



WATER POLO  
WORLD  
CONFERENCE

BUDAPEST (HUN) 2018

1870 -2020  
150 years of Water Polo



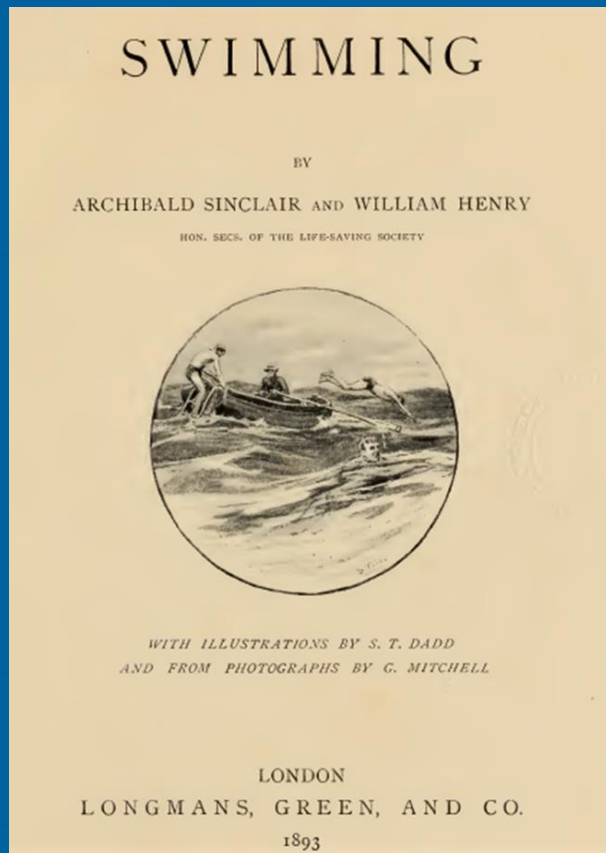
## Once upon a time.....

- Water Polo was born in Great Britain in **1870** as a by-product of the industrial revolution and the Victorian Society's love of sports
- From the mid **1870's** people were moving in towns due to the rapid industrialization, while the construction of baths allowed them "to get washed" and "to learn swimming"
- A water ball game similar to rugby was more likely to born

## The earliest reference

“On **May 12, 1870**, the London Swimming Association, appointed a Committee to draw up a code of rules for the game of “**football in the water**”.

The game was first promoted for the purpose of providing something new and attractive at swimming galas”.



It was not for this reason, as may be easily imagined, that the game was first promoted, but merely for the purpose of providing something new and attractive at swimming galas ; and with this view, on May 12, 1870, a committee was appointed by the Swimming Association, then known as the London Swimming Association, to draw up a code of rules for the management of the game of ‘football in the water.’ As

**BRIGHTON**  
**WEST PIER.**  
**AQUATIC**  
**ENTERTAINMENT**  
WILL BE GIVEN AT THE  
**HEAD OF THE WEST PIER,**  
**FRIDAY, SEPT. 14, '77**  
*Commencing at 3 p.m.*

Judge—Capt. POLAND, West Pier Master. *Handicapper & Starter*—Mr. HENRY MARTIN, Junr., Hon. Sec. Brighton Swimming Club.

**1st Race—Open to Gentlemen who Bathe from the Pier: 200 yds**  
First Prize, Cup, value 25s.; 2nd Prize, Silver Medal with Gold Centre, value 17s. 6d.; 3rd Prize, Silver Medal, value 10s. 6d. No Entrance Fee.

**2nd Race—HANDICAP RACE, for Members of the Brighton Swimming Club: 200 yds.** First Prize, Cup, value 25s.; 2nd Prize, Silver Medal with Gold Centre, value 17s. 6d.; 3rd Prize, Silver Medal, value 10s. 6d. No Entrance Fee.

**WALKING THE GREASY POLE. Open to All Comers.**  
Prizes, 10s. and 5s.

**3rd Race—Open to some *vide* Residents of Brighton, Hove, and Chichester: 200 yds.** First Prize, 25s. in value or Money; 2nd Prize, 17s. 6d. in value or Money; 3rd Prize, 10s. 6d. in value or Money. No Entrance Fee.

**The Pier Diver will exhibit the Boynton Dress & Appliances.**  
**To conclude with an AQUATIC FOOT-BALL MATCH—**  
BRIGHTON versus THE BRIGHTON SWIMMING CLUB. Five on each side. The object to receive a Bottle of Sherry &c. Balls 20 yds. apart; last Ten Goals out of Three.

**THE COMPANY'S BAND WILL PERFORM.**

Entries for Races No. 1 and 2 to be made at the Pier Master's Office; and for Race No. 3, to Mr. Henry Martin, Junr., Hon. Sec. Brighton Swimming Club, before 6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12. Ordinary Swimming Dresses and Caps, a list of which will be found for Competition.

Should the weather be unfavourable, the Entertainment will be postponed from day to day at the same time and place.

**WILLIAM POLAND,**  
PIER MASTER.

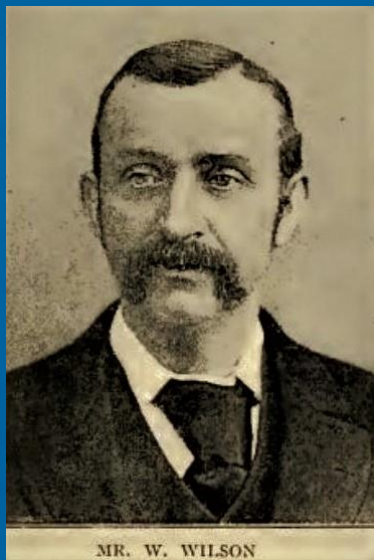
September 10, 1877.

H. J. ENTREE, "Hove Daily News" Steam Printing Works, North Street Brighton.

- By 1877 the English Clubs had begun to play a crude style of game.
- In 1885 the English Swimming Association passed a set of 15 rules and recognized the game

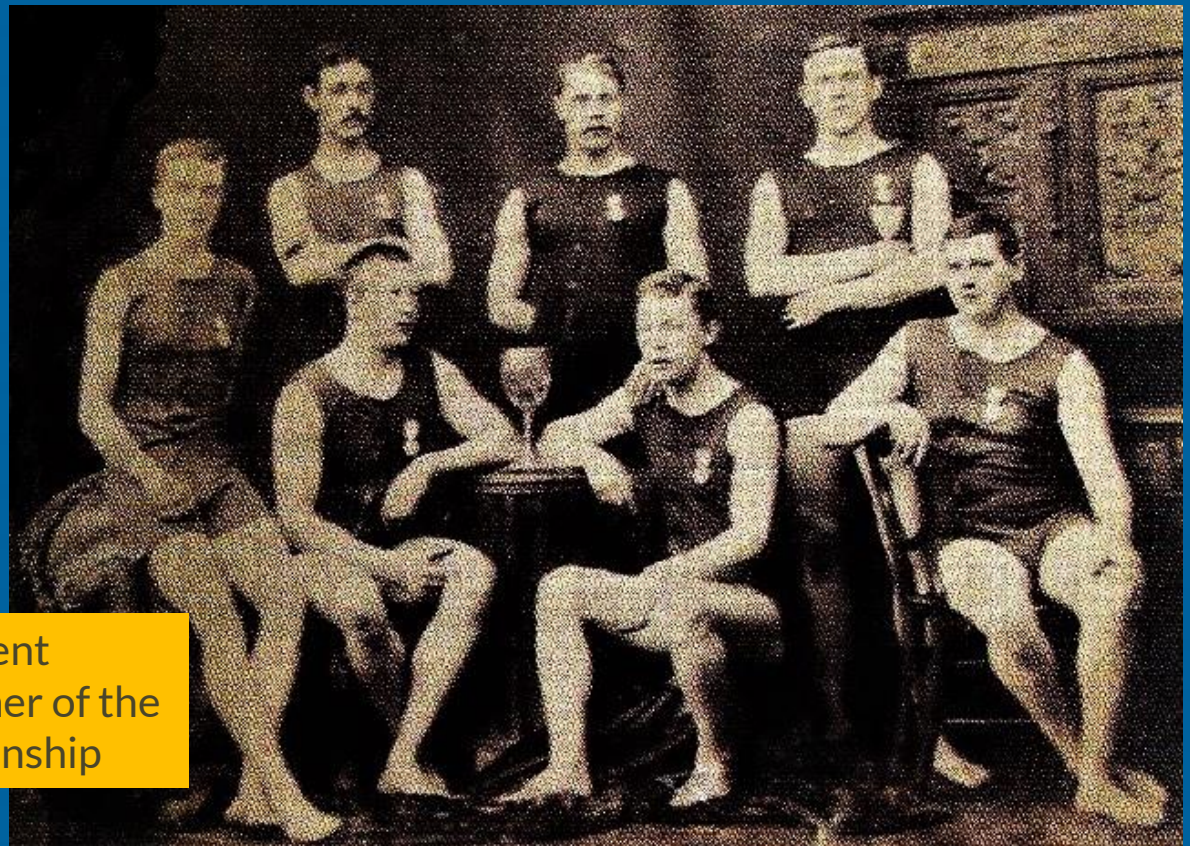
A newspaper of that period informs that:

- “after a severe struggle, the ball burst; but the players, nothing daunted, and properly habited, displayed their aquatic accomplishments for some time”.



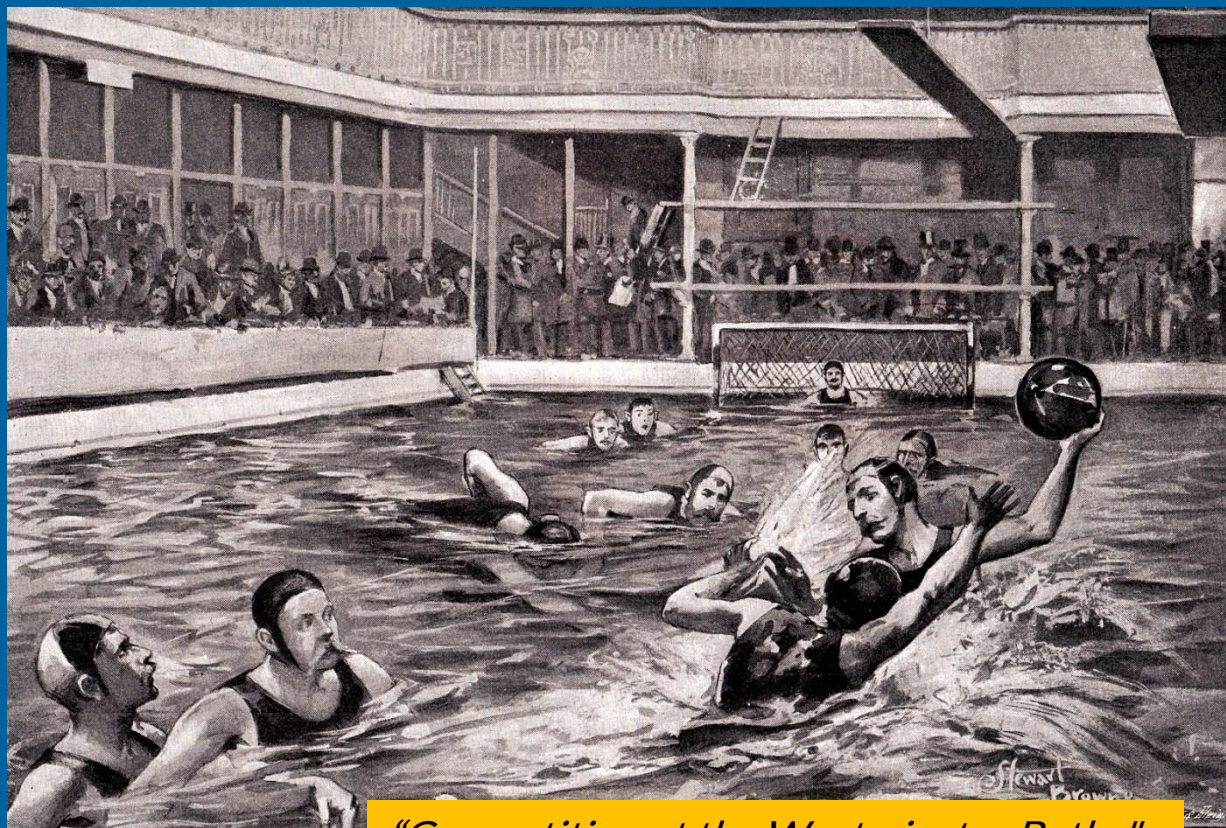
## Simultaneous expansion of Water Polo in Scotland

- In **1877**, William Wilson of Glasgow drew up a set of rules for “Aquatic Football” aiming to amuse the spectators during the annual competitions in the river Dee
- In **1879** goal-posts similar to football have been introduced.
- In **1886**, the 1st Scottish Aquatic Football Championship.



1888: Burton on Trent  
Amateur Club, winner of the  
1<sup>st</sup> English Championship

- In **1888** in England, after a rules revision of rules is held the 1<sup>st</sup> English Championship
- All swimming Clubs in the Kingdom endorse warmly game.
- In **1889** Archibald Sinclair establishes the London Water Polo League
- By **1890** all English Clubs accepted the National rules



*"Competition at the Westminster Baths".*

- **1890:** England Vs Scotland under English rules. The Scotchmen won by 4 goals to nil.
- **1891:** At Glasgow England again suffered defeat by 2 goals to 1.
- As result, England adopted several points in the Scottish rules
- **1892:** Revision of rules by the International Board.
- Rules to be common across the United Kingdom.



1891: Manhattan Athletic Club

- **1888:** Water Polo was in USA by John Robinson, an English swimming instructor employed by the Boston Athletic Club.
- Unaware of the new rule changes, Robinson introduced the “rugby” style
- “American style” Water Polo became instantly
- Rules allowed all kinds of tackles and holds





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2<sup>e</sup> Année. — N<sup>o</sup> 3.

Janvier 1896.

BULLETIN DU COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL  
DES  
JEUX OLYMPIQUES

PARIS, 229, Rue Saint-Honoré

*Citius — Fortius — Altius*

Rue Saint-Honoré, 229, PARIS

PROGRAMME  
DES  
JEUX OLYMPIQUES DE 1896  
ATHÈNES

5-15 AVRIL 1896. — (24 mars-3 avril, Style grec).

SOUS LA PRÉSIDENTIE DE

S. A. R. Monseigneur le Prince Royal, duc de Sparte

A. — SPORTS ATHLÉTIQUES

Courses à pied : 100 mètres, 400 mètres, 800 mètres et 1,500 mètres plat, 110 mètres haies. — Les règlements seront ceux de l'Union des Sociétés françaises de Sports Athlétiques.

Concours : Sauts en longueur et en hauteur (*running long et high jump*); Saut à la perche (*Pole vault*); Lancement du poids

Natation : Vitesse : 100 mètres. Fond et vitesse : 500 mètres.

