

NEW USA WATER POLO RULE CHANGES FOR 2024

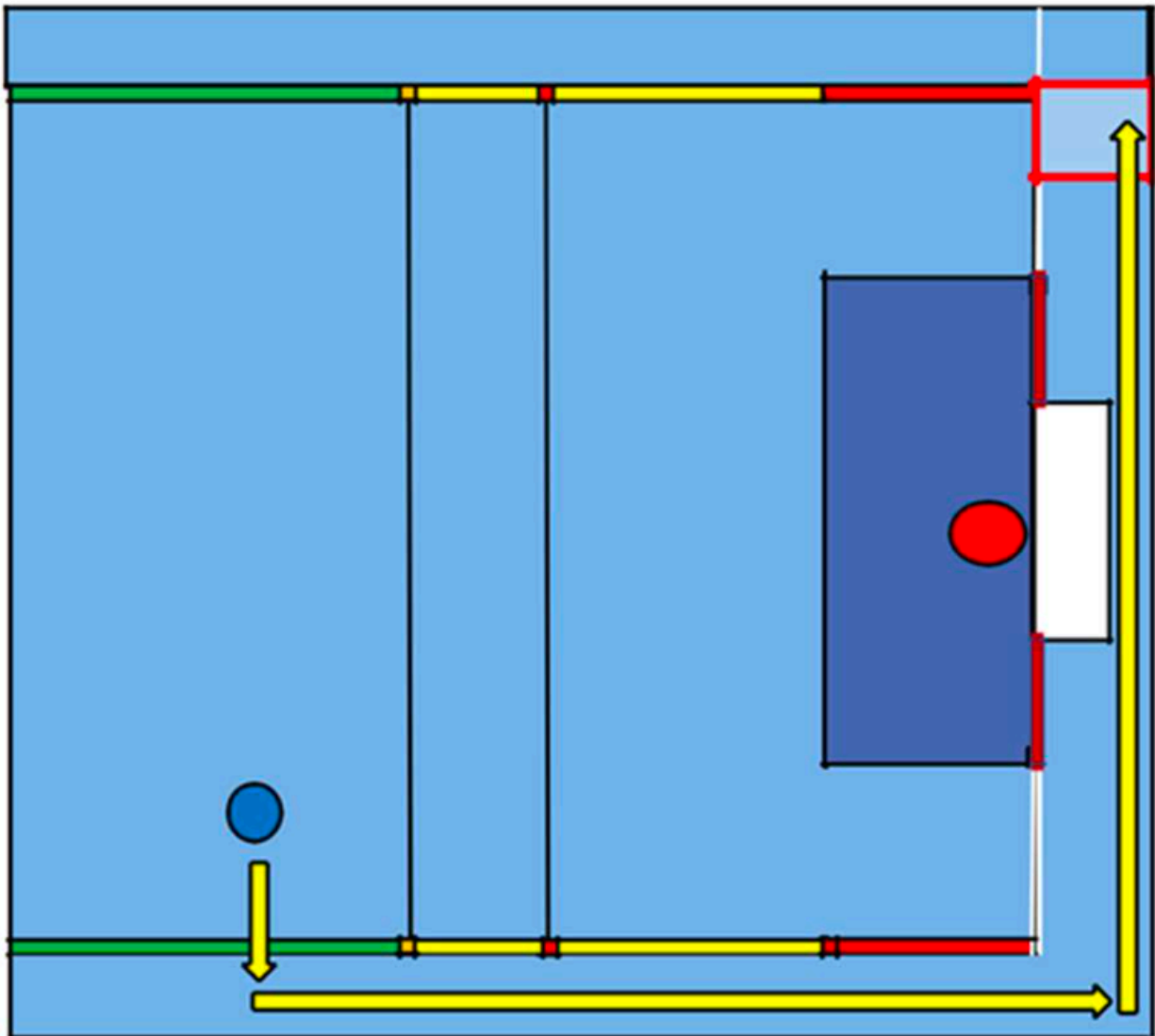
Effective: January 1, 2024

Updated: Dec. 11, 2023

LEAVING THE FIELD OF PLAY

(WP 5.6)

