

REFEREES GUIDELINES

NSW REFEREES ASSOCIATION Guidelines and Rule Interpretations.

We thank you for your time and patience with refereeing on Wednesdays – the night could not run without your help. These guidelines have been adapted from NSW to suit Blue Mountains Water Polo. **Please take the time to read this info – it will only take 5 minutes, but it is VERY IMPORTANT.** We want our competition to continue to run smoothly and without any major incidents.

Incorrect signal In all cases that you realise that you have given an incorrect signal that will effect play – take the ball out and indicate the direction of play, when there is no apparent advantage to one team, put the ball back in.

Advantage rule (WP 7.3) The referee shall refrain from declaring foul if, in their opinion, such declaration would be an advantage to the offending player's team. If there is a chance for the player in possession to play the ball don't declare an ordinary foul.

Centre Forward / Centre Back A perennial problem. In an attempt to clarify this situation I will attempt to recount John Whitehouse's explanation of refereeing CF/CB given at the u/16 National Championships. Four situations in CF/CB contest. (i) No foul – CF/CB wrestling, settling into position, contesting front position and ball is on perimeter or down the pool. (ii) Ordinary foul – ball is with the CF (iii) Exclusion foul – eg CB holds, sinks or pulls back the CF, while trying for the CF ball. Ball does not have to be there. (iv) Penalty – CF in position to score but can't proceed to shot. If CF is holding the ball but can't shoot – no call. NOTE: if the ball is on the perimeter and CB is continually fouling the CF and the CF uses a slight push-off don't award a foul against the CF. A foul is called on the CF only if the CF gains an advantage to score.

Re-entry of excluded player The re-entry of an excluded player must be signalled immediately when the referee indicates a change of possession and/or direction of play. A player can re-enter when their team has clearly regained the ball or the referee awards a goal throw to their team, or a free throw to their team. They do not have to wait for the referees signal to re-enter

Commencement of halves At the commencement of each quarter the referee opposite the table raises one arm to the horizontal toward the other referee to indicate one team is ready for the swim-off . The arm is raised to the vertical when both teams are ready. The referee on the table side then raises one arm to the vertical and lower it immediately with the simultaneous blowing of the whistle.

Coaches/Captain responsibilities Both the captain and coach shall be responsible for the good conduct and discipline of their teams and all persons on the bench.

Excluded players - Players excluded for the remainder of the game must remain at the bench with their cap on. You should ask once that they remain on the bench with cap on - if they do not then write it up as "disrespect" in addition to any other charge that may have resulted in their original send out.

5 Metre shot - The foul must be outside the 5 metre mark (defensive ref only goes to this point to judge such shots). If the ball finishes inside the 5 metre area after the foul the ball can be returned to any player of their team further from their opponents goal than where the foul occurred and an immediate shot at goal taken.

Neutral Throw - Ball thrown up above players. No whistle is blown as the ball is thrown in. Watch the players for pushing off. The clock is reset to 30 seconds for this throw.

A good referee is SENSIBLE but not SENSITIVE Any form of disrespect towards the referee by a player, whether by word or action, should be punished by exclusion with substitution. The referee

should carefully consider the level for this exclusion foul because it is a definitive decision. Referee should not be too narrow-minded to interpret every critical look, word or gesture of a player as disrespect, but any personal insult should be dealt with by this rule. 13. Player dissent v's disrespect
Based on the point above, if a player swears loudly and it is not directly addressed to the referee you can send the player out for a major foul. If the player continues to blow up about the decision you could give them a second major foul on their way to the corner. Do not become involved in a debate with the player and make sure you are not being overly sensitive. But if the comment is addressed directly to the referee eg the player turns and looks at you and says "you are f... hopeless" or words to that effect, or questions the decision and questions your ability as a referee the they may be sent out for "disrespect" with replacement for the rest of the game. A player so suspended needs to keep their cap on and remain on the bench.

Referees Report - After sending a player from the water for disrespect or brutality or any other incident other than "misconduct" you need to complete the report on the back of the scorecard and also supply a member of the committee the next day with a more detailed report. This report should address the following points. Name the player / s involved Set the scene; second quarter, Stingrays on attack, action at my centre forward / centre back contest. What was the feeling in the game like before the incident? Had a warning been issued to all players or certain players? State what you observed; if it is "disrespect" quote the players comments in full. Explain what led to your decision. Do not offer opinion or advice to the players and coaches as they will most likely see the report before they attend the Judiciary.

MOST IMPORTANTLY

Over vigorous players - If you feel a player is becoming overly aggressive send them for a major foul. If two players seem to be unable to leave each other alone and are continuously grappling and the intensity seems to be escalating send them both out for a 20 second rest, a neutral throw follows and neither comes back in until 20 second is up or a goal is scored or there is another turn over of possession then both players come in at the same time. The rules clearly state that a player does not have to strike a player for the incident to be regarded as brutality, but you need to be absolutely certain that the player concerned intended to harm their opponent. If the action looked aggressive and inappropriate then you have the option of sending the player concerned out for "Misconduct – violence", they are required to keep their cap on and remain on the bench. A substitute is allowed at the appropriate time.

Abuse of Officials - It is essential that referees realise that they can do something to stop this inappropriate treatment of any official. Our referees, members, supporters, coaches and players need to realize that the referee has the power under WP7.5 "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". If someone is making comments deemed to be inappropriate to an official, the referee should stop the game at an appropriate time, call for the ball and speak to the Coach and/or Manager of the team who the person making the inappropriate comments is supporting. The Coach and /or Manager should be made aware the person is in breach of the NSWWPI Code of Conduct for spectators and ask the Coach /Manager to ask the person to stop making such comments as the referee is unable to "carry out their duties in an impartial manner" and explain that the person will be asked to leave the precincts of the pool if they continue. If the person continues to make the same sort of comments then stop the game take the ball out and ask them to leave the precincts of the pool. If they refuse explain that the game will not recommence until they do. In extreme circumstances Under Rule 7.6 "the referee has the power to abandon the game at any time if, in their opinion, the behaviour of the players or spectators, or other circumstances prevent it from being brought to a proper conclusion. Report any such action to the Blue Mountains Water Polo Committee. We do not want an aggressive confrontation but if you are assertive (firm, clear message and good eye contact) as you deliver your message then hopefully the person will realize they are acting inappropriately and calm down. You should keep above point "Sensible not Sensitive" in mind, but you are not expected to become deaf to all comments. Do not begin to explain your decisions to the rowdy few as your performance will suffer, you need to concentrate on what is happening in the pool and you can't if you are distracted.