Fond : 1,000 mètres

Jeu de water-polo.

F. — VÉLOCIPÉDIE

Vitesse : 2,000 mètres, sur piste, sans entraîneurs. 10,000 mètres,

Water Polo was initially in the Athens 1896 Olympic program  
Finally would not be held along with *Football, Boxing, Cricket, Golf, Hockey and other sports.*



1901. Magyar Úszó  
Egyetlet (MUE)

## Water Polo around the World

- 1879: Australia
- 1886: Canada
- 1893: Began spreading in Europe
- *Germany (1893), Austria (1894), France, Belgium (1895), Italy (1900)*
- 1897: Water Polo in Hungary
- 1901: MUE (HUN) loses against the WAC Vienna (AUS) by 14 goals to nil.



7 Clubs from  
4 Nations  
58 Competitors

**Paris 1900:** Water polo makes its Olympic debut.  
Osborn Swimming Club, Manchester became the 1<sup>st</sup> Olympic  
Champions by defeating the Brussels Swimming Club of Belgium

1900's  
Ball and  
Caps

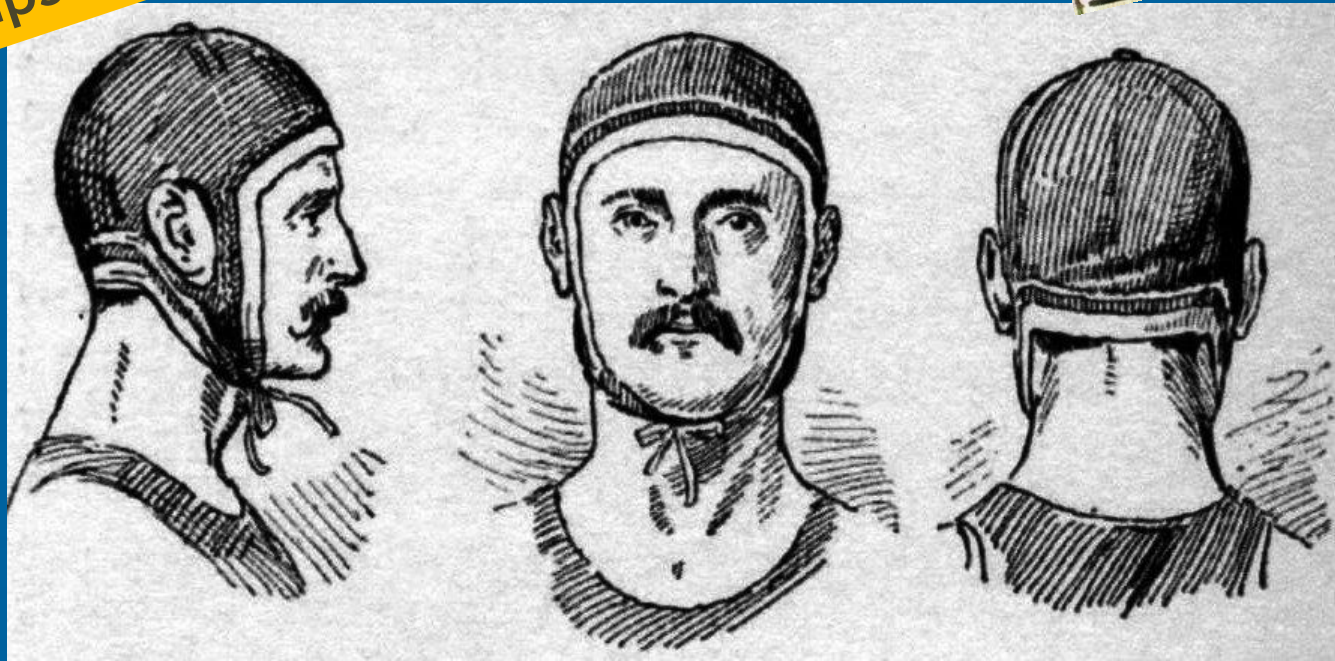

**Spalding Water Polo Ball**  
Made of white rubber fabric,  
Inflated with key. Regula-  
tion size. Each, \$2.50

**Water Polo Guide** —  
Containing directions for  
playing; official rules. 7c.  
No. 129. Each, 10c.  
See Page 48 for Caps and Suits  
for Water Polo

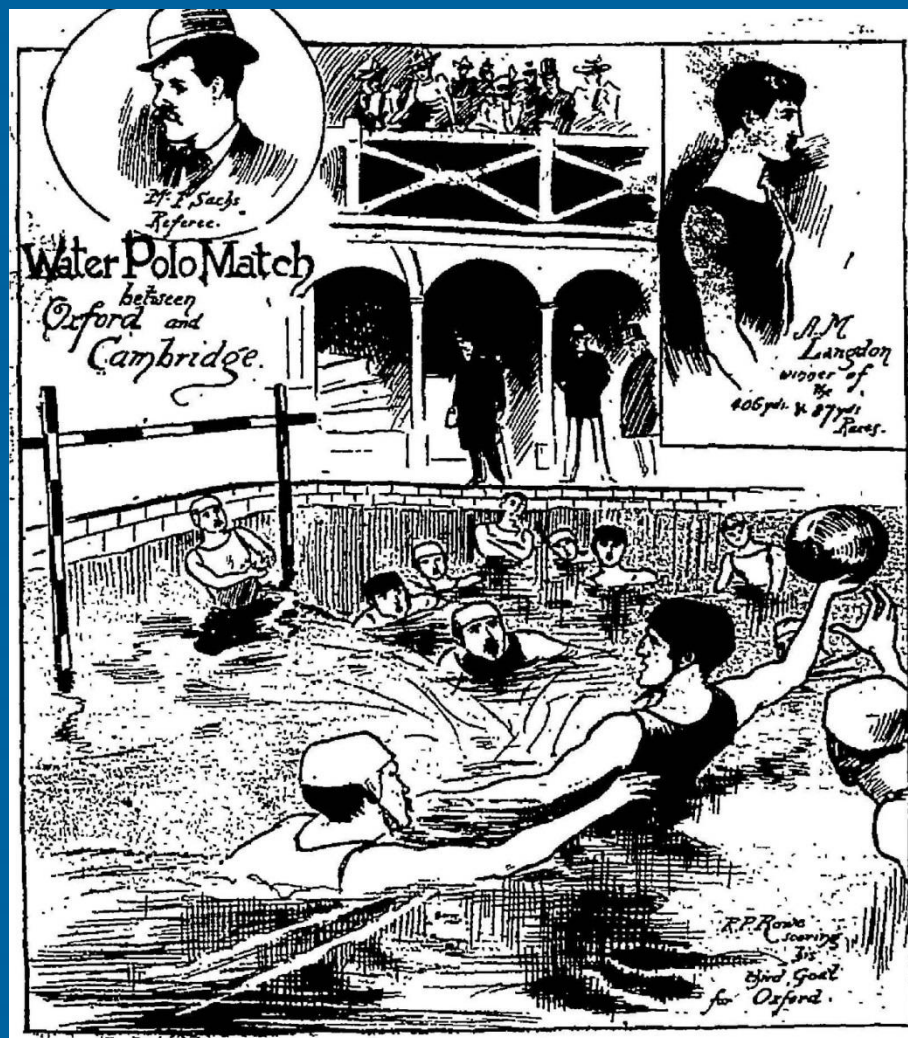


**THE SPALDING TRADE-MARK**

**Official Association  
Water Polo Cap**  
No. WPC.  
Used to  
distinguish  
swimmers  
in match  
races, the  
caps being  
made in a  
variety of colors. Also  
add interest to water polo  
games by enabling spec-  
tators to pick out easily  
the players on opposing  
teams. Each, \$1.00



1870-1900

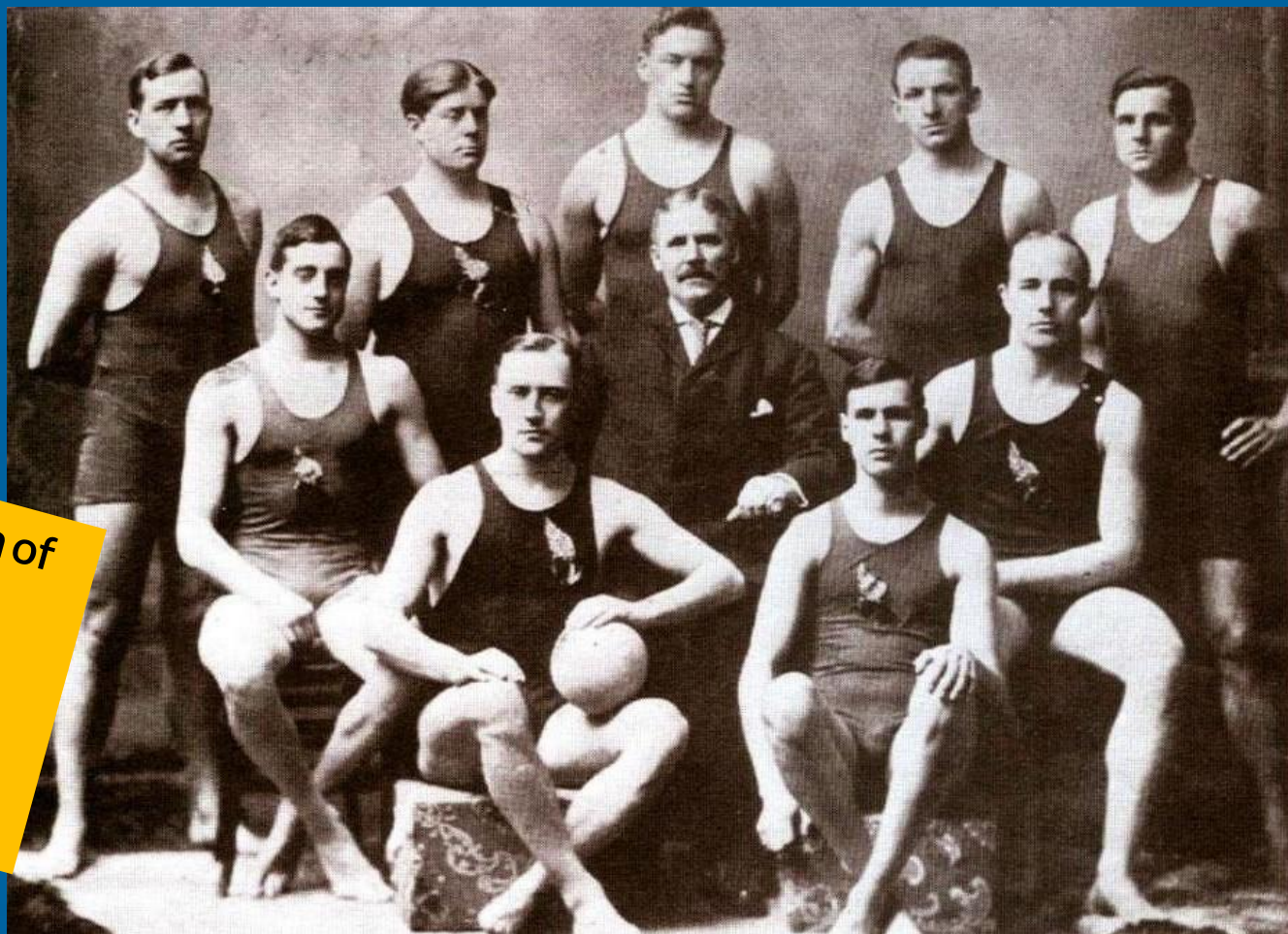


Aquatic Football evolves to Water Polo, becoming extremely popular in GBR

In 1892 the first universal set of rules get consolidated becoming the basis of the future rules book (*definition of ordinary fouls, willful fouls, dimensions of the field, goalposts and ball*)

Water Polo starts its journey to Europe, North America and Australia

In 1900 enters the Olympic Programme along with Football



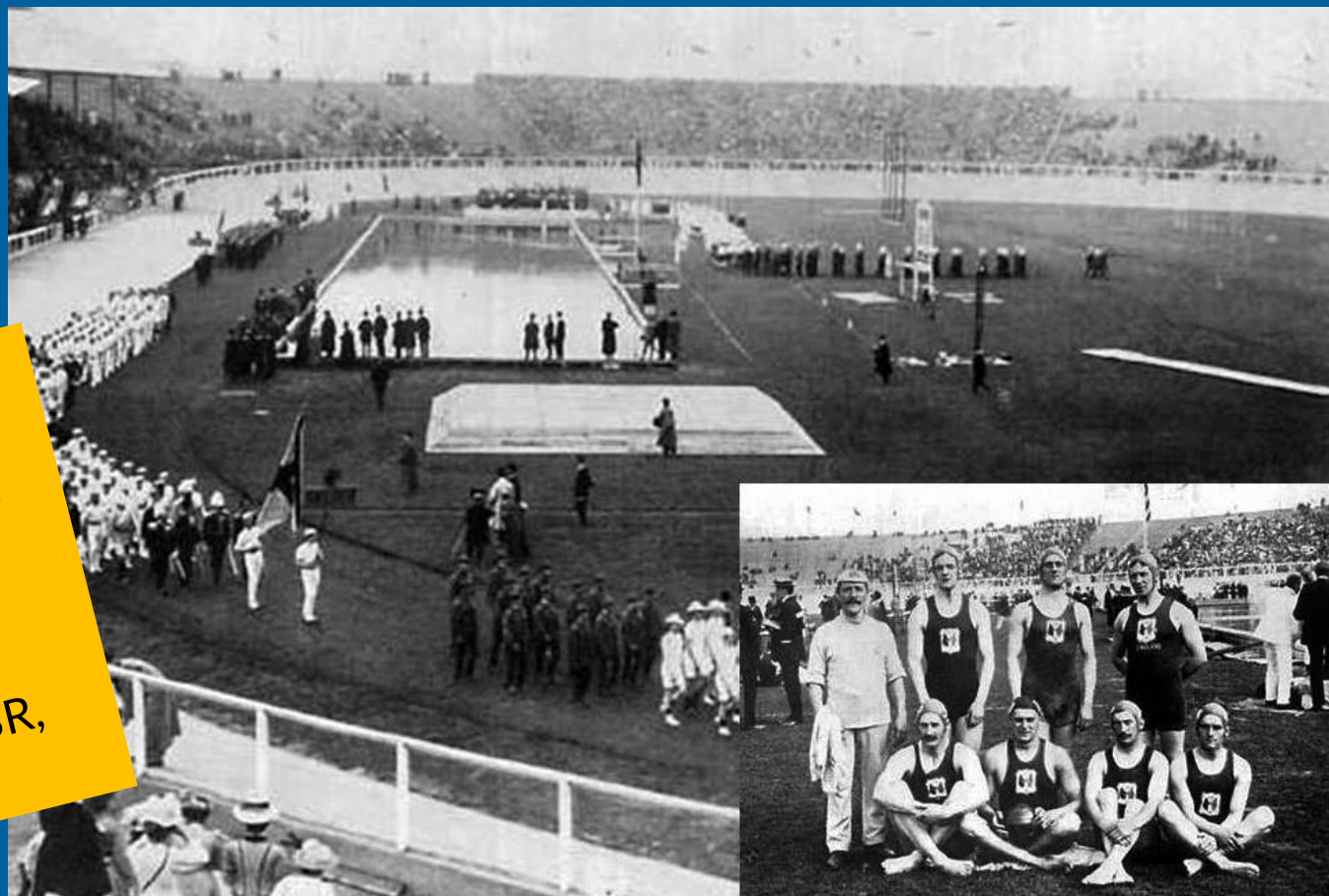
No participation of  
European teams  
21 competitors  
3 US Clubs  
Games played with  
the American rules.

