

**Minutes of the 2019 IHSA Boys/Girls Water Polo Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**May 23, 2019**

The IHSA Boys/Girls Water Polo Advisory Committee met in Lombard, on Thursday, May 23, 2019 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Committee Members present were: Steve McWilliams (Barrington); Bill Salentine, Naperville (Central); Alan Whitmore, Chicago (Von Steuben)); Matt Hochstein, Chicago (Official); Tracy Balla, Libertyville H.S. and Assistant Executive Director Beth Sauser. Not in attendance: Carlos Ceja, Chicago (Northside College Prep); and Rob Wagner, Elmhurst (York).

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**1. Item VIII. A. 3) Rules of Play: Mercy Rule (boys and girls)**

**Recommendation:** Mercy Rule: will be used in all regular season contests, regular season tournament contests and IHSA Sectional contests. A running clock shall be used in the fourth quarter in which there is at least a 10-point score differential. Once a game reaches this differential, the clock will run continuously and stop only for the following reasons:

- A team timeout
- An injury timeout or the removal of a disqualified player
- 5-meter penalty
- An officials' timeout
- Clock adjustment
- After a goal

Note: The Mercy Rule will not be used during the Boys' or Girls' State Final contests.

**Rationale:** If a team has a 10-goal advantage at half time or anytime in the second half, the clock will run continuously. This allows newer, developing teams to continue the game without stopping the clock.

Approved by Consent

**2. Item VIII. D Game Balls (Boys and girls)**

**Recommendation:** Sectional hosts receive five Boys and five Girls game balls to use for each Sectional contest.

**Rationale:** When a counter ball is thrown out of play, a team may be left without a ball for a fast break. Having an additional ball at each end of the pool ensures that one team does not have an advantage over the other. Currently, at the State Finals, there are always two balls available at each end of the pool and this recommendation extends that protocol to the Sectional level.

Died for Lack of Motion

**Items of General Discussion and Administrative Recommendations:**

1. The committee recommended the IHSA staff continue to update the Water Polo manuals, State Qualifiers packet and Official's information for the 2020 Boys and Girls seasons.

2. Emphasize in the 2020 IHSA Rules presentation that the Mercy Rule is in effect during all regular season tournament games. There was inconsistent application of this rule during the 2019 season.
3. The committee asks that administrators stand or be visible in their fan section during contests and address unsportsmanlike behavior immediately.
4. The committee expressed concerns about the lack of consistency of the shot clock reset by the table during the regular season. The shot clock timer must understand the definition of a “shot” prior to the contest so game interruptions, disagreements or issues are kept to a minimum regarding shot clock resets.
5. Discussed concerns about coaches not doing their “homework” before seeding teams and how to encourage coaches to prepare to seed teams. The committee discussed the use of the MaxPreps team rankings as a tool for coaches when seeding the tournament.
6. The committee complimented Stevenson staff on handling difficult fans during the 2019 State Finals.
7. The committee discussed increasing the pay for the Head Official at each Sectional site. This official has more responsibility and is at the Sectional site during all contests.
8. The committee would like coaches to speak with players about becoming Water Polo officials after they finish their high school eligibility.
9. Reviewed the new 2019-20 IHSA By-laws and NFHS Rules.
10. Next Meeting: May 28, 2020 near Naperville.