

METROPOLITAN COMPETITION RULES

2018/2019

Final

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INTRODUCTION

These Competition rules are made under the authority of Water Polo Western Australia (Inc) (WPWAI) to ensure a fair and equitable competition.

The Competition rules contain various directions and requirements of WPWAI and are binding on clubs, players, club officials, referees and Tribunals.

Competition rules are made for the dominant purpose of ensuring a safe and fair system or framework within which water polo may be regulated and conducted.

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

The Constitution of the Water Polo Western Australia (Inc) are the authority under and through which we govern and manage the business of Water Polo in WA.

The Competition Rules of Water Polo Western Australia (Inc) are the framework within which water polo is regulated and conducted. All games shall be played under FINA Rules of Water Polo 2017-2021, unless expressed otherwise in the WPWAI Rules

WPWAI also makes policies. Such policies formalise the WPWAI position on specific issues and/or details the required procedures considered important to effect competent and prudent management and operations.

The Board also pass resolutions. Resolutions are a procedural means of formalising and recording a decision, rule, policy or position on a specific issue. The Board may delegate any power (other than the powers of delegation and appeal), authority, duty or function conferred on it by these Rules to a person or persons. Limitations which apply to the Board also apply to such delegations.

Any determination, interpretation or variation of any Rule by the Board shall be final and binding upon members of WPWAI.

Sub-committees, Advisory Groups and forums may provide recommendations to the Board and General Manager to act on. These recommendations are non-binding, but provide a procedural means of formalising and recording advice to the Board or General Manager on a specific issue

DEFINITIONS

Board means the Board of the WPWAI.

Board Member means a member of the Board of the WPWAI

Club Official means a person elected or appointed as a club committee member, coach, team manager, support personnel, timekeeper or any other person acting in an official capacity for a club.

Coach means the senior or head coach of a team, all other coaches are deemed as assistant coaches.

General Manager means the General Manager (or Executive Officer or other title) of WPWAI and includes any person acting in that position.

Competition & Development Manager means the manager who is in charge of competitions and development of water polo for WPWAI.

Player means a person registered to play in WPWAI.

Official means Club, referee or WPWAI Official as defined.

WPWAI Official means a Board Member, staff or any person appointed by the WPWAI to act on its behalf.

WPWAI means the incorporated body, Water Polo Western Australia Inc

SPIRIT OF THE GAME STATEMENT

1. The objective of the WPWAI Spirit of the Game statement is to recognise that there is a critical element of the conduct of a game of Water Polo that cannot be the subject of written rules nor of regulation by the administrators of the competition.
2. This element is the fairness, decency and honesty which coaches, players, referees and spectators must bring to the conduct of the game on every occasion and in all situations, which arise in the conduct of the game.
3. Water Polo games are played to be won and Water Polo is a contact sport so it is expected that games will be hard fought and physically demanding. However, WPWAI also requires that each game is played within both the written rules of the game and the Spirit of the Game.
4. Each participant is personally responsible for ensuring his or her behaviour is fair, decent and honest.
5. The desire for victory must not outweigh:
 - (a) the ideals of sportsmanship which are the foundation of the game, and
 - (b) the reputation and integrity of WPWAI and its competitions.
6. At the end of a game each person involved with the winning team should honestly be able to say that the team played fairly, decently and honestly, and behaved in a sportsmanlike manner in victory.
7. At the end of a game each person involved with the losing team should honestly be able to say that the team played fairly, decently and honestly, and behaved in a sportsmanlike manner in defeat.
8. Even in the heat of the game all participants must conduct themselves fairly, decently and honestly and with respect for:
 - (a) the opposition;
 - (b) WPWAI;
 - (c) officials; and
 - (d) the game of Water Polo.

