

# Rules and Policies for Ohio High School Water Polo (2010)

## Summary of Changes from 2009:

- 1) The dates in Section 1 have been changed to reflect the 2010-2011 water polo season.
- 2) Section 1.a.iv. has been added per the decision of coaches to use Kap Seven balls at all championship tournaments.
- 3) Section 3 (Penalties for “Red Cards” Administered to a Coach or Team Official) has been rewritten to reflect new policies which were approved at the 2009 annual water polo meeting.
- 4) In addition to rewriting Section 3, Section 3.a.i. has been added. This section clarifies who is permitted to replace the head coach if he/she receives a red card and what happens if no replacement is available. Section 3.a.i. was taken directly from the NISCA rules.
- 5) Mark Sullivan has been elected as OWPRA’s Coaches’ Representative. This change is reflected in this year’s document.

## Rules and Policies

### 1) Rules for Games

- a) The 2010-2011 National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association (NISCA, “high school,” “Federation”) rules shall be followed. NISCA rules are available from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS, [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)) or the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA).
  - i) Applicable modifications and/or interpretations of these rules shall occur according to OWPRA’s Bylaws and Policies, and they shall be published on OWPRA’s web site ([owpra.org](http://owpra.org)).
  - ii) For games used to determine the rankings for the Regional Tournaments, if the score of a game is tied after four quarters of regulation play, the score shall be reported as a tie (i.e., no overtime).
  - iii) Games at the Regional Tournaments and State Championship shall be played to completion (i.e., these games shall not remain a tie).
  - iv) Kap Seven water polo balls shall be used for the Regional Tournaments and State Championships. The balls shall be at least 50% yellow (or gold) in color.
- b) For games other than the Regional Tournaments and State Championship, modifications to the NISCA rules (i.e., “tournament rules”) may be used. These modifications shall be summarized in writing and

presented to the coaches of all competing teams and the referees before the games begin so there are no misunderstandings about the rules.

## 2) Referee Assignments

- a) Assignments of referees to all games (i.e., weekday games and weekend and championship tournaments) shall be handled by OWPRA.
  - i) These assignments shall be based on the availabilities and schedules of members of OWPRA and made according to OWPRA's policies.
  - ii) If a coach or tournament committee knows of a referee who is not a member of OWPRA but who can referee their game(s) or tournament, OWPRA requests that the coach or tournament committee refer this individual to OWPRA. By doing this, the coaches or tournament committee will help increase the pool of qualified referees. It shall then be up to OWPRA to assign this individual according to OWPRA's policies.
  - iii) In the event that OWPRA is unable to assign referees to a game or tournament, the coaches or tournament committee should assume that no qualified referees are available.
- b) To insure that the assignment of referees and notification of all parties can be made in a timely manner, coaches or tournament committees are asked to submit their requests to OWPRA's Supervisor (Greg Sanchez, cell phone 937-657-5165, [greg.sanchez@owpra.org](mailto:greg.sanchez@owpra.org)) before the water polo season begins.
  - i) In the event that a request for referees cannot be made before the season begins, OWPRA asks that coaches or tournament committees submit their request(s) for referees to OWPRA's supervisor at least **one month** before the date of their game(s) or tournament.
  - ii) No later than one week before the start of a game or tournament, OWPRA's supervisor shall inform the coach(es) or tournament committee of who is assigned to referee the game or tournament.
  - iii) In the event that OWPRA is unable to assign a sufficient number of referees for a game or tournament, OWPRA shall notify the coach or tournament committee of this fact no later than one week before the start of the game or tournament (see 2.a.i above).
- c) If referees and funds to pay them are available, OWPRA shall appoint two referees to serve as secretaries for each game during the State Championship. If OWPRA assigns only two secretaries to officiate the State Championship tournament, the two assigned secretaries shall be non-officiating officials and work at the table for all games. If OWPRA assigns more than two referees to officiate the State Championship, one or more of the referees may also fulfill the duties of a secretary when not officiating a game. The decision of how many officials shall work at the State Championship and whether the officials actually call games and/or work as secretaries shall be made by the Supervisor of OWPRA, and the Supervisor's decision in this matter is final.
  - i) A referee serving as a secretary shall be paid \$25 per game.

- ii) A referee serving as a secretary shall be paid travel if he/she qualifies (see Section 6).
- iii) A referee serving as a secretary shall be provided with overnight accommodations if he/she qualifies (see Section 6).