**1904 Saint Louis:** New York Athletic Club“ (gold), Chicago Athletic Association (silver), Missouri Athletic Club (bronze)



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The games were held inside the White City Stadium, venue of the athletics and cycling

28 Competitors  
4 Nations (BEL, GBR, NED, SWE)

## 1908 London

Great Britain won the gold medal beating Belgium in the final.



- FINA was founded in London on the **19th of July 1908**, during London Olympic Games.
- Its main goal was to unify regulations and to no longer allow the organizing countries to impose their own rules.
- **George W. Hearn**, at that time President of the British Amateur Swimming Association, became the first person in charge bearing the title of Honorary Secretary/Treasurer.





46 Athletes  
6 Nations (GBR, HUN,  
SWE, FRA, BEL, AUS)

**1912 Stockholm:** The British team beats Belgium in a tough match and captures the gold medal. Hungary debuts in Olympic Games.



In **1914** the Hungarian Club team of Ferencvaros Sports Club (FTC), lead by Ernő Speisegger toured Great Britain establishing reputation for the Hungarian Water Polo  
Unfortunately Hungary had lost a number of its best players during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and this hindered its progress in the Olympics.



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99 athletes  
12 nations  
(USA, BRA, ITA, ESP,  
GRE, TCH, SWI, NED,  
GBR, BEL, FRA, SWE)

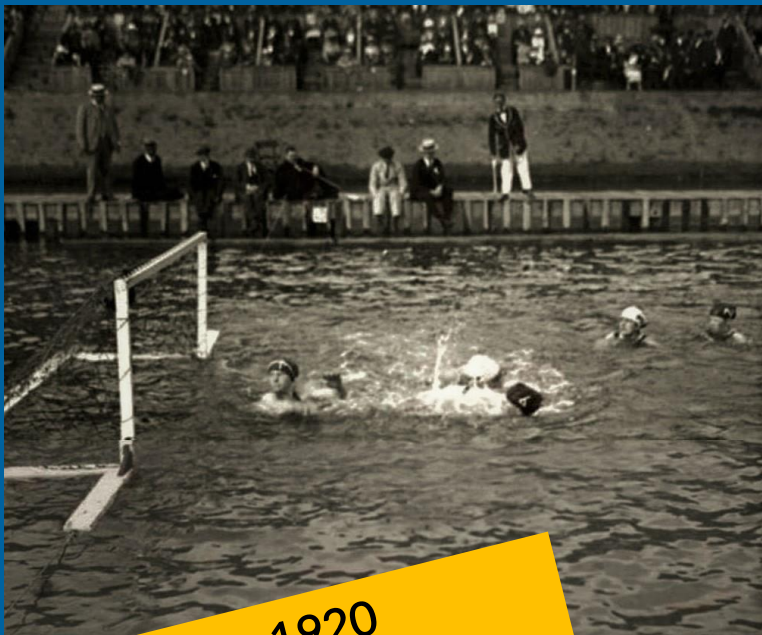
3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive gold for  
Great Britain although  
the 1st World War had  
an impact on social and  
sporting activities.

**1920 Antwerp:** The British team beats Belgium in a tough match and captured the gold medal  
Hungary, Germany and Austria didn't participate



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Antwerp 1920  
Olympics  
Women's Water Polo  
as an exhibition Sport



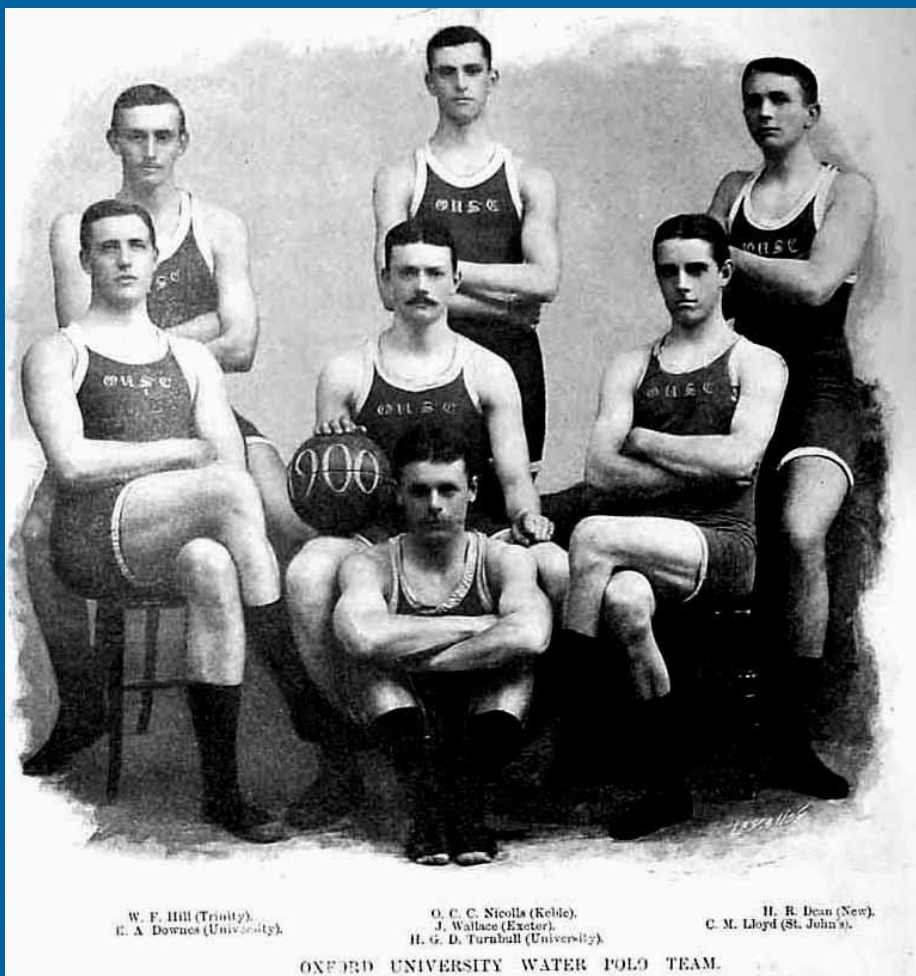
## 1900's - 1910's

The establishment of FINA in **1908** was decisive to the further development of the Sport

By **1911**, all countries would play by the same rules

Great Britain dominates the International scene

Water Polo continue spreading around the World, despite the setback of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War.





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101 players  
13 Nations  
(HUN, USA, ITA, ESP, GRE,  
TCH, SWI, NED, GBR, BEL,  
FRA, SWE, IRL)

**Paris 1924:** France with leading personality, Henri Padou, won the gold medal beating Belgium at the crowded Paris Olympic pool “Stade de Tourelles”

Great Britain’s domination suffered a step back after losing a thrilling semi-final against Hungary.



**"III. Kerületi Torna és Vívó  
Egylet" TVE, Budapest winner  
of the 1923 Hungarian Champs.**

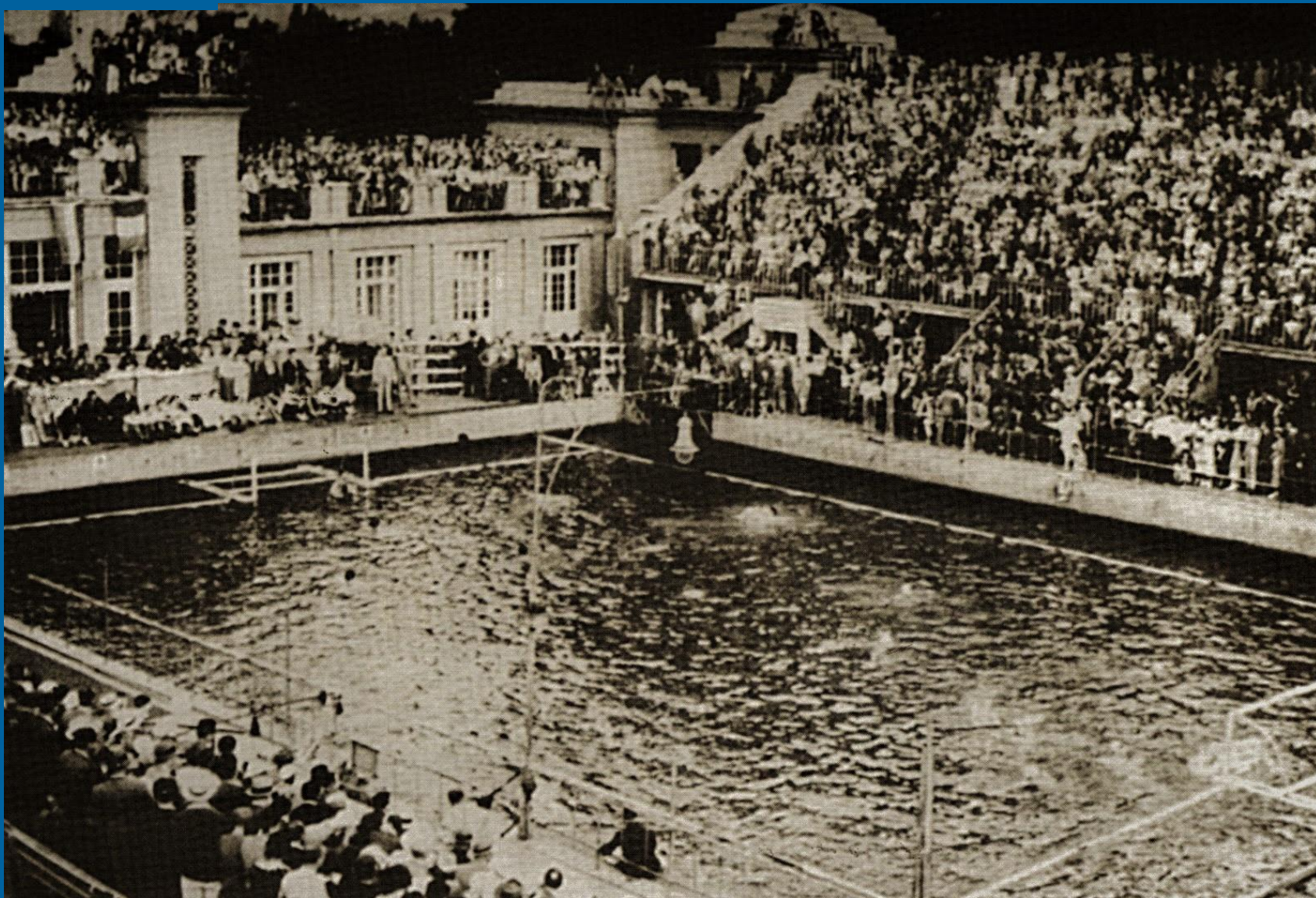
**1920s** Béla Komjádi started building TVE, a new strong team that could compete against the Ferencváros Torna Club  
In **1923** he won the Hungarian championship and the year after he became National Coach of Hungary



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# 1926, Budapest: The 1st European Championship







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109 players  
14 Nations  
(GER, HUN, FRA, GBR,  
USA, NED, BEL, MLT, ARG,  
TCH, ESP, SUI, IRL, LUX)



Germany



Hungary

**Amsterdam 1928:** Germany, which did not compete in 1920 and 1924, defeated Hungary in extra time

During this decade three major facts occurred:

1. Larger and deeper pools came into use, increasing the importance of swimming proficiency.
2. Béla Komjádi introduced the idea of passing the ball back and forth in the air
  - This new technique was a radical departure from the old style of play and immediately made ball handling a vital part of the game.
  - The extended arm throw was abandoned and gradually gave way to passing with the use of the elbow and the wrist.
3. The establishment of European Champs allowed Nations to compete more often among them



Bela Komjadi (HUN)



41 players  
5 Nations  
(GER, HUN,  
USA, JPN, BRA)

Janos Nemeth was  
the greatest center  
forward of the era.

### Az 1932-es olimpián győztes pólócsapat

(Balról: Ivády, Bródy, Vértesi, Németh, Homonnay, Keserű II., Halassy)

## 1932 Los Angeles

- The first golden Hungarian team
- Germany won the silver and USA their first medal in Olympics
- Brazil was disqualified after assaulting the officials at the end of their match against Germany.



142 players  
16 Nations  
(AUT, GER, HUN, FRA, GBR,  
USA, NED, MLT, TCH, SUI,  
SWE, ICE, JPN, URU, YUG)

## Berlin 1936

- Hungary captured the 2<sup>nd</sup> Olympic victory over Germany
- Yugoslavia competed for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in Olympics.
- Oliver Halassy (HUN), with left leg amputated below the knee participated in his 3<sup>rd</sup> Olympics

1930's

**WERELD WATERPOLOTOURNOOI**  
OM DEN **HORTHY-BEKER**  
MET DEELNEMING VAN  
**HONGARJE-DUIJSCHLAND-  
NEDERLAND-FRANKRIJK-  
BELGIË-ITALIË**

29 JULI  
1/8 4 AUG.

ANNEX  
NATIONALE ZWEM-  
EN SPRINGKAMPIOEN-  
SCHAPPEN 1939



**ZWEMBAD  
GROENENDAAL DOETINCHEM**

PASSEPARTOUTS 1<sup>o</sup> RANG F.5, 2<sup>o</sup> RANG F.4, STAANPLAATSEN F.3 DAGKAARTEN F.0.60-F.2-  
BESTELT TJDIG ! BIJ VERKEERSBUREAU „DE GRAAFSCHAP“ DOETINCHEM. GIRO N<sup>o</sup> 272970.

- Development of techniques
- Water Polo spread around Europe and became popular in South America (Argentina, Brazil etc.)
- International Competitions in Europe with Hungarian initiatives (Horthy Cup and Klebesberg Cup)

**TOURNOI INTERNATIONAL DE WATER-POLO**

**Coupe Klebesberg**

1929 Budapest : 1. Hongrie ; 2. Suède ; 3. Allemagne ; 4. Belgique ; 5. France ; 6. Angleterre.  
1930 Nuremberg : 1. Hongrie ; 2. Allemagne ; 3. Belgique ; 4. France ; 5. Angleterre ; 6. Suède.  
1935 Bruxelles : 1. Hongrie ; 2. Belgique ; 3. Allemagne ; 4. Suède ; 5. France ; 6. Yougoslavie.