Rule 1 - ANNUAL TEAM NOMINATIONS

1.1 Nomination process

- a) All clubs shall nominate teams for each competition (as prescribed by WPWAI) to the Competition Development Manager via the outlined process.
- b) Team nominations will close no later than four weeks before the commencement of the season. No team nomination will be accepted after the due date, unless approved by, the General Manager, in conjunction with the WPWAI Board at their absolute discretion.
- c) Teams accepted to play in the nominated year shall pay the nomination fee as specified by WPWAI.
- d) The General Manager, in conjunction with the WPWAI Board, has the right not to accept a team's nomination or may at their absolute discretion apply such additional conditions as they deem appropriate for a team's nomination to be accepted.
- e) At their absolute discretion, the General Manager, in conjunction with the WPWAI Board may fine a club as prescribed where the club nominates a team after the advertised nomination date.
- f) Each team in B grade and below must provide a referee for each game they take part in. A forfeit and fine, as per Fine Table 1, will apply for not providing a referee.
- g) Any club which withdraws a nominated team from any competition before round 3 of the relevant season shall not receive a financial penalty.
- h) Any club which withdraws a nominated team from any competition after round 3 of the relevant season shall pay the full team nomination fee.
- i) Any club which has a team that forfeits four qualifying games in one season will have their team removed from the competition.

Rule 2 - TEAM GRADING, RELEGATION AND PROMOTION

2.1 Clubs nominate their teams online after receiving the registration form from WPWAI.

2.2 For grading purposes, in each competition, the process will be as follow;

2.2.1 Each club will nominate a team/s for the relevant competition.

2.2.2 WPWAI in conjunction with the Competition Advisory Group committee will review nominated teams for each competition and decide on an initial grading. Documents to assist with initial grading include but not limited to:

- Previous year competition results;
- Submitted team lists from the teams; and
- A submission from the club regarding grading, if required..

2.2.3 Excluding A Grade WPWAI will then use the first three (3) rounds of the competition to confirm grading and will regrade teams as necessary. Any decision made to move a team up or down is at the absolute discretion of WPWAI in conjunction with the Competition Advisory Group

2.3. WPWAI may relegate or promote a team for fixturing and grade composition.

Rule 3 - PLAYER AND OFFICIALS REGISTRATION

3.1 All players and officials must be registered with Water Polo WA to be eligible to play, coach or referee.

3.2 To be registered, a person must be registered on the WPWAI designated online registration system

3.3 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.

3.4 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

3.5 Players may only play for the club they are registered with through WPWAI.

Rule 4 - TEAM COMPOSITION

4.1 Prior to Round 4, clubs must send their full and final team list for each team nominated. After round 4, players are able to play up a grade, but are unable to play down a grade, unless approved by WPWAI. Teams playing ineligible players, as deemed by the competition rules, will forfeit all the games these players have played in.

4.2 Any player not checked in by half-time is ineligible to participate in the game unless approved by the referee and the opposition coach. This may only occur after a goal has been scored or at stoppages due to quarter time or half time breaks.

4.3 A junior age player can play a maximum of 3 games each week across the junior and senior competition, unless an exemption is submitted to and granted by WPWAI. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit as per rule 4.1

4.4 Under 16 players are able to play in the Under 18 competition with there being no requirement for Clubs to limit the number of these players. These junior players can play a maximum two games in the same junior round. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit as per rule 4.1

4.5 No player can play two games in the same age group or grade on the same day. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit as per rule 4.1

4.6 A player playing in the 14 and under competition is ineligible to play in the Senior Competition. A player playing in the 14 and under competition is ineligible to play in both the 14 and under competition and 16 and under competition, unless an exemption is sort from WPWAI. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit as per rule 4.1

4.7 Teams can play games with a minimum of six (6) players. In order to provide seven (7) players a maximum of two (2) players from a lower age group or grade can be used as substitutes.

4.7.1 During the season a player may be a substitute for a maximum of three (3) times.

4.7.2 Where a team has player(s) participating in official Australian Water Polo League, State or National water polo programs a replacement from a lower grade or junior age group may be played without penalty. This would NOT be a 'substitution' for the purposes of rule 4.7. The name of the player absent on representative duties needs to be recorded on the games sheet.

4.7.3 The players substituting shall also be eligible to play in their own age group or grade. This will be the only game counted towards qualification for finals.

4.7.4 The team sheet must indicate an 'S' beside the substituted player(s) name.

4.8 Players from teams which have a bye or forfeit during a competition week cannot play in a lower grade during this week.

4.9 Player loan agreements between clubs and junior composite team arrangements are optional and subject to the approval of WPWAI.

4.10 Where a club has multiple teams in the same grade, players must not play across teams in the same grade and all changes to the team list must be supplied to WPWAI for endorsement a week before the next game.

4.11 An "A" Grade team list must identify those players who will play "A" Grade only, referred to as an "Exclusive A Grade Player"

4.12 Players outside the defined list, as referred to in rule 4.11, are eligible to play in both the A Grade and B grade competition in the same fixture week.

