
HONDA 2019 NATIONAL WATER POLO LEAGUE

REFEREE FEEDBACK AFTER ROUNDS 5&6

Holding of Swimsuit (tog grabbing/holding)

As one of the more recurring issues, referees have reported in how to handle swimsuit (tog) grabbing/holding. More prevalent in women's games than men's games, consistency will still be the most important approach, and advantage needs to be considered. As per FINA rules, grabbing/holding of swimsuits is not permitted and must be called by referees. If not perceived by referees, players are encouraged to try and make it evident to the referees they are in fact being held by the swimsuit.

5 Meter Penalty Calls

The following clarification is taken from the FINA Water Polo Manual 2019-2020 in regards to 5 Meter Penalty Fouls:

WP 23.2

This rule says very clearly "ANY FOUL COMMITTED" and this includes also fouls, which in other cases, are only regarded as ordinary fouls. So, the most important decision is to decide what is "probable". The application used for many years is that the attacking player must be in a position facing the goal or must make movements towards the goal, either in possession of the ball or awaiting a pass so the player can shoot.

It is sometimes critical to decide quickly, whether the attacking player releases the ball and the defending player releases the attacking player more or less at the same moment.

It is the referee who has to decide if it is a lazy attacking player or a good actor (simulator) who wants the penalty as a gift or if it is an attacking player who wants to score and is still hindered from doing so by any foul.

This situation may occur either after a struggle between the centre forward and their defending player or by a player swimming in. But the application is clear, in a side position (not swimming towards the goal) or a position with the back to the goal, the referee can imply a probable goal and award a penalty only when the goalkeeper is completely out of their goal (this is the above mentioned exception).

Position or swimming towards the goal implies that it is absolutely forbidden to award a free throw to the attacking player. The principle should also be applied in a side position when the player is in a good position to score. As this is a dangerous position for the defending player, the attacking player very often is held by the defending player, which means exclusion foul, while a defending player usually tries to commit only ordinary fouls when the attacking player has their back to the goal. A penalty throw must always be awarded when a foul committed by a defending player inside the 6 meter area prevents a probable goal, and in the other situations described in WP 23.2 to WP 23.8.

However, the referee should not award a penalty throw if:

- (a) the attacking player has their back to the goal;*
- (b) the ball is legitimately intercepted by a defending player, or when a bad pass is made (including the ball being too high); or*
- (In these situations, the referee shall not make any award in favour of the attacking player, even if the player has been fouled.)*
- (c) the attacking player is not in a position to score a probable goal.*

If the attacking player, holding the ball, turns the defending player in front of the goal, no offence has been committed. If the attacking player releases the ball and the defending player immediately then releases the attacking player, there is still no offence.

However, if the attacking player makes an attempt to regain the ball and is prevented from doing so by a foul committed by the defending player, then a penalty throw is awarded.

CLARIFICATION:

*“INSIDE THE 6M. AREA, IN A PROBABLE GOAL POSITION AND WITH THE INTENTION TO SCORE: *If an attacking player with the intention to shoot has front position on a defender while moving toward the goal, the defender is not allowed to commit a foul without giving away a potential penalty shot to the attacker. *This is stopping a probable goal and falls within the meaning of WP 23.2. The only way to defend from behind in this situation is for the defender to make contact only with the ball. *This will eliminate the potential decision and call of the referee that the ‘ball was in the hand’ that we saw in the past and which was incorrect in many cases. *The referee should delay the call to see if the player is able to complete the action. *If the player is not able to complete it, the referee must apply this rule.*

**When an attacking player is in front of the goal with the ball on the water and his hand on top of the ball and the goalkeeper in this situation puts the hand and the ball under water this is correct, the goalkeeper attacked from in front and not from behind, so in this situation no penalty should be called but a free throw in favor of the goalkeeper.”*

It is important to consider whether the attacking player could have reached the pass if the foul was not committed. Do not award a penalty throw on a bad pass.

Game Sheets

Referees will ensure the game sheets are in order before signing. Host clubs must ensure that the table duties are manned by individuals aware of the responsibilities when assisting the referees as table officials. All game sheets will be uploaded onto the NZWP website (once submitted by the host clubs, on the first working day after a competition weekend), connected to the results on the waterpolo.org.nz website.

Current Suspensions

Antonio Avalos, of North Harbour Cootes Construction Men is suspended for the Canterbury v North Harbour Cootes Construction match on the 18/05/2019. Mr. Avalos is eligible to play again once the aforementioned game is concluded.