

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES ARBITRES DE WATER POLO

Summary of Changes to FINA Water Polo Rules approved in Montreal, July 2005
(changes are effective from 15th September 2005)

Items below in **bold text** are considered (by the author) to be of greatest significance.

- Playing area reduced for women's matches
- **4m and 7m areas and markings replaced by a single 5m area / mark. The new 5m area applies to penalty fouls and immediate shots from free throws. Pool-side markings are affected. Consequential changes throughout the Rules.**
- Caps must have ear protectors. New provisions for substitute goalkeepers' caps.
- Head coach of attacking team can advance to the 5m line nearest to his teams goalline.
- **Periods increased from 7 to 8 mins. Half time interval increased from 2 to 5 mins.**
- For extra time, changes to intervals and turn-rounds.
- Penalty shoot out arrangements slightly amended.
- Timeouts: minor rule changes.
- **Possession time reduced from 35 to 30 secs.**
- **Significant changes to goal throw / corner throw rules. Corner throws now only awarded in certain limited situations.**
- **Goal throw to be taken by defending team player nearest to the ball.**
- Team in possession retains the ball in the event of simultaneous exclusion fouls.
- **New exclusion foul for attempting to play or block a shot with two hands outside 5m area.**
- **Improper re-entry by player of team not in possession is now an automatic penalty foul.**
- Changes to (former) "Disrespect" rule. Now referred to as "Misconduct" Rule.
- **Punishment for brutality changed to complete exclusion with substitution after 4 mins actual play.**
- **Important changes to penalty foul rules. Refer to WP 22.2 Notes (b) & (c).**
- **If penalty throw awarded in last minute, team can elect to decline penalty and take free throw (with new possession time).**