**Coupe Horthy**

1937 Budapest : 1. Hongrie ; 2. Allemagne ; 3. Belgique ; 4. Hollande ; 5. France ; 6. Autriche.  
1939 Doetinchem : 1. Allemagne ; 2. Hongrie ; 3. Italie ; 4. Belgique ; 5. Hollande ; 6. France.



155 players  
18 Nations  
(AUS, ARG, BEL, CHI, EGY, FRA,  
GRE, GBR, HUNG, IND, ITA,  
NED, ESP, SWI, SWE, USA,  
URU, YUG)

## 1948 London

- Italy coached by Pino Valle, won the gold medal, Hungary silver and the Netherlands bronze.
- The 1st Olympic appearance of Dezso Gyarmati (HUN), who went on to earn medals in five Olympics (1948, 1952, 1956, 1960, 1964)

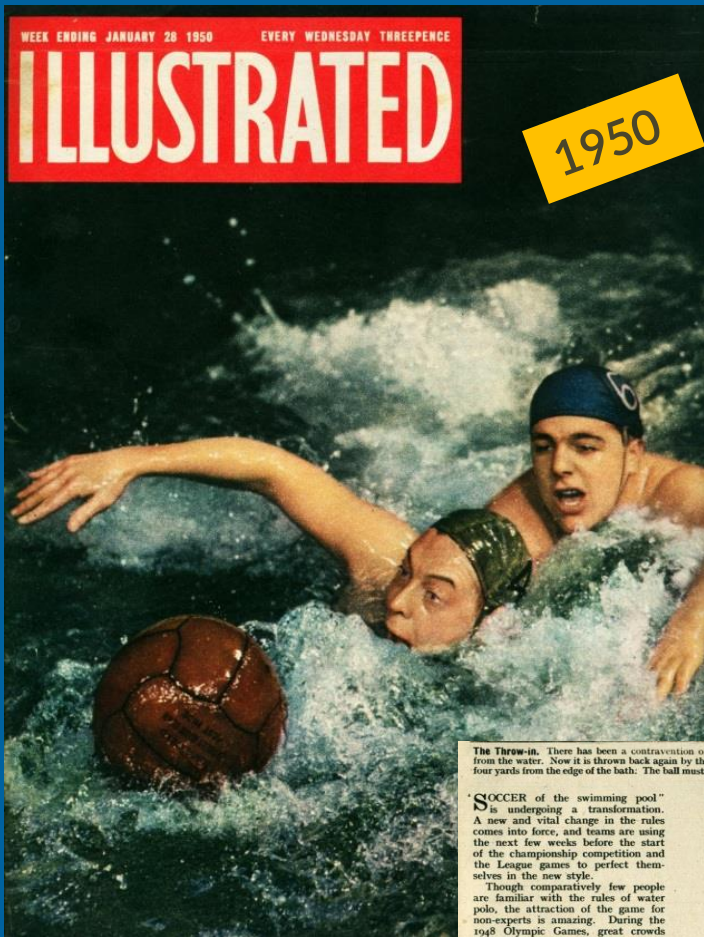
## 1940's

Las nuevas reglas de waterpolo llevó Banco de la Nación a Chile

te: "El juego argentino que ayer vimos es más lucido, más rápido y un espectáculo donde hasta el menos aficionado se deleitará, pues no permite los fouls, toda vez que los sanciona severamente. Con las modificaciones implantadas en la Argentina, donde ya dió buenos resultados, se gana en merito tal manera de una medida más inteligente brevedad.

1942: "El Grafico" Argentina  
"Banco de la Nacion" brings the new Water Polo rules in Chile";

- During World War II, Water Polo in South America was very active
- News ideas were coming aiming to a faster and a more attractive game.
- Argentina was promoting the idea to allow players to move after a foul
- Germans were proposing to limit the exclusion time, rather than until wait the next goal was proposed.
- The idea of "*Throwing directly at goal from a free throw*" was introduced on 1942 (but abandoned in 1949).
- Water Polo universality in London 1948: All Continents present including Australia, India, Chile, Egypt



1950

## The end of standing era

In 1949 the International Water Polo Board (FINA TWPC) proposed to test the South-American rules and abolish the rule that made compulsory for the players to freeze at the whistle.

This rule change made a huge impact, The rules were officially adopted on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1951

**The Throw-in.** There has been a contravention of the rules, the ball has been taken from the water. Now it is thrown back again by the referee as the players line up about four yards from the edge of the bath. The ball must hit the water before it can be played.

Waiting to go into action are Bobby Mitchell (left) captain of the Plasgow team and captain of England at the Olympic Games in 1908 and again in 1948, and How Turner, captain of the Penguins. Turner led England on the Scandinavian tour last year

**S**OCCKER of the swimming pool<sup>1</sup> is undergoing a transformation. A new and vital change in the rules comes into force, and teams are using the next few weeks before the start of the championship competition and the League games to perfect themselves in the new style.

Though comparatively few people are familiar with the rules of water polo, the attraction of the game for non-experts is amazing. During the 1948 Olympic Games, great crowds gave cheer upon cheer as they watched the fierce combats of the contestants.

Reasons for this enthusiasm is not hard to find. The game of water polo is very much like soccer. Two teams face each other, defending a goal and trying to score. Against the eleven men in football there are seven a side—a goalkeeper, two full-backs, two half-backs (one acting, so to speak, as centre-half, the other keeping him-

### FOOTBALL TAKES THE PLUNGE

## Water Polo Gets Go Fast Order

As many new thousands cheer their fancy, 1950 rules add even more speed to Britain's national water game

self available for a centre-forward's duties) and two forwards. Except for the goalie, players are allowed to handle the ball—football size—with only one hand at a time. They can use their feet to kick it. In the past this tactic was rarely used except by Nemeth, the Hungarian

centre-forward, but now it is being practised by all players. Before the new rules there was one striking difference between football and water polo. When the umpire's whistle blew to indicate an infringement, such as a foul or off-side, no player was allowed to move until the

throw had been taken. Now, after the umpire's whistle has gone, players can swim for position. And so the game becomes faster and, if anything, even more exhausting. Since the ball must not be handled by any player whose feet touch bottom it means a lot more swimming in the twice-fifteen minutes (with time added for injuries and scoring interruptions) which the game lasts.

A welcome to the new rules is given by Edward Temme, the first two-way Channel swimmer, and water polo international in 1928 and 1939. "The 1950 season," he says, "opens with doubts in the minds of the diehards and hopes in those of the younger generation that we are now entering an era where general complaint about too much whistle and stoppages caused by contravention of rules is spoiling the enjoyment of a game invented and made popular by Great Britain in the





## 1951

- Argentina wins the 1<sup>st</sup> Pan-American Games
- India wins the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Games
- Spain wins the 1<sup>st</sup> Mediterranean Games



231 players  
21 Nations  
(URS, AUS, AUT, ARG, BEL,  
EGY, GBR, HUN, ITA, NED, ESP,  
SWE, USA, YUG, BRA, ROM,  
POR, MEX, RSA, IND, GER)

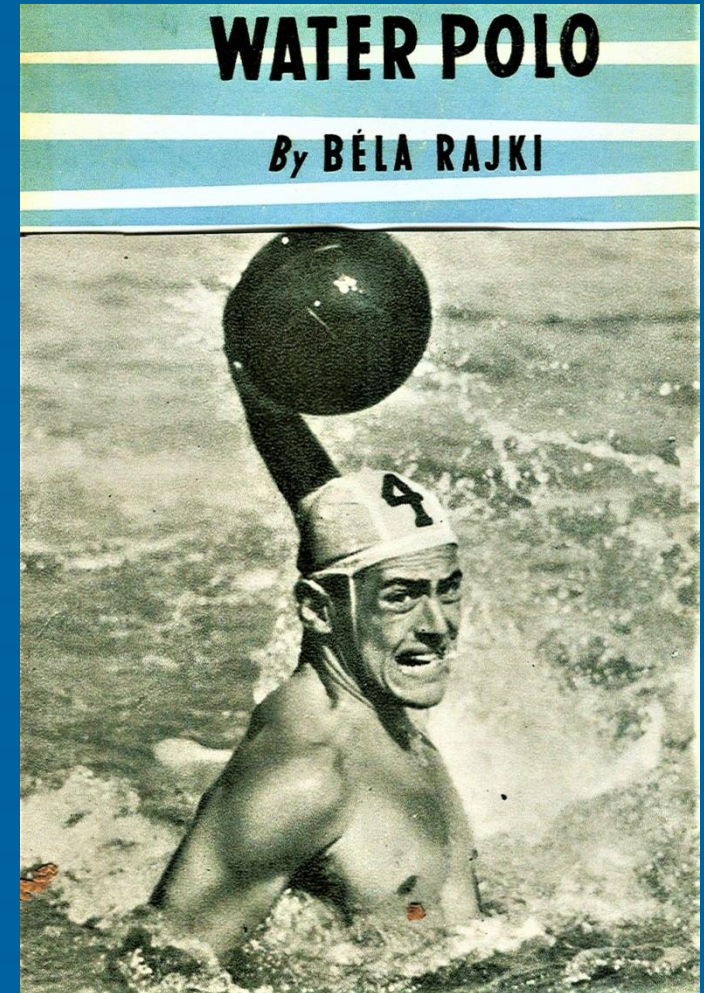
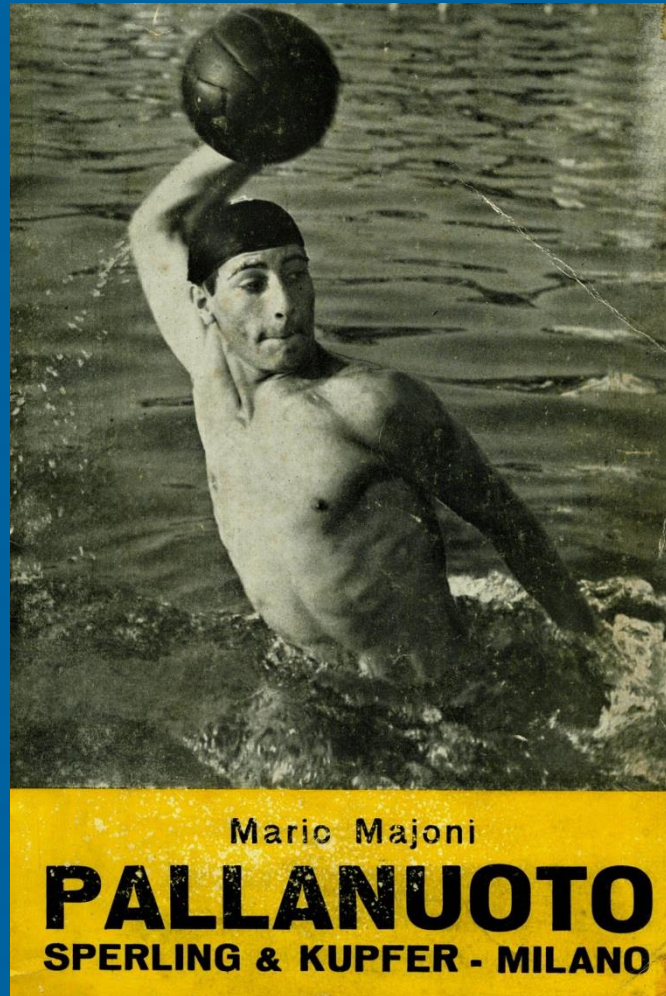
- **1952** Helsinki: Hungary, coached by Bela Rajki, reclaimed its title over Yugoslavia
- The Soviet Union appears for the first time in the Olympics.



110 players  
10 Nations  
(HUN, YUG, URS, ITA, USA,  
GER, GBR, ROM, AUS, SIN

**1956, Melbourne:** The games are remembered for the game between Hungary and the Soviet Union, and the punch in the face of the Hungarian Ervin Zádor.

Hungary won Yugoslavia 2-1 in the final to win their fourth Olympic gold medal



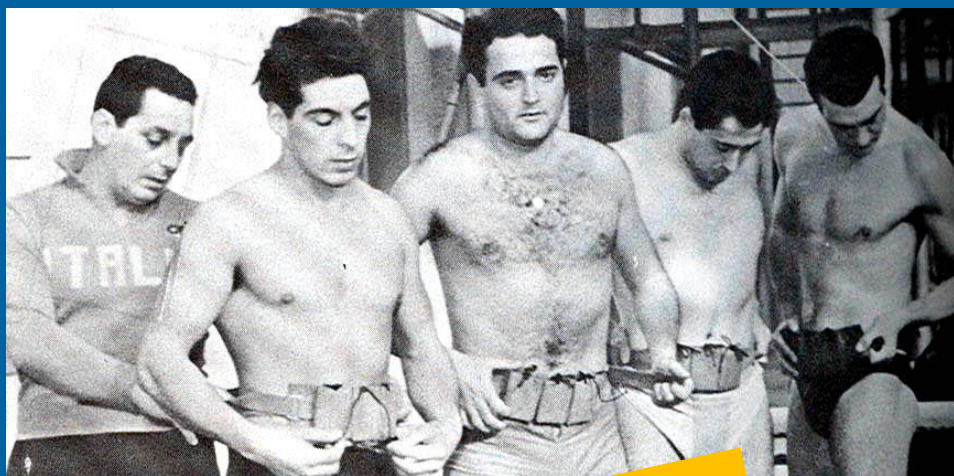
1954-1958: Water Polo techniques presented in the classic works of National team Coaches Mario Majoni (ITA), and Bela Rajki (HUN)

## 1950's

Major Continental competitions were launched in **1951** (Americas, Asia, Mediterranean)

More competition opportunities for the leading European countries with the “Trofeo Italia” organized in different locations the year after the Olympics

As consequence of the new rules, coaches gave priority on developing physical aspects comparing to technique, a fact that might have affected the style of playing and the level of refereeing as well.



1952: Mario Majoni (ITA) introducing new training methods, with the use of stop watch and belts of extra weight for leg work.

