**ACTION ITEMS.**

1. Legislative items.
   - None.

2. Nonlegislative items. The NCAA Men’s and Women’s Water Polo Rules Subcommittee approved the following rules change proposals for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 seasons. The subcommittee requests approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) for the following items:

   a. Lighting (Rule 1-3).
      - Recommendation. Recommend the field of play to be uniformly and adequately lighted, including 100 foot-candles.
      - Effective date. August 1, 2016.
      - Rationale. Too many times games are being played in dimly lit pools/areas, which inhibits officials from clearly seeing action taking place in the water. This change will preserve the integrity of the game to ensure officials are able to accurately identify players and enforce rules appropriately.
      - Estimated budget impact. Potential budget impact for those institutions without adequate lighting, however, this is a recommendation and not a requirement. Cost will vary.
      - Student-athlete impact. Enhances the student-athlete and fan experiences.

   b. Caps (Rule 4-1).
      - Recommendation. Clarify only non-padded caps are to be worn during competition.
      - Effective date. August 1, 2016.
      - Rationale. Water polo caps are intended to cover hair, identify players, and provide protection of the ears. Caps are different in design and function from helmets, headgear, and other padded head coverings that are designed and marketed for the ostensible purpose of protecting the user from injury. Per the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (CSMAS), there is no evidence that the use of soft headgear/padding decreases the incidence of concussion.
Wearing such a device may provide a false sense of security in the area of concussion protection by the player, their coaches and their parents, and may therefore heighten the risk of injury.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None. Padded water polo caps are not currently allowed by interpretation.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

c. **Control Over Conduct (Rule 7-4).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Recommend the host institution to assign a representative to handle game management issues, as requested by a referee.

(2) **Effective date.** August 1, 2016.

(3) **Rationale.** Currently, referees do not have anyone to assist them with spectator issues, equipment malfunctions, etc. This recommendation will allow referees to solely concentrate on what is happening in the field of play.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

d. **Control Over Conduct (Rule 7-4).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Outline a head coach is only allowed to address the referee after a goal is scored if the referee expressly grants permission or in order to file a protest.

(2) **Effective date.** August 1, 2016.

(3) **Rationale.** The times the head coach and captain are allowed to address the referees is clearly specified and does not include the time after a goal.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** None.

e. **Control Over Conduct (Rule 7-4).**

(1) **Recommendation.** Allow a red card to be assessed to a player in the water.
f. Misconduct (Rule 21-12).

(1) **Recommendation.** Add a one-game suspension for any player who accumulates three misconducts in the same season. Each subsequent misconduct will result in an additional one game suspension.

(2) **Effective date.** August 1, 2016.

(3) **Rationale.** Currently, there is no additional penalty for the accumulation of misconducts. This will serve as a deterrent for “repeat offenders.”

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** Serves as a deterrent for those student-athletes with repeated misconduct issues.

g. Minor Acts of Misconduct (Rule 21-13).

(1) **Recommendation.** Add a misconduct penalty (game exclusion) for a player receiving a second Minor Act of Misconduct (MAM) in the same game.

(2) **Effective date.** August 1, 2016.

(3) **Rationale.** Currently, the MAM has very little strength as a deterrent. Increasing the penalty for additional similar behavior will serve as a stronger deterrent.

(4) **Estimated budget impact.** None.

(5) **Student-athlete impact.** Serves as a deterrent for those student-athletes with repeated misconduct issues.
INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Announcements.** The chair welcomed the subcommittee and thanked them for their time. The meeting schedule and agenda were reviewed. NCAA staff noted it was the last meeting for Kyle Witt. In addition, Matt Anderson’s term is ending, however, he is eligible for reappointment. The NCAA Women’s Water Polo Committee will appoint Mr. Witt’s replacement on the subcommittee during its annual meeting in June 2016.

2. **Review Agenda and Committee Operations Manual.** The subcommittee reviewed the Subcommittee Operations Manual, which included the NCAA conflict of interest policy, guidance for committee members regarding meeting reports, notes and email, voting procedures, principles for rules writing, and experimental playing rules guidelines.

3. **Approval of 2015 Annual Meeting and February 19, 2015, Teleconference Reports.** The subcommittee approved the January 8, 2015, annual meeting report, and February 19, 2015, teleconference report as written.