### 3) **Penalties for “Red Cards” Administered to a Coach or Team Official**

- a) If a coach (head or assistant coach, and also including any team official who is sitting on the bench or otherwise participating with the team) is given a red card, the coach shall be suspended immediately for the remainder of the game. The coach must leave the pool facility and have no contact with the team for the remainder of the game (NISCA Rule 7-4).
  - i) NISCA Rule 7-4, Article 1, states, “There shall be one authorized school staff member, such as a head coach, assistant coach, athletic administrator, etc., on the bench to oversee the team and bench personnel at all times. Only those persons meeting the state association standards shall be eligible to meet this requirement. If the head coach receives a red card, the referees shall allow two minutes for an authorized school staff member to take the bench to assume coaching responsibilities. If no authorized school staff member is available, the game shall be declared a forfeit.”
  - ii) If the head coach receives a red card, the assistant coach shall assume the rights and privileges of the head coach.
- b) If a coach is given a red card, the coach shall be suspended from coaching two additional games for the same team at the same level.
  - i) For example, if a coach who coaches boy’s and girl’s junior varsity and varsity teams receives a red card during a boy’s varsity game, the coach shall be suspended from two additional boy’s varsity games. The coach shall be permitted to participate in boy’s junior varsity games and all girl’s games.
  - ii) If a coach who coaches for two or more schools receives a red card while coaching for “school A,” then the two game suspension shall apply only to games played by “school A.” That is, the coach shall be permitted to continue coaching for “school B.”
  - iii) While serving the two game suspension, the coach is not permitted to be on deck with his/her team at any time before (including “warm-ups”), during or after the games.
  - iv) While serving the two game suspension, the coach (team official) may sit in the stands during his/her team’s games, but he/she is not permitted to communicate in any way with the team while the team is playing.
- c) A coach who receives a red card shall be fined \$100. This fine, which shall be used to defray the costs of running the Regional Tournaments and State Championship, shall be paid to Gary Tameris. This fine shall be paid in full no later than 7 days (one calendar week) after the coach

- received the red card. The coach should notify Mark Sullivan (OWPRA's Coaches' Representative) that the fine has been paid.
- d) A coach who receives a red card shall complete the "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course offered by NFHS. The course is available online at <http://www.nfhslearn.com/CourseDetail.aspx?courseID=8000>. The course shall be completed no later than 30 days after the coach received the red card. The coach shall send a notification to Mark Sullivan (OWPRA's Coaches' Representative) once the course has been completed.
  - e) If a referee administers a red card to a coach, the referee shall inform the Supervisor of OWPRA by filing an appropriate "incident report." An "incident report form" is available on OWPRA's web site. The Supervisor of OWPRA shall, in turn, inform Mark Sullivan and others with a "need to know."
  - f) Since a red card is a "judgment call" by the referee, the awarding of a red card cannot be protested. Thus, any coach receiving a red card shall be suspended immediately from the game and serve an additional two game suspension (see 3.b above). Moreover, the coach must complete the "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course offered by NFHS (see 3.d above). However, the coach can "appeal" the \$100 fine associated with the red card as noted below.
    - i) The appeal must be in writing, and it must be submitted to OWPRA's Coaches' Representative (CR, Mark Sullivan) within seven (7) calendar days of the date the red card was administered.
    - ii) Once the appeal is received, the CR shall solicit a letter from the referee who administered the red card (and/or review the "incident report" filed by the referee).
    - iii) The CR may solicit additional information (including audio/video recordings, if available) from other individuals as he deems necessary.
    - iv) The CR and coach's high school's athletic director (AD) will review all of the relevant information and either grant or dismiss the coach's appeal.
    - v) If the coach's appeal is dismissed (denied), the coach shall be notified by the CR, and the coach shall pay the \$100 fine within seven (7) days of the notification.
      - (1) The decision of the CR and AD is final. There are no additional avenues of appeal.
    - vi) If the coach's appeal is granted, the coach shall be notified by the CR. In this case, the coach shall not be required to pay the \$100 fine.
    - vii) In the event that OWPRA's current CR (Mark Sullivan) receives a red card and appeals the \$100 fine, then Gary Tameris (OWPRA's previous CR) will act as OWPRA's CR for the purpose of coordinating the appeal process as described above.

#### 4) Penalties for “Red Cards” Administered to a Player

- a) If a player who is sitting on the bench or is in the water receives a red card, the player shall be suspended immediately for the remainder of the game. The player must leave the bench and sit in the stands, and, while in the stands, the player is not permitted to communicate in any way with players, referees or team officials until the game has ended (NISCA Rule 7.4.4).
- b) Additionally, a participating player who receives a red card shall not be permitted to play in any games at any level until his/her team plays two regular season (tournament) games at the same level as the game in which the player received the red card (OHSAA 10.1).
  - i) For example, if a player receives a red card during a boy’s varsity game, the player shall be suspended for the remainder of that game. Additionally, the player shall not be permitted to participate in any games until the boy’s varsity team has played two additional regular season (tournament) games.
- c) The above sanctions shall be applied automatically in any case where a participating player receives a red card. The referee has no discretion in this matter.
- d) If a referee administers a red card to a player, the referee shall inform the Supervisor of OWPRA by filing an appropriate “incident report.” An “incident report form” is available on OWPRA’s web site. The Supervisor of OWPRA shall, in turn, inform Mark Sullivan (OWPRA’s Coaches’ Representative), Gary Tameris and others with a “need to know.”

