both players shall be excluded and a neutral throw awarded.

4.11.2.3.3. The excluded player shall move to the re-entry area nearest to his/her own goal line without leaving the water. An excluded player who removes himself/herself from the water (other than following the entry of a substitute) shall be deemed guilty of an offence (Disrespect).

*(\*Note 1: An excluded player (including any player excluded under the Rules for the remainder of the game) shall remain in the water and move (which may include swimming underwater) to the re-entry position nearest to the player's own goal line without interfering with the play. The player may swim from the field of play at any point on the goal line and may swim behind the goal to reach the re-entry area provided the player does not interfere with the alignment of the goal.*

*On reaching the re-entry area, the excluded player and/or a substitute shall be required to visibly rise to the surface of the water before being permitted to re-enter in accordance with the Rules. However, it shall not be necessary for the excluded player to then remain in the re-entry area to await the arrival of an intended substitute.)*

4.11.2.3.4. The excluded player or a substitute shall be permitted to re-enter the field of play after the earliest occurrence of one of the following:

- a) when 20 seconds of actual play have elapsed (at which time the first Timekeeper shall raise the appropriate flag provided that the excluded player has reached his re-

entry area in accordance with the Rules);

- b) when a goal has been scored;
- c) when the excluded player's team has retaken possession of the ball (which means receiving control of the ball) during actual play (the defensive Referee shall signal re-entry by a hand signal);
- d) when play is restarted by a player of the excluded player's team after a stoppage, (the defensive Referee shall signal re-entry by a hand signal).

4.11.2.3.5. The excluded player or a substitute shall be permitted to re-enter the field of play from the re-entry area nearest to the player's own goal line, provided that:

- a) The player has received a signal from the first Timekeeper or Referee;
- b) The player shall not jump or push off from the side wall or wall of the pool or field of play;
- c) The player shall not affect the alignment of the goal;
- d) The excluded player has reached the re-entry area nearest to his/her own goal line.

4.11.2.3.6. After a goal has been scored an excluded player or a substitute may re-enter the field of play from any place.

4.11.2.3.7. These provisions shall also apply to the entry of a substitute when the excluded player has received three personal fouls or has otherwise been excluded from the remainder of the game in accordance with the Rules.

*(\*Note 2: A substitute shall not be signalled in by a Referee nor shall the first Timekeeper signal the expiration of the 20-second exclusion period until the excluded player has reached the re-entry area nearest to his/her own goal line. This shall also apply to the re-entry of a substitute who is to replace a player excluded from the remainder of the game. In the event of an excluded player failing to return to his/her re-entry area, a substitute shall not be permitted to enter until a goal has been scored or until the end of a period.)*

4.11.2.3.8. The primary responsibility for giving the signal for the re-entry of an excluded player or a substitute is with the defensive Referee. However, the attacking Referee may also assist in this regard and the signal of either Referee shall be valid. If a Referee suspects an improper re-entry or the Goal Judge signals such an improper re-entry, then the Referee should be satisfied that the other Referee had not signalled the re-entry.

4.11.2.3.9. Before giving the signal for the re-entry of an excluded player or a substitute, the defensive Referee should wait momentarily in case the attacking Referee whistles to restore possession to the opponent's team.

- 4.11.2.3.10. A change of possession does not occur merely because of the end of a period. However, an excluded player or substitute shall be eligible to re-enter if the player's team wins the ball at the swim up at the start of the next period. If a player is excluded when the end of a period is signalled, the Referees and the Secretary shall ensure that the teams have the correct number of players before signalling for the restart.
- 4.11.2.3.11. When a player is excluded, the exclusion period shall commence immediately when the ball has left the hand of the player taking the free throw or when the ball has been touched following a neutral throw.
- 4.11.2.3.12. If an excluded player intentionally interferes with play, including affecting the alignment of the goal, a penalty throw shall be awarded to the opposing team and a further personal foul awarded against the excluded player. If the excluded player does not commence leaving the field of play almost immediately, the Referee may deem this to be intentional interference under this Rule.
- 4.11.2.3.13. In the event of the game continuing into extra time, the exclusion period of any excluded player shall also continue into the extra time. Personal fouls awarded during the periods of normal time shall also carry forward into extra time and any player excluded under the Rules from the remainder of the game shall not be permitted to take part in any periods of extra time.

