

Dear Clubs and Teams
 Dear Coaches
 Dear Colleagues Referees

During its October session on Monday Oct. 10th, the Direction of Swiss Aquatics Water Polo has made the decision that the new rules, decided during the extraordinary Technical Meeting of FINA on Oct. 4th, 2022, will apply In Switzerland, for all leagues except U11, as of January 1st, 2023.

You can have a detailed view of these new rules In the document from WWR below

<https://wwpra.org/2022/10/10/new-rules-approved-by-fina-technical-wp-congress-2022/>

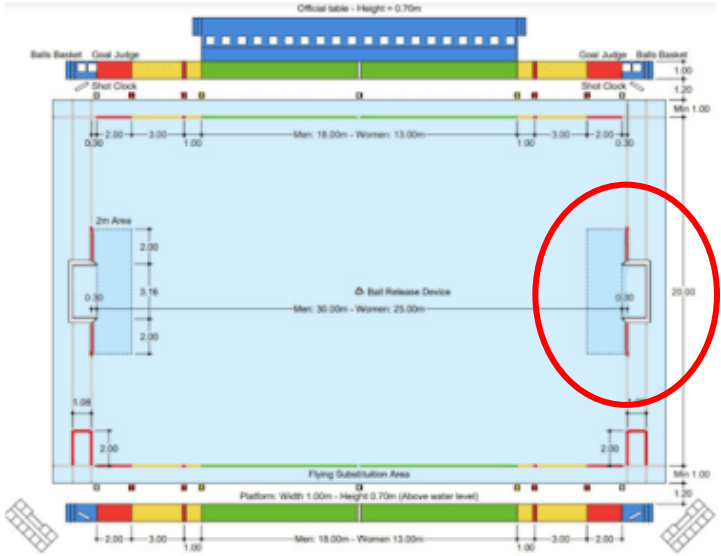
There are mainly three new rules that will be enforced In Switzerland:

- WP 1.2 - Venue Change 2 meters zone
- WP 23.2 - Penalty Fouls
- WP 24.2 - Penalty Throws

WP 1.2 change 2meter zone

The 2m rule will now only apply within the goal mouth area, according to a new proposal widely supported by coaches and specialists. To be more specific, there will now be a new 'zone' from post to post and from the goal line to two meters away, making a box similar to that in football. The 2m meter rules will now only apply in this area.

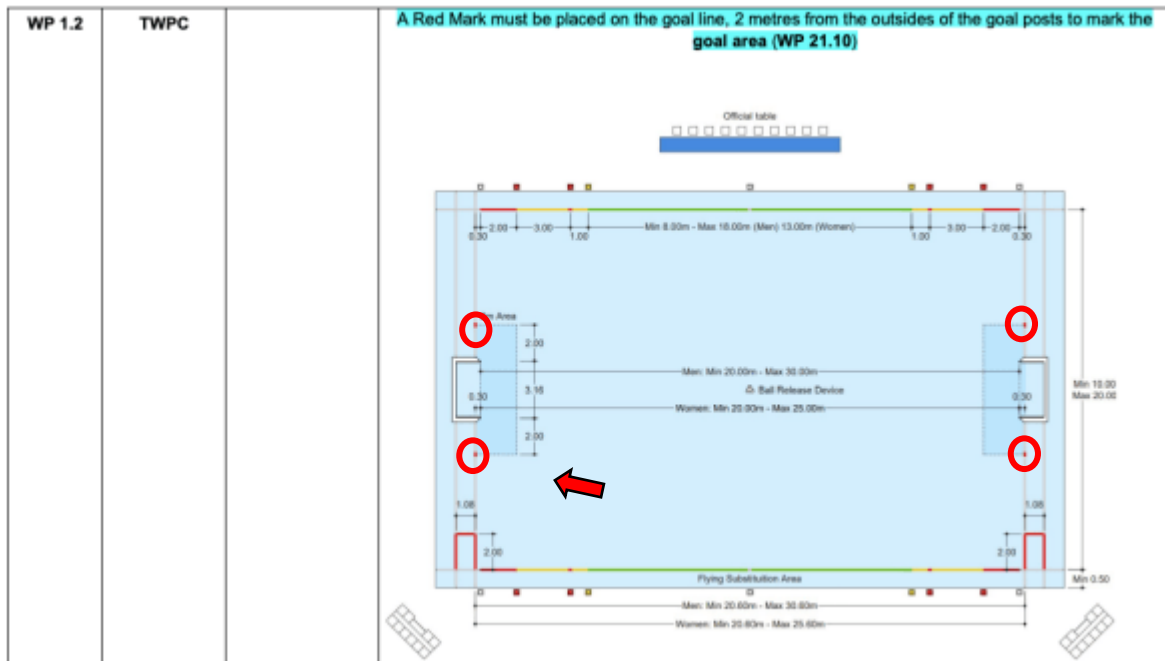
To help visualize the new zone, see the diagrams provided by FINA below:

