



National Championship League Rule Changes in Response to FINA Update of Water Polo Rules

[FINA has approved a series of new rules for water polo](#). As per NCL Rule 2.1.2, “In the event the FINA Technical Water Polo Committee (TWPC) and/or FINA Bureau modifies the rules of play, the NCL will have the ability to implement the new rules immediately”.

Water Polo Canada and the NCL Competition Committee have reviewed the list of rule modifications and have made the following decisions regarding each rule:

THE NEW RULES FOR THE NCL WILL GO INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 31ST, 2019, AND WILL BE APPLIED TO EVERY COMPETITION CATEGORY UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED.

PLEASE NOTE THAT RULES AMENDMENTS #2, #3, #9, #10 AND #15 WERE ALREADY IMPLEMENTED IN THE NCL AT THE START OF THE SEASON. THE BELOW INFORMATION WILL ONLY RELATE TO RULES THAT WERE NOT IMPLEMENTED FOR THE NCL.

ADDITIONALLY, RULES AMENDMENTS #5, #7, #13, #16 AND #18 WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED BECAUSE THE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED IS NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN CANADA.

Rule Amendment #8 has been highlighted as it represents the most significant change to the current water polo rules in place.

Rules Amendment 1:

“The timekeeper recording the possession time shall reset the clock to 20 seconds when a) the ball is put into play after awarding a corner throw, b) after a rebound after a shot which does not cause change of possession and c) after an exclusion.”

WPC Decision: **THIS RULE WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED FOR THE NCL. VERY FEW TO NO FACILITIES IN CANADA HAVE EQUIPMENT CAPABLE OF RUNNING A SHOT CLOCK WITH TWO SEPARATE RESET SETTINGS.**

Rules Amendment 4:

An ADDITIONAL Substitution Re-entry area will be at any place in between the goal line and the center field line on the teams’ half of field of play (for flying substitutions).

[Note: an excluded player or the substitute must always re-enter via the re-entry box in the corner]

WPC Decision: **THIS RULE WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED FOR THE NCL. NOT EVERY FACILITY USED FOR NCL GAMES HAS SIDELINE ROPES, AND WITHOUT THE SIDELINE ROPES, THIS RULE CAN NOT BE IMPLEMENTED.**

Rules Amendment 6:

There shall be a 3-minute interval between the second and third period.

WPC Decision: **THIS RULE WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED FOR THE NCL. THE NCL WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A 2-MINUTE BREAK BETWEEN EACH PERIOD OF PLAY.**



Rules Amendment 8:

Existing Rule: WP 14.3(d) – “A goal may be scored by (d) an immediate shot from a free throw awarded outside 5 meters”

New Rule: A goal may be scored from an immediate shot from a free throw taken and awarded outside 6 meters. If a player does not shoot immediately outside 6 meters, the player can fake or dribble, and then shoot, but only after visibly putting the ball in play. Visibly putting the ball in play means the ball must leave the hand of the player with the ball (ex. placing the ball on the water, spinning the ball out of the hand, etc). Once a player visibly puts the ball into play, the defending team can now attack the player.

WPC Decision: **THIS RULE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR THE NCL** (Note: 14U will still use a 5-meter line instead of a 6 meter line. The rule amendment allowing players to fake or dribble and then shoot after putting the ball in play still applies, but the line of demarcation remains at 5 meters instead of 6 meters)

Rules Amendment 11:

New Rule: Inside the 6m. area, when a player is swimming with and/or is holding the ball and is impeded (attacked) from behind during an attempt to shoot, a penalty foul must be awarded. [Note: unless only the ball is touched by the defender]

WPC Decision: **THIS RULE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR THE NCL**