#### 4.11.2.4 Minor Exclusion Fouls

4.11.2.4.1. A minor exclusion foul is punishable (except as otherwise provided by the rules) by the award of a free throw to the opposing team and the exclusion of the player who committed the foul for 20 seconds of actual play.

4.11.2.4.2. A minor exclusion foul will be called for the following offences:

- a) To leave the water, sit or stand on the steps or side of the pool during play, except in the case of accident, injury, illness or with the permission of a Referee.
- b) To interfere with the taking of a free throw, goal throw or corner throw, including:
  - i. intentionally throwing away or failing to release the ball to prevent the normal progress of the game;
  - ii. any attempt to play the ball before it has left the hand of the thrower.

*(\*Note1: A player is not to be penalized under this Rule if the player does not hear the whistle as a result of being under the water. The Referees must determine if the actions of the player are intentional Interference with a throw may take place indirectly when the ball is hampered, delayed or prevented from reaching the player who is to take the throw, or it may occur when the execution of the throw is interfered with*

*by an opponent blocking the direction of the throw or by disturbing the actual movement of the thrower or for interference with a penalty throw.)*

- c) To splash in the face of an opponent intentionally.

*(\*Note 2: Splashing is frequently used as an unfair tactic but is often only penalized in the obvious situation when players are facing one another. However, it can also occur less obviously when a player produces a curtain of water with an arm, seemingly without deliberate intent, in an attempt to block the view of the opponent who is about to shoot at goal or to make a pass.*

*The punishment for intentionally splashing an opponent is an exclusion or a penalty throw, if the opponent is inside the 4m area and is attempting to shoot at goal. The awarding of a penalty throw or an exclusion foul is decided solely by the positioning and actions of the attacking player. Whether the offending player is inside or outside the 4m area is not a decisive factor.)*

- d) To hold, sink or pull back an opponent who is not holding the ball. "Holding" is lifting, carrying or touching the ball but does not include dribbling the ball.

*(\*Note 3: The correct application of this Rule is very important to ensure that the proper limits of rough play are not exceeded. In addition, Referees must note that an infringement within the 4m area, which prevents a probable goal, must be punished by the award of a penalty throw.)*

- e) To kick or strike an opponent intentionally or make disproportionate movements with that intent.

*(\*Note 4: The offence of kicking or striking can take a number of different forms, including being committed by a player in possession of the ball or by an opposing player. Possession of the ball is not a decisive factor. What is important, is the action of the offending player, including the player who makes disproportionate movements in an attempt to kick or strike, even if the player fails to make contact.*

*One of the most serious acts of striking is elbowing backwards, which can result in serious injury to the opponent. Similarly, serious injury can occur when a player intentionally butts his/her head back into the face of an opponent who is marking closely. In these circumstances, the Referee would also be justified in punishing the offence. (Brutality)*

- f) For the defending goalkeeper to fail to take up a correct position on the goal line at the taking of a penalty throw having been ordered once to do so by the Referee. Another defending player may take the position of the goalkeeper but without the goalkeeper's privileges or limitations.

#### 4.11.2.5 Major Exclusion Fouls

4.11.2.5.1. A major exclusion foul is punishable (except as otherwise provided by the rules) by the award of a free throw to the opposing team and the exclusion of the offending player for the

remainder of the game.

4.11.2.5.2. A major exclusion foul will be called for the following offences:

- a) Brutality (including kicking or striking or attempting to kick or strike with malicious intent) against an opponent or official, whether during play (including any stoppages or timeouts) or the intervals between periods of play. The offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game and shall not be substituted. (see Section [4.14](#))

*(\*Note 5: In the last minute of the game, the Referees may delay declaring a brutality offence until the next change of possession.*

*This Rule shall also apply if an act of brutality occurs during the intervals between periods, except that the free throw shall not be awarded. The offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game, without substitution, and that team shall continue the game with one less player.*

*In the case of brutality at any time by a substitute who is not in the water during the play, the offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game. The captain of the team shall be ordered to remove from the water a player of his/her choice and the team shall continue with one less player. The player who has been removed can subsequently be used during the remainder of the game, as one of the team's remaining players in the water and no personal foul shall be awarded in relation to the removal from the water.)*

4.11.2.5.3. Misconduct, including the use of foul language, violent or persistent foul play. In cases of extreme misconduct, the Referee may deny a substitution.