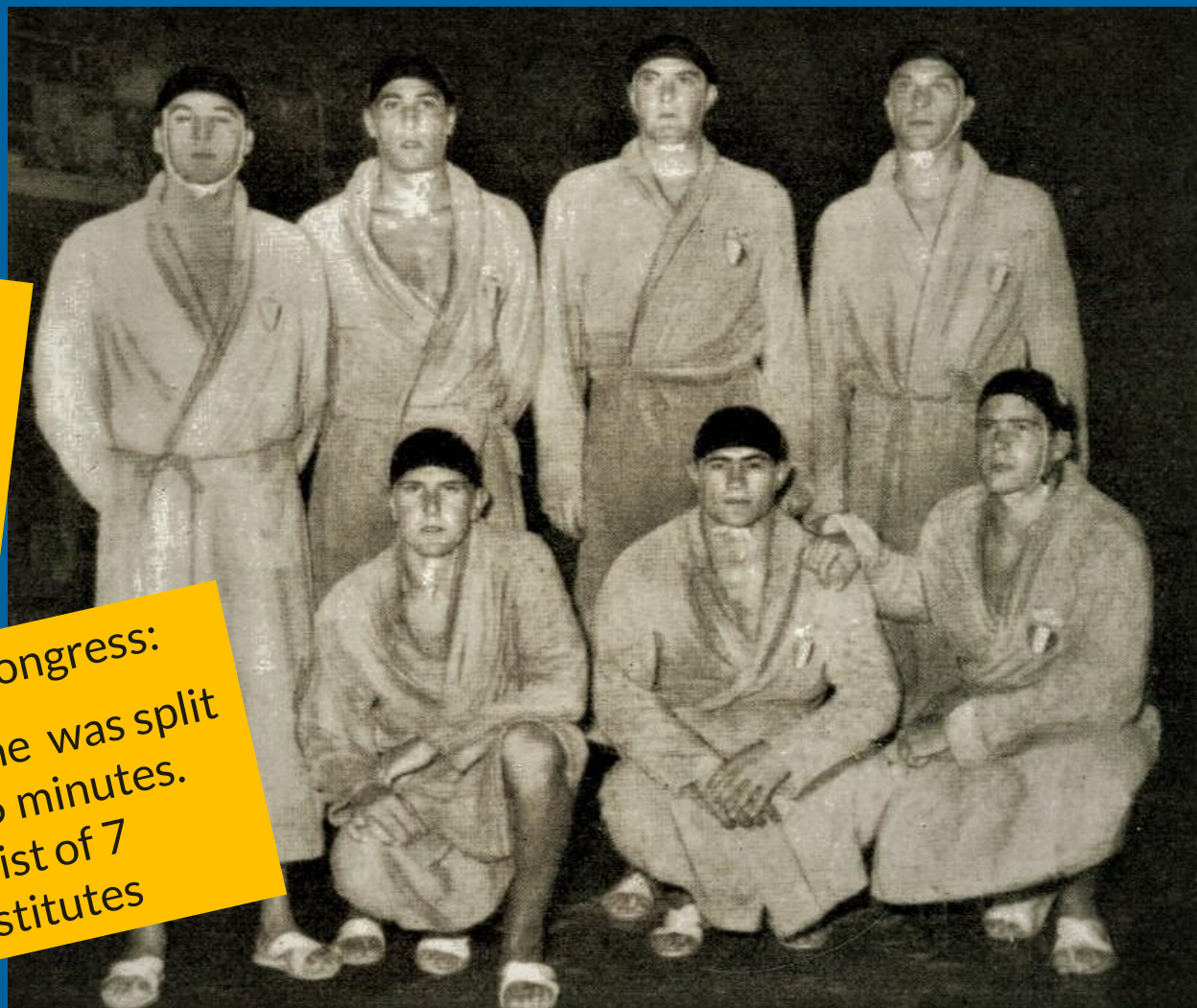


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150 players  
16 Nations  
(ITA, URS, HUN, YUG,  
ROU, GER, USA, NED,  
ARG, RSA, FRA, EGY,  
JPN, BRA, AUS, BEL)

- Rule changes at FINA Congress:
1. The time of the game was split into 4 quarters of 5 minutes.
  2. Each team to consist of 7 players and 4 substitutes



**Rome 1960:** Italy coached by Bandy Zolyomy won the gold against the Soviet Union (silver) and Hungary (bronze), marking the country's second gold medal .



1964:

Club competitions starts in Europe

Partizan VK, Belgrade coached by Vlaho Orlić wins the 1<sup>st</sup> European National Winners Championship



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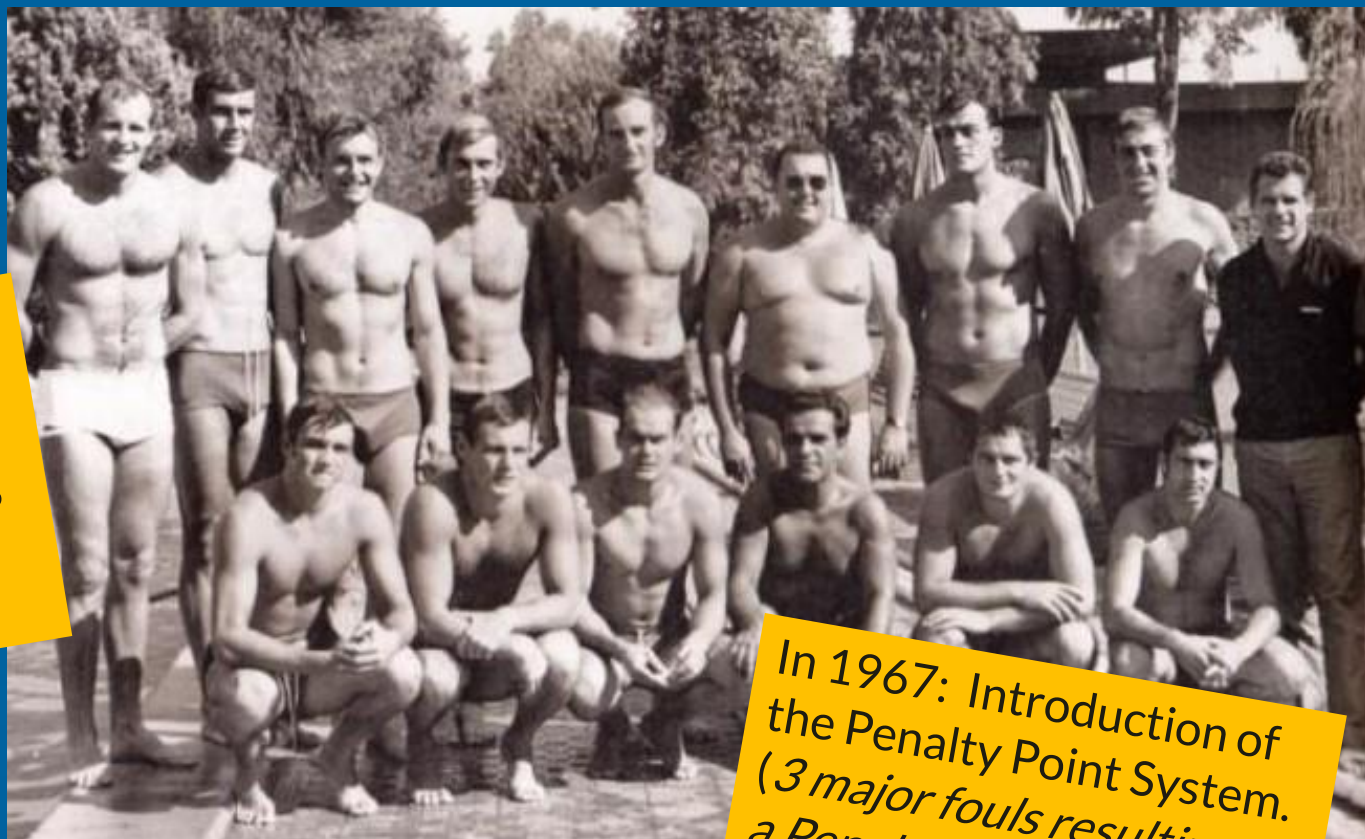
137 players  
13 Nations  
(HUN, JUG, URS, ROM,  
GER, BEL, NED, JPN,  
AUS, USA, EGY, BRA)



**Tokyo 1964:** Hungary coached by Károly Laky wins the gold medal,  
Yugoslavia the silver and Soviet Union the bronze



162 players  
15 Nations  
(JUG, URS, HUN, ITA  
USA, GDR, NED, CUB  
ESP, GER, MEX, JPN,  
BRA, GRE, EGY)



In 1967: Introduction of  
the Penalty Point System.  
(3 major fouls resulting to  
a Penalty)

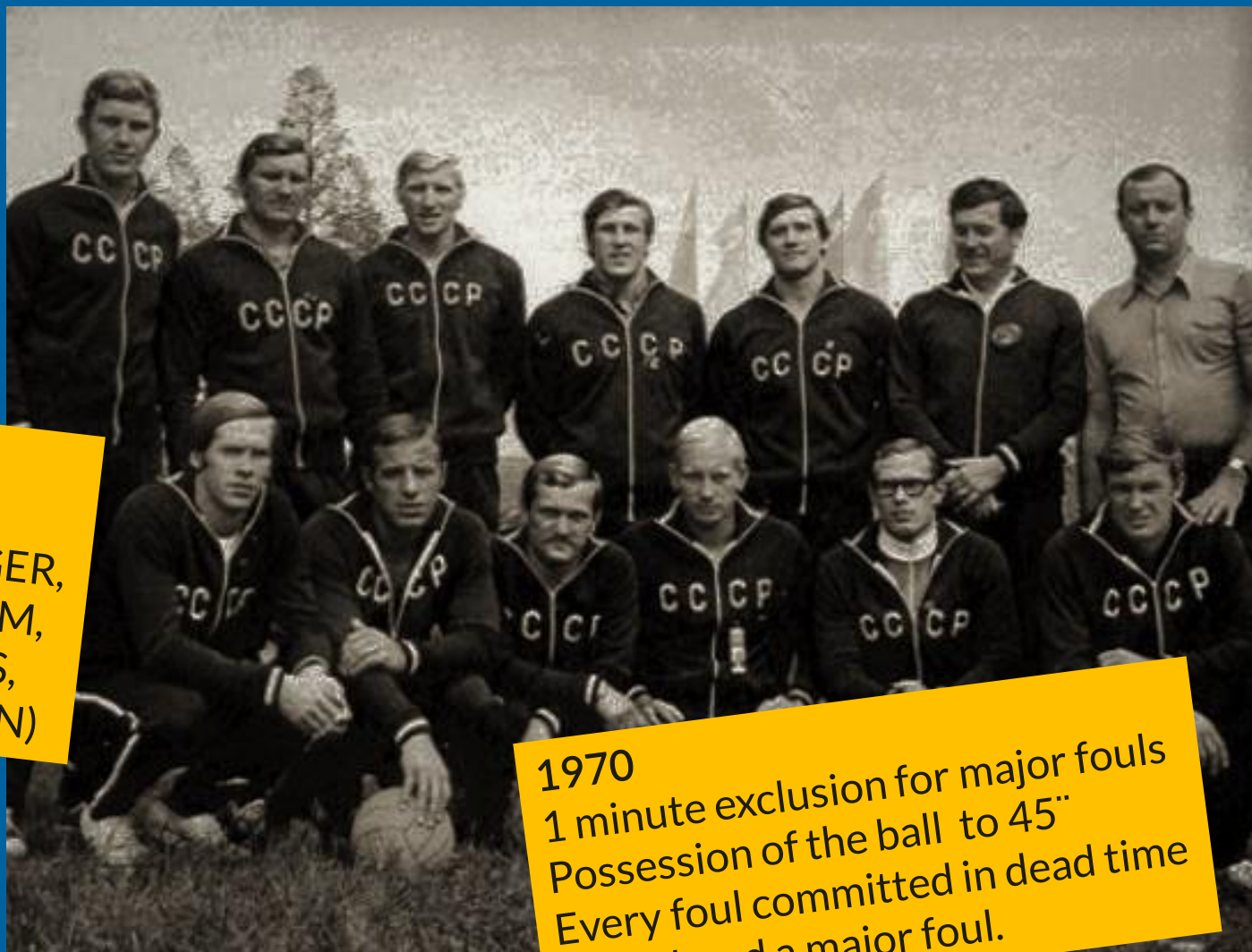
## 1968 Mexico

- Yugoslavia, coached by Aleksandar Sajfert, won the gold medal by winning against Soviet Union by 13 to 11
- Out of the 24 goals scored, 23 goals were scored with penalty shots and only one goal in action.

## 1960's



- Holding Club Competition in Europe was a step forward to improving the level of the play
- Splitting the game to 4 periods of 5 mins and having 4 substitutes offered conditions to reduce the roughness
- The new synthetic balls allowed better ball handling than before
- With the ideas to make the game “nicer” and “fairer” the “penalty point” regulation was introduced on **1967**.
- The short trial period didn't provide correct indications, so Water Polo reached one of the most critical stages in its entire history.



176 players  
16 Nations  
(URS, HUN, USA, GER,  
YUG, ITA, NED, ROM,  
CUB, ESP, BUL, AUS,  
MEX, GRE, JPN, CAN)

1970  
1 minute exclusion for major fouls  
Possession of the ball to 45"  
Every foul committed in dead time  
considered a major foul.

## 1972 Munich

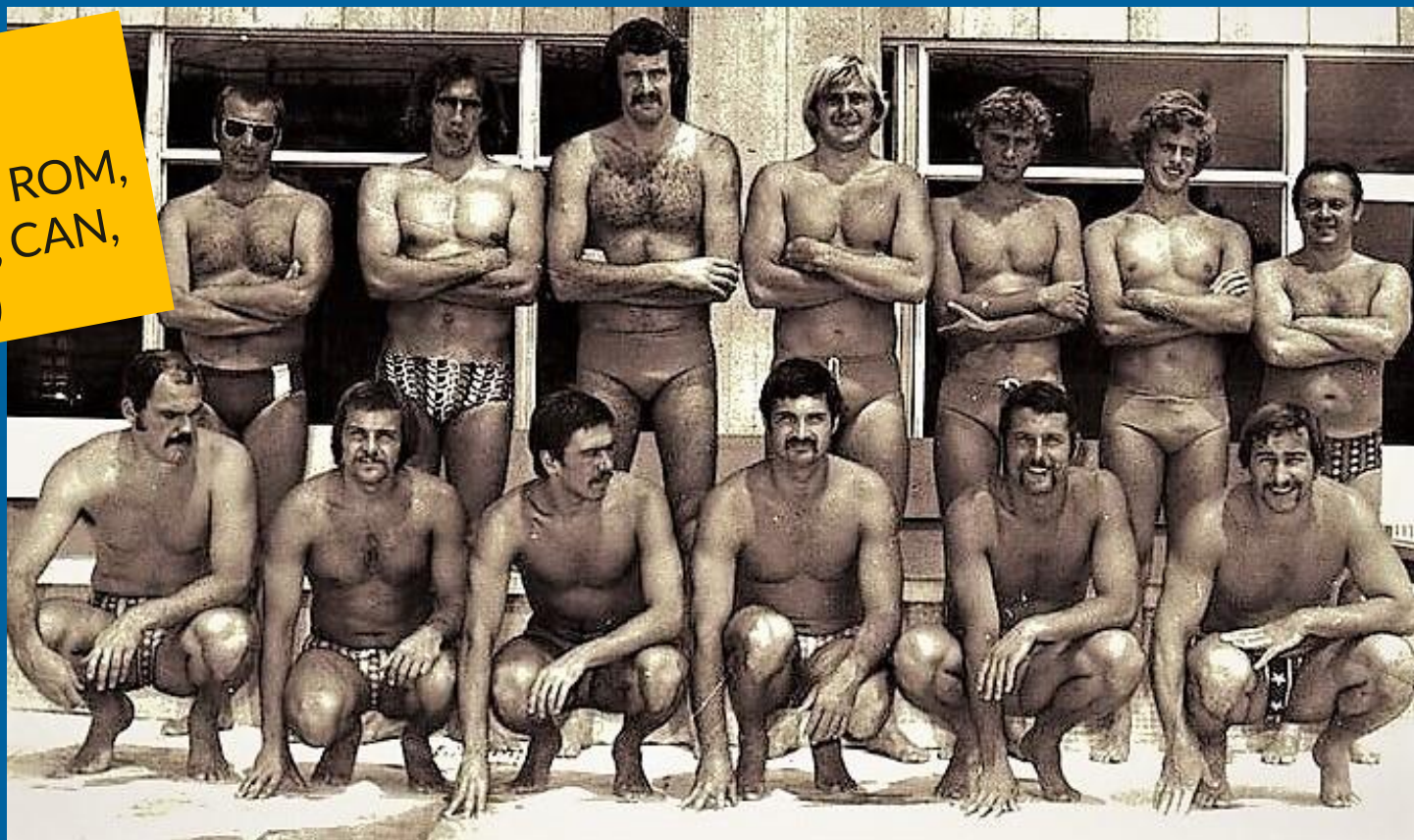
Soviet Union, wins the gold medal 20 years after their 1<sup>st</sup> participation in Olympics (1956 bronze, 1960 silver, 1964 bronze, 1968 silver)



