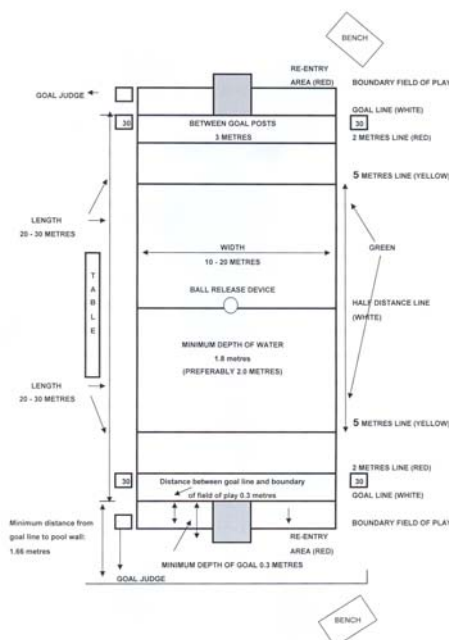


## WP 1 FIELD OF PLAY & EQUIPMENT

**WP 1.1** The promoting organisation shall be responsible for the correct measurements and markings of the field of play and shall provide all stipulated fixtures and equipment.

**WP 1.2** The layout and markings of the field of play for a game officiated by two referees shall be in accordance with the following diagram:



**WP 1.3** In a game officiated by one referee, the referee shall officiate on the same side as the official table, and the goal judges shall be situated on the opposite side.

**WP 1.4** The distance between the goal lines shall be not less than 20 metres and not more than 30 metres for games played by men. The distance between the goal lines shall be not less than 20 metres and not more than 25 metres for games played by women. The width of the field of play shall be not less than 10 metres and not more than 20 metres. The boundary of the field of play at each end shall be 0.30 metres behind the goal line.

**WP 1.5** For FINA events the dimensions of the field of play, water depth and temperature, and light intensity shall be as set forth in FR 7.2, FR 7.3, FR 7.4 and FR 8.3.

**WP 1.6** Distinctive marks shall be provided on both sides of the field of play to denote the following:

- white marks - goal line and half distance line
- red marks - 2 metres from goal lines
- yellow marks - 5 metres from goal lines

The sides of the field of play from the goal line to the 2 metre line shall be marked in red; from the 2 metre line to the 5 metre line shall be marked in yellow and from the 5 metre line to the half distance line shall be marked in green.

**WP 1.7** A red mark shall be placed at each end of the field of play, 2 metres from the corner of the field of play on the side opposite to the official table, to denote the re-entry area.

**WP 1.8** Sufficient space shall be provided to enable the referees to have free movement from end to end of the field of play. Space shall also be provided at the goal lines for the goal judges.

**WP 1.9** The secretary shall be provided with separate [white](#), [blue](#), [red](#) and [yellow](#) flags, each measuring 0.35 metres x 0.20 metres.

## **WP 6 OFFICIALS**

**WP 6.1** For FINA events the officials shall consist of two referees, two goal judges, timekeepers and secretaries, each with the following powers and duties. Such officials shall also be provided wherever possible for other events, except that in a game refereed by two referees and no goal judges, the referees shall assume the duties (but without making the specified signals) allocated to the goal judges in WP 8.2.

*[Note. Depending on the degree of importance, games can be controlled by teams of four to eight officials, as follows:*

*(a) Referees and goal judges:*

*Two referees and two goal judges; or two referees and no goal judges; or one referee and two goal judges.*

*(b) Timekeepers and secretaries:*

*With one timekeeper and one secretary: The timekeeper shall record the periods of continuous possession of the ball by each team, in accordance with WP [20.16](#). The secretary shall record the exact periods of actual play, timeouts and the intervals between periods, maintain the record of the game as set out in WP 10.1 and shall also record the respective periods of exclusion of players ordered from the water in accordance with the Rules.*

*With two timekeepers and one secretary: Timekeeper No. 1 shall record the exact periods of actual play, timeouts and the intervals between periods. Timekeeper No. 2 shall record the periods of continuous possession of the ball by each team, in accordance with WP [20.16](#). The secretary shall maintain the record of the game and perform all other duties as set out in WP 10.1.*

