



## STATE LEAGUE - SENIOR 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 the caps 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 should have both light and dark color 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 highly recommends all players wear a mouthguard.
- 1.7 Game sheets must be completed in legible print including first name, surname. If teams enter on the game sheet the names of players not participating in the game, a forfeit will be recorded against that team.
- 1.8 Sunscreen is encouraged to be used and must be alcohol based (not slippery and applied 20 minutes before jumping in the pool).
- 1.9 The playing week (round) for fixtures and competition commences Saturday and ends Friday.
- 1.10 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 (and as per FINA rules). See General Competition Rules
- 1.11 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 Competition manager and the Referee Commission. 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 Field of Play and Duration of Game (subject to pool space)**

### Reserve Men

- 2.1.1. Pool Dimensions – not less than 25 meters long and 20 meters wide
- 2.1.2. Game Durations – 4 quarters of at least 6 minutes actual time (subject to pool space)
- 2.1.3. Shot Clock – 30 seconds.

### Reserve Women

- 2.1.4. Pool Dimensions – not less than 20 meters long and 20 meters wide
- 2.1.5. Game Durations – 4 quarters of at least 6 minutes actual time (subject to pool space)
- 2.1.6. Shot Clock – 30 seconds.

### 2.2 – All other Grades

- 2.2.1. Pool Dimensions – not less than 20 meters long and 20 meters wide.
- 2.2.2. Game Durations – 4 quarters of 5 minutes actual playing time or 7 minutes straight playing time.
- 2.2.3. Shot Clock – 30 seconds.

## **3 Table Officials & Referees**

- 3.1 Each team must supply a table official. The team mentioned first is to supply the time keeper and the team mentioned second is to supply the table secretary.
- 3.2 Clubs are encouraged to supply a second/club referee for all Wednesday night games at their designated home venue.
- 3.3 In neutral pools (Tom Hoad Aquatic Centre and Dive Pool), first mentioned teams on fixtures are to provide club referee where possible. No penalties apply if rules 3.2 and 3.3 are not fulfilled but best effort is requested from clubs and teams to support the games with a club referee when possible.
- 3.4 For matches where 1 clock is used for 2 playing fields a referee will count off 30 second shot clock lapse and 20 second exclusion foul lapse.
- 3.5 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.

3.6 Time outs apply for Grand Final matches only.

#### **4 Player Eligibility**

- 4.1 All players must be registered with Water Polo WA.
- 4.2 Players may only play for the club they are registered with WPWAI through.
- 4.3 Any player not checked in by half-time is ineligible to participate in the game unless approved by the referee. Check –in prior to this is dependent on the referee and approval by the opposition coach. This may only occur after a goal has been scored or at stoppages due to quarter time or half time breaks.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 Where a team has player(s) or officials participating in official National League, State or National water polo programs a replacement from a lower junior age group or division may be played without penalty and such shall not be considered a ‘substitution’ for the purposes of rule 4.5 The name of the player absent on Representative duties needs to record on the games sheet.
- 4.8 Teams can play games with a minimum of 5 players.
- 4.9 In the qualifying rounds, players, other than those covered in substituting, are not permitted to drop more than one (1) club grade per fixtured round in which a player is eligible to participate
- 4.10 Players from teams which incur a bye during competition cannot play in a lower division in the round in which the bye occurs unless eligible to play under Rule 4.15
- 4.11 Clubs with more than one (1) team in a division are required to submit a list of the ‘first seven’ players for those teams. The ‘first seven’ lists must be provided to Water Polo WA every year prior to the start of the competition. The ‘first seven’ players named cannot play for another team in the same

- grade. Any changes to the player lists must be supplied in writing to Water Polo WA.
- 4.12 No female player can play in the Men's competition and no male player can play in the Women's competition unless written permission is obtained from the Board of Directors
  - 4.13 Juniors who compete in a junior grade can play for opposition clubs in senior grades only if their junior club does not have a team in that senior grade. Such players cannot play in any junior grade for another club unless approved by the competition committee.
  - 4.14 Teams playing ineligible players will incur a forfeit for the games the ineligible player/s play in.
  - 4.15 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) that is not a current senior WAIS scholarship holder
    - or
    - a player playing under a Loan Agreement to a Premier League Club.Junior players playing under Rule 4.15 may only play a maximum of two (2) senior games per playing week and can only play these in Premier League and Reserve.  
Players playing under a Loan Agreement may only play Premier League for the Loan Club and any other grade/division for their club of origin.
  - 4.16 A person eligible to play in 14&U age group competition is not eligible to play in the State League Senior Competition.  
(Note WPWA 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
  - 4.17 Male players who are listed in the National Water Polo League for the current season, are not eligible to participate in any Senior State League Competition.

