

2017 Rules and Policies for Ohio High School Water Polo

1) Rules for Games

- a) The 2017-2018 National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules shall be followed.
 - a. Applicable modifications and/or interpretations of these rules shall occur according to the Ohio Water Polo Referees' Association's (OWPRA) Bylaws and Policies.
- b) Kap Seven water polo balls shall be used for the State Championships. The balls shall be at least 50% yellow (or gold) in color.
- c) 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.
- d) Each dual game and tournament host shall abide by all policies put forth in this document.

2) NFHS Rule Modifications

a) Penalties for "Red Cards" Administered to a Coach, Team Official or Spectator

- a. 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.
 - (1) For example, if a coach who coaches boys and girls junior varsity and varsity teams receives a red card during a boys varsity game, the coach shall be suspended from two additional boys varsity games. The coach shall be permitted to participate in boys junior varsity games and all girls games.
 - (2) 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."
 - (3) 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, but may sit in the stands during his/her team's games. He/she is not permitted to communicate in any way with the team while the team is playing.
- b. A coach who receives a red card shall be fined \$100. This fine, which shall be used to defray the costs of running the State Championship, shall be paid to Gary Tameris. This fine shall be paid in full no later than 7 days after receiving the red card.
 - (1) The coach may "appeal" the \$100 fine.
 - (a) The appeal must be in writing and submitted to OWPRA's Coaches' Representative (CR, Geoff Gear) within seven (7) calendar days.
 - (b) 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.
 - (c) The CR may solicit additional information (including audio/video recordings, if available) from other individuals as he deems necessary.
 - (d) 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.
 - (e) 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.

- (i) The decision of the CR and AD is final. There are no additional avenues of appeal.
- (f) If the coach's appeal is granted, the coach shall be notified by the CR.
- (g) In the event that OWPRA's current CR (Geoff Gear) receives a red card and appeals the \$100 fine, then Gary Tameris (OWPRA's previous CR) will act as OWPRA's CR
- c. A coach who receives a red card shall 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 received the red card. The coach shall send a notification to Geoff Gear (OWPRA's Coaches' Representative) once the course has been completed.
 - (1) the coach must complete the "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course (may not appeal).
- d. If a referee administers a red card to a coach, he/she shall file an "incident report", which is sent to OWPRA's supervisor. The Supervisor of OWPRA shall inform Geoff Gear and others with a "need to know."
- b) **Penalties for "Red Cards" Administered to a Player**
 - a. A player who receives a red card shall not be permitted to play in any games at any level until his/her team plays two games at the same level.
 - (1) For example, if a player receives a red card during a boys 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 boys varsity team has played two additional games.
 - b. If a referee administers a red card to a player, the referee shall inform the Supervisor of OWPRA and OWPRA's CR by filing an appropriate "incident report.". The Supervisor of OWPRA shall inform Geoff Gear, Gary Tameris and others with a "need to know."
- c) **Game Exclusion Penalties**
 - a. If a player is charged with a "flagrant misconduct" the sanctions described for a red card shall be invoked automatically.
 - b. 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 all games for the remainder of the season (including the State Championship).
- d) **Multiple Misconducts in a Season**
 - a. 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/her team plays one game at the same level.
 - (1) For example, if a player receives their third misconduct during a boys 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 boys varsity team has played two additional games.
 - b. Each additional misconduct will result in an additional one game suspension.
- e) **Mercy Rule**
 - a. If there is a ten-goal differential in any game, the game clock(s) will move to "running clocks" for its entirety.
 - b. "Running Clocks" = the clock will not stop unless there is a timeout or penalty shot.
 - c. The mercy rule will only be enacted if both coaches are in agreement and then notify the referee
- f) **Protective Glasses**
 - a. 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/her approval.
- (3) A letter from the guardian(s) releasing the coaches, referees, athletic director, school's administration and state from any liability.
- (4) Picture of the protected glasses and manufacturer information.
- (5) All information listed above to be released to the Ohio High School Water Polo Officials Association and to the Ohio High School Water Polo Chairman.

b. Guideline for the protective glasses:

- (1) No protruding edges that can injure another player or themselves.
- (2) Can't prevent water from flowing to the eye (suction to the face) so as to not prevent an eye injury.

g) **Padded Headgear**

- a. The NFHS rules state that "A player may only wear a swim cap under the water polo cap ..."
- b. In keeping with the NFHS & NCAA Men's and Women's Water Polo Subcommittee, the use of padded caps is prohibited.
- c. Additional resources behind the decision to prohibit padded caps / headgear
 - (1) http://owpra.org/wp-content/uploads/Referee_Resources/2017-headgear-positions.pdf

h) **Shoot-Outs**

- a. Shootouts will be allowed at any tournament (excluding the state championships) in the state of Ohio.

3) **Referees**

a) **Assignments**

- a. Assignments of referees to all games shall be handled by the OWPRA.
- b. Requests for referees should be made to the OWPRA's Supervisor before the water polo season begins.
 - (1) No later than one week before the start of a game or tournament, OWPRA's supervisor shall inform the coach or tournament committee of who is assigned to referee the game or tournament.
 - (2) In the event that the OWPRA is unable to assign a sufficient number of referees for an event, OWPRA shall notify the coach or tournament committee of this fact no later than one week before the start of the game or tournament.
- c. 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, and the Supervisor's decision in this matter is final.

b) **Referees Compensation**

- a. See the "compensation" page posted at www.owpra.org.
- b. The compensation shall be adhered to by all members of OWPRA.

c) **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.
- b. 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.

- c. Allegations of misconduct shall be resolved according to the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures of OWPRA.

Approved on August 18th, 2017 by the Ohio Water Polo Coaches Association Chairman (Gary Tameris) and Coaches Representative (Geoff Gear) to the OWPRA in collaboration with the OWPRA Board of Directors)