*(\*Note 6: Persistent foul play refers to play which is unacceptable within the spirit of the Rules and which is likely to bring the game into disrepute. Persistent foul play is entirely different and unrelated to "persisting in an ordinary foul".\*)*

4.11.2.5.4. Refusing to obey or showing disrespect for a Referee or Official.

*(\*Note 7: If a member of a team commits an act of disrespect prior to the restart of play after the opposing team has scored a goal or during the interval between periods, that player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game and the team shall be permitted to restart the game with seven players.)\**

4.11.2.5.5. A player of the team not in possession of the ball who commits any of the following offences before a free throw, goal throw, corner throw or penalty throw is taken:

- a) impeding an opponent
- b) pushing or pushing off from an opponent
- c) committing an exclusion foul

The original throw (including any neutral throw) shall be maintained.

4.11.2.5.6. A player of either team who commits any of the following offences before a neutral throw is taken:

- a) impeding an opponent

- b) pushing or pushing off from an opponent
- c) committing an exclusion foul

The original throw (including any neutral throw) shall be maintained.

4.11.2.5.7. A player of each team to who commits any of the following offences simultaneously before a free throw, goal throw, corner throw, penalty throw or neutral throw is taken:

- a) impeding an opponent
- b) pushing or pushing off from an opponent
- c) committing an exclusion foul

Both players shall be excluded and a neutral throw awarded; except if the offences are committed simultaneously at the taking of a penalty throw, the penalty throw shall be maintained.

*(\*Note 8: In the circumstances of this Rule, a change of possession is deemed not to have occurred merely because one team gains possession of the ball from the neutral throw. The players excluded under this Rule shall not be permitted to re-enter until the next earliest occurrence following the neutral throw.*

*However, this only applies to the two players who were excluded simultaneously and any other players who were already excluded shall be permitted to re-enter if the neutral throw results in a change of possession.*

*If the two players who have been excluded under this Rule are eligible to re-enter before*

*they have reached their respective re-entry areas, the defensive Referee may wave in each player as soon as he/she is ready to re-enter. The Referee does not have to wait until both players are ready to re-enter.)*

4.11.2.5.8. A player of the team in possession who commits an offence under exclusion fouls before a free throw, goal throw, corner throw or penalty throw is taken; except that if the offence is committed at the taking of a penalty throw, the penalty throw shall be maintained.

4.11.2.5.9. An excluded player who re-enters or a substitute who enters the field of play improperly, including:

a) without having received a signal from the Secretary or Referee;

*(\*Note 9: It shall be an improper re-entry if an excluded player re-enters or a substitute enters without having received the Referee's signal, even if the Referee should have given the signal earlier.)*

b) from any place other than his/her own re-entry area, except where the Rules provide for immediate substitution;

c) by jumping or pushing off from the side or wall of the pool or field of play;

d) by affecting the alignment of the goal.

If this offence occurs in the last minute of the game or the last minute of the second period of extra time the offending player

shall be excluded from the remainder of the game, with substitution according to [4.11.2.3.4.](#) and a penalty throw awarded to the opposing team.

4.11.2.5.10. Interfering with the taking of a penalty throw. The offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game with substitution according to [4.11.2.3.4.](#) and the penalty throw shall be maintained or re-taken as appropriate.

*(\*Note 10: The most common form of interference with a penalty throw is when an opponent aims a kick at the player taking the throw, just as the throw is about to be taken. It is essential for the Referees to ensure that all players are at least 2 metres from the thrower, to prevent such interference taking place. The Referee should also allow the defending team the first right to take position.)*

4.11.2.5.11. Penalty Fouls

- a) It shall be a penalty foul to commit any of the following offences which shall be punished by the award of a penalty throw to the opposing team.
  - i. For a defending player to commit any foul within the 4m area but for which a goal would probably have resulted.

