



PREMIER LEAGUE –COMPETITION RULES 2016/17

1 General

- 1.1 Rules of the game shall be the current rules laid down by the Federation Internationale De Natation Amateur (FINA) from time to time, unless otherwise varied or amended hereby.
- 1.2 Teams are allowed to have two goalkeepers listed for their games.
- 1.3 Clubs must supply their own individually numbered caps.
- 1.4 The first mentioned team on fixtures wears white and second mentioned team wears blue caps. Clubs can wear their own coloured caps, should they be not white or blue the first mentioned team must have lighter color set (closer to white) and the second mentioned team wears the darker (closer to blue) set. (teams must have both light/white and darker colored caps)
- 1.5 Each team shall line up five (5) minutes before the time advertised for the match, to be inspected by the referee to ensure sheets are filled in correctly and that each player has nails checked, etc.
- 1.6 Water Polo WA recommends all players wear a mouth guard.
- 1.7 Game sheets must be completed in legible print including first name, surname.
- 1.8 If teams enter on the game sheet, the names of players not participating in the game, a forfeit will be recorded against that team.
- 1.9 Sunscreen is encouraged to be used and must be alcohol based (not slippery).
- 1.10 The playing week for fixtures and competition commences Saturday and ends Friday
- 1.11 Misconduct towards referees and officials will not be tolerated. All players, officials and spectators reported by referees for misconduct, bringing the game into disrepute, or brutality shall be administered under the Water Polo WA Judiciary Procedures (Refer to General Competition Rules)
- 1.12 There shall be no discussion pool side with referees. Questions concerning clarification in relation to scores and player exclusions should be directed to the game secretary. Questions related to interpretations should be directed to the pool controller or in writing to the Referee Commission.
- 1.13 During the qualifying rounds, a team shall receive four (4) points for a win, two (2) points for a draw, one (1) point for a loss and **MINUS 1 (-1)** points for a forfeit



2 Premier League:

- 2.1 Clubs are invited to enter only one team per gender.
- 2.2 Nominated teams must provide their full list of players including their date of birth, highest representation and involvement with any elite program, if relevant. (WAIS/WPWAI Underpinning)

2.3 Challenge Cup:

Clubs will be invited to enter only one team per gender. Prior to the CC season, National Water Polo League (NWPL) clubs will be required to submit a list of their top 10 players for review by WPWA representatives. The nominated players will be restricted from participating in the CC season. The list of top 10 players are subject to confirmation by Water Polo WA Inc.

3 Field of Play and Duration of Games

3.1 – Men

- 3.1.1. Pool Dimensions – 30 metres long and 20 metres wide.
- 3.1.2. Game Durations – 4 quarters of 8 minutes actual playing time.
- 3.1.3. Shot Clock – 30 seconds.

3.2 – Women

- 3.2.1. Pool Dimensions – 25 metres long and 20 metres wide.
- 3.2.2. Game Durations – 4 quarters of 8 minutes actual playing time.
- 3.2.3. Shot Clock – 30 seconds.

4 Table Officials & Referees

- 4.1 Clubs are to organize all table officials and goal judges for each game. These officials will be paid by Water Polo WA.
- 4.2 For each game there must be one table official
- 4.3 Table officials are paid \$15 per each game, goal judges are optional.
- 4.4 Matches must start and finish on time. Referees are to calculate the length of the quarters, once both sides are ready to start. The quarter length will be dependent on the total allocated time left. This will ensure the following games will start on time.

5 Player Eligibility

- 5.1 All players must be registered with their club and Water Polo WA



- 5.2 Players may only play for the club they are registered with unless they are playing under a Loan Agreement. In that case the player may only play Premier League/Challenge Cup with the Loan Club and any other grade with their club of origin.
- 5.3 Any player not checked at the pre-game inspection is ineligible to participate in the game.
The player may join the game only after being checked by a referee and a goal has been scored or at stoppages due to quarter time or half time breaks.
- 5.4 Teams are allowed to commence or play their game with the minimum of 5 players. (As per in our general competition rules 2.1)
- 5.5 No players can join any team for any game after the start of the second quarter
- 5.6 In the event of a team being unable to field a minimum of seven (7) players, a maximum of two (2) players of a lower age group or division team of that club may be used to complete the team to a maximum of seven (7) players. The players substituting shall also be eligible to play for their own age group or division team in that round and only that game will be recorded with regard to qualifying for the finals. The team sheet must indicate an 'S' beside the substituted player(s) name
- 5.7 During the season a player may be a substitute for a maximum of two (2) times except players substituting from Reserve Women to Premier League where there are no limitations on the number of substitutions allowed.
- 5.8 Where a team has player(s) participating in official National League, State or National water polo programs a replacement from a lower age group or division may be played without penalty and such shall not be considered a 'substitution' for the purposes of rule 5.6 The name of the Player away on Representative duties should be recorded on the game sheet alongside the substitute player
- 5.9 In Women's Premier League players competing in conflicting NWPL games can be replaced via substitution from a lower division on Saturday and or Sunday.
- 5.10 In the qualifying rounds, players, other than those covered under substitution rules are not permitted to drop more than one (1) grade per fixtured round in which a player is eligible to participate.
- 5.11 Players from teams which incur a bye during a competition cannot play in a lower division in the fixture in which the bye occurs unless eligible under Rule 5.6
- 5.12 Teams playing ineligible players will incur a forfeit for the games the ineligible player/s play in.
- 5.13 With the exception of a player playing as a substitute, no person may play in more than one senior grade in any playing week unless:
A junior (Born 1999 or later) and is not a current senior WAIS Scholarship holder;
Or
A player who is playing under a Loan Agreement.



