

# **2020-21 Policies and Procedures for Ohio High School Water Polo**

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to provide structure and common language to be used throughout Ohio for inter-scholastic (i.e. high school) competitions which occur in the fall. Throughout the year, coaches, referees, and other stakeholders have frequent discussions around rules and policies which govern high school water polo in Ohio. As a result of these discussions, on an annual basis, policies are created and amended through various standing and special committees which are formed to communicate and collaborate to best come to a solution which benefits Ohio high school water polo.

## **Rules for Games**

1. The 2020-22 National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules shall be followed.
  - Applicable modifications and/or interpretations of these rules shall occur according to the Ohio Water Polo Referees' Association's (OWPRA) Bylaws and Policies.
2. Kap7 water polo balls shall be used for the State Championships. The balls shall be at least 50% yellow (or gold) in color. The recommended inflation rate on these ball is 9psi.
3. For games other than the State Championship, modifications to the NFHS 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.
4. Each dual game and tournament host shall abide by all policies put forth in this document unless otherwise noted by the tournament director.

## **Appendices**

- A – Red Cards to Coaches
- B – Flagrant Misconduct and Red Cards to Players
- C – Mercy Rule
- D – Protective Eyeware
- E – Referees

## Appendix A – Red Cards to Coaches

1. 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.
  - *Situation: Coach Williams coaches both boys' and girls' junior varsity and varsity teams (for Smith High School) and receives a red card during a boys' varsity game. Coach Williams is suspended from two additional boys' varsity games. Coach Williams will still be permitted to participate in boys' junior varsity games and all girls' games.*
  - *Situation: Coach Adams coaches for both Desert Vista High School and Mountain Pointe High School and receives a red card while coaching for Desert Vista. The two game suspension will apply only to games played by Desert Vista. That is, Coach Adams is permitted to continue coaching for Mountain Pointe.*
  - While serving the two game suspension,
    - The coach is not permitted to be on deck with his or her team at any time before (including “warm-ups”), during or after the games;
    - The coach may sit in the stands during his or her team's games;
    - The coach is not permitted to communicate in any way with the team while the team is playing.
2. A coach who receives a red card will be fined \$100. This fine is to be paid to the Ohio Water Polo Coaches' Association. This fine shall be paid in full no later than seven (7) days after receiving the red card.
  - The coach may “appeal” the \$100 fine.
    - The appeal must be in writing and submitted to the OWPA President and OWPRA Coaches' Representative within seven (7) calendar days.
    - Once the appeal is received, the OWPA President or Coaches' Representative shall solicit information from the OWPRA Supervisor of Officials.
    - The OWPA President or Coaches' Representative may solicit additional information (including audio/video recordings, if available) from other individuals as he deems necessary.
    - The OWPA President, Coaches' Representative 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.
    - If the coach's appeal is dismissed (denied), the coach shall be notified by the OWPA President or Coaches' Representative, and the coach shall pay the \$100 fine within seven (7) days of the notification.
    - The decision of the OWPA President, Coaches' Representative and AD is final. There are no additional avenues of appeal.
    - If the coach's appeal is granted, the coach shall be notified by the OWPA President or Coaches' Representative.

- o In the event the OWPA President or Coaches' Representative receives a red card and appeals the \$100 fine, then the Ohio Water Polo Coaches' Association President will serve in the roll discussed above.
- 3. A coach who receives a red card must complete the "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course offered by NFHS. The course is available online at:
  - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/8000>. The course shall be completed no later than 30 days after the coach receives the red card. The coach must send a notification to the OWPA President and OWPRA Coaches' Representative once the course has been completed.
  - This is not an appealable requirement as a result of receiving a red card.
- 4. When a referee administers a red card to a coach, he or she must file an "incident report" which is sent to the OWPRA Supervisor. The OWPRA Supervisor will inform the OWPA President, Coaches' Representative, Coach who received the red card, and others on an "as needed" basis.