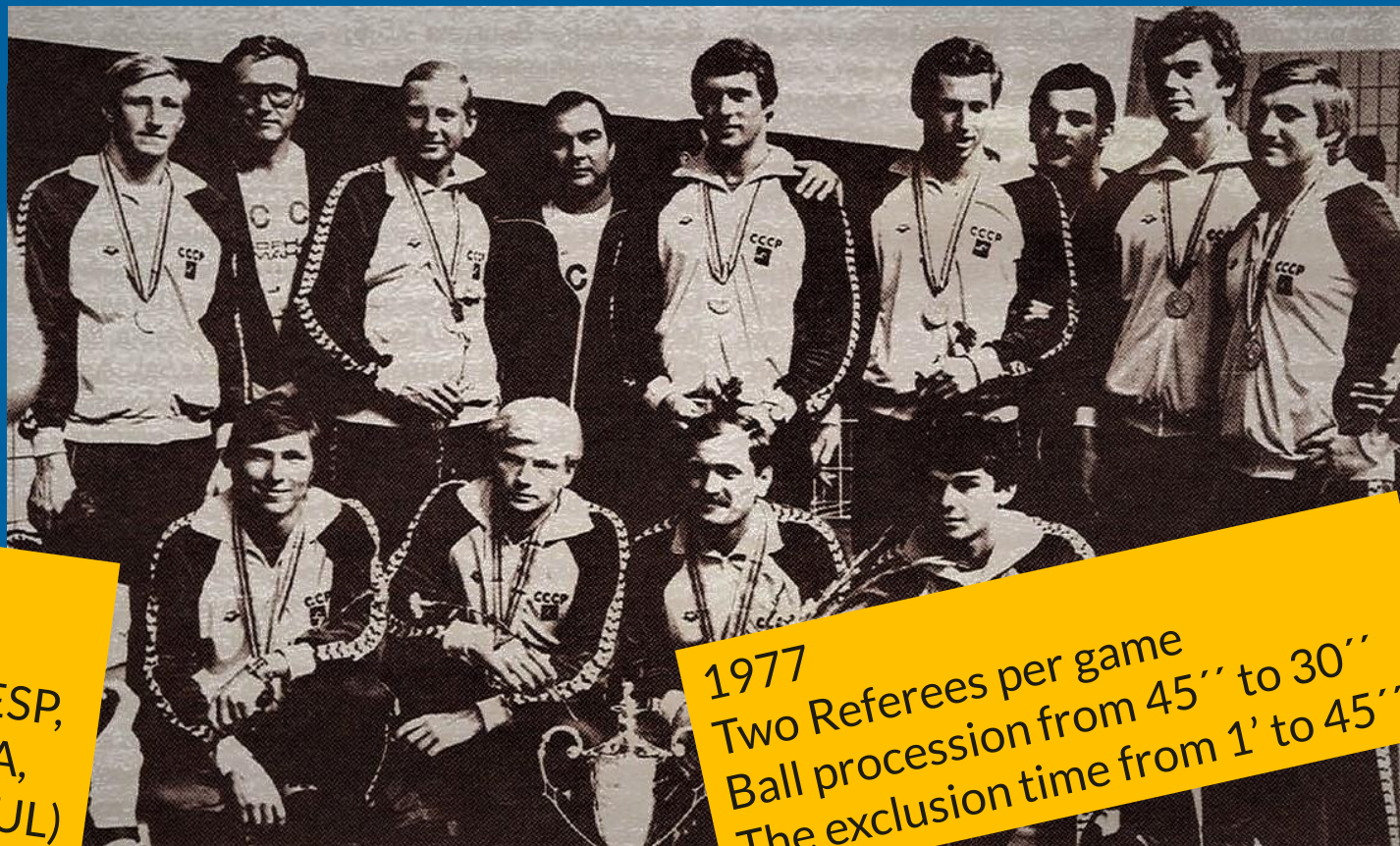
1973

The National team of Hungary coached by Dezső Gyarmati winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> FINA World Championships held in Belgrade

131 players  
12 Nations  
(HUN, ITA, NED, ROM,  
GER, CUB, USSR, CAN,  
MEX, AUS, IRA)



**1976 Montreal:** Hungary, gold winner coached by Dezső Gyarmati. Italy and the Netherlands were 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, respectively.



132 players  
12 Nations  
(URS, YUG, HUN, ESP,  
CUB, NED, AUS, ITA,  
ROM, GRE, SWE, BUL)

1977  
Two Referees per game  
Ball procession from 45'' to 30''  
The exclusion time from 1' to 45''

**1980 Moscow:** Soviet Union, coached by Boris Popov, won the gold medal. Yugoslavia was 2<sup>nd</sup> and Hungary 3<sup>rd</sup>  
The 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive Olympic medal for Hungary since **1928**

# 1970's

1978: Italy winner at  
Berlin 1978 FINA  
World Champs



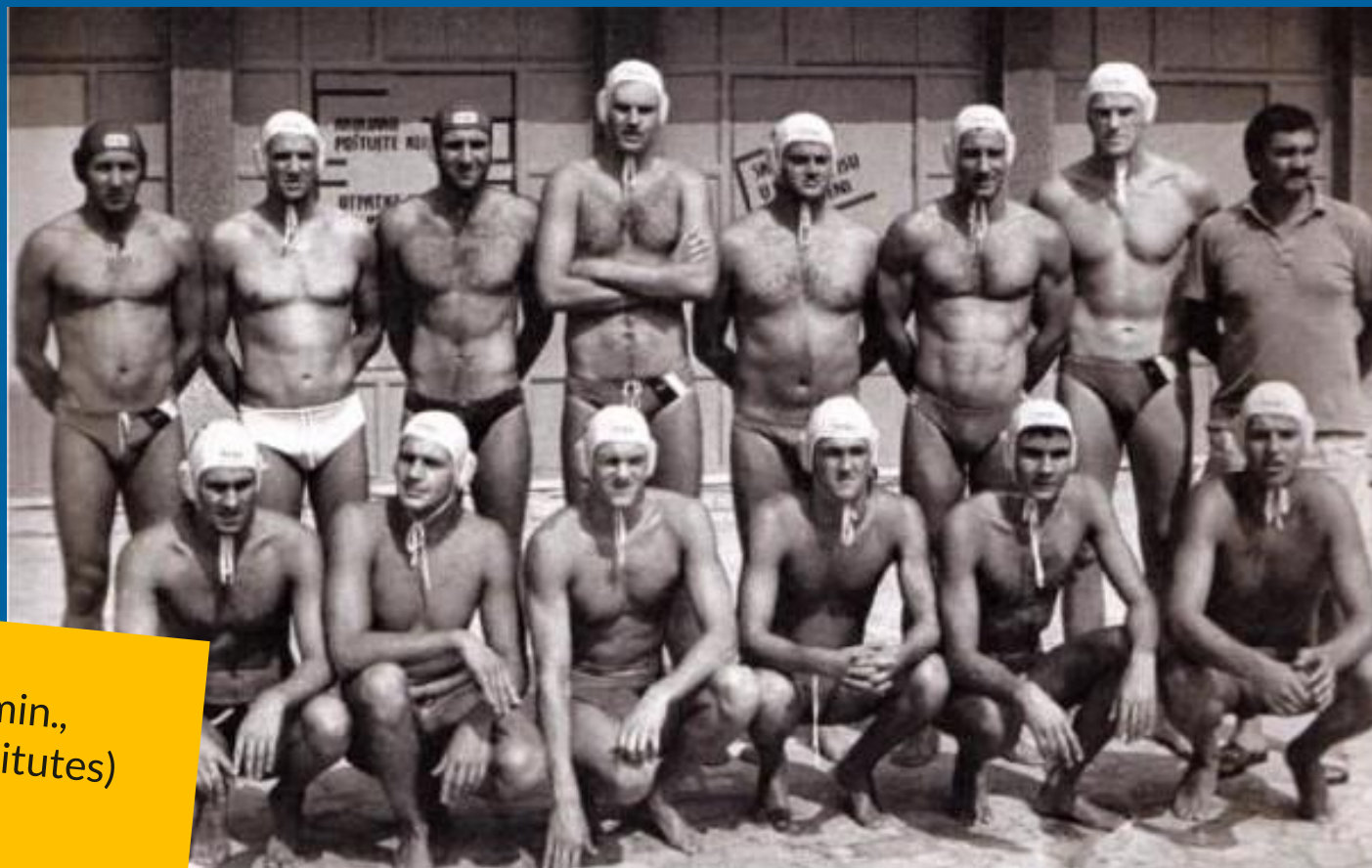
The 1<sup>st</sup> FINA World Champs in 1973 were a big step forward for high level Intercontinental competition.

By limiting to 45" (1971) and then to 35" (1977) the ball possession and limiting the exclusion time to 1' (1971) and 45" (1977) the game changed pace, becoming considerably faster

The two Referee system, introduced in 1977, rendered necessary the need to promote uniform interpretation

USA missed Moscow 1980

1980: 1<sup>st</sup> Olympic appearance of Manuel Estiarte (ESP)



**1984:**  
Playing time 4 x 7 min.,  
13 players (6 substitutes)

**1986:**  
Extra man reduced to 35",  
Offensive foul no longer a  
major foul

**1984** Los Angeles and **1988** Seoul Yugoslavia  
gold winner coached by Ratko Rudic



## 1980's

- The playing time was increased to 4 x 7-minute periods instead of 4 x 5-minutes.
- The teams could have 13 players instead of 11 allowing 6 substitute players sitting on the bench instead of 4 players
- A uniform code for the signaling of referees was introduced, ensuring the greater understanding of the decisions of the referees.
- Cuba, Hungary and Soviet Union didn't take part in the Los Angeles **1984** Olympics



WATER POLO  
WORLD  
CONFERENCE

BUDAPEST (HUN) 2018

1991: Extra man reduced to 20"  
1997: Direct shot after free throw in 7m.



## 1996 Atlanta:

Spain coached by Juan Jane, wins Croatia and become for the first time winner at the Olympics

## 1992 Barcellona:

Italy, coached by Ratko Rudić, wins against Spain the gold medal

Women's  
Water Polo in  
the Olympic  
program.



**Sydney 2000:** Australia coached by István Görgényi wins the gold medal.

**Sydney 2000:** Hungary, coached by Dénes Kemény, wins their 7<sup>th</sup> gold medal in Olympics, 24 years after Montreal **1976**.

## 1990's

- In 1991 the extra man time is further reduced to 20''
- A set of experimental rules were tested during the 1995 World Junior Championships (*25 m field, 6 players, smaller ball, immediate re-entry of excluded player*)
- Those rules were rejected at the 1996 FINA Extraordinary Water Polo Technical Congress held in Berlin
- Among various approved innovations is to allowing shooting after a free throw outside the 7 m. area at once
- Yugoslavia (without the Croat players due to the breakup of the country in 1990) led by Nicola Stamenic claimed gold medals at both Athens 1991 European Champs and Perth 1991 FINA World Championships.
- In 1997 Hungary wins the European Championships 20 years after their last gold medal in Jönköping, Sweden



## Athens 2004:

Hungary coached by Dénes Kemény defended their Olympic title winning against Serbia -Montenegro



**Athens 2004:** Italy coached by Pierluigi Formiconi won the gold beating out Greece .

2006  
Duration 4X8 min.  
Ball possession 30''  
Direct shot from 5m  
after free throw



WATER POLO  
WORLD  
CONFERENCE

BUDAPEST (HUN) 2018



The Netherlands coached by Robin van Galen wins the gold medal against the team of USA. In the Bronze medal match, Australia edged Hungary.

## Beijing 2008

The 3rd consecutive title for Hungary of Dénes Kemény (the 9th overall ) USA won the silver medal (20 years after the silver at Seoul 1988). The bronze medal went to Serbia, winner against the newly-independent Montenegro.



## 2000's

- Women for the 1<sup>st</sup> time within the Olympic Programme
- The FINA Water Polo World League began in 2002 (Men) and 2004 (Women), to capitalize on increased worldwide popularity of Water Polo
- Increase of the game duration to four quarters of 8 min
- The ball possession is reduced to 30" speeding up considerably the game
- The introduction of the 5m direct shot after free throw had an important impact in the game adding technical and tactical elements to the game by creating more movement of the attackers in the perimeter



WATER POLO  
WORLD  
CONFERENCE

BUDAPEST (HUN) 2018



London 2012

1<sup>st</sup> gold for Croatia coached by Ratko Rudić.



The U.S. gold winner coached by Adam Krikorian .