- If a player, on the player's own initiative, leaves the field of play during live-time play in a place other than the re-entry area or the designated flying substitution area, the player **will not be punished** for leaving the field of play.
- This player or a substitute will be able to re-enter the field of play immediately from their own exclusion re-entry area once the exiting player has reached the re-entry area.
- The player may also re-enter from anywhere after a goal, after a time out or at the start of the next period.
- If a player leaves the water completely in an effort to walk on deck to the re-entry area, the player exiting the water is excluded for the remainder of the game. The substitute cannot re-enter until the excluded player has reached the re-entry area and 20 seconds have elapsed or possession has changed. The substitute may also re-enter after a goal has been scored.
- If the player re-enters the field of play during live-time play illegally (anywhere other than their own exclusion re-entry area), the penalty is as follows:
 - a) If the player's team is on defense or if no one is in possession of the ball, the player is excluded for 20 seconds and a penalty throw is awarded to the opposing team.
 - b) If the player's team is in possession of the ball, the ball is turned over to the opposing team and the player who entered illegally is excluded for 20 seconds.

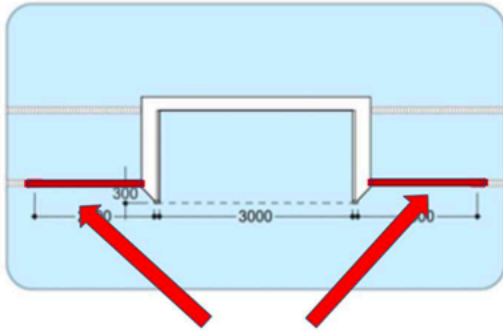


ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS REGARDING TIME OUTS (WP 13)

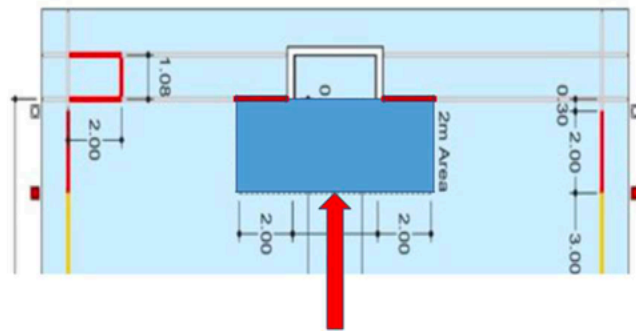
- A timeout may be requested by the coach of the team in possession of the ball.
- New WP 13.1 clarified that a team has possession of the ball when one of its players is holding or swimming (dribbling) with the ball.

NEW GOAL AREA

A continuous red marking must be placed on the goal line, 2 meters from the outside of both goal posts (WP 21.10). **Will not be implemented in 10U and 12U age groups.**