RULE N°	SUBMITTED BY:	STATUS	RULE
WP 1.2	TWPC		<p>WP 1.2 The layout and markings of the field of play for a game officiated by two referees shall be in accordance with this diagram: (NEW DRAWINGS)</p>  <p>The diagram illustrates the layout of a water polo pool. Key features include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official table: Height = 0.70m, located at the top of the pool. Goals: Located at the top and bottom edges, with a width of 3.00m and a height of 2.00m. Goal Area: A 2m wide area extending from the goal line, with a depth of 2.00m. Ball Release Device: Located in the center of the pool, with a diameter of 0.30m. Dimensions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men: 18.00m x 25.00m Women: 13.00m x 25.00m Platform: Width 1.00m, Height 0.70m (Above water level), located at the bottom edge. Markings: Various lines and zones are marked, including a 2m area near the goal line (highlighted with a red circle). </p>

SUPPLIERS

PARTNERS





As is overshadowed in red circles on the diagram, a red mark **MUST** be placed on the goal line, 2 meters from the outsides of the goal posts to mark the goal area. This must be done for all teams, all leagues (except U11) for January 1st, 2023. After that date, any club whose pool is not correctly equipped will be subjected to a report and a warning the first time. Then it will be fined for non-conformity of the playfield.

Since the time is short, any kind of system will be accepted at the beginning of the season, as long as the 2 meters zone is clearly visible for players and referees.

WP 23.2 - Penalty Fouls

The referee can delay whistling a penalty and wait to see if the attacking player scores a goal in the same action. If the player does not score, the referee should sanction the penalty. The referee must raise an arm indicating a possible penalty. The rationale behind this change is that, previously, if a player had missed an opportunity whilst the referee was playing the advantage, instead of awarding a penalty, there was no opportunity for the referee to pull play back for the initial penalty. The technical committee made it clear that players should not be penalized for making a positive action, and therefore the new rules will mean referees can delay awarding a penalty, even after a missed opportunity by the attacker.

FINA writes in its original text that the referee **may** raise an arm indicating a possible penalty. Swiss Aquatics Water Polo has decided that the referee **MUST** raise an arm, to avoid any misunderstanding and to render his decision comprehensible. It means that, if a referee sees a penalty foul against an attacking player trying to reach the goal and score, he may call a penalty, as before, or he can raise his arm, meaning that he has seen the penalty foul but decides that he will give the advantage to the attacking player to try to score. If he scores, then the goal is valid and the game goes on. If he doesn't, the referee awards a penalty throw to the attacking team.

WP 24.2 - Penalty Throws

'All players shall leave the 6-metre area and shall be at least three meters from the player taking the throw. On the 6-metre line, on each side of the player taking the throw, one player of the defending team shall have the first right to take position. The defending goalkeeper shall be positioned between the goal posts with no part of his body beyond the goal line at water level. The referees can give one warning to the players or the goalkeeper to take up the correct position. If that person does not do so, the player or goalkeeper shall be excluded and shall reenter in accordance with WP22.3. Should the goalkeeper be out of the water, another player may take the position of the goalkeeper but without the goalkeeper's privileges and limitations. The referees may use the VAR system to determine if there has been interference with the penalty throw.'

There are an increasing number of instances where defending players or goalkeepers have become increasingly bold during the penalty taking procedure; edging closer to the penalty taker, giving the penalty-taker a little word in their ear, or a nudge before they take their penalty. Most goalkeepers need to be told multiple times to stay on the goal-line. The new rules now stipulate that all other players, except the penalty taker (and of course the defending goalkeeper), should position themselves on 6m, at least three meters away from the penalty taker. If they fail to follow the rules of the penalty-taking procedure, the referee may exclude them. This includes goalkeepers.

The main change in this rule is the distance between the player taking the throw and the defending players on the 6 meters line. And the fact that from now on, the referee will give **ONLY ONE WARNING** to the defending players and the goalkeeper to remain at their right position before calling an exclusion. This should have been the case before but was not correctly applied by players and referees. FINA decided to put it in writing to ensure a correct application of the rule.

The final text from FINA will appear in the next rulebook in a few months. But the rules will be applied and will mean exactly as above explained. The other rules contained in the FINA and WWR texts will see no change in the practice in Switzerland for now.

Coaches attending the Magglingen course in November will be briefed on these new rules. Referees will have a briefing (one in the German part and one in the West part) before the end of the year. The exact dates will be defined by the Education Head, Dean Suazo and communicated asap.

Kind regards,

Léonard Bruchez
Head Referee Swiss Aquatics Water Polo