## 5 Qualifications for Finals

- 5.1 Clubs must run a report on Sports TG at least two (2) weeks before semi-finals to check on their players' eligibility for finals.
- 5.2 If any questions arise in regards to the eligibility of players, the club secretary must seek clarification from the Competitions Manager a week before the semi-finals at the latest.

- 5.3 A player must play at least 5 games or 25% of the games for their club, whichever is least in the qualifying rounds to qualify for finals
- 5.4 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.
- If an equal number of games are played in different teams in the same division, the player has the option to choose which team he/she shall compete with in the finals.
- 5.5 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 4.15. These players must still fulfil Rule 5.3 to qualify for the lower grade finals.
- 5.6 Players may play in a higher grade in the finals than that for which they have qualified but cannot play in a lower grade.
- 5.7 Qualification for finals shall be determined in order on competition result ladder by –
- 5.7.1. 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”
- 5.7.2. If two teams finish on the same number of points or percentage of possible points further classification will be established as follows
- 5.7.2.1. Teams Total Goal Difference
- 5.7.2.2. Teams Total Goals For
- 5.7.2.3. Total Number of Points Accrued in Games Played Against Each Other
- 5.7.2.4. Goal difference in games against each other
- 5.7.3. For the purpose of 5.5.2.1 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.
- 5.7.4. 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 Responsibilities for Home Teams and Venues with no Home Teams**

- 6.1 Home teams 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.

- 6.2 HBF Stadium indoor venue – referees along with first mentioned team shall assist with the setup of the pool (time clock/game sheets). Following the last match of the evening, the first mentioned team shall assist the referee with putting away time clock and clearing the pool of all equipment. Time clocks to be stored in the HBF storage in the water polo shed which is outside between the dive pool and the outdoor water polo pool.
- 6.3 Home teams shall be responsible for clearing the pool of all equipment and seeing that it is stored neatly in areas allocated for equipment.
- 6.4 Where there is no home team or both teams are considered to be home club, the club whose team plays last shall be responsible.
- 6.5 When games are fixtured at their home pool, clubs shall provide a person who shall act as pool controller and who shall be responsible in ensuring that the pool and equipment is correctly set-up and removed. Clubs failing to comply with pool controller duties will be fined \$50.
- 6.6 Referees are responsible for sending game sheets to WPWAI.
- 6.7 Game sheets can be sent to Water Polo WA by the following:  
Take a photo or scan game sheet and email copy to [cdm@waterpolowa.asn.au](mailto:cdm@waterpolowa.asn.au) or to 0400 512 101.

## 7 Enter Online Results

- 7.1 The first fixtured team for each game is responsible for entering all game data into the Sports TG database.
- 7.2 Second mentioned teams on the fixture are encouraged to check data entry before the deadline and report if incorrect details have been entered.
- 7.3 For games played on Wednesdays, results must be entered by AEST midnight on Friday.  
Required data includes final score, team lists and fairest and best votes, goals and exclusions.  
Failure to enter game results will result in the first fixture team forfeiting the match.
- 7.4 Teams have until 5:00pm of the following Monday to e-mail a protest concerning results.  
If a protest is upheld the result will be changed.  
If a club continually enters false results or has incomplete data entry the club's team associated with the incorrect or incomplete details, will forfeit the match (3 strikes rule).



**Water Polo**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Water Polo Western Australia Incorporated | PO Box 458 Claremont WA 6910  
P +61 8 9387 7555 | F +61 8 9387 7569 | E wawpolodale@ozemail.com.au | W www.waterpolowa.asn.au

Game scores locked by noon Tuesday.