New Red Markings

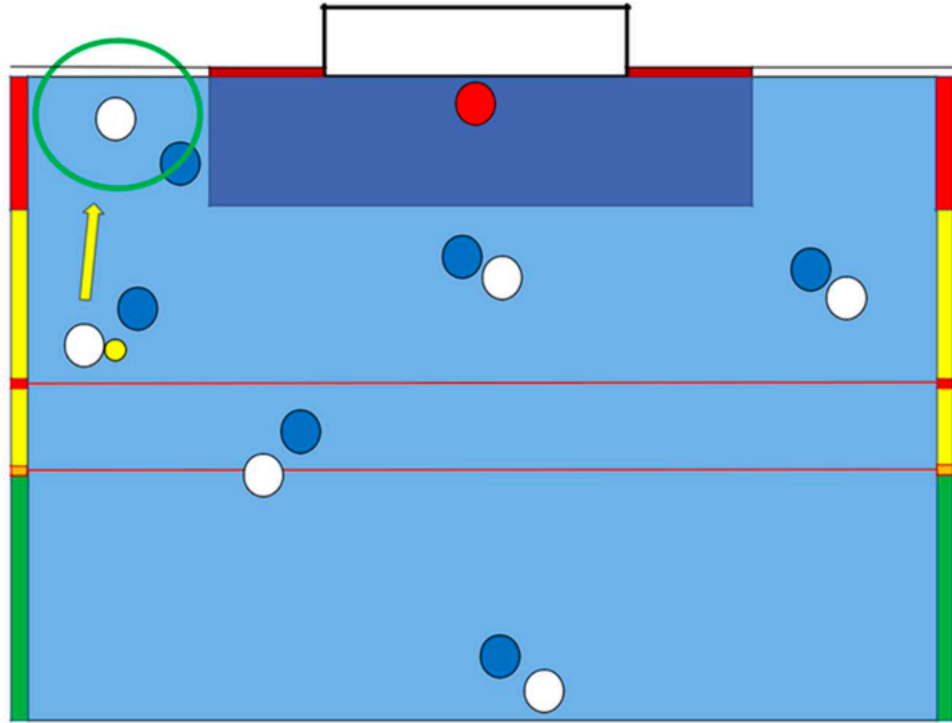


New Goal Area

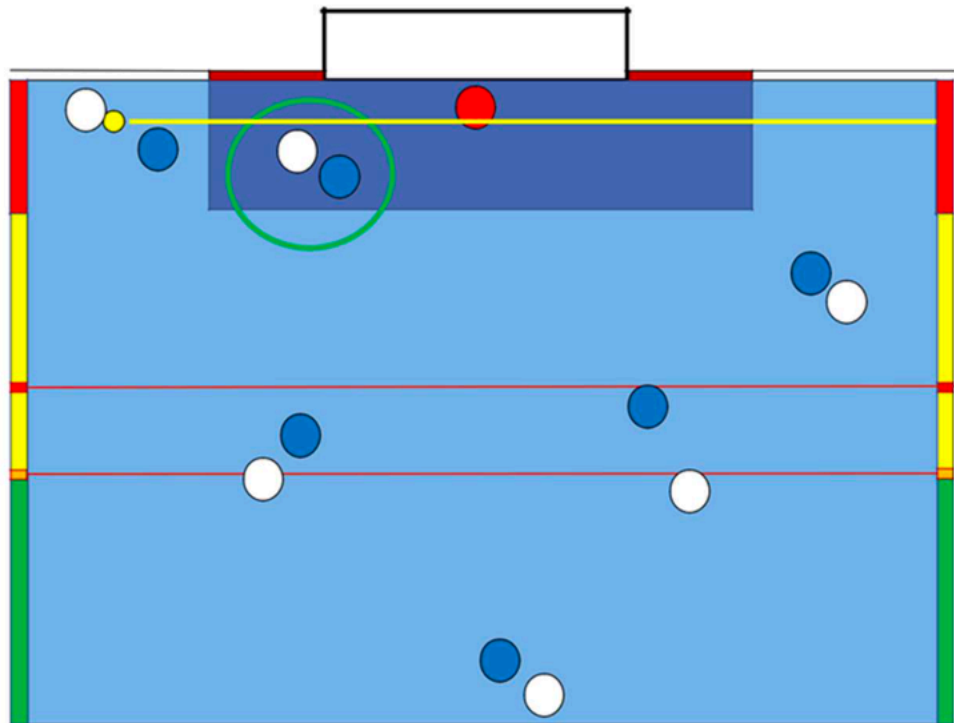
TO BE WITHIN THE GOAL AREA (NEW WP 21.10)

- It is an ordinary foul (contra foul) if an attacking player **is within the goal area** except when behind the line of the ball.
- It shall **not be an offense** if a player is inside the 2-meter line but outside the goal area.
- Any player who is **behind the line of the ball** can enter the goal area to receive the ball.
- Any player inside the goal area who does not shoot but passes the ball backwards has to leave the goal area immediately to avoid being sanctioned under this rule.
- A player who momentarily enters the goal area but does not interfere with play must then immediately leave the goal area to avoid being penalized.
- It is required to replace the white buoys with red buoys on the goal line, 2 meters in length on each side of the goal. As a temporary measure, red tape, red paint, or red foam markers can be used on the goal line buoy 2 meters from the goal. If wall cages are used with no goal line, red cones on the pool deck and/or red tape or red paint can be used on the wall and deck.