4.13 If during the course of the season an "Exclusive A grade Player" seeks to play in the "B" Grade Competition, for reasons such as returning from injury, unavailable for selection in "A" Grade team or any other personal circumstances, the club must, in writing, make a request to WPWAI no less than 48 hours prior.

4.14 WPWAI expects that the clubs will have good judgement on the composition of the team lists and who it determines as being an Exclusive A Grade Players and the proper ratio of "A" Grade Players that are required to field a competitive A Grade Team.

4.15 WPWAI in conjunction with the CAG, will review the A grade team lists prior to the commencement of the season. In circumstances where a player is or is not identified as an Exclusive "A" Grade Player, whatever the case may be, then the Competition Advisory Group Chairperson and WPWAI 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 A Grade Player.

4.16 In the event of a dispute, the matter will be referred to the Board for determination.

4.17 As per 4.13 exclusive "A" Grade Players may on occasion need to play B grade that week in lieu of playing "A" Grade. A "B" Grade 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 "A" Grade players to play in B Grade

Rule 5 - MATCHES

5.1 WPWAI shall determine the fixtures for qualifying and finals matches for the year.

5.2 No team shall play in any match without sanction of WPWAI

5.3 From qualifying round matches WPWAI shall keep for each grade a premiership table showing matches won, matches lost, matches drawn, points scored for and against, and premiership points determined as follows:

a) 3 points for winning a match.

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b) 1 points for a drawn match.

c) 0 point for a loss

d) Minus 1 (-1) for a forfeit

5.4 All official matches, as deemed by WPWAI must use an approved sponsors Water Polo Ball.

5.5 If forfeiting, clubs/teams must notify WPWAI office in writing at least 24 hours before their scheduled game. Failure to do so club/team will incur the cost of running the scheduled game. (pool hire and referee cost)

5.6 Qualification for finals shall be determined in order on competition result

ladder by –

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”
2. If two teams finish on the same number of points or percentage of possible points further classification will be established as follows
 - a. Teams Total Goal Difference
 - b. Teams Total Goals For
 - c. Total Number of Points Accrued in Games Played Against Each
 - d. Goal difference in games against each other

5.7 Where a match is abandoned or terminated before the scheduled end or the result of the match is in dispute, WPWAI at their absolute discretion may determine the result or order the match be replayed at such time and place as they see fit.

5.8 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.

5.9 Matches must start and finish on time. If the start of the game is delayed for any reason 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.

5.10 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.

5.11. The playing week for fixtures and competition commences Saturday and ends Friday

5.12 If a need for a club to forfeit a fixture arises, the club must inform the WPWAI Competition Manager minimum 48 hours prior to avoid a penalty. This request must be in writing and is at the absolute discretion of the WPWAI Competition Manager when the request is accepted.

Rule 6 - FIELD OF PLAY AND DURATION OF GAMES

	14's	16's	18's	Seniors (B Grade and below)	A Grade
Ball Size	Boys- Size 4 Girls- Size 4	Boys- Size 5 Girls- Size 4	Boys- Size 5 Girls- Size 4	Men's- Size 5 Women's- Size 4	Men's- Size 5 Women's- Size 4
Field Size	20m > <25m Length 15m Wide	25m > Length 20m Wide	25m > Length 20m Wide	25m > Length 20m Wide	Men's- 30m Length and 20m wide Women's 25m Length and 20m wide
Game Duration (including finals)	4 quarters of 7 minutes running clock.	4 quarters of 5 minutes actual time or 7 minutes running clock	4 quarters of 5 minutes actual time or 7 minutes running clock	4 quarters of 5 minutes' actual playing time (6mins for B Grade*) or 7 minutes straight playing time.	4 quarters 8 mins actual playing time.
Shot Clock	30 Seconds Shot Clock Where Possible	30 Seconds Shot Clock Where Possible	30 Seconds	30 Seconds	30 Seconds
Players in field	7	7	7	7	7
Age group eligibility	Born 05 or younger athletes	Born 03 or younger athletes	Born 01 or younger athletes	Born 04 or older athletes	Born 04 or older athletes

***Subject to pool space and availability**

Rule 7 - TABLE OFFICIALS AND REFEREES

7.1 Each team must supply a table official. The team mentioned first is to supply the time keeper. Failure to provide a table official will result in a fine as per Fine Table 1

7.2 Each team in B grade and below must provide a referee for each game they take part in. A forfeit and fine, as per Fine Table 1, will apply for not providing a referee.