*With two timekeepers and two secretaries: Timekeeper No. 1 shall record the exact periods of actual play, timeouts and the intervals between periods. Timekeeper No. 2 shall record the periods of continuous possession of the ball by each team, in accordance with WP [20.16](#). Secretary No. 1 shall maintain the record of the game as set out in WP 10.1(a). Secretary No. 2 shall carry out the duties set out in WP 10.1(b), (c) and (d) relating to the improper re-entry of excluded players, improper entry of substitutes, exclusion of players and the third personal foul.]*

## WP 10 SECRETARIES

**WP 10.1** The duties of the secretaries shall be:

- (a) to maintain the record of the game, including the players, the score, timeouts, exclusion fouls, penalty fouls, and personal fouls awarded against each player;
- (b) to control the periods of exclusion of players and to signal the expiration of the period of exclusion by raising the appropriate flag; except that a referee shall signal the re-entry of an excluded player or a substitute when that player's team has retaken possession of the ball. **After 4 minutes the secretary should signal the re-entry of a substitute for a player who has committed brutality by raising the yellow flag along with the appropriate coloured flag;**
- (c) to signal with the red flag and by whistle for any improper re-entry of an excluded player or improper entry of a substitute (including after a signal by a goal judge to indicate an improper re-entry or entry), which signal shall stop play immediately;
- (d) to signal, without delay, the award of a third personal foul against any player as follows:
  - (i) with the red flag if the third personal foul is an exclusion foul;
  - (ii) with the red flag and a whistle if the third personal foul is a penalty foul.

## WP 11 DURATION OF THE GAME

**WP 11.1** The duration of the game shall be four periods each of eight minutes actual play. 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.

**WP 11.2** There shall be a two-minute interval between the first and second periods and between the third and fourth periods and a five-minute interval between the second and third periods. The teams, including the players, coaches and officials, shall change ends before starting the third period and the second period of any extra time.

**WP 11.3** Should the scores be level at full time in any game for which a definite result is required, any continuation into extra time shall be after an interval of five minutes. There shall then be played two periods each of three minutes actual play with an interval of two minutes for the teams to change ends. If at the end of the two periods of extra time the score is equal, there shall be a penalty shoot out to determine the result.

*[Note. If a penalty shoot out is necessary, the following procedure shall be followed:*

- (a) *if it involves the two teams having just completed a game, the shoot out will begin immediately and the same referees will be used*
- (b) *otherwise, the shoot out will occur 30 minutes following the completion of the final game of that round, or at the first practical opportunity. The referees involved in the most recent game of that round will be used, provided they are neutral*
- (c) *if two teams are involved the respective coaches of the teams will be requested to nominate five players and goalkeeper who will participate in the penalty shoot out;*

- the goalkeeper may be changed at any time provided the substitute was listed amongst the team list in that game*
- (d) *the five players nominated will be required to be listed in order and that order will determine the sequence in which those players will shoot at their opponents goal; the sequence cannot be changed*
  - (e) *no players excluded for the game are eligible to be listed amongst those players to shoot or substitute as goalkeeper*
  - (f) *if the goalkeeper is excluded during the penalty shoot out, a player from the nominated five players may substitute for the goalkeeper but without the privileges of the goalkeeper; following the taking of the penalty shot, the player may be substituted by another player or alternate goalkeeper. **If a field player is excluded during the penalty shoot out, the player's position is removed from the list of the five players participating in the penalty shoot out, and a substituted player is placed in the last position on the list***
  - (g) **shots will be taken alternately at each end of the field of play, unless conditions at one end of the field of play advantage and/or disadvantage a team, in which case all shots may be taken at the same end. The players taking the shots will remain in the water in front of their bench, the goalkeepers will change ends, and all players not involved must sit on their team bench**
  - (h) *the team to shoot first will be determined **by toss of a coin***
  - (i) *should teams still be tied following the completion of the initial five penalty shots, the same five players shall then take alternate shots until one team misses and the other(s) score*
  - (j) *if three or more teams are involved, each team will shoot five penalty shots against each of the other teams, alternating at each shot. The order of the first shot will be determined by draw.]*

**WP 11.4** Any visible clock shall show the time in a descending manner (that is, to show the time remaining in a period).