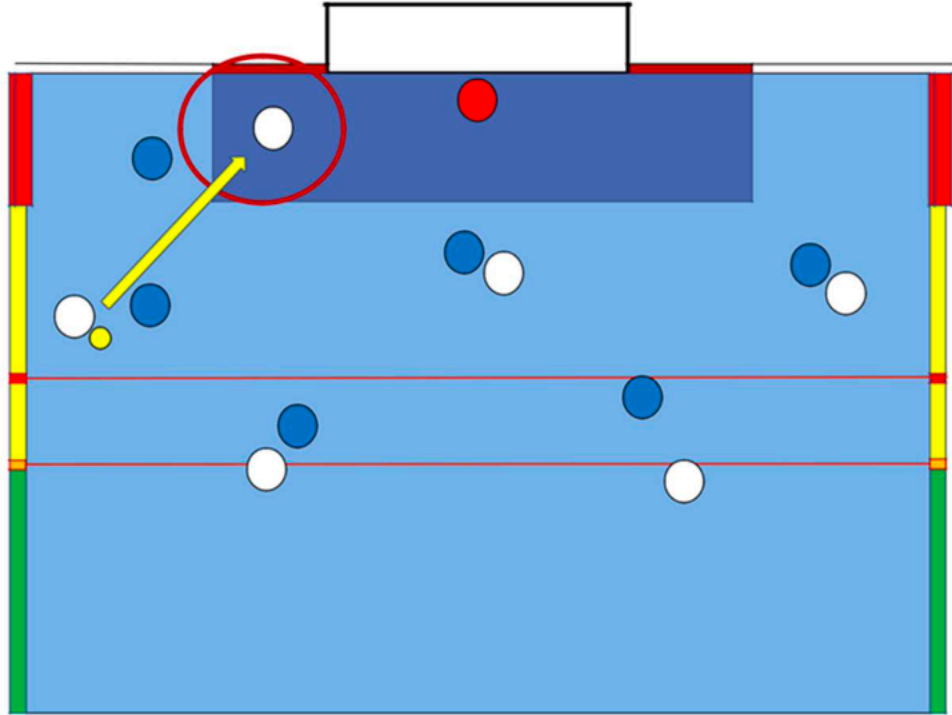
THE ATTACKER IS OUTSIDE THE GOAL AREA: **ALLOWED**



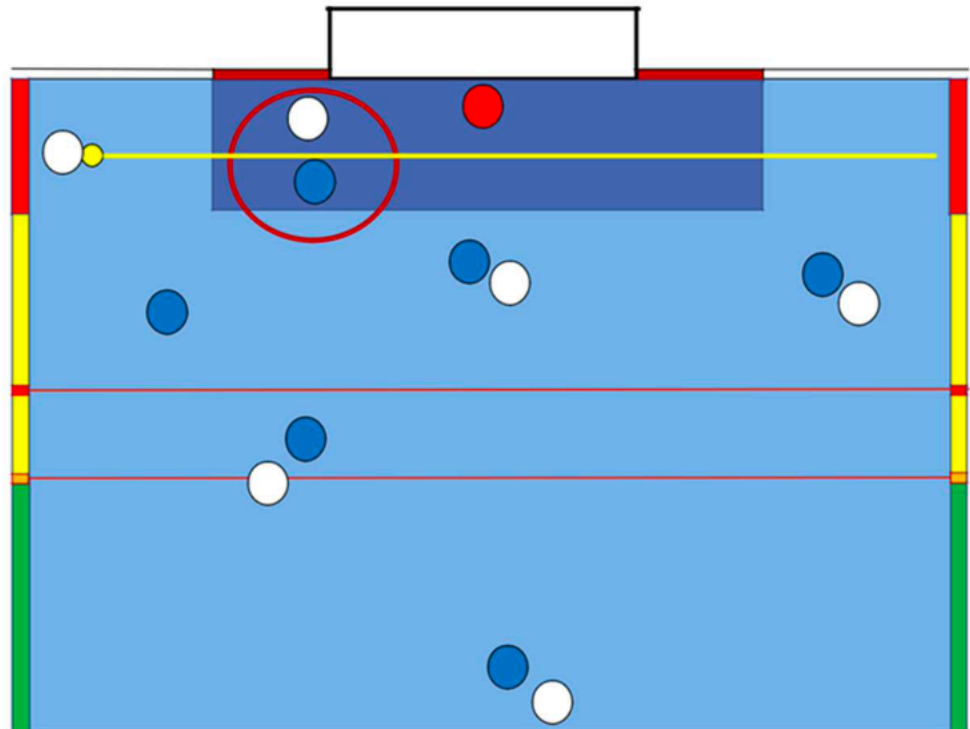
THE ATTACKER IS INSIDE THE GOAL AREA BUT BEHIND THE LINE OF THE BALL: **ALLOWED**