## **Appendix B - Flagrant Misconduct and Red Cards to Players**

### **Section 1 - Red Cards**

1. Any player who receives a red card will not be permitted to play in any games at any level until his or her team plays two games at the same level.
  - *Situation: A player receives a red card during a boys' varsity game. That player will not be permitted to play for the rest of that game and will not be permitted to participate in any games until that boys' varsity team has played two additional games.*
2. If a referee administers a red card to a player, the referee must inform the Supervisor of OWPRA by filing an appropriate "incident report." The Supervisor of OWPRA shall inform the OWPA President and OWPRA Coaches' Representative, head coach of that player's team, and others on an as needed basis.

### **Section 2 - Game Exclusion Penalties**

1. If a player is charged with a "flagrant misconduct" the sanctions described for a red card shall be invoked automatically.
2. If a player is sanctioned twice in the same season (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 any game for the remainder of the season (including the State Championship).

### **Section 3 - Multiple Misconducts in a Season**

1. There will be a one game suspension for any player having three misconducts in a season. The player shall not be permitted to play in any games at any level until his or her team plays one game at the same level.
  - *Situation: A player receives her third misconduct during a girls' varsity game, the player will be suspended for the remainder of that game. Additionally, the player will not be permitted to participate in any games until the girls' varsity team has played one game.*
2. Each additional misconduct will result in an additional one game suspensions to follow the procedures outlined above.

## **Appendix C - Mercy Rule**

1. Only used in tournament games (excluding the state tournament)
2. If there is a ten-goal differential in any game, the game clock will move to a “running clock” for the remainder of the game.
  - A “running clock” is defined as stopping only for:
    1. Timeouts
    2. Penalty throws
    3. After goals
3. The mercy rule will only be enacted if both coaches are in agreement and then notify the referee.
  - For clarification, it is not the responsibility of the referee to ascertain or prompt either coach to discuss the mercy rule at any time; rather, the referees will act only as a resources for explaining the mercy rule to any party charged with implementing the running clock (i.e. clock operators) or the coaches should they have questions.

## **Appendix D - Protective Eyewear**

1. Players will be permitted to use protective glasses during a water polo game in the state of Ohio if the following criteria are met annually:
  1. A note from the doctor expressing medical need.
  2. A letter from the school's Athletic Director giving his or her approval.
  3. Picture of the protected glasses on the athlete.
    - All information listed above to be released to the Ohio Water Polo Referees' Association and to the Ohio Water Polo Coaches' Association President.
    - A Google Form has been created and can be located on the OWPRA Website for parents to submit to OWPRA who will share the information with OWPA upon receipt. Link to Google Form is: [\*\*https://tinyurl.com/OWPAEYEWEAR\*\*](https://tinyurl.com/OWPAEYEWEAR)
2. Guideline for the protective glasses:
  - No protruding edges that can injure another player or themselves.
  - Can't prevent water from flowing to the eye (suction to the face) so as to not prevent an eye injury (i.e. a player cannot wear traditional swim goggles).

## **Appendix E - Referees**

### **Section 1 - Assignments**

1. Assignments of referees to all games shall be handled by the OWPRA.
2. Requests for referees should be made to the OWPRA's Supervisor before the water polo season begins.
  - If possible OWPRA's supervisor will inform the coach or tournament committee of the referees to the game or tournament.
  - In the event that the OWPRA is unable to assign a sufficient number of referees for an event, OWPRA will notify the coach or tournament committee of this fact no later than one week before the start of the game or tournament.
3. OWPRA shall assign individuals to serve as secretaries (table workers) for each game during the State Championships and referees to serve as goal judges for each first place game. The decision of how many officials shall work at the State Championship and whether the officials call games and/or work as secretaries shall be made by the Supervisor of OWPRA. The Supervisor's decision in this matter is final.

### **Section 2 - Referees Compensation**

1. See the "compensation" page posted at [www.owpra.org](http://www.owpra.org).
2. The compensation shall be adhered to by all members of OWPRA and OWPA.

### **Section 3 - Violations of the Officials' *Code of Conduct***

1. Members of the Ohio water polo "community" (i.e., coaches, players, team officials, players' parents) are may 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.
2. Alleged violations of the *Code of Conduct* shall be reported to the Supervisor of OWPRA. A form for reporting allegations can be found on OWPRA's web site in the "Values and Policies" section.
3. Allegations of misconduct shall be resolved according to the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures of OWPRA.

Approved on November 10, 2019 by the Ohio Water Polo Coaches Association in collaboration with the OWPRA Supervisor of Officials.