



PREMIER LEAGUE –COMPETITION RULES 2017/18

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.
- 1.14 WPWAI may impose a fine of \$100 or another sanction deemed fit.

2 Team nominations

- 2.1 Clubs are invited to enter multiple teams in each gender.
 - 2.1.1. At least 14 days prior to the commencement of the 2017/2018 Premier League season, each club must submit to WPWAI a team list with the

- names of those players who are nominated to play the Premier League Competition and/or the Reserve Competition (Team List).
- 2.1.2. If a club nominates more than one team to play in the Premier League then a separate Team List must be prepared for each team nominated.
 - 2.1.3. A player can only be listed on one Team List.
 - 2.1.4. The Team List must identify those players who will play Premier League only (Exclusive Premier League Player).
 - 2.1.5. Those players not identified as an Exclusive Premier League Player is eligible under this rule to play in both the Premier League and the State League Senior Competitions within the same fixture week.
 - 2.1.6. If during the course of the season an Exclusive Premier League Player seeks to play in the Reserve Competition for reasons such as returning from injury, unavailable for selection in Premier League Team or any other personal circumstances, the club must, in writing, make a request for an exemption for the Exclusive Premier League Player to the Competition Committee.
 - 2.1.7. If during the course of the season a player who is outside the nominated team list and not a junior player who seeks to play in the Premier League Competition for reasons such as covering a player for injury, national league games or any other personal circumstances, the club must, in writing, make a request for an exemption to play.
 - 2.1.8. Clubs will be fined \$150 for any team which withdraws from the competition.
 - 2.1.9. WPWAI expects that the clubs will have good judgement on the composition of the team lists and who it determines as being an Exclusive Premier League Player and the proper ratio of Exclusive Premier League Players that are required to field a competitive Premier League Team.
 - 2.1.10. The Competition Committee Chairperson and Competitions and Development Manager will review the team lists prior to the commencement of the season. In circumstances where a player is or is not identified as an Exclusive Premier League Player (whatever the case may be) then the Competition Committee Chairperson and Competitions and Development Manager must liaise with the club to establish whether the player ought to be or ought not to be (whatever the case may be) listed as an Exclusive Premier League Player. In the event of a dispute, the matter will be referred to the Board for determination.
 - 2.1.11. Exclusive Premier League Players may on occasion need to play Reserve grade that week in lieu of playing Premier League. A Reserve team that does not have the numbers not to play that week and would otherwise need to forfeit the game is NOT an accepted reason to allow Exclusive Premier League Players to play in Reserve.



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 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 To be registered, a person must be registered on the WPWAI Player Registration system- Sports TG.
- 5.3 If the registration is subject to a Player Transfer and Clearance, the player is not permitted to register with the destination club until the transfer is approved.
- 5.4 Any person who makes a false declaration on his/her application for registration shall have his/her registration cancelled and fined as prescribed by WPWAI
- 5.5 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 with the Loan Club and any other grade with their club of origin.
- 5.6 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.



- 5.7 Teams are allowed to commence or play their game with the minimum of 6 players.
- 5.8 No players can join any team for any game after the start of the third quarter
- 5.9 During the season, a player may be a substitute for a maximum of three (3) times from State League.
- 5.10 Teams playing ineligible players will incur a forfeit for the games the ineligible player/s play in.
- 5.11 A junior athlete can play two senior games each week (not more than three games per a week across juniors/seniors) and only play these senior games in Premier League and a Senior State League grade.
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.
- 5.12 Athletes born 2003 or later are 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 For players who are listed in the Premier League squad, a player may play in a maximum of two finals (Premier League and State League), unless they are listed as an "Exclusive Premier League Only Players".
"Exclusive Premier League Only Players" are only able to play one final.
- 6.3 Players must still fulfil Rule 6.1 to qualify for the lower grade final in which they are participating.
- 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.
- 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 UWA 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