



# WA Country Water Polo Championships Rules



Water Polo Western Australia Incorporated

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## DEFINITIONS

**Board:** The Board of Directors, of WPWA.

**CEO:** The Chief Executive Officer of WPWA.

**Composite Team:** Team(s) that consist of players from more than one Country Association, or Club where one or both Association(s) do not have the required minimum number of players to nominate a team.

**Country Association/Club:** An Incorporated Association referred to as a *Club* from a location in regional or remote Western.

**CMS:** Competition Management System, as defined by WPWA, as the online platform used to administer water polo competitions and registration of players, coaches and officials.

**Guest Team(s):** Team(s) made up of players from outside of a Western Australian Regional or remote location, invited to participate in the tournament.

**Home Pool:** An Association or Club's Home Pool as registered with WPWA.

**Host:** The Country Association selected to host the tournament.

**Loan Player Agreement:** Players may only play for the Primary Club they are registered with through WPWAI CMS. Where a player wishes to play for a club other than their Primary Club they may do so on loan. Refer WPWA Competition Rules s6.

**Organising Committee:** A subcommittee of approximately four or five people from the Host formed to action work required to organise the tournament and report to the Host, RAG and WPWA, as required.

**Region:** A Region of Western Australia as determined by the Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries. Includes eight regions of Gascoyne, Great Southern, Kimberley, Midwest, Peel, Pilbara,

**Regional Advisory Group (RAG):** An advisory group to WPWA consisting of at least one representative from each country Association or Club affiliated with WPWA.

**Technical Delegate:** Referee appointed by WPWA as the Technical Delegate for the tournament

**Tournament Director:** Key volunteer role responsible for coordinating the tournament, managing all the volunteers, and chair the organizing committee.

**WPA:** Water Polo Australia Ltd

**WPWA:** Water Polo Western Australia Incorporated

## BACKGROUND

The WA Country Water Polo Championships (the tournament) is an annual competition held to provide water polo players, clubs, and associations, based in regional and remote locations in country WA to come together and play a good quality tournament. The core values of this event align with those of Water Polo Australia (WPA), which are:

- We have **FUN**: we love our sport and enjoy the camaraderie of our community.
- We are continually in **PURSUIT of EXCELLENCE**: we inspire people to be their best and do their best.
- We are **INCLUSIVE**: we are a welcoming community for everyone.
- We embrace **TEAMWORK**: we collaborate and act with a unity of purpose in the best interest of the sport.
- We act with **RESPECT**: we play fair, ensuring what we do is ethical, transparent, and honest.

The primary objectives of the Country Championships are;

- To foster healthy rivalries between Associations and Clubs from regional and remote WA
- To provide a platform showcasing the abilities of WA country players and provide them a pathway towards the Australian Country Championships.
- To improve the standard of play across regional WA through good quality competition
- To present the Host Association with fundraising opportunities that may help assist the future growth and development of water polo within the Region.

## TOURNAMENT RULES

### HOST ASSOCIATION

- (a) The tournament must have a host Association, that may be selected multiple years in advance; however, the host must be selected on a rotating basis where no single Association may host twice in a three (3) year period.
- (b) At least 12 months before the next tournament, the RAG nominates the subsequent tournament Host Association.
  - a. Upon accepting the nomination, the Host Association will:
    - i. Read and Sign the tournament Hosting Agreement
    - ii. Confirm the venue including evidence of booking
    - iii. Present all to the WPWA Board for ratification
- (c) The tournament is to be held on the WA Labour Day weekend in March each year.
- (d) The date may be changed with a majority vote via circular resolution of all the members of RAG and the prior approval of WPWA Once ratified, agreed, the Host Association shall:
  - a. Establish an Organising Sub-Committee (OC) and from this group appoint a Tournament Director (TD), presenting names of all involved to the RAG and WPWA for approval.
  - b. WPWA will appoint a Technical Delegate (TED) and notify the OC
- (e) The OC shall coordinate and run the tournament and social activities.
- (f) The OC must create, track and monitor a budget for the event and present this for inspection upon request by RAG members and or WPWA
- (g) At least 12 months in advance, search for and attempt to secure any local funding through available grants or sponsorships that will reduce the cost of participating for all tournament attendees.
- (h) Book the Host venue pool, and any social venue(s), that may be used during the tournament activities.
- (i) Set team nomination fees where operating costs are to be shared equally between participating teams.
  - a. The nomination fee should not be set to make a profit, only to cover costs and fees are to be approved by WPWA before being published or distributed.

