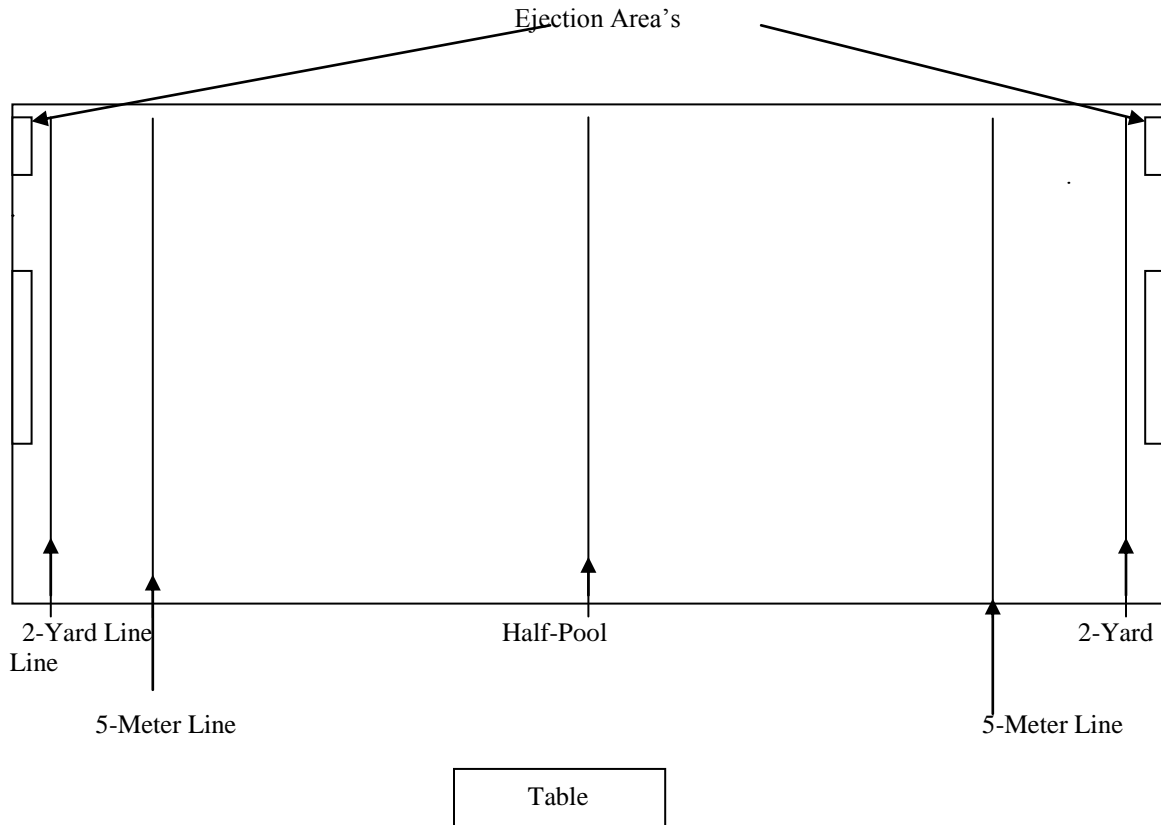


# Missouri Water Polo

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## Rules Synopsis

### **I) Playing Field**



2 Yard Line: “Off-Sides Line”, Offensive player cannot be inside the 2 Yard Line UNLESS the ball has preceded the offensive player.

5 Meter Line: “Penalty Zone Line”. “Outside Shot Line”.

Half-Pool Line: Swim-offs at Start of quarters. Restarts after goals.

### **II) Whistles:**

- 1) One whistle: Ordinary foul. Referee will point in the direction the ball is to be moved on offense.
- 2) Two short blasts: Offensive foul, (turning the ball over to the other team). Referees will point in new direction of attack.

- 3) Multiple short blasts followed by a long blast: Exclusion Foul. Referee will point to the player being excluded and make a sweeping gesture towards the exclusion area.
- 4) One short blast followed by a long blast: Penalty Foul. On the long blast, the referee will raise one hand with 5-fingers out-stretched.

### **III) Two Important Terms in Reference to the Individual Player:**

- 1) **Possession** of the Ball: Holding onto the ball, either with the player's hand resting on top of the ball or in the player's hand in preparation to pass or shoot.
- 2) **Control** of the Ball: Player has access to immediately pass or shoot the ball, but is not in actual "Possession" of the ball. (Swimming/dribbling with the ball, or the ball floating out in front of the Offensive player who is protecting it from the Defender)

### **IV) Types of Fouls**

- A) **Ordinary Foul:** Punished by the award of a Free Throw to the Opposing Team. Taken at the location of the foul or behind. *Except* if the ball is located inside the 2-yard line/area, the Free Throw shall be taken on the 2-yard line opposite to where the foul was called.

#### Examples:

- 1) To use the bottom of the pool to influence the play.
  - 2) To take or hold the entire ball under water when tackled.
  - 3) To strike the ball with a clenched fist, (Goalkeepers excepted).
  - 4) To play or touch the ball with two hands at the same time, (Goalkeepers excepted).
  - 5) For a team to retain possession of the ball for more than 30 seconds of actual play without shooting at their opponents goal. (Shot Clock)
  - 6) To impede, push-off, or tackle an opponent who is not in "**possession** of the ball".
- B) **Exclusion Foul:** Normally punished by the award of a Free Throw to the opposing team, taken from the location of the ball AND the exclusion of the player who committed the foul, (for 20 seconds, until a goal is scored or the excluded player's team regains possession of the ball, whichever occurs first). Personal Foul recorded against offender. (Three Personal Fouls and the player is "out" of the game).

#### Examples:

- 1) To interfere with the taking of a Free Throw.
- 2) To intentionally splash water in the face of an opponent.

- 3) To Hold, Sink, or Pull Back an opponent who is not “Holding” the ball.
  - 4) To kick or strike an opponent intentionally, (Possible “Brutality”).
  - 5) Misconduct, disobedience or disrespect to an official or referee.
- C) Penalty Foul: To commit any foul within the 5-meter line of the goal, but for which a goal WOULD PROBABLY have resulted. Normally punished by awarding the opposing team a Penalty Shot from the Five Meter Line AND a Personal Foul is recorded against the offender.

Examples:

- 1) For a goalkeeper or defending player to take the ball underwater when tackled within the 5-meter area.
- 2) For a defender within the 5-meter area to commit an act of Brutality.
- 3) For an excluded player to intentionally interfere with play of the game.

V) **The Advantage Rule:**

The single most important issue in Water Polo is “**Advantage**”!

1. The referee shall refrain from declaring a foul if, in their opinion, such a declaration would be an “Advantage” to the offending players team. The referees shall not declare an ordinary foul when there is still a possibility to play the ball.
2. The referee should not, for example, declare an ordinary foul in favor of a player who is in possession of the ball and making progress toward his/her opponent’s goal, because this is considered to give an “Advantage” to the offender’s team.