

## Spectators Guide to Mini Polo

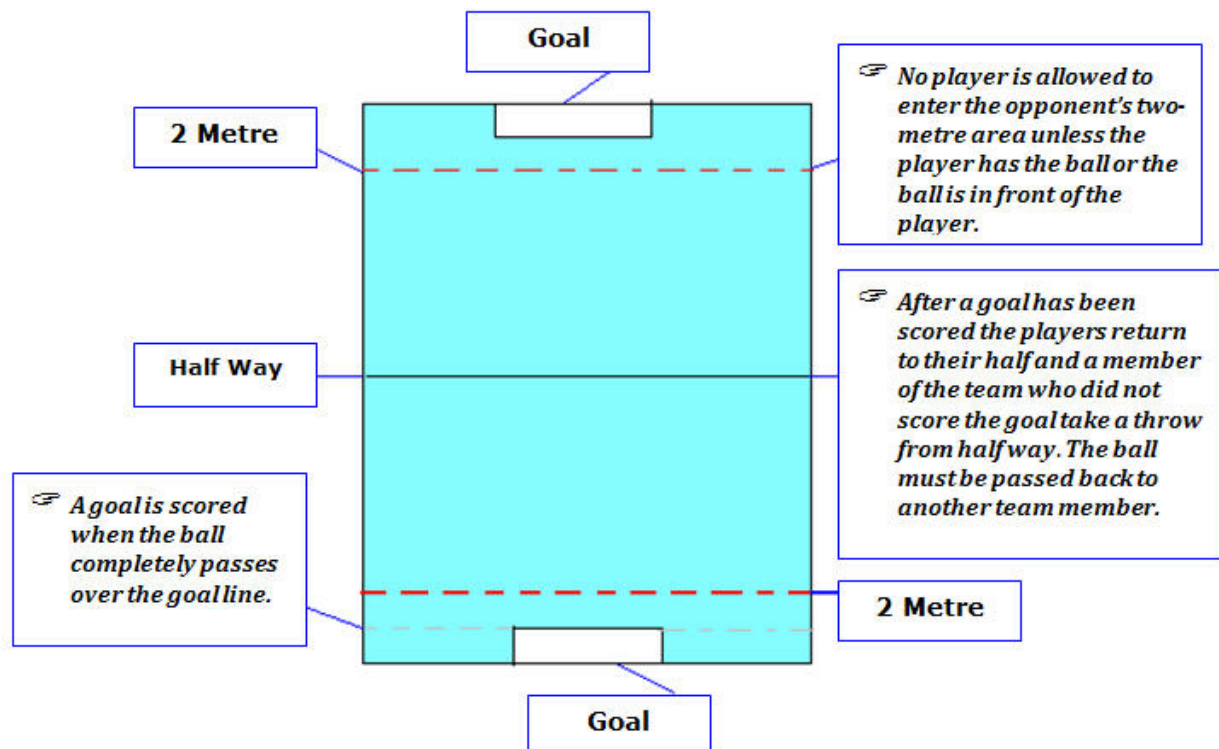
### Introduction

Water polo is one of the fastest growing sports in the county:

- Physically demanding
- Fun!
- Entertaining for participants and spectators

Mini Polo is a modified version of water polo. Water polo is quite demanding physically making it inappropriate for most Primary School Children. Mini Polo has been developed and designed for Years 4, 5 and 6 children with the emphasis being on having fun. There have been adaptations made to the rules to make it more appropriate for children.

### Pool Layout Rules



## Rules

Two teams, each of which must have a minimum of seven players, play Mini Polo. Each team must have 6 field players and 1 goalie in the pool at one time. Players are permitted to walk along the bottom if they do not have the ball. If in possession of the ball the player must swim or pass. Players can use **ONE HAND ONLY** to pass or shoot the ball. The exception to this is the goalie, who may use two hands at all times. The game consists of two halves.

**Duration of play** A game is made up of 4 x 4 minute quarters with teams changing ends at each break. The break at halftime is 1 minute.

**Ball** A Mini Polo ball is a size 3 Waterpolo ball.

**Number of players** A team consists of 7 players in the water at one time – 1 goalie and 6 field players.

**Substitutes** A team can have up to 6 substitutes (but 3 is recommend) who can interchange at any time from their corner of the pool once, **and only when** the player being replaced has reached his/her corner of the pool.

**Starting play** To start the game, players line up along the goal line. At the referees whistle, the referee drops the ball in the middle of the pool and players move (swim, run or walk) to the centre line. The first pass must be backwards to a team mate.

**Passing** All players (except the goalie) must use **1 hand only** in the game of Mini Polo. This applies to passing and shooting. For catching 2 hands can be used.

**Goal** A goal is scored when the whole ball crosses the line of the front 2 posts of the net. (does not need to touch back of net) The ball carrier can only shoot once in the attacking half of the court. It is not permissible to shoot from one's own half.

**After a goal** To start play after a goal is scored, players from each team must return to their own half. The ball starts at halfway with a player from the team which conceded a goal. On the referees whistle, the player with the ball must pass backwards to a team mate and then the game will continue.

**Corner throw** A corner throw (on the 2 metre cone) will be awarded if the ball is knocked out of play by a defending player.

**Offside** No player is allowed to enter the 2m area unless the player has the ball or the ball is in front of the player.

**Minor foul infringements** All of the infringements below will result in a free throw being awarded by the referee. The free throw must be taken from the where the foul occurred or an area not closer to the attacking goal of the team awarded the foul. The player taking the free throw cannot shoot at goal after receiving a foul and defenders cannot interfere with the taking of the free throw.

- Offside
- Passing or shooting with 2 hands (exception being the goalie)
- Defending with two hands
- Taking the ball under the surface of the water
- Walking or swimming with the ball
- Fending away a player when passing or shooting
- Swimming over an opponent's legs
- Punching the ball
- Splashing
- Defending with 2 arms in the air
- Standing too close to the passer when taking a free throw.

**Major foul infringements** All of the infringements below will result in a free throw awarded to the attacking team by the referee and the defending player excluded to his/her team's corner of the pool for a period of either 20 seconds or when the referee signals the player back into the court of play.

- Sinking, holding or pulling back the attacking player either with or without the ball

**Exclusion infringements** Aggressive play and use of abusive language are prohibited from the game of Mini Polo and the penalty will be exclusion for the remainder of the game **WITH** a substitute entering play on signal from referee. (aggression is defined as deliberately striking or threatening/attempting to strike a fellow player – NB not only punching!)

**Coaches** During the game coaches must be situated in the corner of the pool where their team is located and can only move between that corner of pool and goal the 2 metre marker.