

Rule Changes – ESSA Water Polo will adopt the following rules in line with the British Water Polo League, Swim England and British Swimming Water Polo Management Groups from September 2019.

NEW FINA RULES, April 2019

The changes are probably the most significant since the early 1960s when the ‘modern game’ was born by introducing substitutes instead of seven-a-side as well as four periods instead of two. The aim is to speed up the game and make it even more attractive for the spectator.

British Water Polo League will be operating these rules from September 2019:

- Reduced possession time of 20 seconds in the following situations:
 1. Award of a corner throw;
 2. Award of a penalty throw without a change of possession;
 3. Award of an exclusion foul without a change of possession (unless there is more than 20 seconds remaining);
 4. When the attacking team regains possession after a shot at goal.
- A free throw taken at the location of the ball rather than the foul.
- When taking a corner throw or a free throw awarded outside 6m, a goal may be scored from
 - (a) an immediate shot at goal or
 - (b) having visibly put the ball into play, after faking a shot or swimming with the ball.
- Goalkeepers can now go past half-distance line (and take penalties).
- Two time-outs per team at any time in the match instead of one per quarter – *not relevant for ESSA*.
- Holding the ball is no longer a reason for a player not to be awarded a penalty throw. An attacker facing the goal and making a shooting action in 6m will be awarded a penalty throw when impeded from behind if the tackle prevented a *probable goal*.

Mainly for practical reasons, BWPL will not be operating these rules (although all these changes will be kept under review for possible future use):

- *Flying substitutions using an additional lateral substitution re-entry area between the goal line and half-distance line.*
- *Duration of play – the new rules stipulate a 3-minute half-time interval. BWPL will continue with a 2-minute interval.*
- *Introduction of a time-out button for use by team officials.*
- *Automatic visual effects for signalling the last five seconds of exclusion time as well as the time an excluded player can re-enter the field of play.*
- *Video Assistance referee to alert match referees of doubtful goal/no goal situations.*
- *Audio systems for officials.*
- *The Game Video Monitoring System (GVMS) for identifying and sanctioning incidents of brutality / violence not appropriately punished during a game.*

ESSA Honorary Water Polo Secretary 1st September 2019