#### 5) Game Exclusion Penalties

- a) A player can be excluded from the remainder of the game, with or without substitution depending on the nature of the foul.
- b) A player excluded from the remainder of the game may take part in any subsequent games unless additional sanctions (See Section 4, above) are invoked (see below).
- c) If a player is charged with a foul for “flagrant misconduct” (a.k.a. brutality) (NISCA Rule 21.11), the OHSAA sanctions described in Section 4 (above) shall be invoked automatically. The referee has no discretion in this matter.
- d) If a player is “gamed” or “rolled” for “violence” or egregious “disrespect” (both are forms of misconduct as described in NISCA Rule 21.10), the referee may elect to invoke the sanctions described in Section 4. Invoking these sanctions is at the referee’s discretion. If the referee elects to invoke these harsher sanctions, the referee shall inform the player and the player’s coach immediately that these sanctions have been invoked. If the player and the player’s coach are not informed immediately regarding harsher sanctions, then they should assume that the harsher sanctions have not been invoked and that the player is not suspended for any additional games.

- e) If a referee invokes the sanctions listed in Section 4 for any reason, he/she shall inform the Supervisor of OWPRA by filing an appropriate "incident report." An "incident report form" is available on OWPRA's web site. The Supervisor of OWPRA shall, in turn, notify Mark Sullivan (OWPRA's Coaches' Representative), Gary Tameris and others with a "need to know."
- f) If a player is sanctioned twice in the same season as described above (Sections 4, 5c, 5d) (e.g., for two flagrant misconducts, two red cards, one red card and one flagrant misconduct, etc.), that player shall be ineligible to play in all games for the remainder of the season (including the Regional Tournaments and State Championship).

## 6) Referees Compensation

- a) For dual meets (these are weekday games typically held between only two competing schools), referees shall be paid \$35 for a varsity contest and \$30 for a junior varsity contest. If there is only one referee, the referee shall be paid \$52.50 for a varsity contest and \$45 for a junior varsity contest. Referees shall not be paid for travel to dual meets.
- b) For weekend tournaments, referees shall be paid \$25 per game regardless of the level of play. If there is only one referee, the referee shall be paid \$37.50 per game.
- c) For dual meets and weekend tournaments, and unless the tournament rules include overtime games, a game is four quarters of regulation play or less if the game is not played to completion.
- d) For the Regional Tournaments and State Championship, referees shall be paid \$40 per game. If there is only one referee, the referee shall be paid \$60 per game.
- e) For weekend tournaments and the Regional Tournaments and State Championship, a referee shall be paid a total of \$20 for travel if the referee has to travel more the 40 miles (one-way) to the tournament.
- f) If a referee must travel more than 60 miles (one-way) to reach a weekend tournament, a Regional Tournament or the State Championship, and the referee must spend the night, the home team (or tournament organizing committee) shall make arrangements and pay for overnight accommodations for the referee.
- g) A referee assigned to the State Championship by OWPRA and working at the table as a secretary shall be paid \$25 per game. Additionally, the referee shall be paid travel and provided with overnight accommodations if he/she qualifies (see also Section 2.c).
- h) The compensation shall be adhered to by all members of OWPRA. If at anytime an official requests compensation outside the above mentioned levels, the official shall be placed on immediate interim suspension (Article 8.2.4.7.2 of the Bylaws) until a hearing before the association's Judicial Committee can be held.

7) **Violations of the Officials' *Code of Conduct***

- a) Members of the Ohio water polo "community" (i.e., coaches, players, team officials, players' parents) are urged to report alleged violations of the *Code of Conduct* by referees. A copy of the *Code of Conduct* can be found on OWPRA's web site (owpra.org).
- b) Alleged violations of the *Code of Conduct* shall be reported to the Supervisor of OWPRA (Greg Sanchez, [greg.sanchez@owpra.org](mailto:greg.sanchez@owpra.org)). A form for reporting allegations can be found on OWPRA's web site (owpra.org) under the *Code of Conduct* link.
- c) Allegations of misconduct shall be resolved according to the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures of OWPRA.