



## New FINA Rules - USAWP Implementation Timeline

Updated January 15, 2020

Over the course of the 2018 FINA competitive calendar a set of new rules were experimented with at the Youth World Championships and the Senior World Cups. The games were played with the new rules and analyzed under great scrutiny by FINA with collaborative feedback taken from experts across the globe. The end result netted a faster and more dynamic game as evidenced by a 25% uptick in goals scored per game and a 24% decrease in fouls called per game. Below you will find a summary of the rule changes along with a timeline for implementation into USA Water Polo events. Ample transition time will be given for rules that require equipment upgrades, while rules that will make the game more enjoyable to play and easier to understand will be implemented sooner.

[Click here to view updated interpretations of new rules in effect March 1, 2019](#)

### **Rules Amendment #1:**

**Rule WP20 - Reset of Shot Clock to 20 Seconds:** Possession time shall be reset to 20 when (a) a corner throw is awarded (b) after a shot is taken that does not change possession, and (c) in the event of an exclusion with less than 20 seconds remaining on the shot clock. If there is more than 20 seconds remaining on the shot clock at the time of the exclusion, the greater time will remain with no new reset.

Men's National League - March 1, 2019

Women's Senior Nationals - March 1, 2019

ODP - March 1, 2019

Masters Nationals - N/A

National Age Group Championships - N/A

Sanctioned Events - N/A

10u/12u Modified Rules - N/A

### **Rules Amendment #2 (updated March 20, 2019):**

**Rule WP19 - Location of Free Throw:** A free throw shall be taken at the spot of the ball, except (a) if the foul is committed by a defending player within the defender's 2-meter area, the

free throw shall be taken on or outside the 2-meter line and, (b) where otherwise provided for in the rules.

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National Age Group Championships - March 1, 2019  
Sanctioned Events - March 1, 2019  
10u/12u Modified Rules - March 1, 2019

**Rules Amendment #3:**

**Rule WP17 - Corner Throws:** A player taking a corner throw may (a) shoot directly (b) swim and shoot without passing (after putting the ball in play) or (c) pass to another player. **12/10U cannot shoot directly from a corner throw. However, they may put the ball in play and then shoot.**

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10u/12u Modified Rules - January 1, 2020

**Rules Amendment #4 (updated March 20, 2019):**

**Rule WP5 - Additional Substitution Area:** An additional substitution re-entry area will be at any place in between the goal line and center pool line on the team's half of the field of play (for flying substitutions). Substitute must always enter the water via behind the goal line, in the corner, nearest the team bench. The rule only applies to pools with sidelines of at least a half meter from the wall.

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**Rules Amendment #5:**

**Rule WP11 - Interval at Half-time:** The interval at half-time shall be no more than 3 minutes.

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### **Rules Amendment #6**

**Rule WP14 - Method of Scoring:** If a foul is awarded outside of 6 meters, the player may (a) shoot immediately (b) fake and then shoot (after putting the ball in play) (c) dribble and then shoot (after putting the ball in play). Both, the ball and the foul, must be outside of 6 meters. 12/10U cannot shoot directly after a foul outside of 6m. However, they may put the ball in play and then shoot.

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10u/12u Modified Rules - January 1, 2020

### **Rules Amendment #7 (updated Feb. 25, 2019):**

**Rule WP14 - Goalkeeper Privileges:** The goalkeeper is allowed to move beyond and touch the ball past the half distance line. They are allowed to shoot from anywhere and can participate as a shooter in a penalty shot or shootout. 12/10U goalkeepers may NOT move past half during the game or shoot a penalty throw. However, they are allowed to participate as a shooter during a shootout.

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10u/12u Modified Rules - March 1, 2019

### **Rules Amendment #8:**

**Rule WP12 - Time-outs:** A team is entitled to no more than 2 time-outs per game. Time-outs can be called at any time by the coach of the team in possession of the ball, except after awarding a penalty throw.

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10u/12u Modified Rules - March 1, 2019

#### **Rules Amendment #9:**

**New Rule - Attacking a player from behind within 6 meters:** When a player with front position is facing or swimming toward the goal and/or is holding the ball and is impeded (attacked) from behind during an attempt to shoot, a penalty foul must be awarded. The only way to defend in this position is for the defender to make contact with only the ball or hand of the attacking player. Note: This rule does not take precedence over the advantage rule. This rule does not change the definition of a probable goal. It only eliminates the no call of a penalty foul for having the ball in hand.