4. **Review Reports.** The subcommittee heard reports on the following topics.

   a. **Injury Surveillance Program.** Zack Kerr from the DatalysCenter presented to the subcommittee on various aspects of injuries in men’s and women’s water polo. Mr. Kerr noted only two men’s and two women’s institutions are reporting through the Injury Surveillance Program. In the majority of sports participating in the NCAA Injury Surveillance Program, 50% of injuries result in time loss while 50% are non-time loss injuries. In men’s water polo, all but 2 of the 17 injuries reported resulted in time loss of at least 24 hours. Most injuries in men’s water polo were a result of player contact and overuse. Women’s water polo injury data reported 17 concussions over the 5 seasons in which the data has been collected. These numbers are similar to the rates in soccer and ice hockey, which have the largest concussion rates. The concussions in women’s water polo were mainly a result of player contact and ball contact. Datalys will once again be reaching out to institutions to encourage them to participate in the Injury Surveillance Program.

   b. **Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP).** NCAA staff noted PROP will meet at NCAA Convention, taking place the following week. PROP will be looking at rules for all sports related to forfeits, protests, refusal to play, conference and commemorative patches and logos on uniforms.

   c. **National Coordinator of Officials.** The subcommittee viewed The Advantage website, which is the training platform for officials. Officials are required to register and take the NCAA test via this website. In addition, the national coordinator of officials periodically posts videos and other educational materials. The subcommittee requested the national
coordinator continue to post more video clips of actual and common situations rather than only unique situations. The national coordinator reviewed the USA Water Polo grant request which will help fund four referee schools to enhance the overall officiating of intercollegiate water polo. Points of emphasis for the women’s season will continue to be picks, calling the center position, evaluation criteria and managing decorum. The national coordinator explained the voice activated headsets that were used at the NCAA Men’s Water Polo Championship. He is looking into obtaining a set to use during the referee schools.

5. **Review of 2015 Rules Survey.** The subcommittee reviewed the 2015 rules survey results in conjunction with discussion on the corresponding rules change proposal. The subcommittee asked for more information on how men’s and women’s coaches voted on changing the size of the women’s ball to 3.5 instead of 4. The subcommittee was provided with a more detailed report.

6. **Review of Rules Proposals and Points of Emphasis.** The subcommittee approved a number of major changes for 2016-17 and 2017-18, as noted above in the Action Items section. In addition, the subcommittee outlined several points of emphasis to be included in the rules book. The subcommittee reviewed the rules book review report from former NCAA staff member Dennis Poppe. The subcommittee agreed to allow the secretary-rules editor to implement some editorial and style changes into the rules book during the editing process.

7. **Items for Future Consideration.** NCAA staff explained the misconduct portal utilized for red cards in men’s and women’s soccer. The subcommittee was interested in exploring the idea of adding water polo to the system. NCAA staff agreed to look into that possibility and implement it for the 2016 men’s water polo season.

8. **Selection of Chair.** The subcommittee elected Lisa Cooper, California State University, East Bay, as chair for the 2016-17 academic year.

9. **Other Business.** The national coordinator of officials accepted nominations for replacement of the active official. He will follow-up with the nominees to garner interest and ultimately choose the next active official representative on the subcommittee.

10. **Adjournment.** The subcommittee adjourned at 1 p.m. Wednesday, January 6, 2016.

*Committee Chair: Kyle Witt, Loyola Marymount University, Golden Coast Conference.*

*Staff Liaison(s): Ashlee Ferguson, Championships and Alliances.*
| NCAA Men’s and Women’s Water Polo Rules Subcommittee  
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<td><strong>Attendees:</strong></td>
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<td>Matt Anderson, Connecticut College; Collegiate Water Polo Association.</td>
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<td>Brian Kelly, Iona College; Collegiate Water Polo Association.</td>
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<td>Craig Rond, California Lutheran University; Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.</td>
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<td>Brian Streeter, secretary-rules editor.</td>
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<td>John Vargas, Stanford University; Mountain Pacific Sports Federation.</td>
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<td>Kyle Witt, Loyola Marymount University; Golden Coast Conference.</td>
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<td><strong>Absentees:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Cooper, California State University, East Bay; Western Water Polo Association Women.</td>
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<td><strong>Guests in Attendance:</strong></td>
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<td>Dr. Robert E. Corb, national coordinator of officials.</td>
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<td>Amber Drury, active official.</td>
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<td>Zack Kerr, DatalysCenter.</td>
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<td><strong>NCAA Staff Support in Attendance:</strong></td>
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<td>Ashlee Ferguson.</td>
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<td><strong>Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:</strong></td>
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<td>John Bugner; Greg Johnson; Sharon Cessna.</td>
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