- (j) The OC to discuss in advance with WPWA any tournament related costs requiring financial assistance such as personal rewards for *Most Valuable Player* or *Highest Goal Scorer* etc. Agreed quotes must be sought and financial assistance requested for all agreed tournament-related costs and approved by WPWA.

## TOURNAMENT REFEREES AND OFFICIALS

- (a) At least four months before the tournament, the TD must coordinate with WPWA to secure the provision of appropriate accredited and experienced tournament referees and officials.
- (b) Visiting Teams must provide a WPWA-qualified referee per nominated team. The TD to circulate to all Country Teams the final referee roster at least three (3) days before the tournament.

## MEDALS AND TROPHIES

- (a) The Host must provide all trophies except the perpetual trophies which are the property of  
WPWA i.e., Tournament Most Valuable Player.
- (b) WPWA will provide the team (player and coach) medals for the tournament finals, which consists of 16 medals for the men and 16 medals for the women.
- (c) Requests for financial assistance towards costs of any other rewards must be agreed in advance with WPWA as per Host Agreement.

## TEAM NOMINATIONS

- (a) All WA Country Associations and Clubs shall use the Competition Management System (CMS) (i.e., Revolution Sport) as determined by WPWA to manage the registration of all members and game statistics. WPWA will assist all associations and clubs leading into the tournament as required.
- (b) The CMS will include team entries, and all visiting country teams are responsible for entering their team nominations **four weeks** before the commencement of the tournament.

## FIXTURES

The TD to circulate the final tournament match fixtures no less than one (1) week before the tournament commencement date

## VISITING COUNTRY TEAMS

- (a) Each visiting country team must:
  - i. Submit team nominations by the set date.
- (b) Enter team data by set date and pay associated fee(s).
  - i. Source and fund accommodation, travelling expenses, and any tournament-related costs incurred by its members.
  - ii. Provide a WPWA-qualified referee per nominated team.
- (c) Each visiting Country Team is to supply matching team playing caps.

## PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- (a) All players participating in the Tournament must be fully financial and primary registered members of WPWA with the level of insurance as determined by WPWA. Additionally, all players participating must be fully financial and registered members of a WA country Club or Association as determined by WPWA.
- (b) Players must be registered within the CMS used by WPWA which shall include a player's current Western Australian residential address.
- (c) To qualify, all players or coaches wishing to participate in the tournament must have contributed a minimum of five (5) games over a five (5) week period for their own Country Association or Club regional competition of the present season before the Tournament. The following also applies:
  - a. To verify player eligibility, all country-fixtured games shall be entered into the CMS (prior to team nominations opening) as a source of evidence.
  - b. To promote player development of regional associations and clubs, no local registered player of a particular position will be disadvantaged in favour of the selection of a player from outside the region, including metropolitan players. This includes both the team list and playing team selection.
  - c. Players must play for their primary registered club. They can only play for their secondary registered club if:
    - their primary club is not eligible for the tournament or,

- their primary club has not entered a team in the competition or
  - if the player is not selected for the team of their primary club.
- d. Players who have origins with a Country Association who ordinarily reside in the Perth metropolitan area for education or health reasons will be considered Country residents for this tournament.
- (d) All Loan Player Agreements, and primary and secondary club registrations, must be finalized, including payment of fees, before the Tournament team nominations open. Should an Association or Club not have the means to provide the required minimum number of players (see player numbers below; Competition Rules c.a.) they may form a composite team with another or multiple Associations, or their players may enter the player draft. Should no players be available in a draft, an Association or club may then submit an exemption request to WPWA with alternative players.
- (e) All nominating teams should be advised they are responsible for their own accommodation and travelling costs. This may be subsidized by grants, fundraising and/or Association/Club contribution.
- (f) If fixturing allows, the Host has the right to play two (2) teams in each competition gender. No other Association or Club has the right to play two (2) teams without the expressed written permission in writing from WPWA and RAG.
- (g) A Composite Team is preferable to a second team from the Host. See Composite Teams for more information.
- (h) Fixturing will account for only one (1) team from each Association in each competition (per gender) can qualify for finals at the tournament.
- (i) Where an Association has two (2) teams in the same competition, players will not be allowed to interchange upon submission of the first games player list. This also applies to composite and guest teams. This rule applies for the duration of the tournament.