**WP 11.5** **If a game (or part of a game) must be replayed, then goals, personal fouls, and timeouts that occurred during the time to be replayed are deleted from the game score sheet, however brutality, misconduct, and any red card exclusions are recorded on the game score sheet.**

## **WP 12 TIMEOUTS**

**WP 12.1** **Each team may request two timeouts in any game. An additional timeout including any timeouts not utilised may be requested should the game go into extra time.** The duration of the timeout shall be one minute. A timeout may be requested at any time, including after a goal, by the coach of the team in possession of the ball calling "timeout" and signalling to the secretary or referee with the hands forming a T-shape. If a timeout is requested, the secretary or referee shall immediately stop the game by whistle and the players shall immediately return to their respective halves of the field of play.

**WP 12.2** Play shall be restarted on the whistle of the referee by the team in possession of the ball putting the ball into play on or behind the half distance line, except that if the timeout is requested before the taking of a penalty throw or corner throw, that throw shall be maintained.

*[Note. The possession clock continues from the recommencement of the play after the timeout.]*

**WP 12.3** If the coach of the team in possession of the ball requests an additional timeout to which the team is not entitled, the game shall be stopped and play shall then be restarted by a player of the opposing team putting the ball into play at the half distance line.

**WP 12.4** 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.

**WP 12.5** 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.

## **WP 13 THE START OF PLAY**

**WP 13.1** *The first team listed in the official program will wear white caps or the caps reflecting the colour of their country and will start the game to the left of the official table. The other team will wear blue caps or caps of a contrasting colour and will start the game to the right of the table.*

**WP 13.2** At the start of each period, the players shall take up positions on their respective goal lines, about one metre apart and 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: No player may pull the lane line forward and the player swimming for the ball must not have their feet on the goal in an attempt to push off at the start or restart of the game.]*

**WP 13.3** When the referees are satisfied that the teams are ready, a referee shall blow the whistle to start and then release or throw the ball into play on the half distance line.

**WP 13.4** If the ball is released or thrown giving one team a definite advantage, the referee shall call for the ball and award a neutral throw on the half distance line.

**WP 18 NEUTRAL THROWS**

**WP 18.1** 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 opposing teams** commit **an ordinary 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 neither team has possession of the ball and one or more players of opposing teams commit an exclusion foul at the same moment. The neutral throw shall be taken after the offending players have been excluded;**
- (e) when the ball strikes or lodges in an overhead obstruction.**

**WP 18.2** At a neutral throw, a referee shall throw the ball into the field of play at approximately the same lateral position as the event occurred 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 2 metre area shall be taken on the 2 metre line.

**WP 18.3** 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.

**WP 20 ORDINARY FOULS**

**WP 20.1** It shall be an ordinary foul to commit any of the following offences (WP 20.2 to WP 20.18), which shall be punished by the award of a free throw to the opposing team.

*[Note. The referees must award ordinary fouls in accordance with the Rules to enable the attacking team to develop an advantage situation. However, the referees must have regard to the special circumstance of WP 7.3 (Advantage).]*

**WP 20.2** 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 location of the ball or, if the ball has not been released into the field of play, from the half distance line.

**WP 20.3** To assist a player at the start of a period or at any other time during the game.

**WP 20.4** To hold or push off from the goal posts or their fixtures, to hold or push off from the sides or ends of the pool during actual play or at the start of a period.

**WP 20.5** 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 the goalkeeper's 5 metre area.

**WP 20.6** To take or hold the entire ball under the water when tackled.

*[Note. It is an ordinary foul to take or hold the ball under the water when tackled, even if the player holding the ball has the ball forced under the water as a result of the opponent's challenge (figure 3). 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 goalkeeper has committed no offence; but if the goalkeeper then holds the ball under the water when challenged by an opponent, the goalkeeper will have committed an infringement of this Rule and if the goalkeeper's actions prevented a probable goal, a penalty throw must be awarded under WP 22.2.]*

Figure 3



**WP 20.7** To strike at the ball with a clenched fist. This Rule shall not apply to the goalkeeper while within his 5 metre area.

**WP 20.8** To play or touch the ball with two hands at the same time. This Rule shall not apply to the goalkeeper while within his 5 metre area.

