



Water Polo National Sanctioning Policy

Executive Summary and Frequently Asked Questions

The following guide provides a high level summary of the purpose and application of this Policy. This brief guide should not be relied upon for the full process pertaining to this Policy. For the majority of the water polo community this Policy will never be required, as it only applies to members who are alleged to have exhibited behaviours outlined in Clause 5.

What is the purpose of this Policy?

- To provide a consistent, nationwide framework for sanctioning Players, Coaches and Officials for Offences committed during or related to a game of water polo; and to ensure the sport of water polo is played in a manner consistent with rules of the game, the Code of Conduct, other relevant Policies and upholds the behaviours identified in the Think.Act.Play guidelines

What activities are covered by this Policy

- All Competitions and Tournaments sanctioned by Water Polo Australia, a State or Territory Association or a regional Association are covered by this Policy.

Who does it apply to?

- The Policy applies predominantly to Players, Coaches and Officials who are involved in a game.
- Should other persons become involved in and around the field of play, they may be charged under this policy, charged under a different WPA Policy or referred to the police, whichever is most appropriate.

What happens if I receive a Red Card during a game?

- The Referees will submit a report to the relevant Competition Manager
- You will receive a Charge Notice which outlines the offence and the penalty points linked to that offence (See Clause 5)
- You can choose to accept the penalty listed on the Charge Notice or seek to have the matter heard by an Internal Tribunal.
- You have a specified amount of time to respond to the Charge Notice.
- If you choose to have the matter heard by the Internal Tribunal and you are found guilty, the penalty may be increased. If this happens, and you disagree there is an appeals mechanism.

If I get suspended from a competition at one level, does it impact on another competition?

- Yes, the intent of this Policy is to cover all Water Polo Activities across Australia. Given there are different formats (Competitions and Tournaments) played at National, State and local level, a suspension incurred at one level, can flow through to another level, depending on its duration and what activities you are involved in.

What if I get suspended as a player, can I still coach a team, or suspended as a coach, can I still play?

- No, if you get suspended, you are suspended from all roles you have in the game, until the end of your suspension. This can include playing, coaching or attending camps.





Why are the timeframes so tight around receiving the Charge Notice and having to make a decision?

- This applies more to Tournaments, where your team is likely to play again the next day, so decisions need to be made quickly so you know if you can or can't participate in the next game.

Why does the time limit for response start when the Charge Notice is issued, not when I receive it?

- Given the tight time frames, involved in Tournaments, in particular and that you know if you have received a Red Card during a game, you should be expecting the Charge Notice to come through. The quicker the matter is resolved the quicker everyone can prepare for the next game.

What happens if I am currently serving a suspension when the new Policy comes into play?

- Any existing Sanctions are carried through, and the suspension needs to be served. If you are unsure, please contact your Competitions Manager relevant to the competition you are to play in next.
- The RevSport Competition Management system will not allow your name to be added to a scorecard if you are suspended.
- Any penalty points you are carrying will also be carried forward under the new Policy

When will the Policy be reviewed?

- The Policy will be reviewed by June 30, 2023. Any feedback and suggestions should be provided to the WPA CEO via email.

What happens if I am currently serving a suspension when the new Policy comes into play?

- Any existing Sanctions are carried through, and the suspension needs to be served as intended. If you are unsure, please contact your Competitions Manager relevant to the competition you are to play in next. There will naturally be a transition period and each case will be assessed as to how it is managed.
- Any penalty points you are carrying will also be carried forward under the new Policy

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Process Diagram