## COMPETITION RULES

- (a) The rules of the game shall be the current rules as laid down by World Aquatics (AQUA) with the exception of any rules outlined within this document or ones that have been included due to unique circumstances (e.g., pool space).
- (b) Wherever possible game sheets are to be prepopulated by the Host through the CMS used by WPWA.
- (c) Teams must ensure that game sheets correspond with the player's cap number. It is preferable that players play in the same cap number for the duration of the tournament. Alterations to cap numbers will need the prior approval of the Tournament Director.
- (d) A team shall consist of a minimum of seven (7) players, six (6) of which are field players, and one (1) goalkeeper. The maximum size of a team is thirteen (13) members including six (6) reserves. Teams may list up to a maximum of fifteen (15) players on nomination forms, with a maximum of thirteen (13) playing in any one game. The purpose is the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> players are to be used as replacements for players 1-13 if one of those players is no longer able to play e.g., injury, illness, or other commitments.
- (e) Players wearing red cap number one (1) will always have goalkeeper (GK) privileges.
- (f) Players wearing a red cap number thirteen (13) shall have GK privileges. However, cap number thirteen (13) does not have to be red and can be a blue or white cap, with the player not holding goalkeeper privileges. If cap 13 is the GK, this will be indicated on the Game Sheet.
- (g) A second goalkeeper does not have to be nominated. Any player (any cap number) can substitute for the goalkeeper. Substitution (change of caps) should be allowed during stoppage times that are usually allocated for normal substitutions. This includes but is not limited to at the end of quarters, after the goals, and timeouts. Substitutions of GK are not allowed after a penalty has been awarded or when the referee stops the game and takes the ball out of the water for whatever reason that might be, adjusting time or consultation with the delegate, etc.
- (h) Only one (1) player with goalkeeper privileges is permitted in the pool at any time.
- (i) Each team shall ensure that game sheets are filled in correctly ten (10) minutes before the time advertised for the match. This includes ensuring the 13 permitted players

have been identified if a team has listed a 14<sup>th</sup> and/or 15<sup>th</sup> player.

- (j) Each team shall be available to line up five (5) minutes before the advertised fixture for the match, to be inspected by the referees; to check each player's nails and ensure no excessive sunscreen application.
- (k) Any player does not present for the lineup and not checked at this point, subject to the referee's discretion, may be ineligible to participate in the game.
  - a. Should the player be ruled ineligible, an appeal may be made to the Technical Delegate (TED), who may choose to insert the player into the game at either the quarter-, half-, or three-quarter-time breaks.
- (l) If a team is unable to field a team of seven (7), that team shall be deemed to have lost five (5) goals to nil, and competition points awarded to the team ready to play.
- (m) A team playing a person who falls outside the criteria outlined in these rules and guidelines shall automatically forfeit the game in which such person has taken part.
- (n) All finals games shall be seven (7) minute quarters of actual time with two (2)-minute intervals between each quarter.
- (o) Qualifying games shall be of the duration decided by the OC of the Host to fit the programme, but not less than four (4) minute quarters of actual time and equal across all games in the same competition. Minimum quarter time breaks of one (1) minute. Half-time breaks of two (2) minutes.
- (p) The thirty (30) second and twenty (20) second shot clock rule will apply.
- (q) The twenty (20) second exclusion rule will apply.
- (r) The competition points awarded during the tournament are:
  - a. 2 for a win,
  - b. 1 for a draw
  - c. 0 for a loss, and
  - d. -2 (negative two points) for a forfeit.
- (s) For a player to be eligible to play in the finals they must have played at least two (2) games throughout the tournament.
- (t) Any team forfeiting a game in a manner that is deemed to bring the sport into disrepute shall be given a sanction agreed to by the Technical Delegate and WPWA. The team has a right of appeal to WPWA whose decision will be final.
- (u) Teams are to provide matching playing caps. If caps are colours other than the

traditional white and blue, they are to be clearly distinguished from opposition caps.

The team listed first on the scoresheet holds first preference for any alternate colours.

Goalkeeper caps are to be red (unless the GK playing in cap #13) and thus no alternate colours should be red.

(v) Teams shall have club playing uniform or matching playing uniform unless approved by the TED. Draft players and composite teams are excepted.

(w) Programming allowances should be made if the competition expends to needing round games. This should be done at the direction of the TED and WPWA.