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#### **Rules Amendment #10:**

**New Rule - Direct Shot Signal by the Referees:** If a free throw is awarded for a foul outside, but within one meter of the 5m line, the referee administering the free throw will point downward to the 5m line to indicate that the player is eligible to shoot a direct shot on goal. **Starting January 1, 2020, the referee shall raise their hand up to indicate a player is eligible to shoot after a free throw is awarded for a foul outside of 6 meters.**

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[Link to Commentary on New Rules from USAWP](#)

#### **New Intermediate (12u Goal) Size Recommendation**

- Approximately 2.5 meters in width and .8 meters in height
- Will be used at Rocktober 2019 and Junior Olympics 2020

- Goals are available for purchase through Kap-7 and Malmsten
- FINA recommended size goals for this age group
- Same size goal can also be used for Beach Rules Water Polo (4 v 4)
- Recommended (not mandatory) for Sanctioned Event use after January 1, 2020

<b>Men's National League</b>	
<b>Rule Amendment</b>	<b>Implementation Date</b>
:20 Second Shot Clock	3/1/19
Location of Free Throw	3/1/19
Corner Throw	3/1/19
Flying Subs	3/1/19
Half-Time	3/1/19
Method of Scoring	3/1/19
Goalkeeper Privileges	3/1/19
Time-Outs	3/1/19
Penalty Foul inside 6m	3/1/19
Direct Shot Signal	3/1/19

<b>Women's Senior Nationals</b>	
<b>Rule Amendment</b>	<b>Implementation Date</b>
:20 Second Shot Clock	3/1/19
Location of Free Throw	3/1/19
Corner Throw	3/1/19

Flying Subs	3/1/19
Half-Time	3/1/19
Method of Scoring	1/1/20
Goalkeeper Privileges	3/1/19
Time-Outs	3/1/19
Penalty Foul inside 6m	3/1/19
Direct Shot Signal	3/1/19

<b>ODP</b>	
<b>Rule Amendment</b>	<b>Implementation Date</b>
:20 Second Shot Clock	3/1/19
Location of Free Throw	3/1/19
Corner Throw	3/1/19
Flying Subs	3/1/19
Half-Time	3/1/19
Method of Scoring	3/1/19
Goalkeeper Privileges	3/1/19
Time-Outs	3/1/19
Penalty Foul inside 6m	3/1/19
Direct Shot Signal	3/1/19

<b>Masters Nationals</b>	
<b>Rule Amendment</b>	<b>Implementation Date</b>
:20 Second Shot Clock	N/A
Location of Free Throw	3/1/19
Corner Throw	1/1/20

Flying Subs	3/1/19
Half-Time	3/1/19
Method of Scoring	1/1/20
Goalkeeper Privileges	3/1/19
Time-Outs	3/1/19
Penalty Foul inside 6m	1/1/20
Direct Shot Signal	3/1/19

<b>National Age Group Championships</b>	
<b>Rule Amendment</b>	<b>Implementation Date</b>
:20 Second Shot Clock	N/A
Location of Free Throw	3/1/19
Corner Throw	1/1/20
Flying Subs	3/1/19
Half-Time	3/1/19
Method of Scoring	1/1/20
Goalkeeper Privileges	3/1/19
Time-Outs	3/1/19
Penalty Foul inside 6m	1/1/20
Direct Shot Signal	3/1/19

<b>Sanctioned Events</b>	
<b>Rule Amendment</b>	<b>Implementation Date</b>
:20 Second Shot Clock	N/A
Location of Free Throw	3/1/19
Corner Throw	1/1/20

Flying Subs	3/1/19
Half-Time	3/1/19
Method of Scoring	1/1/20
Goalkeeper Privileges	3/1/19
Time-Outs	3/1/19
Penalty Foul inside 6m	1/1/20
Direct Shot Signal	3/1/19

<b>10u/12u Modified Rules</b>	
<b>Rule Amendment</b>	<b>Implementation Date</b>
Location of Free Throw	3/1/19
Corner Throw	1/1/20
Flying Subs	3/1/19
Goalkeeper Privileges	3/1/19
Time-Outs	3/1/19
Penalty Foul inside 6m	1/1/20