WATER POLO  
WORLD  
CONFERENCE

BUDAPEST (HUN) 2018

2017: 10 Women teams in  
Tokyo 2020 Olympics and  
team roster of 11 players



USA coached by Adam Krikorian  
wins again the gold medal



Rio 2016

Serbia coached by Dejan Savić wins the gold medal

2015/2016: Testing new  
rules. (Field 25 m. x 20 m.,  
reduction of ball possession  
to 25" and exclusion to 15",  
6 players in the water and  
roster of 11 players)



## 2010's

**2013:** Further refining of the rules

**2014:** FINA World Water Polo Conference in Cancun

**2015-2016:** New Rules testing during **2015** and **2016**

**2017:** IOC accepted 10 Women's team at Tokyo **2020**

**2017:** Roster of 11 players for Men's and Women's at  
Tokyo **2020**

**2018:** FINA World Water Polo Conference in Budapest



## Timeline of major Water Polo events

**1900:** Men's Water Polo within the Olympic Program

**1926:** 1<sup>st</sup> European Championships

**1951:** Water Polo within the Pan-American, Asian Games and the Mediterranean Games

**1964:** 1<sup>st</sup> European National Club Winners Championship

**1970:** 1<sup>st</sup> European Junior Men's U20 Championship

**1973:** 1<sup>st</sup> FINA Men's World Championships.

**1979:** 1<sup>st</sup> FINA Men's and Women World Cup

**1981:** 1<sup>st</sup> FINA Junior Men U20 World Championships.

**1986:** 1<sup>st</sup> participation of Women' WP at FINA World Ch.

**1995:** 1<sup>st</sup> FINA Junior Women U20 World Championships.

**2000:** Women's Water Polo within the Olympic Program

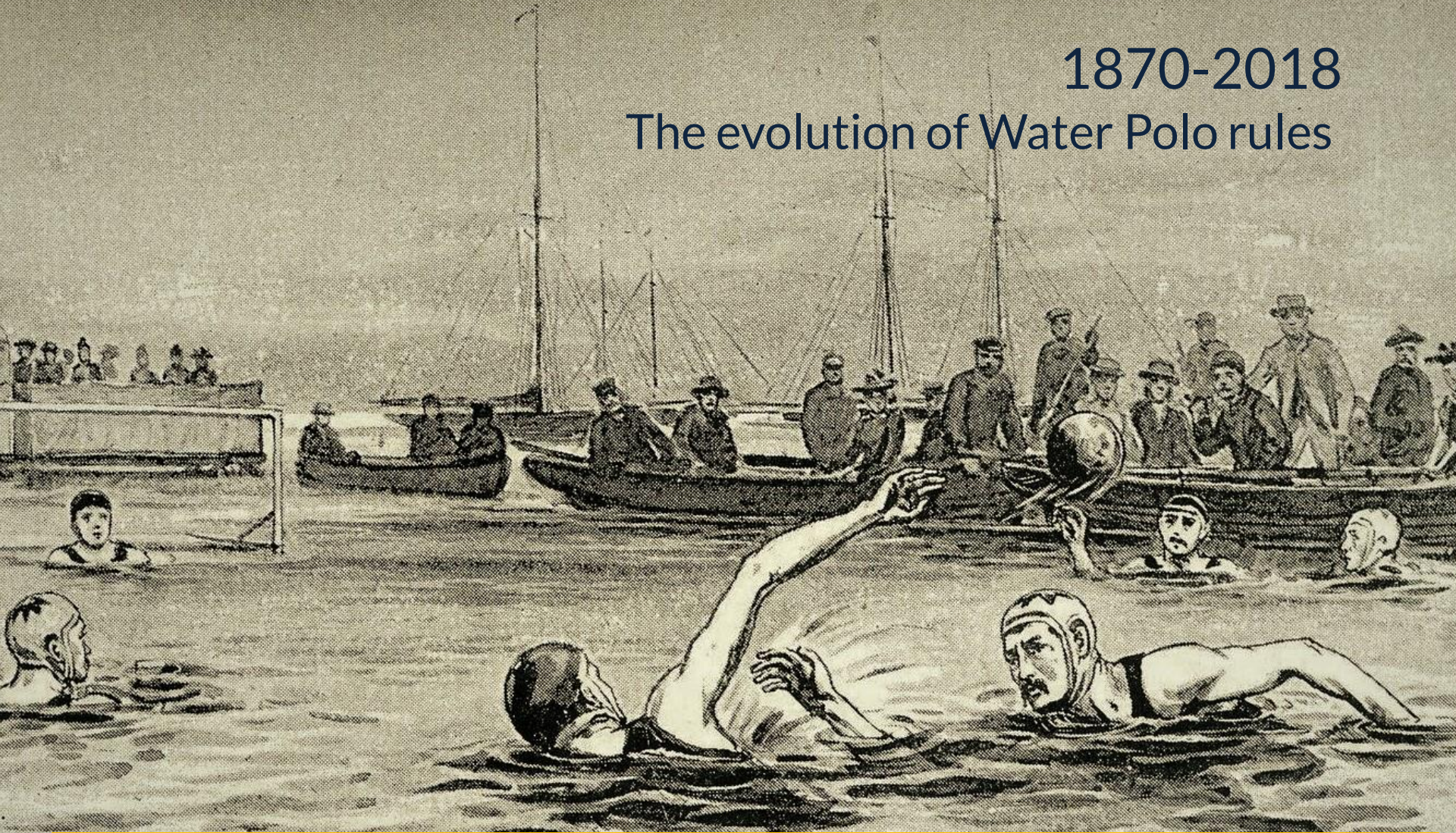
**2002:** 1<sup>st</sup> FINA Men's World League

**2004:** 1<sup>st</sup> FINA Women's World League

**2007:** 1<sup>st</sup> FINA World Water Polo Development Trophy

**2012:** 1<sup>st</sup> FINA Youth Men's and Women's U18 World Ch.

1870-2018  
The evolution of Water Polo rules



“The chronological evolution of the Water Polo rules gives an accurate picture of what should be done on the road to further progress.” *Bela Rajki, Hungary*



- Water polo began its march in Great Britain in 1870, in order to relieve the monotony of swimming galas.
- The new sport spread to Europe, America and other continents becoming popular among players and spectators.
- The evolution of Water Polo overtime is strongly related to the development of its rules.
- Rules play an important role in the development of the game, as in all other team sports.
- Players and Coaches adapt themselves to the rules in order to win, using appropriate techniques and tactics to become stronger and more competitive.
- In following the path of these significant rule changes over time, we see that playing style continually evolves.



## England – 1876 to 1885

- **1876:** Aquatic Handball - 7 players each side - Length of field 50 yards - goals marked by four flags
- **1877:** No printed rules - small india rubber handball 4 to 5 inches diameter
- **1879:** 9 players each side - Width of goals limited to 14 feet
- **1883:** Players do not interfere with rival goalkeeper or hold opponents unless in possession of ball
- **1884:** Duration 20 min. - Ball maybe passed or carried either on or below surface - Free throw to be given where the foul occurred
- **1885** English Association rules - 6 players aside - Width of goal 10 feet marked by flags - Ball not less than 8 inches diameter - Players to stop in place when referee whistle.
- **1885** Midland Association rules - 8 players - Red and white caps - Width of goals 12 feet - Size of ball 9 inches diameter



## England – 1888 to 1892

- **1888** First English Championship. Goalposts 8 feet wide, with crossbar 6 feet above surface. Players to swim when passing ball.
- Rules revised: Ball to be Association Football Nr.3, 8 to 9 inches diameter. Goal width 10 feet, crossbar 3 feet above water. 7 players aside. Duration 20 min (2X10 min). Foul when interfering with opponent holding ball. Willful fouls were punished with exclusion until goal scored.
- **1889** London Water Polo League, and other Leagues established
- .....
- **1890** First International match England – Scotland
- **1891** Second International match England – Scotland
- **1892** Revision of rules: Duration 14 min (2X7 min)



## Scotland – 1877 to 1886

- **1877:** William Wilson draw up a set of Aquatic Football No goalposts at first, ball to be played between 2 flags 8 to 10 feet apart.
- **1879:** Introduction of goals similar to those of Football. Ducking was not prohibited. Standing on bottom or throwing with both hands not allowed
- **1886** First games in Scotland. Duration 14 min – 7 aside – Goal posts 7 feet wide, 6 feet high – ball 26 ½ to 28 ½ in circumference.
- No ducking an opponent unless in ball possession.
- No holding or pulling back of any opponent – Players did not stand on bottom of bath – Goalkeeper not to passer over half – introduction of free throw – a goal not to be scored from free throw directly





## 1905 to 1919

- The field of play measures 27m X 20 m.
- The ball should be made of leather with an inner-tube made of rubber and its weight to be 36 to 46 dekagrams
- The rules clearly specified what was not to be actual play
- The criteria for a goal to be scored is very well detailed in the regulations of 1919
- Two more points were added to the willful foul category (point e: intentional splashing of an opponent and point f: hitting the ball with a clenched fist)
- In 1905, the rule dealing with the free throw was not too detailed.
- The rule of 1919 describes the manner in which the free throw is to be executed
- It is determined that the player nearest the occurrence of a foul has to execute the free throw.



## 1919 to 1928

- The measurement in yards replaced with meters
- The depth of the pool to be at least 90 cm and not 1,4 meters as previously
- Disobedience was considered to be a foul
- If a free throw was awarded to the goalkeeper, it could be executed by the closest team-mate



## 1929 – 1934

- Fouls were sub-divided into well-defined categories under the headings Ordinary, Major and Penalty fouls
- The maximum size of the field of play was set at this time: The distance between the goals could not be more than 30 m. or less than 20 m. and the width could not be more than 20m.
- The weight of the ball was 400-450 grams (it used to be 360-420 grams)
-



## 1938

- If the defending player splashes the face of the opponent inside the 4 meter area, this is to be considered a major personal foul. The player at fault is to be barred from play and a 4 meter penalty is to be awarded.
- If an attacking player is awarded a 4 m. penalty throw, but before it is executed, he commits a major foul (strikes an opponent, or insults the referee), the offending player is barred and the 4 meter throw does not take place

## 1939

- The International Water Polo Board introduced the rule of “throwing directly at goal from a free throw” which then has been abandoned in 1949



## 1949

Several proposals were examined during this period:

- To introduce the off-side regulation as in football
- To move the 2m line to 4m.
- To allow only the forward to dribble the ball into the 4 m. area to shoot at goal. None of those ideas were incorporated.
- The rule that made it compulsory for the players to freeze on the sound of the whistle was abolished. (officially adopted on January 1st, 1951)
- Duration of the game became 2X10 min (used to be 2X7 min.)
- The goalkeeper could no longer give the free throw to a team-mate, but he must execute it himself.
- A goal must be awarded if after starting or restarting, the ball has been played by two or more players and it passes fully over the goal line between the goal posts.



## 1952

- The decision of the Referees concerning any point of fact is final and his interpretation of the rules should be accepted by all for the duration of the game. Every decision of the Referee is final.

## 1956

- In Melbourne, several amendments were made:
- Restarting at the halfway line after a goal was introduced
- A more exact definition of “delay” was established
- To commit any foul within the 4 meter area, except a foul during play from which a goal would probably have resulted, was considered a major foul



## 1961

- The time of the game was split into four quarters, each consisting of 5 minutes of actual play.
- Each team was to consist of 7 players and 4 substitutes.

## 1964

- The FINA Congress at Tokyo requested to ensure that the teams play with an equal number of players, thereby cancelling the exclusion of the players.

## 1967

- On April 1st, 1967 the “penalty point” regulation was introduced for a trial period.
- According to this new rule, upon every major foul, the infringing team received a penalty point, and after every third such point, the referee awarded a penalty shot against that team.



## 1971 - 1976

- The 1' exclusion time has been introduced as the penalty for the commission of every major foul.
- Possession of the ball for the attacking team was restricted to 45"
- Every foul committed in dead time was to be considered a major foul.
- They defined those ordinary fouls for which a 4 m. penalty shot was awarded if they prevented a shot from which a goal would probably have resulted.
- They clarified the term of offside. They determined that behind the line of the ball, there was no offside even in the two meter area.





## 1971 - 1976 (cont.)

- The substitution of players after goals has been introduced.
- This alteration quickened the pace of the game by enabling 11 players to take full advantage of their capacities and by presenting the possibility of employing a wider range of tactical solutions
- Excluded players had to re-enter within the 2 m. area from the corner of the field of play on the side of the goal judge
- An illegal player could be excluded for the remainder of the game with immediate substitution and a penalty throw was to be awarded to the opposing team



## 1977 - 1980

- The two Referee system was introduced. This modification rendered actions promoting uniform interpretation more necessary than ever.
- The goalkeeper was allowed to throw the ball over the line marking halfway of the field of play right to the opponent's 4 meter line
- The free throw could be executed by any team member – without delay, from where the foul occurred
- Ball procession was reduced from 45'' to 35''
- The exclusion time was reduced from 1 minute to 45''
- When a player was excluded and he started to leave the field of play, the awarded free throw must be taken immediately (previously they had to wait until the excluded player had left the field of play)



## 1977 - 1980

- When a foul was committed in dead time by a member of the team not in possession of the ball, the offender shall be excluded from the water for a period of 45" actual play, or until a goal had been scored whichever period was the shorter and the original throw maintained.
- If a member of the team in possession of the ball committed such a foul, a free throw shall be awarded to the opposing team and a personal foul shall be recorded against the player having committed the offence.
- Any visible clocks should show time in a descending manner indicating the time remaining in a period
- In the case of the Olympic Games and World Championships, caps must be fitted with ear protectors.



## 1981

- The playing time was increased to 4 x 7-minute periods instead of 4 x 5-minutes
- The teams could have 13 players instead of 11
- Goalkeepers can throw off the ball at any point within the 2 m. area and not only from the goal line between the goal post
- If the goalkeeper or a defensive player held the ball underwater it should be considered as ordinary foul. However, it must be with intention of preventing a goal a Penalty through must be awarded against them
- A uniform code for the signaling of referees was introduced, ensuring the greater understanding of the decisions of the referees.



## 1986

- After the FINA Technical Congress in Madrid, several rule changes were introduced:
- The extra man time was reduced to 35”, diminishing the importance of the “man up” situations.
- The excluded player could re-enter as soon as his team recovered the ball (before the exclusion time has expired).
- The offensive foul was no longer considered to be a major foul
- Committing ordinary fouls in a row was not considered a major foul any more



## 1991

- At the FINA Technical Congress at Perth, the exclusion time was further reduced to 20'' and the excluded player could re-enter on the signal of the referee if his team recovered the ball.

## 1992

- LEN experimented with several new rules during the LEN competitions:
- A substitute player shall be permitted to immediately enter as the excluded player reaches the re-entry area whether or not the 20'' have expired and his team has regained possession of the ball or not.
- Also the 2m. line was replaced by the 4m. line



## 1993

- Rome hosts the 1st FINA Water Polo Seminar
- New ideas are discussed related to the current way of playing Water Polo as far as the rules are concerned, its image towards the Media and its status within the Olympic Programme.

LEN experiments with several new rules during the LEN Trophy competition such as:

- Duration of the game to be 2 X 20 min., 10 min. interval
- Introduction of time-outs for the teams where the players have to exit from the water
- Goals from shots outside the 6m. line to count double



1994

FINA TWPC meet in Rio de Janeiro to discuss ways:

1. To create a balance between the countries by allowing the use of more pools to meet the requirements for Water Polo.
2. Make the game more spectacular – a better product for TV
3. Speed up the game and increase the number of counterattacks
4. Create more action in front of the goal.