## COMPOSITE TEAMS

A composite team is designed for country players who have no team to play for. WPWA may decide on non-country players being allowed to play in the team, to make up the required numbers for match play. Players who are not eligible under player eligibility rules will not be eligible for personal trophies or awards. The following rules are in place for Composite teams:

(a) Composite teams can be put together if the game scheduling of the tournament allows.

(b) Composite teams can be put together by Clubs or Associations and refer to eligible Clubs or Associations unable to field a team in their own right may combine with another eligible Club(s) or Association(s).

a. Players must meet all stated criteria outlined in this document.

b. A composite team formed in this way must pay the nomination fee.

(c) Composite teams can also be put together using non-selected draft players:

a. these composite teams don't pay a team nomination fee.

b. however, every draft player will pay a draft nomination fee.

i. These players need to be nominated as part of the draft process and the draft Players (or their originating country Association or Club) must pay the draft nomination fee to the Host at the time of draft nomination.

(d) Composite teams, being made up of players from the Country Associations or Clubs, should take preference to any guest team.

(e) Any team with more than three (3) draft players will be considered a composite team.

The team still pays the team nomination fee and draft players pay the draft players nomination fee.

- (f) Composite teams are considered the same as every other team wherein points from games will count, as will fairest and best votes, and goals scored.
- (g) Teams listing fifteen (15) players cannot let their two (2) extra players play for the composite team or enter the draft after team lists have been submitted.
- (h) Country-qualified players who play in a composite team can qualify for Country State Team selection and also for any personal awards.

## DRAFT PLAYERS

- (a) A Country Association or Club may have up to three (3) draft players and still qualify for finals.
  - a. A draft player will still have to qualify as a country player under the rules outlined in the document above.
- (b) Country Association or Clubs that request draft players will select the draft players in the reverse order of how the teams finished in the previous year's tournament i.e., The lowest-placed teams pick first and then alternate their picks depending on how many draft players have been requested. Except in the instance that a new team enters the competition.
  - a. If a new team enters the tournament, they shall be awarded the first draft pick above teams selecting in reverse order. A new team is defined as a team that did not compete in the previous tournament.
  - b. If there is more than one new team the first draft pick shall be decided by the toss of a coin or electronic version thereof.
- (c) Teams may only select one player at a time unless no other team is requesting draft players
- (d) If more than one team has requested more than one player, they will select one player and then alternate picks.
- (e) Teams from Associations or Clubs that have same-gender draft players entered in the draft cannot request or accept draft players unless the position of players is a problem (eg too many goalkeepers).
- (f) Composite teams do not qualify for the draft, yet draft players not selected can play in the composite team.
- (g) Teams with 13 or more players listed cannot have draft picks.

- (h) Draft players will have to pay a maximum nomination fee of 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the team nomination fee (fully refundable if not selected) to the Host.
- (i) Draft players may be:
- players from a country town that has no club or association, or;
  - players who have missed out on making their club or association teams.
- (j) If the player resides in a regional area with no Association or Club no qualification minimum games are necessary for country player classification; however they are encouraged to attend their nearest Country Association/Club.
- (k) Draft players from country towns that have no association or club will be required to register and pay through WPWA CMS.
- (l) The RAG will run the draft before the tournament fixtures are finalised and at their convenience. All competing Associations and the Tournament Director are to be notified of the outcome of the draft. If the fixturing will allow it, any players not picked up in the draft will be given the option of forming a composite side - the minimum number of players for a team must still be met. A second-round draft process will take preference to the creation of a composite team.
- (m) Draft players have no say in which team they play for. No attempts to influence the process are acceptable and will result in the player being excluded from the process. They must play fairly and competitively, in full fairness to the competition, for the team to which they have been selected.
- Players refusing to play for a team they have been drafted, without a valid reason (to be determined by WPWA), will forfeit their right to play in the Tournament for a period of 24 months from the date of refusal.
- (n) Once a draft player has been selected by a team, they are not able to be withdrawn to play for their originating Country Association or Club or a composite team.
- (o) If there are still teams requiring draft players after the completion of the draft process, a second-round draft can be completed within seven (7) days. This includes requests for new players to enter the draft.
- (p) Players who have not been selected by either the draft process or assigned to a composite team will have their draft player fee returned by the *Host* within seven (7) days of completion of this process.

## Appendix 1

Log of Dates of Qualification Games for WA Country Championships:

Team: \_\_\_\_\_

	Player Name	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	Game 5
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_