



Welcome to *Advantage!*

If you received this letter via email, you have successfully registered for the NCAA central hub. If you are viewing this letter on refquest.com and have not registered yet, please click Register in the top right corner. Click [here](#) for more information on the NCAA's Officiating Background Check Program.

The rapidly approaching end of summer signals another season of NCAA water polo is right around the corner. I know that we are anxious to get back to college polo. The Advantage central hub provides a common national platform where we can gather for community-wide growth and improvement as we strive to improve the great game of college water polo.

Below you will find eligibility requirements and important dates for the 2026-27 season. Please visit the Advantage central hub frequently to stay current on the latest officiating news and information, rules interpretations and clarifications, and videos of recurring plays and how they are to be officiated. You will also have access to complete eligibility requirements for postseason assignment consideration.

You have made your first of many great calls of the season by choosing to register with the NCAA. Thank you for being a critical part of the NCAA Water Polo Referee Program.

We look forward to seeing you throughout the season. When the officiating community is on the same page, it is good for the game. Thank you for your diligence in preparing for the upcoming season!

Steve Redding

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Eligibility

To be eligible to be considered for NCAA postseason assignment, officials must complete the following criteria:

- Register on RQ+ (refquest.com)
- Consent to a background check
- Watch the ELIGIBILITY: 2026-27 Sport Radar Referee Education Video
- Pass Rules Test
 - 60 questions
 - 90% score required to pass
 - Three (3) attempts allowed
- Attend the virtual referee seminar
 - Additional details will be made available shortly
- Referee a minimum of 15 NCAA contests (men's season) - 12 NCAA contests (women's season)
- Be nominated by at least one conference
- Officiate at least one conference championship
- Officiate no more than three (3) consecutive NCAA championships (men's championship only)

Note: NCAA water polo committees and/or NCAA staff may add additional eligibility items.

Important Dates

- Rules Test Available – Thursday, August 13, 2026
- Referee Seminar – Saturday, August 15, 2026

The test will re-open in January for any officials only available to whistle the spring season.

General Liability, Professional Liability, and Accident/Medical Insurance

RQ+ has developed an insurance program for the benefit of officials in all sports at all collegiate levels. This insurance is intended to meet the known insurance requirements of certain governing bodies, conferences, and individual institutions.

The program provides the following limits of insurance for contests officiated from August 1, 2026 to July 31, 2027. All returning officials must register by July 31, 2026 or within two weeks of their sport's registration open date to keep continuous coverage.

- *General Liability: \$6,000,000 per occurrence (\$1,000,000 General Liability and \$5,000,000 Excess Liability per occurrence)*
 - Program has total aggregate limit per official of \$14,000,000.
 - Coverage intended to protect an official against claims of damages or injury caused to a third party while officiating a contest. Coverage includes personal/ advertising injury, damage to a third party's premises, abuse, and molestation.
 - Coverage extends to international contests if suit is brought in the US.

Professional Liability: \$1,000,000

- Professional Liability claims are generally rooted in allegations of an act, error, or omission in executing an official's professional work that cause financial loss to a third party.

There are options to extend the GL coverage to non-intercollegiate contests, such as High School and other sanctioned events, as well as to increase the Accident Indemnity.

Accident/Medical: \$15,000

- Pays for out-of-pockets expenses for injuries sustained by an official during an intercollegiate contest.

Weekly Accident Indemnity (Game Fee Replacement)

- This insurance is intended to cover instances where an injury or other medical event sustained from a covered accident, renders you totally disabled and unable to work intercollegiate contests you had been assigned. The coverage can pay fees for missed intercollegiate contests. Officials have four options for game fee replacement insurance.

Max Weekly Benefit	Max Coverage Duration	Plan Cost
\$250	52 weeks	\$49
\$500	52 weeks	\$59
\$2,500	52 weeks	\$129
\$4,700	16 weeks	\$139



Welcome Packet

To reduce the cost of registration, an official may “opt out” of receiving a hard copy of the rules book. A digital version of the rules book is available under “Publications” on Advantage.

Registration Fees

All Divisions: \$100