THE ATTACKER IS INSIDE THE GOAL AREA: **NOT ALLOWED**

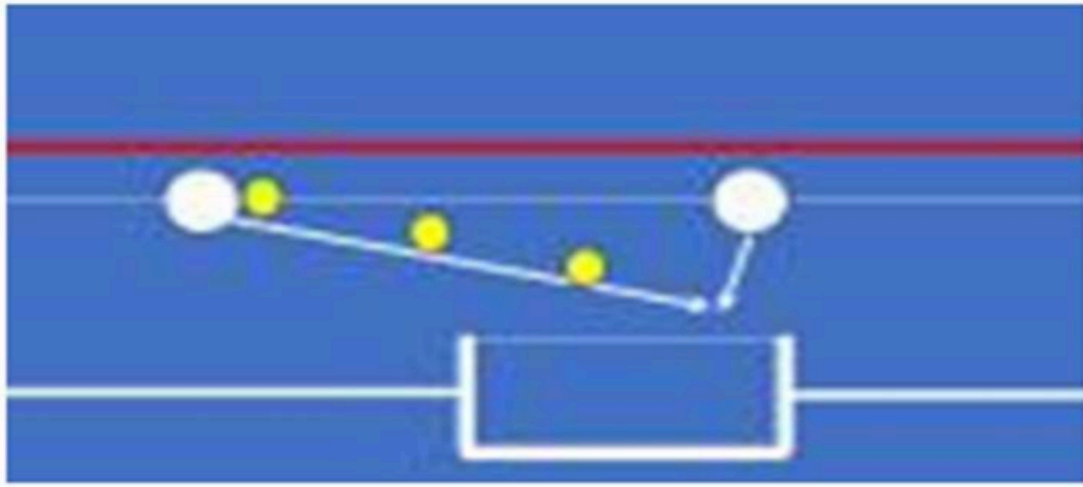


THE ATTACKER IS INSIDE THE GOAL AREA AND
IN FRONT OF THE LINE OF THE BALL: **NOT ALLOWED**



CLARIFICATIONS ON GOAL AREA FOUL

- A player **in the Goal Area** of the attacking team **can never be in front of the line of the ball** at any time during the game.
- If a pass within the goal area flies forward (toward the goal line) ahead of the receiving player(s), an ordinary foul (contra foul) must be called, even if the two attacking players were at the same line at the moment of the pass. This is especially important to apply in a player advantage situation.

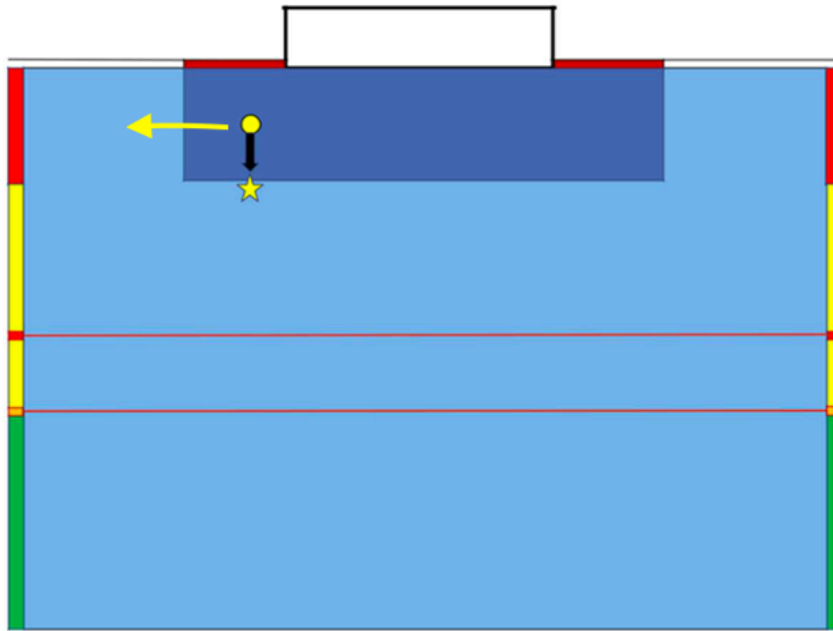


LOCATION OF THE TAKING OF FREE THROWS (WP 20)

