

NOTICE OF RULES AMENDMENT

CANOE POLO

Effective Date April 20, 2015

BACKGROUND

Many canoe polo clubs are composed primarily of recreational polo clubs that play on nonstandard size pitches and face funding challenges in obtaining equipment and pool access. For the sport to grow, a pathway must be established between recreational polo clubs and national level competitors. Therefore in September 2015 the ICF convened an ad-hoc Rules Committee to make draft recommendations to polo rules that would make the sport more appealing to a broader audience in the context of the limitations facing polo clubs. This Rules Amendment was adopted by the ICF Board of Governors on March 15, 2016. These rules become effective for all ICF-sanctioned Canoe Polo Players, Clubs, Tournaments, Scruitineers and Referees on April 20, 2016.

BALL DIMENSIONS, SIZE, and FILL: AMENDS SECTION 1(e)(3)

Intent: Increase scoring

New Rule: Ball fill shall be 13-14 psi (Men) and 12-13 psi (Women) of Helium (He)

OPENING SPRINT: AMENDS SECTION 2(b)(1)

Intent: Advance canoe handling skills; reduce collision-related injuries

New Rule: All opening sprints to begin matches or halves shall be conducted with players paddling in reverse.

GOALKEEPER FOUL PENALTY: AMENDS SECTION 5(f)(7)

Intent: Reduce injury potential

New Rule: A team that is determined by the referee to have committed a goalkeeper foul shall 1) forfeit possession of the ball and 2) the player committing the goalkeeper foul shall use a single-bladed paddle for the remainder of the match.

BALLS IN PLAY: AMENDS SECTION 9(m)(21)

Intent: Increase game pace

New Rule: At any point the referee may introduce additional balls in play up to a total of three (3). All balls shall be treated equally for scoring purposes. In the event of a ball out-of-bounds, play will continue uninterrupted as long as one ball remains in play or the Referee whistles a stoppage.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT PENALTY: AMENDS SECTION 6(a)(2)

Intent: Maintain respectful and welcoming competitive environment

New Rule: Upon making the determining that an Unsportsmanlike Conduct violation has been committed, the Referee shall administer one of the following penalties at their sole discretion: 1) 2-minute penalty; 2) requirement to purchase alcoholic beverages for the player designated by the Referee or 3) exile to the island of Elba.