



SAN DIEGO WATER POLO OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION - RULES INTERPRETATION

Date: January 28, 2026 **Subject:** Approval of Padded Goalkeeper Caps

Effective immediately, goalkeepers competing in SDWPOA sanctioned competitions are permitted to wear commercially manufactured padded water polo caps designed specifically for goalkeeper use.

Acknowledgment

SDWPOA acknowledges that padded goalkeeper caps do not meet NFHS goalkeeper cap guidelines. However, **player safety takes precedence over strict conformity to NFHS cap specifications.**

Conditions of Use

1. Goalkeepers only 2. Pre-approved: Kap7 Padded Cap (2021+) and similar models 3. No sharp edges or modifications 4. Straps/buckles secured 5. Subject to referee inspection and removal if safety concerns exist 6. **Per NFHS Rules all Goalie Caps should be #1, not #13. #13 will be accepted through the end of the 2026 season so as not to burden teams to purchase caps to replace #13 immediately** 7. Karate/Taekwondo helmets are not acceptable

Approved Cap: Kap7 Padded Water Polo Cap



This interpretation reflects SDWPOA's commitment to goalkeeper safety while maintaining fair play standards. Questions may be directed to SDWPOA leadership.