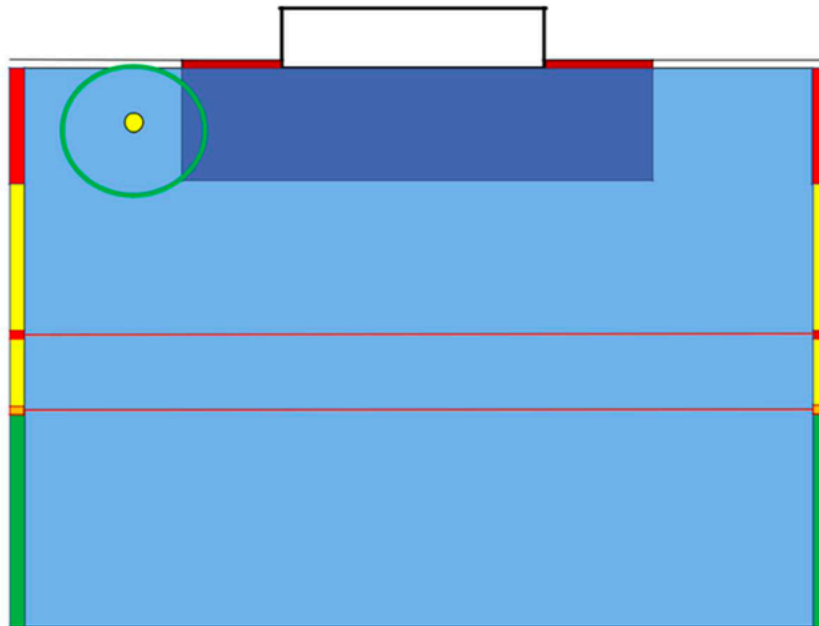
New WP 20.1 clarifies the location from which is allowed to take a free throw the addition of the new Goal Area, providing that if the ball, at the moment that the foul is awarded, is:

inside the Goal Area, the free throw shall be taken on the 2-meter line opposite to the location of the ball or laterally outside the goal area (toward the sideline).

Outside of the Goal Area, the free throw shall be taken from the location of the ball.



At the moment that the foul is awarded the ball goes in 2 m line but outside Goal Area:
the free throw shall be taken from the location of the ball



**“GOING UNDER WATER” FOUL
(NEW WP 21.18)**

When two players are competing for position, it is an ordinary foul (contra foul) for an attacking player to go underwater and gain a positional advantage. It is an exclusion foul for a defender to go underwater and take away a positional advantage.



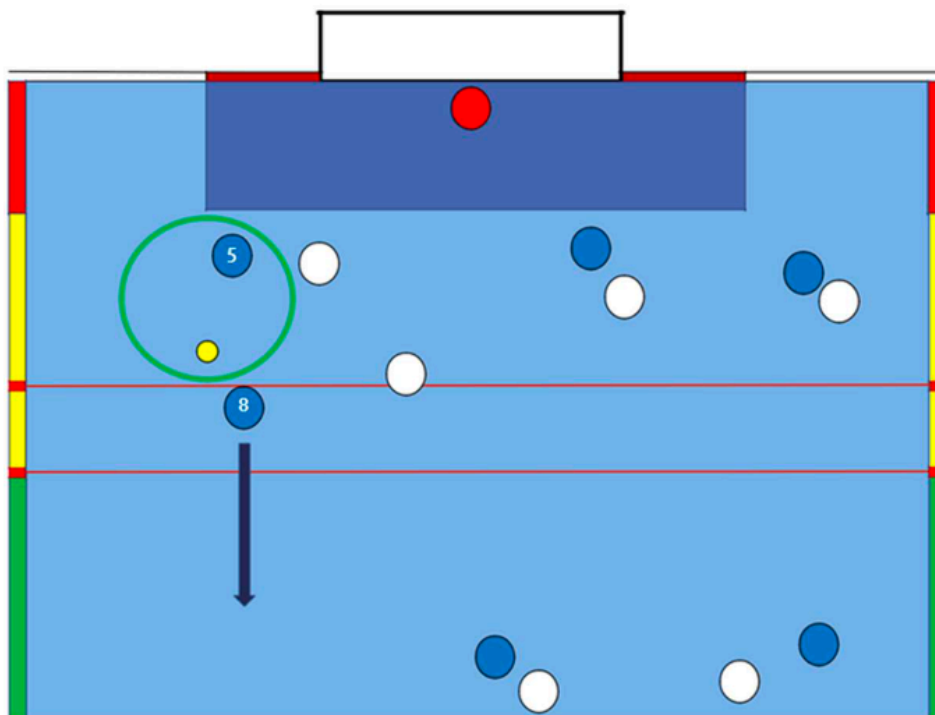
**CLARIFICATIONS ON “WASTING TIME” FOUL
(NEW NOTE UNDER WP 21.16)**

- It is always permissible for a referee to award an ordinary foul (contra foul) under this Rule before the applicable possession period has elapsed.
- In the last minute of the game, the referees must be certain that there is intentional wasting time before applying this Rule.
- If the goalkeeper or any other player is the only player of the team in that team’s half of the field of play, it shall be deemed wasting time for the goalkeeper or player to receive the ball from another member of that team who is in the other half of the field of play.