**WP 20.9** 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. The first thing for the referee to consider is whether the opponent is holding the ball, because 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 it is held raised above the water (figure 4). The player is also holding the ball if the player swims with it held in the hand or makes contact with the ball while it is lying on the surface of the water (figure 5). Swimming with the ball (dribbling), as shown in figure 6, is not considered to be holding.]*

Figure 5



Figure 4

Figure 6

A common form of *impeding* is where the player swims across the opponent's legs (figure 7), thus reducing the pace at which the opponent can move and interfering with the normal leg action. Another form is swimming on the opponent's shoulders. It must also be remembered that the foul of *impeding* can be committed by the player who is in possession of the ball. For example, figure 8 shows a player keeping one hand on the ball and trying to force the opponent away to gain more space. Figure 9 shows a player in possession of the ball impeding the opponent by pushing the opponent back with the head. Care must be taken with figures 8 & 9, because any violent movement by the player in possession of the ball might constitute *striking* or even *brutality*; the figures are intended to illustrate *impeding* without any violent movement. A player may also commit the offence of *impeding* even if the player is not holding or touching the ball. Figure 10 shows a player intentionally blocking the opponent with the player's body and with the arms flung open, thus making access to the ball impossible. This offence is most often committed near the boundaries of the field of play.]

Figure 7

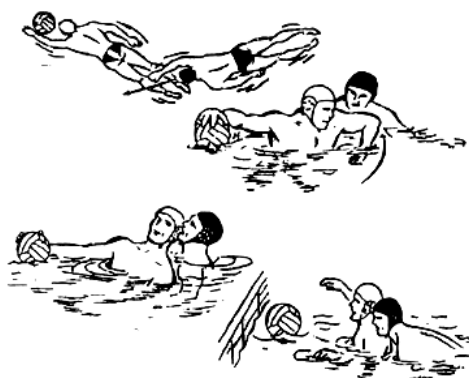


Figure 8

Figure 9

Figure 10

**WP 20.10** To push or push off from an opponent who is not holding the ball.

[Note. *Pushing* can take place in various forms, including with the hand (figure 11) or with the foot (figure 12). 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, but if the movement begins before such contact with the opponent is made, then this should generally be regarded as kicking.]

Figure 11

Figure 12



**WP 20.11** 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 2 metre 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 2 metre area.

*[Note. If the player receiving the pass does not shoot at goal, the player who passed the ball must immediately leave the 2 metre area to avoid being penalised under this Rule.]*

**WP 20.12** To take a penalty throw other than in the prescribed manner.

*[Note. See WP 23.4 for method of taking a penalty throw.]*

**WP 20.13** To delay unduly when taking a free throw, goal throw or corner throw.

*[Note. See note to WP 16.2]*

**WP 20.14** For a goalkeeper to go or touch the ball beyond the half distance line.

**WP 20.15** To last touch the ball that goes out of the side of the field of play (including the ball rebounding from the side of the field of play above water level) except in the case of a defensive field player blocking a shot over the side of the field of play, in which case a free throw is given to the defensive team.

**WP 20.16** For a team to retain possession of the ball for more than 30 seconds of actual play without shooting at their opponent's goal. The timekeeper recording the possession time shall reset the clock:

- (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.

Visible clocks shall show the time in a descending manner (that is, to show the possession time remaining).

*[Note. The timekeeper and referees must decide whether there was a shot goal or not but the referees have the final decision.]*

## **WP 21 EXCLUSION FOULS**

**WP 21.1** It shall be an exclusion foul to commit any of the following offences (WP 21.4 to WP 21.17), 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.

**WP 21.2** The excluded player shall move to the re-entry area nearest to the player's own goal line without leaving the water. An excluded player who leaves the water (other than

following the entry of a substitute) shall be deemed guilty of an offence under WP 21.10 (Misconduct).

[Note. 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 **leave** from the field of play at any point **then swim** 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 shall be required to visibly rise to the surface of the water before the player (or a substitute) shall be 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.]*

**WP 21.3** 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 secretary shall raise the appropriate flag provided that the excluded player has reached the 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, at which time the defensive referee shall signal re-entry by a hand signal;
- (d) when the excluded player's team is awarded a free throw or goal throw, the referee's signal to award the throw qualifies as the re-entry signal, provided that the excluded player has reached the re-entry area in accordance with the Rules.

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 secretary or a referee;
- (b) the player shall not jump or push off from the side or wall of the pool or field of play;
- (c) the player shall not affect the alignment of the goal;
- (d) a substitute shall not be permitted to enter in the place of an excluded player until that player has reached the re-entry area nearest to the player's own goal line **except between periods, after a goal, or during a timeout;**
- (e) after a goal has been scored an excluded player or a substitute may re-enter the field of play from any place.**

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. A substitute shall not be signalled in by a referee and nor shall the secretary signal the expiration of 20 seconds exclusion period until the excluded player has reached the re-entry area nearest to the player's 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 the player's re-entry area, a substitute shall*

not be permitted to enter until a goal has been scored or at the end of a period **or during a timeout.**

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 first be satisfied that the other referee had not signalled the re-entry.