A junior playing under this rule may only play two senior games each week and only play these in Premier League and Reserves.

A player playing under a Loan Agreement may only play Premier League for the Loan Club however they may play any other grade/division in their Club of Origin.

A person eligible to play in 16&U age group competition (born 2001 or later) is not eligible to play in the Premier League.

(Note WPWAI and the clubs have a 'duty of care' to their members to allow only those that have a holistic 'readiness' to compete at that level. Holistic readiness is defined as, and not limiting to: physical, emotional, psychological, tactical, technical and social)

6 Qualifications for Finals

- 6.1 A player must play at least 5 games or 25% of the fixtured games, whichever is least, in the qualifying rounds for their team to qualify for finals.
- 6.2 No player may play in more than one grade during the finals series unless a junior player or Loan player who has played under Rule 5.13. These players must still fulfil Rule 6.1 to qualify for the lower grade finals
- 6.3 The team for which a player is eligible during the finals is determined by the most number of games played during the preliminary rounds. If an equal number of games are played in different grades, eligibility shall be for the highest grade played.
- 6.4 Players may play in a higher grade in the finals than that for which they have qualified but cannot play in a lower grade.
- 6.5 Qualification for finals shall be determined in order on competition result ladder by –
 - 6.5.1. Teams total number of points. (In divisions where teams play uneven number of games, competition points gained will be divided by the maximum number of possible competition points and multiplied by 100 to give a "percentage of possible points"
 - 6.5.2. If two teams finish on the same number of points or percentage of possible points further classification will be established as follows
 - 6.5.2.1. Teams Total Goal Difference
 - 6.5.2.2. Teams Total Goals For
 - 6.5.2.3. Total Number of Points Accrued in Games Played Against Each Other
 - 6.5.2.4. Goal difference in games against each other
 - 6.5.3. For the purpose of 6.5.2.1 the calculation of goal difference shall be made after excluding from each team's calculation its best result with its widest winning margin of goals.



6.5.4. Should circumstances not covered by these rules and affecting the determination of placing arise then the Competitions Committee should determine what action should arise

6.6 The format for the Finals Series will be

6.6.1. First Semi Final: 1st v 4th

6.6.2. Second Semi Final: 2nd v 3rd

6.6.3. Grand Final: Winner of 1st Semi Final plays Winner of 2nd Semi Final

7 Responsibilities for Home Teams and Venues with no Home Teams

- 7.1 Home clubs shall be responsible for the complete setting up of the venue, for the conducting of competition fixtures, fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled starting time of such fixtures. As such, they are responsible for ensuring that timing equipment used is of an appropriate standard and in working order, an officials table is erected and that game sheets are available. Where there is no home team or both teams are considered to be the home club, the club whose team plays first shall be responsible for the setting up of the venue.
- 7.2 In neutral venues the home club must assist the first mentioned team in setting up the pool and packing up (For example games where North Coast is playing as first mentioned team at HBF or Beatty Park)
- 7.2 Home teams shall be responsible for clearing the pool of all equipment and seeing that it is stored neatly in areas allocated for equipment. Where there are no home teams or both teams are considered to be the home club (Triton & Phantoms at Beatty Park), the club whose team plays last shall be responsible.
- 7.3 The first fixtured team for each game is responsible for the entering of all game data into the Sports TG database before Monday midnight Australian Eastern Time.
Required data includes final scores, player lists, goals scored, player exclusions and fairest and best votes. Should results not be entered within the above timeframe, the Club responsible will incur a forfeit for that game
Second mentioned teams are encouraged to check the online entered details by the first mentioned team.
- 7.4 . Game sheets are to be returned by the referees on the day of the match to Water Polo WA by the following:

Place in letter box on wall of City Beach Club Rooms for matches played at HBF Stadium and photo or Scan game sheet and email 'pdf' copy to cdm@waterpolowa.asn.au and text to this mobile number 04 00512101