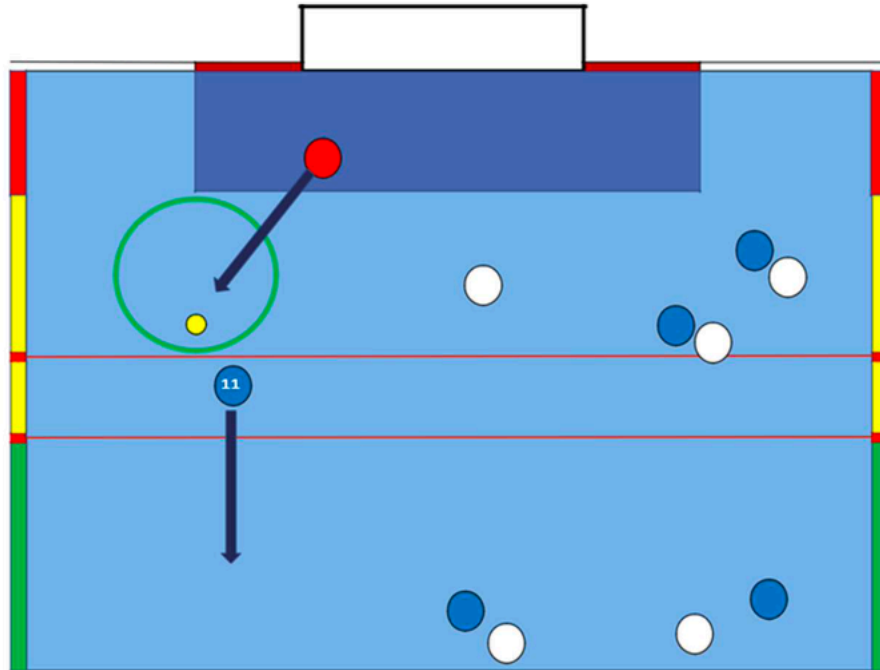
ADVANTAGE AND TAKING OF THE THROWS (NEW NOTE UNDER WP 17.3)

- When there is a counterattack, a player with advantage does not have to give up the advantage to go to the ball and take the free throw, goal throw or corner throw. The next closest player of that team to the ball can take the throw as long as there is no undue delay.

N° 8 BLUE IS WITH ADVANTAGE: N° 5 BLUE CAN TAKE THE FREE THROW



N° 11 BLUE IS WITH ADVANTAGE: GOALKEEPER CAN TAKE **THE FREE THROW**



TACTICAL FOUL (NEW WP 22.11)

- It is an exclusion foul for a defending player to commit a foul on any player of the team in possession of the ball with the intent to stop the flow of the attack, anywhere in the field of play. This kind of foul is called a “tactical foul”
- All of the following (but not limited to) are exclusion fouls:
 1. Raising both hands
 2. Pushing or flipping the ball after a foul
 3. Fouls with two hands
 4. Aggressive foul to prevent advantage

**ACTIONS TO PREVENT A PROBABLE GOAL OR TO DELAY THE GAME
(WP 23.8)**

· A team will be punished with a penalty throw if the coach, any team official, or player takes any action with intent to prevent a probable goal or to delay the game, including:

a) If a defending player **deliberately throws the ball away** before the attacking team can take a free throw or direct shot;

b) If a defending player, after a free throw outside the 6-meter line, **deliberately pushes the ball inside the 6-meter line**, to avoid a direct shot.

**NEW REGULATION FOR TAKING PENALTY THROWS
(WP 24.2)**

- **All players** – except the attacker who is going to take the penalty throw – **shall leave the 6-meter area and shall be at least three meters** from the player taking the throw.
- On the 6-meter 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/her body beyond the goal line at water level.
- The referees will warn the defending players and/or the goalkeeper to take up the correct positions. If that person does not do so, **the player or goalkeeper may be excluded** (regular 20 second exclusion) and shall re-enter in accordance with WP 22.3
- 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.

NEW **CORRECT POSITION** OF THE PLAYERS BEFORE TAKING A PENALTY THROW (WP 24)