Eight innovative rules have been proposed:

1. *Reduction of the size of field to 25 X 16 m.*
2. *Reduction of the number of players to 6*
3. *Use of a smaller ball*
4. *Immediate re-entry of the excluded player*
5. *Substitution of a player could be made at any time*
6. *Immediate shot outside of the 7 meters after a free throw*
7. *Refereeing without flags.*
8. *Coaches of teams in possession of the ball able to request 2 time outs per game.*





## 1994 (cont.)

During the Rome World Championships, the FINA Technical Congress decided:

- To experiment the new rules at the Junior World Championships to be held in **1995** in Dunkirk
- To approve several proposals concerning the image of the sport, to be valid from November **1994** such as:
  1. The possibility for the teams to use colorful caps.
  2. Changing of benches should be carried out between the 2nd and 3rd period.
  3. A bleeding player should be immediately be substituted.
  4. Two 3 minute periods of extra time and then sudden death to decide the winner



## 1995

- The FINA experimental rules were applied during the World Junior Championships in Dunkirk.
- At the annual meeting of the FINA TWPC, during the FINA World Cup in Atlanta, the experimental rules were analyzed and discussed.

## 1996

At the FINA Extraordinary Water Polo Technical Congress held in Berlin the first 4 basic revolutionary rules were rejected\*\*\*\*.

It was decided to re-examine the rules during the World Champs in Perth, in January 1998.

- \*1. Reduction of the size of field to 25 X 16 m.,*
- 2. Reduction of the number of players to 6*
- 3. The use of smaller ball.*
- 4. Immediate re-entry of the excluded player.*



## 1996 (cont.)

The second set of experimental rules were approved to be enforced after the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

- A player executing a free throw outside the 7 m. area can shoot at once in order to score.
- Substitution of players can be carried out at any moment except following the award of a penalty throw.
- Coaches of teams in possession of the ball may request 2 time outs of 1 min per game.
- Coaches are allowed to advance up to the halfway point of the field when their team is in attack.
- Referees will use their hands in order to indicate their decisions.
- An attacking player can enter the 2m. area momentarily without interfering with play.



## 1997

The FINA TWPC met in Athens in May during the FINA World Cup to review the proposals and make recommendations to the FINA Bureau.

It was decided that FINA co-operate with LEN to test some rules during the LEN Trophy competition:

- Holding, sinking or pulling back a player in possession of the ball with both hands is to be considered as an exclusion foul.
- Any player holding the ball in any part of the field can push or push-off the opponent with his hand, in order to pass or shoot.
- The 35' will not be renewed for the same team at any time other than after an exclusion foul has been committed.



## 2001

Rule changes approved at the FINA Water Polo Technical Congress held in Japan during the 9th World Championships

- The dimensions of the field of play for women and men to be the same.
- Each team shall be entitled to three timeouts in any game. The 3rd timeout is to be used during extra time.
- If at the end of the two periods of extra time the score is equal, there shall be a penalty shoot out to determine the winner.
- Goal judges are to use arm movements instead of flags.
- Teams are to change ends before the start of 1st period of extra time.
- Teams are not restricted to wearing white and blue caps only, but caps may use contrasting colors.



## 2005

At the Montreal FINA Technical Water Polo Congress the following changes have been decided:

- Periods shall be 8´ long with 5´ interval at half time, 2´ interval between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods and between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> periods; 5´ interval before the start of extra time; and 2´ between the two extra periods.
- The time of the possession clock is reduced from 35´´ to 30´´
- The 4 m. and 7 m. line are eliminated and combined to be a 5 m. line.
- A player may take an immediate shot outside the 5 m line for a free throw awarded outside the 5 m line.



## 2005 (cont.)

- It is exclusion foul to attempt to play or block a shot with two hands outside the 5 m area.
- Penalty shots are awarded for those penalty fouls committed inside the 5 m to be taken from the 5 m line.
- It is a penalty foul for a defending player intentionally to play or attempt to play the ball or block a shot or pass with 2 hands inside the 5 m area
- A corner throw is awarded if a shot is tipped out or if a defending player deliberately sends the ball over the goal line.
- A goal throw is awarded if the shot is tipped out by a field player of either team (i.e. if the ball was last touched by any player other than the goalkeeper of the defending team.)



## 2005 (cont.)

- Goal throws may be taken by the goalkeeper or any member of that team from inside the 2 m. area. The throw must be taken by the player nearest the ball
- As for brutality, a penalty shot is awarded, the offending player is removed for the remainder of the game and he shall be substituted after 4 min.
- The Head Coach may come out to the 5 m. line when the coach's team is in attack.
- The length of the field of play for women's games is 25m.
- The substitute goalkeeper shall wear red cap number 13
- Teams change ends before starting the 3rd period and before starting the 2nd period of any extra time





## 2005 (cont.)

- In the case of penalty shoot-out, if a goalkeeper is excluded during the shoot-out, a player from the 5 nominated players may replace the goalkeeper without taking the goalkeeper's privileges; following the taking of the penalty shot, the excluded goalkeeper may be substituted by an alternate goalkeeper (as long as the player is eligible to play)
- A time out may be called after a goal by the team which has possession of the ball and the players shall immediately return to their halves of the field of play
- After the timeout, the ball may be put into play on the halfway line or anywhere behind the halfway line.



## 2005 (cont.)

- As for a double exclusion foul, both players are excluded and the offensive team maintains possession of the ball with a new 30' possession clock. If neither team has possession, then a neutral throw is given.
- A for the illegal re-entry of an excluded player: if this offence occurs by the team not in possession of the ball, the offending player shall be excluded for 20' and a penalty shot awarded to the opposing team; if this offence occurs by the team in possession of the ball, the offending player shall be excluded for 20' and a free throw awarded to the opposing team. In both cases the offending player will receive one additional personal foul.
- A team awarded a penalty throw in the last minute may elect not to take the penalty throw and instead may elect to keep possession of the ball with a free throw from halfway with a new 30' clock .



## 2009

At the Rome FINA Technical Water Polo Congress the following changes have been decided:

- Time-wasting is eliminated
- The secretary is to raise a yellow flag when allowing the re-entry of a player after a brutality foul;
- A penalty shootout is staged at one end of the pool only should the teams demand this;
- If a field player is excluded during a penalty shootout, his position is forfeited and the replacement shooter is placed at the bottom of the rota;
- If a game or a portion of a game has to be replayed, then fouls, goals and timeouts during the time of the game to be replayed shall be ignored.



## 2009(cont.)

- An excluded player may exit the playing field from any position to get to the re-entry box. (a player may swim down the side of the field of play to reach the box, raise his head above water in the box and then exit the pool. The excluded player does not need to wait for the substitute to reach the box before exiting the pool).
- Timeouts not utilized in a match can be used in extra time as well as the third timeout;
- The toss of a coin for ends is eliminated. The team mentioned first with white caps starts to the left of the table;
- No player starting or restarting a game can push off the goal;
- Confirmation that when a shot is taken and blocked by a defender and the ball rebounds outside the pool, the defending team gains the free throw;



## 2009(cont.)

- If a goalkeeper is given the ball near the end of the game and he holds on to it until time expires then that is his choice.
- A player excluded for misconduct must leave the competition area and if a player is excluded during the interval then he or she shall be replaced immediately and the new player can be involved in the restart.
- Should the referees call a brutality foul at the same time for opposing team members then the team in possession shall have the first penalty throw, followed by the second team. The team that was in possession should then have the ball at the restart line (halfway).
- Should a brutality foul occur in the interval period, no penalty shot is awarded but the team shall play one man down for 4 minutes.



## 2009(cont.)

- As for the award of simultaneous penalty shots to opposing teams (rare, but it can happen and is a question in the Level II refereeing course), the team in possession of the ball shoots first and regains the ball after the second penalty shot;
- The referee must signal exclusion for misconduct by rotating his hands AND showing a red card;
- If a player is excluded for brutality, the above occurs with the addition of crossed arms in between the two actions.



## 2009(cont.)

- Some minor adjustments of the rule regarding double exclusions;
- An excluded player re-entering the game improperly shall now not be excluded for the rest of the game but he/she just has an extra exclusion foul recorded against him/her;
- Tidying up the two-handed defense rule;
- Confirmation that the referees start and restart matches while standing at opposing 5m. lines;
- A yellow card is to be issued to a player if the referee feels that player is simulating fouls. Persistent simulations earn a red card and exclusion from the game;
- Cleaning up the double exclusion rule, making sure the ball is taken from the water;



## 2013

At the Barcelona FINA Technical Water Polo Congress the following changes have been decided :

- Teams must have two goalkeepers and 11 field players
- The referee can call or not call a foul if it is to the advantage of the attacking team
- The elimination of extra time in the case of matches requiring a result going directly to a penalty shootout
- Each team shall be allowed one timeout per quarter
- In the case of a free throw, a defender must move away from the attacker before raising an arm in defense
- Wasting time, especially where the ball is thrown back to the goalkeeper by a player from the attacking half of the pool





## 2013

- If opposing players are simultaneously, the clock shall NOT be reset
- A referee may issue a yellow card against a team for simulation and may apply WP 21.10 (persistent fouling) to sanction players
- It shall be an exclusion foul for anyone holding or using two hands on an opponent anywhere in the field of play
- It shall be an exclusion foul for a defending player upon change of possession to commit a foul on any player in possession of the ball, anywhere in the back half of the field of play of the team in attack
- Impeding a player without the ball is an exclusion; if the player impeded is part of a counter attack, then the defender should be excluded.



## 2013

- If the goalkeeper commits an act of brutality, then an immediate substitution of goalkeepers can be carried out with a field player leaving the field of play
- An official requesting an illegal timeout shall not be awarded a personal foul
- An official taking action to prevent a probable goal or to delay the game shall not have a personal foul recorded; it's a penalty throw
- Several proposals for rule changes were declined such as reducing the Men's field of play to 25 m. or the prohibition of the raising of hands in the case of free-throws



## 2014

- The FINA World Water Polo Conference (WWPC) held in Cancun February 2014 brought together a number of experts from other team sports.
- The subjects addressed included insights from the big leagues, insights from newly popular team sports, a view from the sponsor's perspective, views and insights from great players, a view from the media perspective and the Water Polo experts

### The Cancun WWPC drew various conclusions:

- The need to evaluate the status of WP in the International market
- The need to work in fundamental areas of marketing, communication and promotion, and
- The need to propose new strategies for the oldest Olympic team sport including its further grassroots Development.



## 2015-2016

- During the FINA Men's World Leagues **2015** and **2016** the field of play is to be 25 m. x 20 m.
- During the FINA World Men's Youth Water Polo Championships **2016** in Podgorica (MNE) and the FINA World Women's Youth Water Polo Champs. **2016** in Auckland (NZL) test rules to be applied.

The test rules were:

- Reduction in possession time from 30" to 25"
- Reduction in exclusion time from 20" to 15"
- A team shall start the game with not more than 6 players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper and who shall wear red cap.
- Team rosters to include 11 players with 2 reserves that may be used in other games of the tournament.



## 2015-2016 (cont.)

### Further rule proposals.

- As regards a corner throw, a team may only retain possession of the ball for 15" of actual play without shooting at their opponent's goal.
- A 3' (instead of 5') interval between the 2nd and 3rd periods.
- Each team may request 2 timeouts per game (instead of 1 per period). The timeout may be requested at any time, except after the award of a penalty throw, by the coach of the team in possession of the ball.



## 2015-2016 (cont.)

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## 2017

At the Budapest FINA Technical Water Polo Congress the following decisions have been taken.

1. The FINA Bureau approved the proposal to only submit two changes to the vote of the delegates, following the IOC decision to raise the number of teams in the Olympic women's water polo tournament from 8 to 10.
2. These rules included the 11- player rule for the constitution of each team (men and women) at Olympic level, and the confirmation in the technical rules of a 10-team Olympic women's tournament.
3. After Budapest, the Bureau approved the organization of a FINA World Water Polo Conference to discuss and propose new ways of enhancing the first Olympic team sport in the five continents.
4. Once the proposals are finalized by the new FINA TWPC, the changes will be validated at an Extraordinary Congress.

# Basic Water Polo rules evolution

1949	1961	1967	1969	1977	1981	1986	1991	1997	2005	2017
2X10'	4X5'				4X7'				4X8'	
	11 players				13 players					11 players Olympics
			Excl. 1'	Excl. 45"		Excl. 35"	Excl. 20"			
			Attack 45"	Attack 35"	Time element Getting faster				Attack 30"	
End of Standing era		Wrong rule changing						Evolution of attack		
Free move	Penalty point system	3 major fouls		2 Refs Fouls at dead time = exclusion	3 fouls at center = exclusion	Offensive = no major	3 fouls at center = exclusion	7m. Free Shot	5m. Free Shot	No two arms out





## The FINA TWPC Chairmen since 1952:

- Jan de Vries (NED, 1952-1956)
- S. Zuckerman (SWE, 1957-1960)
- Bela Rajki (HUN, 1961-1968)
- Jay-Ehret Mahoney (USA, 1969-1972)
- Alberto Amaya Cano (MEX, 1973-1980)
- Misha Radan (YUG, 1980-1984)
- Guillermo Martinez (CUB, 1984-1988)
- Kenkichi Hirai (JPN, 1988-1992)
- Joaquin Pujol (ESP, 1992-1996)
- Gianni Lonzi (ITA, 1996-2017)
- Manuel Ibern (ESP, 2017- 2021)

## The FINA Honorary Secretary since 1952 :

- E.J. Scott (GBR, 1953-1960)
- C. W. Plant (GBR, 1960-1972)
- Robert Helmick (USA, 1972-1976)
- Jay-Ehred Mahney (USA, 1976-1980)
- Kenkichi Hirai (JPN, 1980-1984)
- Peter Montgomery (AUS, 1984-1992)
- William Shaw (CAN, 1992-1996)
- John Whitehouse (AUS, 1996 -2017)
- Wim Keman (CUR, 2017- 2021)



## FINA TWPC 2017-2021

- Manuel IBERN, Chairman
- Mark KOGANOV, Vice Chairman
- Wim KEMAN, Honorary Secretary
- Stavroula KOZOMPOLI, Athlete Representative
- Nasser AL DEGAITHER, Member
- Alan BALFANBAYEV, Member
- Milivoj BEBIĆ, Member
- Mónica Graciela BROCHERO, Member
- Yasser Mohamed Ibrahim IDRIS, Member
- Takeshi INOUE, Member,
- Tamas MOLNAR, Member
- Richard PAPAZIAN,  
Member - Guy Don PINKER, Member
- William J. (Bill) SHAW, Member
- John WHITEHOUSE, Member
- Andy HOPELMAN, Events Sub-Committee
- Milorad KRIVOKAPIC, Events Sub Committee
- Ken KURODA, Events Sub-Committee
- Eugenio MARTINEZ, Events Sub-Committee
- Evgeny SHARONOV, Events Sub-Committee
- Qi ZHAO, Events Sub-Committee
- Andrey KRYUKOV, Bureau Liaison



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Compiled by Yiannis GIANNOURIS (2018)



WATER POLO  
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BUDAPEST (HUN) 2018

*To be continued.....*