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.

A change of possession does not occur merely because of the end of a period, but an excluded player or substitute shall be eligible to re-enter if the 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.]

**WP 21.4** For a player to leave the water or 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.

**WP 21.5** To interfere with the taking of a free throw, goal throw or corner throw, including:

- (a) intentionally to throw away or fail to release the ball to prevent the normal progress of the game;
- (b) any attempt to play the ball before it has left the hand of the thrower.

[Note. A player is not to be penalised 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 (figure 13) or by disturbing the actual movement of the thrower (figure 14). For interference with a penalty throw, see also WP 21.16.]

Figure 13



Figure 14



**WP 21.6** To attempt to block a **pass or** shot with two hands outside the 5 metre area.

**WP 21.7** To splash in the face of an opponent intentionally.

*[Note. Splashing is frequently used as an unfair tactic but is often only penalised in the obvious situation when players are facing one another (see figure 15). 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.]*

Figure 15



*The punishment for intentionally splashing an opponent is exclusion under WP 21.7 or a penalty throw under WP 22.2 if the opponent is inside the 5 metre area and is attempting to shoot at goal. Whether to award a penalty throw or an exclusion is decided solely by the positioning and actions of the attacking player; whether the offending player is inside the 5 metre area or outside is not a decisive factor.]*

**WP 21.8** 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. The correct application of this Rule is very important both as to the presentation of the game and in arriving at a proper and fair result. The wording of the Rule is clear and explicit and can only be interpreted in one way: to hold (figure 16), sink (figure 17) or pull back (figure 18) an opponent who is not holding the ball is an exclusion foul. It is essential that referees apply this Rule correctly, without personal arbitrary interpretation, to ensure that the proper limits to rough play are not exceeded. In addition, referees must note that an infringement of WP 21.8 within the 5 metre area which prevents a probable goal must be punished by the award of a penalty throw.]*

Figure 16



Figure 17

Figure 18

**WP 21.9** To kick or strike an opponent intentionally or make disproportionate movements with that intent.

*[Note. 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 if the player 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 (figure 19), which can result in serious injury to the opponent. Similarly, serious injury can occur when a player intentionally heads back into the face of an opponent who is marking the player closely. In these circumstances, the referee would also be justified in punishing the offence under WP 21.11 (Brutality) rather than under WP 21.9]*

Figure 19



**WP 21.10** To be guilty of misconduct, including the use of unacceptable language, **aggressive** or persistent foul play, to refuse obedience to or show disrespect for a referee or official, or behaviour against the spirit of the Rules and likely to bring the game into disrepute. The offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game, with substitution after the earliest occurrence referred to in WP 21.3, **and must leave the competition area.**

*[Note. If a player commits any offence mentioned in this rule during the interval between periods, during a timeout, or after a goal, the player shall be excluded for the remainder of the game and a substitute shall be eligible to re-enter immediately prior to the restart of the game as all these situations are considered to be interval time. Play will restart in the normal manner.]*

**WP 21. 11** To commit an act of brutality (including to play in a violent manner, kicking, striking or attempting to kick or strike with malicious intent) against an opponent or official, whether during actual play, during any stoppages, timeouts, after a goal has been scored or during intervals between periods of play.

Should this occur during the game the offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game and must leave the competition area and a penalty throw awarded to the opposing team. The offending player may be substituted when four minutes of actual play have elapsed.

Should the incident occur during any stoppage, timeout, after a goal or interval between periods of play, the player shall be excluded for the remainder of a game and must leave the competition area. No penalty throw shall be awarded. The offending player may be substituted when four (4) minutes of actual play have elapsed and play will restart in the normal manner.

If the referee/s call simultaneous brutalities or actions of play in a violent manner on players of opposing teams during play, both players are excluded for the remainder of the game with substitution after four (4) minutes of actual play have elapsed. The team, which had possession of the ball, will first shoot a penalty throw followed by the other team shooting a penalty throw. After the second penalty throw, the team, which had possession of the ball, will restart play with a free throw on or behind the half distance line.

**WP 21. 11** In the case of simultaneous exclusion of players of opposing teams during play, both players are excluded for 20 seconds. The 30 second possession clock is reset and play is restarted with a free throw to the team which had possession of the ball. If neither team had possession when the simultaneous exclusions were called, play shall be restarted with a neutral throw.