*(\*Note 11: In addition to other offences preventing a probable goal, it is an offence within the meaning of this Rule:*

- ii. for a goalkeeper or other

defending player to pull down or otherwise displace the goal:

- iii. for a defending player to play the ball with two hands;
- iv. for a defending player to play the ball with a clenched fist;
- v. for a goalkeeper or other defending player to take the ball under the water when tackled.

*(It is important to note that while the fouls described above, and other fouls such as holding, pulling back, impeding, etc., would normally be punished by a free throw (and exclusion if appropriate), they become penalty fouls if committed within the 4m area by a defending player, if a probable goal would otherwise have been scored.)*

- vi. For a defending player within the 4m area to kick or strike an opponent or to commit an act of brutality. In the case of brutality, the offending player shall also be excluded from the remainder of the game, without substitution, in addition to the award of the penalty.
- vii. For an excluded player intentionally to interfere with play, including affecting the alignment of the goal.
- viii. For a goalkeeper or any other defending player to pull over the goal completely with the object of preventing a probable goal. The offending player shall also be excluded from the remainder of the game, with substitution according to [4.11.2.3.4.](#)

- ix. For an excluded player to re-enter or a substitute to enter the field of play improperly prior to, or at the expiration of an exclusion period with the object of preventing a goal. The offending player shall also leave the field of play to complete any of the original exclusion period remaining, if appropriate.

*(\*Note 12: In the circumstances of this Rule, if the attacking team is in a position to shoot at goal, the Referee shall wait to see if a goal is scored before stopping the play. If a goal is scored, the penalty throw is not awarded, but a personal foul is recorded against the offending player. If a goal is not scored, the Referee shall then immediately award a penalty throw in accordance with this Rule.)*

- x. For an excluded player to re-enter or a substitute to enter the field of play improperly during the last minute of the game, or the last minute of the second period of any extra time. The offending player shall also be excluded from the remainder of the game, with substitution according to [4.11.2.3.4.](#)
- xi. For a player or substitute who is not entitled under the Rules to participate in the play at that time to enter the field of play. The offending player shall also be excluded from the remainder of the game with substitution, where appropriate, after the earliest occurrence. This Rule

shall not apply to an excluded player who re-enters or a substitute who enters the field of play before a legal re-entry according to [4.11.2.3.4.](#)

*(\*Note 13: If an excluded player and a substitute both enter after the earliest occurrence, whichever player entered last, shall be the player to be penalized under this Rule. If both players enter simultaneously, it shall be the substitute who is to be penalized.)*

**XII.** For the coach of the team not in possession of the ball to request a timeout or for a team official to take any action to prevent a probable goal; except that no personal foul shall be recorded for this offence.

## **4.12. ACCIDENT, INJURY AND ILLNESS**

**4.12.1.** A player shall only be allowed to leave the water, sit or stand on the steps or side of the pool during play in a case of accident, injury or illness or with the permission of a Referee. A player who has left the water legitimately may re-enter from the re-entry area nearest his/her own goal line at an appropriate stoppage, with the permission of a Referee.

**4.12.2.** 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.

**4.12.3.** If an accident, an injury or an illness, other than bleeding occurs, 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.

**4.12.4.** Should the game be stopped through accident, illness, bleeding or other unforeseen reason, the team in possession of the ball at the time of the stoppage shall put the ball into play at the place of stoppage when the play is resumed.

**4.12.5.** Except in the circumstances of B (bleeding), the player shall not be allowed to take further part in the game if a substitute has entered.

#### **4.13. SHALLOW END POOL**

**4.13.1.** If possible, all games should be played in an 'all-deep' pool. Due to pool availability it is sometimes necessary to play in a pool with a shallow end.

*(\*Note 1: All rules governing the use of the bottom shall be under the interpretation and enforcement of the Referee.)*

**4.13.1.1** Goalkeepers are not allowed to stand or use the bottom in any way outside their own 4m line. Goalies may use the bottom to advantage while within their 4m area.

**4.13.1.2** All players should avoid the use of the bottom at any time during the game. If any player uses the bottom to his/her advantage or to gain advantage over an opposing player the opposing team shall be awarded a free throw.

