

29/09/2023 AWP REFEREE MEMO

This memo is intended to clear up confusion around a foul-on-goalskeeper and a foul-by-goalskeeper situation during game play. World Aquatics have ruled on this differently over the past years and have not clearly codified this specific situation in the new rules but have communicated to our international referees on how to interpret this situation.

Related to Fouling a Goalskeeper During Game Play

In the last iteration of the rules, once the goalskeeper had clear possession of the ball, it was deemed to be an exclusion foul if a player committed a foul on the goalskeeper, regardless of whether the goalskeeper's team had a counterattack advantage or not.

At the Junior World Championships in Romania, June 2023, it was made clear that a foul on the goalskeeper can now remain an ordinary foul, UNLESS the foul interrupts a counterattack. If this is the case, the player committing the foul should be excluded.

There is a clear distinction between a team counterattack and a team not moving up the field to try and score, and it is up to the referees to make that decision in a game.

Goalskeeper Committing a Foul Within Goal Area

Additionally, a Goalskeeper committing a foul (including putting the ball underwater when tackled by a player from the opposition) within the extended Goal Area (see image below), should now result in a penalty throw-call against this Goalskeeper, awarded to the opposition.