*[Note. Both players excluded under this Rule, shall be permitted to re-enter at the next earliest occurrence referred to in WP 21.3 or at the next change of possession.*

*If two players have been excluded under this Rule **and** are eligible to re-enter, the defensive referee may wave in **the** player as soon as **that** player is ready to re-enter. The referee does not have to wait until both players are ready to re-enter.*

**WP 21.13** For an excluded player to re-enter or a substitute to enter the field of play improperly, including:

- (a) without having received a signal from the secretary or referee;

- (b) from any place other than the player's 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 is committed by a player of the team not in possession of the ball, the offending player shall be excluded and a penalty throw awarded to the opposing team. **This player receives only one personal foul, which should be marked by the secretary as exclusion penalty.**

If this offence is committed by a player of the team in possession of the ball, the offending player shall be excluded and a free throw awarded to the opposing team.

**WP 21.14** To interfere with the taking of a penalty throw. The offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game with substitution after the earliest occurrence referred to in WP 21.3 and the penalty throw shall be maintained or re-taken as appropriate.

*[Note. 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.]*

**WP 21.15** For the defending goalkeeper to fail to take up the 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.

**WP 21.16** 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.

**WP 21.17** 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.

**WP 21.18** 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.

## **WP 22 PENALTY FOULS**

**WP 22.1** It shall be a penalty foul to commit any of the following offences (WP 22.2 to WP 22.7), which shall be punished by the award of a penalty throw to the opposing team.

**WP 22.2** For a defending player to commit any foul within the 5 metre area but for which a goal would probably have resulted.

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

- (a) for a goalkeeper or other defending player to pull down or otherwise displace the goal (figure 20);*
- (b) for a defending player to attempt to block a shot or pass with two hands (figure 21);**
- (c) for a defending player to play the ball with a clenched fist (figure 22);*
- (d) 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 5 metre area by a defending player if a probable goal would otherwise have been scored.]*

Figure 20



Figure 21

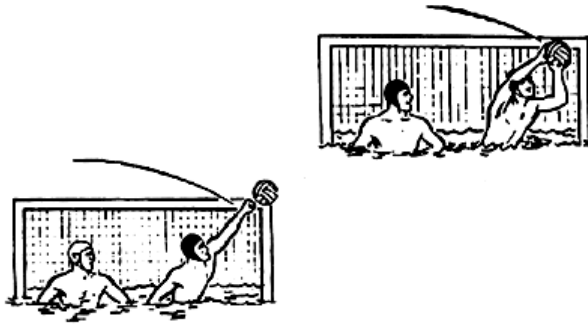


Figure 22

**WP 22.3** For a defending player within the 5 metre 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, and a substitute may enter the field of play after four minutes of actual play have elapsed, in addition to the award of the penalty throw.

**WP 22.4** For an excluded player intentionally to interfere with play, including affecting the alignment of the goal.

**WP 22.5** 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 after the earliest occurrence referred to in WP 21.3.

**WP 22.6** 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. The substitute may enter the field of play after the earliest occurrence referred to in WP 21.3.

**WP 22.7** 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.

**WP 22.8** If in the last minute of the game a penalty throw is awarded to a team, the coach may elect to maintain possession of the ball and be awarded a free throw. The timekeeper recording possession time shall reset the clock.