**4.13.1.3** If, in an attempt to block a shot at goal,

a defending player deliberately uses the bottom within the 4m area and succeeds in blocking the shot, a penalty shot will be awarded to the attacking team.

4.13.1.4 If any player deliberately uses the bottom to gain an advantage to block a free throw, that player shall receive a major exclusion foul.

4.13.1.5 If, in the Referee's estimation, a player continually uses the bottom in spite of the Referee's rulings, the Referee may award that player with a major exclusion foul.

#### **4.14. BRUTALITY AND MISCONDUCT**

**4.14.1.** All calls of Brutality and Misconduct occurring during a tournament shall be forwarded to the Tournament Chairperson/Director. In all other cases they will be forwarded to the BCSSA Water Polo Director. Suspensions will be given if deemed necessary. Calls of brutality and misconduct will result in the disqualification of the player in question from the game. There will be no substitution for players receiving a brutality disqualification. Substitutions may be made for players receiving a misconduct except in extreme cases when the Referees have denied a substitution. (Section [4.11.2.5.3](#))

#### **4.15. PROTEST**

##### **4.15.1. Protest Committee**

###### **4.15.1.1 Submission of Protest**

4.15.1.1.1. All protests must be submitted to the Tournament Chairperson/Director, or to the Minor Officials' desk, no later

than thirty (30) minutes following the protested game. Protests must be in writing, clearly indicating the nature of the protest, and the following information must be included:

- a) what action or person is believed to be at fault
- b) in what time frame the action occurred
- c) names of witnesses (if possible)
- d) team/game number
- e) diagram (if applicable)
- f) signature of complainant

4.15.1.2 The Tournament Chairperson/ Director shall form and chair a protest committee consisting of 3 or 5 individuals. The committee should include the most senior and experienced individuals available. The chair shall have no vote.

4.15.1.3 A protest committee receives and adjudicates written protests that are submitted in accordance with these rules.

#### **4.15.2. Provincial Appeals Procedure**

See Section [3.11](#).

### **4.16. DISCIPLINE**

#### **4.16.1. Discipline Committees**

##### **4.16.1.1 Tournaments**

4.16.1.1.1. A Discipline Committee must review the incident in all cases where a tournament participant has been called for brutality. A participant who has been called for gross misconduct or disrespect will have an automatic one game suspension (from the age

grouping in which they were participating when the gross misconduct or disrespect was called) and will not be permitted to participate in any other age group competition until the one game suspension has been served. A discipline committee may be formed to review the incident.

#### 4.16.1.1.2. The Tournament

Chairperson/Director shall form a Discipline Committee consisting of three (3) neutral individuals preferably from the following:

#### 4.16.1.1.3. Tournament Referee-in-Chief

#### 4.16.1.1.4. Tournament

Chairperson/Director

#### 4.16.1.1.5. BCSSA Representative

4.16.1.1.6. Referees of the game who have ejected a participant from a game must provide the Discipline Committee with a report of the incident within thirty (30) minutes following the game. A decision will be made immediately following a review of the report and all concerned parties notified.

4.16.1.1.7. The Discipline Committee has the authority to prevent a participant from further competition in that specific tournament or a portion thereof.

4.16.1.1.8. The Discipline Committee must make a full, written report of the incident and forward it to the BCSSA Water Polo Director and the BCSSA President within 48 hours of the conclusion of the tournament. BCSSA may impose

further penalties.

#### 4.16.1.2 Scrimmages (Non-Tournament Competition)

4.16.1.2.1. The individual who has ejected a participant from the scrimmage must provide the BCSSA Water Polo Director with a written report of the incident within two (2) days following the occurrence.

4.16.1.2.2. A Discipline Committee shall be formed by the BCSSA Water Polo Director consisting of three (3) neutral individuals. The Discipline Committee must review the incident where a participant has been called for gross misconduct, disrespect or brutality.

4.16.1.2.3. The Discipline Committee must make a full written report of the incident and forward it to the BCSSA Water Polo Director, the BCSSA President and all other involved parties within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the decision.

#### 4.16.2. Discipline Appeal Procedure

4.16.2.1 An appeal of a decision from the Discipline Committee must be in writing and received by the BCSSA President within seven (7) days of the occurrence. This appeal must be accompanied with a \$100.00 cheque (refundable if successful)

4.16.2.2 The President shall appoint an Appeal Committee, comprised of 3 members of the Board of Directors, or appointed Designates, and a non-voting chairperson.

