

New FINA Rules

USAWP Implementation Timeline

Rules Amendment #1

Rule WP20 – Reset Shot Clock to 20 Seconds: Possession time shall be reset to 20 seconds when (a) a corner throw is awarded (b) after a shot is taken that does not change possession, and (c) in the event of an exclusion with less than 20 seconds remaining on the shot clock. If there is more than 20 seconds remaining on the shot clock at the time of the exclusion, the greater time will remain with no new reset.

Men's National League – March 1, 2019
Women's Senior Nationals – March 1, 2019
ODP – March 1, 2019
Masters Nationals – January 1, 2020
National Age Group Championships – January 1, 2020
Sanctioned Events – January 1, 2020
10U/12U Modified Rules – N/A

Rule Amendment #2

Rule WP19 – Location of Free Throw: A free throw shall be taken at the spot of the ball, except (a) if the foul is committed by a defending player within the defender's 2-meter area, the free throw shall be taken on the 2-meter line opposite to where the foul was committed and, (b) where otherwise provided by the rules.

All levels starting March 1, 2019

Rule Amendment #3

Rule WP17 – Corner Throws: A player taking a free throw may (a) shoot directly (b) swim and shoot without passing or (c) pass to another player.

Men's National League – March 1, 2019
Women's Senior Nationals – March 1, 2019
ODP – March 1, 2019
Masters Nationals – January 1, 2020
National Age Group Championships – January 1, 2020
Sanctioned Events – January 1, 2020
10U/12U Modified Rules – January 1, 2020

Rule Amendment #4

Rule WP5 – Additional Substitution Area: An additional substitution re-entry area will be at any place in between the goal line and center pool line on the teams half of the field of play (for flying substitutions). Substitute must always re-enter via the re-entry box in the corner. The rule only applies to pools with sidelines of at least half a meter from the wall.

All levels starting March 1, 2019
Except Sanctioned Events – January 1, 2020

Rule Amendment #5

Rule WP11 – Interval at Halftime: The interval at half-time shall be no more than 3 minutes.

All levels starting March 1, 2019

Rule Amendment #6

Rule WP14 – Method of Scoring: If a foul is awarded outside of 6 meters, the player may (a) shoot immediately (b) fake and then shoot (c) dribble and then shoot. Both, the ball and the foul, must be outside of 6 meters.

Men's National League – March 1, 2019

Women's Senior Nationals – January 1, 2020

ODP – March 1, 2019

Masters Nationals – January 1, 2020

National Age Group Championships – January 1, 2020

Sanctioned Events – January 1, 2020

10U/12U Modified Rules – N/A

Rule Amendment #7

Rule WP14 – Goalkeeper Privileges: The goalkeeper is allowed to move beyond and touch the ball past the half distance line. They are allowed to shoot from anywhere and can participate as a shooter in a penalty shot or shootout.

All levels starting March 1, 2019

Rule Amendment #8

Rule WP12 – Time-outs: A team is entitled to no more than 2 time-outs per game. Time-outs can be called at any time by the coach of the team in possession of the ball, except after awarding a penalty throw.

All levels starting March 1, 2019

Rule Amendment #9

New Rule – Attacking a Player from Behind within 6 meters: When a player with front position is facing or swimming toward the goal and/or is holding the ball and is impeded (attacked) from behind during an attempt to shoot, a penalty foul must be awarded. The only way to defend in this position is for the defender to make contact with only the ball/hand of the attacking player. Note: This rule does not take precedence over the advantage rule. This rule does not change the definition of a probable goal. It only eliminates the 'no call' of a penalty foul for having the ball in hand.

Men's National League – March 1, 2019

Women's Senior Nationals – March 1, 2019

ODP – March 1, 2019

Masters Nationals – January 1, 2020

National Age Group Championships – January 1, 2020

Sanctioned Events – January 1, 2020

10U/12U Modified Rules – N/A

Rule Amendment #12

New Rule – Direct Shot Signal by the Referee: If a free throw is awarded for a foul outside, but within one meter of the 5-meter line, the referee administering the free throw will point downward to the 5-meter line to indicate that the player is eligible to shoot a direct shot on goal.

All levels starting March 1, 2019