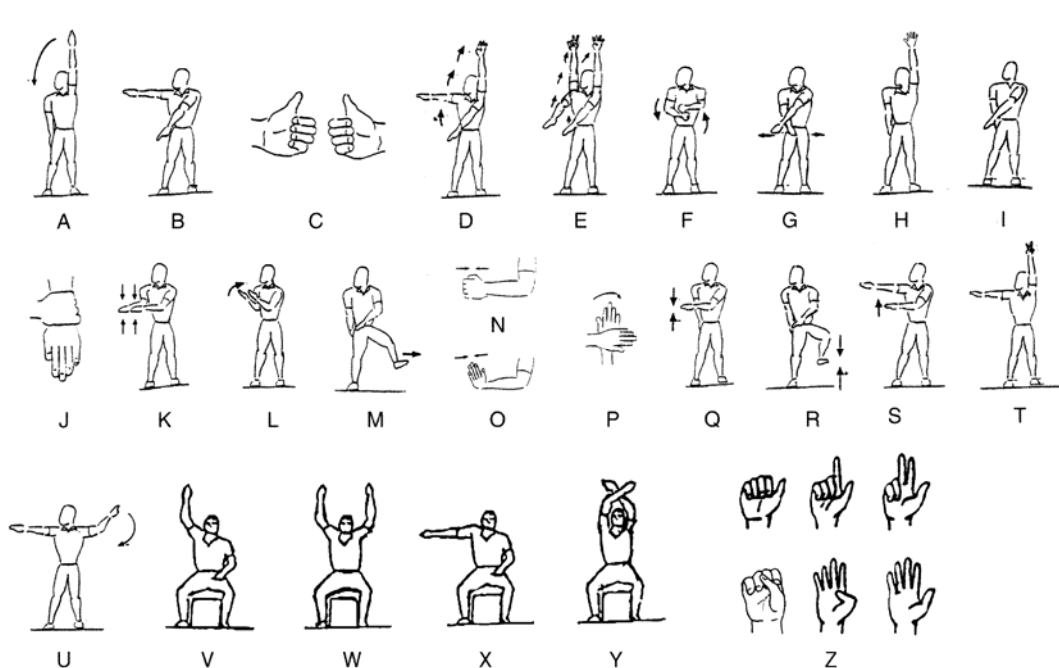
*[Note. It is the responsibility of the coach to give a clear signal without delay if the team wishes to maintain possession of the ball in accordance with this Rule.]*

## APPENDIX A INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF TWO REFEREES

1. The referees are in absolute control of the game and shall have equal powers to declare fouls and penalties. Differences of opinion of the referees shall not serve as a basis for protest or appeal.
2. The committee or organisation appointing the referees shall have power to designate the side of the pool from which each referee shall officiate. Referees shall change sides of the pool before the start of any period when the teams do not change ends.
3. At the start of the game and of each period, **the referees will position themselves on the respective five (5) metre line.** The starting signal shall be given by the referee on the same side as the official table.
4. After a goal, the signal to restart shall be given by the referee who was controlling the attacking situation when the goal was scored. Before restarting, the referees shall ensure that any substitutions have been completed.
5. Each referee shall have the power to declare fouls in any part of the field of play but each referee shall give their primary attention to the offensive situation attacking the goal to their right. The referee not controlling the attacking situation (the defensive referee) shall maintain a position no closer to the goal being attacked than that player of the attacking team furthest back from the goal.
6. When awarding a free throw, goal throw or corner throw, the referee making the decision shall blow the whistle and both referees shall indicate the direction of the attack, to enable players in different parts of the pool to see quickly which team has been awarded the throw. The referee making the decision shall point to where the throw is to be taken if the ball is not at that position. Referees shall use the signals set out in Appendix B to indicate the nature of the fouls which they are penalising.
7. **If, in the referee's opinion, a player persists in playing in an unsporting manner or engages in simulation, the referee shall issue a yellow card to the offending player. Should the action continue, the referee will issue the player with a red card visible to both the field of play and the table as this is deemed to be misconduct. The referee then signals the excluded player's cap number to the table.**
8. The signal for a penalty throw to be taken shall be made by the attacking referee, except that a player who wishes to take the throw with the left hand may request the defensive referee to make the signal.
9. When simultaneous free throws are awarded by both referees to the same team, the award shall go to the player awarded the throw by the attacking referee.
10. When simultaneous awards are made for ordinary fouls but for opposing teams, the award shall be a neutral throw, to be taken by the attacking referee.

11. When simultaneous awards are made by both referees and one is for an ordinary foul and the other is for an exclusion foul or penalty foul, the exclusion foul or penalty foul award shall be applied.
12. When players of both teams commit an exclusion foul simultaneously during play, the referees shall call the ball from the water and make sure both teams and the secretaries know who is excluded. The 30 second possession clock is reset and play is restarted with a free throw to the team which had possession of the ball. If neither team had possession when the simultaneous exclusions were called, play shall be restarted with a neutral throw.
13. In the event of simultaneous awards of penalty throws to both teams, the first throw shall be taken by the team last in possession of the ball. After the second penalty throw has been taken, the game will restart with the team which had possession of the ball receiving a free throw at on or behind the half distance line.