7.3 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 Advisory Group.

7.4 At the discretion of the Junior League Referee's coordinator, certain games/fixtures may be allocated a Supervising referee which will have the full authority of and in addition to the appointed **Metropolitan Competition Rules 2018/2019**

referees'. The appointed referee must be dressed in official clothing and identifiable as a supervising referee. It is preferable that the Supervising referee will make themselves known to both competing team coaches.

7.5 Time outs apply for Grand Final matches only.

Rule 8 - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS

8.1 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. The finals eligibility in regards to the minimum number of games to be played per finals per competition will be set and displayed online via the online competitions platform and confirmed to all clubs at the beginning of the season once round 4 is completed.

8.2 Clubs must run a report through the online database at least two (2) weeks before semi-finals to check on their players' eligibility for finals.

8.3 If any questions arise in regards to the eligibility of players, the club must seek clarification from WPWAI no later than a week before finals.

8.4 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.

8.5 Players who have played in multiple age groups must have qualified for both age groups if they are to play finals in both age groups. (juniors only)

8.6 Finals are defined as both Semi and Grand finals, so any player playing in a semi-final is considered to be committed to that final series.

8.7 16&U junior age group players are eligible to participate in the 18&U junior age group, if they have qualified.

8.8 Players may play in a higher grade in the finals for which they have qualified. They cannot play in a lower grade.

8.9 For players who are listed in the A Grade squad, a player may play in a maximum of two finals (A Grade and B Grade) unless they are listed as an "Exclusive "A" Grade Only Players". "Exclusive "A" Grade players" are only able to play in the A Grade Finals

8.10 Players other than those covered in rule 8.9 are not permitted to play in two finals in the Senior Leagues.

Rule 9 - PRE-MATCH PROVISIONS

9.1 Clubs must supply their own individually numbered caps.

9.2 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 colour set (closer to white) and the second mentioned team wears the darker (closer to blue). Clubs must submit their own coloured caps to WPWAI for approval at least two (2) weeks before round one (1). Failure to comply will result in a forfeit.

9.3 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. Failure to comply will result in fines as per Fines Table 1

9.4 Water Polo WA recommends all players wear a mouth guard.

9.5 Game sheets must be completed in legible print including first name and surname.

9.6 Sunscreen is encouraged to be used and must be alcohol based (not slippery).

9.7 Home clubs (senior competition only) shall be responsible for the complete setting up of the venue fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled starting time. 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.

9.8 In neutral venues, the home club must assist the first mentioned team in setting up the pool and packing up.

9.9 In line with the FINA Rules, the playing uniform shall comprise of bathers and caps registered and approved by WPWAI. Where a player does not wear the correct playing bathers and or caps (A Grade only) the club shall incur a fine as prescribed by Fine Table 1

9.10 All players (juniors) must shake the hand of the referee at the start and end of each match

Rule 10 - POST MATCH PROVISIONS

10.1 The first fixtured team for each game is responsible for the entering of all game data into the online database by the below cut off times. Required data includes final scores, player lists, player goals scored, player exclusions and fairest and best votes.

Junior Competition- Midnight Wednesday (AEST)

Senior Competition- Midnight Friday (AEST)

A Grade- Midnight Monday (AEST)

10.2 Second mentioned teams are to check the online entered details by the first mentioned team and approve the results by clicking on “agree” within 48 hours after the applicable cut off times listed in 10.1. Should results not be entered or approved by any team within the applicable timeframe, the Club responsible will incur a forfeit for that game.

10.3 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 copy to competitions@waterpolowa.asn.au

Fine Table 1

	Rule	Fine
Failure to list player on team sheet. (per player)	9.3	\$25
Failure to provide a referee where it is requested by WPWAI	1.1	\$100
Failure to provide WPWAI Approved Ball	5.4	\$100
Ineligible player. (per player) (not exceeding) (\$1000)	3	\$200
Failure to submit by the prescribed time	10.1	\$50
Forfeited Match for non-attendance		\$200
Incorrect bathers per player (A Grade Only)	9.10	\$25
Failure to provide a table official	7.1	\$25