4.16.2.3 The Appeal Committee shall convene within five (5) days of receipt of the notice of

appeal and reach a decision by majority as soon as is practical.

4.16.2.4 The Appeal Committee shall hear the evidence as it sees fit. The Protestor and the individual whose decision is being disputed shall have the right to present their cases to the Committee.

4.16.2.5 The Chair of the Appeal Committee shall prepare a written record of the proceedings, including a description of the incident, initial decision and protest, Committee members and the witnesses called, the final decision rendered and a brief description of the rationale. All members of the Committee shall sign the 'record'.

4.16.2.6 A written decision of the Appeal Committee shall be delivered to the parties involved within three (3) days of the completion of the hearing.

4.16.2.7 The decision of the Appeal Committee is final and a copy of the decision is to be forwarded to the BCSSA President.

## **4.17. TECHNICAL ERRORS**

**4.17.1.** If there is a technical error (desk official mistake, timing error, clock malfunction, etc.) the referee must stop the game at an appropriate time (not necessarily immediately) and correct the error.

**4.17.2.** The game may have to restart at the last known time before the error. (For example: A player has 3 personal fouls and is still playing because the secretary has forgotten to signal with the red flag. If a goal is not scored on the power play, the game clock may be reset to the

end of the exclusion time and all incidents occurring after that time must be erased on the game sheet. If a goal is scored on the power play, the game is restarted from that time.)

#### **4.18. YELLOW AND RED CARDS**

- 4.18.1.** The yellow card/red card system has been adopted for the control of the water polo bench at all BCSSA water polo events.
- 4.18.2.** The issuing (signaling) of the yellow card by the referee is an “official” warning to the team bench. That the subsequent issuing (signaling) of the red card by the referee is the signal that the offender on the team bench must retire to the public area or to such a designated place as determined by the tournament chair.
- 4.18.3.** It should be noted, that should the actions of the offender warrant, then the referee might issue (signal) with the red card without having issued (signalled) with the yellow card, which in normal circumstances is really an initial warning.
- 4.18.4.** The point to remember about the use of cards is that they are just a mechanism, a “visible show” for what referees always have had the power to do. A referee could always exclude any person from the pool. Accordingly:
- 4.18.4.1 If the bench is still a problem, identify the offender(s) and exclude him/her (them).
- 4.18.4.2 The offender is the individual, not the representative. Accordingly you punish neither the captain, nor the coach, if a player is the offending party. You excluded that party.

#### **4.18.5. Yellow Cards Situations:**

##### **4.18.5.1 For the head coach only:**

**4.18.5.1.1. Advance pass the 5 m line (a verbal and/or a warning signal before a yellow card)**

- a) The head coach must stay well away from the referee when the referee is in his/her zone. The coach must not impede on the referee's movement or vision.
- b) The head coach must be near his/her bench when his/her team has possession of the ball and stay in his/her zone.
- c) The head coach doesn't return near his bench when his/her team loses possession of the ball.
- d) When the bench is not situated behind the goal line and outside the sidelines.
  - i. Comment the referee's calls (after the calls)
  - ii. Directed the referee's call (before the calls)
  - iii. Regarding ii and iii, if the referee cannot determine who is committing the infraction from the bench, the head coach should receive a yellow card (he/she is responsible for the behaviour of all on the bench)

**4.18.6. Red Card Situations:**

**4.18.7. For a staff member and/or a player of the team other than the head coach:**

4.18.7.1 Leaving the bench

4.18.7.2 Comment on the referee's calls

4.18.7.3 Direct the referee's calls

4.18.7.4 Interfere in the play

**4.18.8. For head coach:**

4.18.8.1 A third infraction from the yellow card list (a).

4.18.8.2 A second infraction from the yellow card list (I, ii, and iii).

**4.18.9. For head coach, staff members and players:**

4.18.9.1 Throw or kick an object

4.18.9.2 Insult personally a referee or minor official

4.18.9.3 Instigate any personal contact with a referee or minor official

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