### APPENDIX B SIGNALS TO BE USED BY OFFICIALS



- Fig. A** The referee lowers the arm from a vertical position to signal (i) the start of the period (ii) to restart after a goal (iii) the taking of a penalty throw.
- Fig. B** To point with one arm in the direction of the attack and to use the other arm to indicate the place where the ball is to be put into play at a free throw, goal throw or corner throw.
- Fig. C** To signal a neutral throw. The referee points to the place where the neutral throw has been awarded, points both thumbs up and calls for the ball.

- Fig. D** To signal the exclusion of a player. The referee points to the player and then moves the arm quickly towards the boundary of the field of play. The referee then signals the excluded player's cap number so that it is visible to the field of play and the table.
- Fig. E** To signal the simultaneous exclusion of two players. The referee points with both hands to the two players, signals their exclusion in accordance with Fig. D, and then immediately signals the players' cap numbers.
- Fig. F** **To signal the exclusion of a player for misconduct.** The referee signals exclusion in accordance with Fig. D (or Fig. E if appropriate) and then rotates the hands round one another in such a way that is visible to both the field of play and the table **in addition to issuing the player with a red card.** The referee then signals the excluded player's cap number to the table.
- Fig. G** To signal the exclusion of a player **with** substitution **after four (4) minutes.** The referee signals exclusion in accordance with Fig. D (or Fig. E if appropriate) and then crosses the arms in such a way that is visible to both the field of play and the table **in addition to issuing the player with a red card.** The referee then signals the excluded player's cap number to the table.
- Fig. H** To signal the award of a penalty throw. The referee raises an arm with five fingers in the air. The referee then signals the offending player's cap number to the table.
- Fig. I** To signal that a goal has been scored. The referee signals by whistle and by immediately pointing to the centre of the field of play.
- Fig. J** To indicate the exclusion foul of holding an opponent. The referee makes a motion holding the wrist of one hand with the other hand.
- Fig. K** To indicate the exclusion foul of sinking an opponent. The referee makes a downward motion with both hands starting from a horizontal position.
- Fig. L** To indicate the exclusion foul of pulling back an opponent. The referee makes a pulling motion with both hands vertically extended and pulling towards his body.
- Fig. M** To indicate the exclusion foul of kicking an opponent. The referee makes a kicking movement.
- Fig. N** To indicate the exclusion foul of striking an opponent. The referee makes a striking motion with a closed fist starting from a horizontal position.
- Fig. O** To indicate the ordinary foul of pushing or pushing off from an opponent. The referee makes a pushing motion away from the body starting from a horizontal position.
- Fig. P** To indicate the ordinary foul of impeding an opponent. The referee makes a crossing motion with one hand horizontally crossing the other.
- Fig. Q** To indicate the ordinary foul of taking the ball under the water. The referee makes a downward motion with a hand starting from a horizontal position.
- Fig. R** To indicate the ordinary foul of standing on the bottom of the pool. The referee raises and lowers one foot.

- Fig. S** To indicate the ordinary foul of undue delay in the taking of a free throw, goal throw or corner throw. The referee raises a hand once or twice with the palm turned upwards.
- Fig. T** To indicate a violation of the two-metre Rule. The referee indicates the number 2 by raising the fore and middle fingers in the air with the arm vertically extended.
- Fig. U** To indicate the expiry of 30 seconds' possession. The referee moves a hand in a circular motion two or three times.
- Fig. V** By a goal judge to signal for the start of a period.
- Fig. W** By a goal judge to signal an improper start, restart or improper re-entry of an excluded player or substitute.
- Fig. X** By a goal judge to signal a goal throw or corner throw.
- Fig. Y** By a goal judge to signal a goal.
- Fig. Z** To indicate a player's cap number. To enable the referee to communicate better with the players and the secretary, signals are made using both hands if appropriate where the number exceeds five. One hand shows five fingers with the other hand showing additional fingers to make up the sum of the player's number. For the number ten, a clenched fist is shown. If the number exceeds ten, one hand is shown as a clenched fist with the other hand showing additional fingers to make up the sum of the player's number.

## **AGE GROUP RULES - WATER POLO**

**WPAG 1** All age group competitors remain qualified from 1 January to the following 31 December at their age at the close of day (12 midnight) on 31 December of the year of competition.

**WAPG 2** Age grouping for Water Polo for boys and girls are as follows:

**15 years of age and under**

**16, 17 and 18 years of age**

**19 and 20 years of age**

**The age for Junior World Championships is 18 years and under and 20 years and under.**