

WPWAI COMPETITION RULES

2023-2024

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1. INTRODUCTION

These Perth Metropolitan Competition Rules are made under the authority of Water Polo Western Australia (Inc) (WPWAI or WPWA) to ensure fair and equitable competition. The intent of this document is to provide clear and unambiguous guidance to all members of WPWAI on the conduct of Perth Metropolitan Competitions.

The Competition Rules have various directions and requirements of WPWAI and are binding on clubs, players, club officials and referees.

The Competition Rules are made for the dominant purpose of ensuring a safe and fair system or framework within which water polo competitions may be regulated and conducted in Western Australia.

2. GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

The Constitution of the WPWAI is the authority under and through which WPWAI governs and manages the sport and business of Water Polo in WA.

The Competition Rules of WPWAI are the framework within which water polo competitions are regulated and conducted. The competitions will be conducted in accordance with, and should be read in conjunction with, the following rules and policies:

<https://www.worldaquatics.com/rules/competition-regulations> - unless expressed otherwise in these Competition Rules

[Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy](#)

[AIS Concussion Guidance](#)

[WPA National Member Protection Policy 2022](#)

[WPA Code of Conduct 2022](#)

[WPA National Sanctioning Policy](#)

[WPA Membership & Registration Policy](#)

[WPWAI Player Transfer Policy](#)

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 that 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 give recommendations to the Board and General Manager to act on. These recommendations are a non-binding procedural way of formalising and recording advice to the Board or General Manager on a specific issue.

3. DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Board	The Board of the WPWAI
Board Member	A member of the Board of the WPWAI
Club	An incorporated water polo organisation that comprises individual members who participate in water polo activities and whose objectives include fielding teams in competitive Water Polo tournaments, competitions, and matches sanctioned from time to time by WPWAI or WPA or any State Member of WPA and aligns with and is consistent with the objects of WPWAI.
Club Official	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.
Club Representative	A person who is a current member of an affiliate club office holder or executive committee member with authority to represent the interests of their member club.
Coach	Senior or head coach of a team; all other coaches are deemed to be assistant coaches.
Competition	A group of Grades for purposes of competition (i.e.: Men's, Women's, Juniors).
Competition Advisory Group (CAG)	A group set up by WPWAI to provide advice to WPWAI on matters relating to the effective operation, planning and administration of all WPWAI-endorsed competitions and events. The CAG is an advisory group and as such has no delegated authority to make binding decisions on behalf of WPWAI.
Competition & Pathways Coordinator	Any person/s that has been provided the delegated authority by the General Manager or Board for the purposes of administration of any WPWAI competition.
Competition Week	This means the playing week for fixtures and competition which commences Sunday and ends on the following Saturday.
Competition Management System (CMS)	Means the approved electronic business system used for the registration of teams, players, and competitions i.e., RevolutioniseSport application.
Emerging Player	Means players between 16 and 21 years identified as well advanced on the

	state performance pathway. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes players selected to 17U, and 19U state teams in 2021, 2022 and/or 2023. This definition only applies to the Senior State League competition.
FINA	See WORLD AQUATICS
Grading Session	A club forum hosted by WPWAI and CAG for the purpose of agreeing with team nominations and grades for the upcoming season. Clubs can provide two representatives. Separate sessions for A Grade, and B-G Grading.
General Manager	Means the General Manager (or Chief Executive Officer or other title) of WPWAI and includes any person acting in that position.
Grade	Means an individual grade for purposes of Competition (i.e., A, B, C, U14A, U14B).
Junior Player	A player aged 17 years and under.
Junior State League	Or JSL is the junior league of competition as organised by WPWAI.
Official	Means a club, referee or WPWAI Official. [See Club Official & WPWAI Official].
Officials Advisory Group (OAG)	Means the group established by WPWAI to provide advice to WPWAI on matters relating to the effective operation, development, education, planning and administration of all WPWAI refereeing matters. The OAG is an advisory group and as such has no delegated authority to make binding decisions on behalf of WPWAI.

Player	Means a person registered to play in WPWAI competitions.
Primary Club	This means the club where a player is first registered to play for that
Primary Team	This means the team where a player is first registered to play for that competition year.
Qualifying Game	Means a game played in a Competition that is not a final.
Referee	Means an approved and qualified person who referees competition games.
Restricted player	Means a player identified as above the standard of the majority of players in the WPWAI Senior State League. Includes athletes listed as top 10 of an Australian Water Polo League (AWL) team; and or any athlete with a current National Athlete Categorisation of Developing and above within the WPAL Athlete Management System. This definition applies to the Senior State League competition where such players are expected to nominate as A Grade players,
Secondary Club	Is the club where a player has received a dispensation to play at a second club for a specific reason. Examples include but are not limited to; the Primary Club not offering the appropriate level of competition e.g. A Grade; or for regional players to play in metropolitan competitions; or for a junior player to play with a different club in seniors.
Senior Player	A player aged 18 years and older.
Senior State League	Or SSL is the senior league of competition as organised by WPWAI
WPAL	Is Water Polo Australia Limited, the recognised governing body and National Sporting Organisation for Water Polo in Australia. Water Polo Australia or “WPA” where used throughout this document has the same meaning.
Water Polo Western Australia Inc	Mean the incorporated body for water polo in Western Australia and is referred to as Water Polo Western Australia Inc., “Water Polo WA” or “WPWA” where used throughout this document has the same meaning.
WORLD AQUATICS	This the international governing body for aquatic sports including Water Polo, previously known as the Federation Internationale de Natation, FINA. Within the scope of this document, FINA and World Aquatics are interchangeable.
WPWAI Official	Is a Board Member, WPWAI staff or any person appointed by the WPWAI to act on its behalf.

4. SPIRIT OF THE GAME STATEMENT

- 4.1 The aim 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 or of regulation by the administrators of the competition.
- 4.2 This Spirit of the Game can be defined as the element of 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.
- 4.3 Water Polo games are played to be won and Water Polo is a contact sport so it is expected that games will be competitive and physically demanding. However, WPWAI also requires that each game be played within both the written rules of the game and the spirit of the game.
- 4.4 Each participant is personally responsible for ensuring their behaviour is fair, decent, honest, and respectful.
- 4.5 The desire for winning must not outweigh:
- (a) the ideals of fair play or good sporting manner;
 - (b) the reputation and integrity of WPWAI and its competitions.
- 4.6 At the end of a game each person involved with the game should honestly be able to say that the teams played fairly, decently, and honestly, and behaved in a good sporting-manner, regardless of being the winner or loser.
- 4.7 In the heat of the game all participants must conduct themselves fairly, decently, and honestly and with respect for:
- (a) Officials;
 - (b) all Players;
 - (c) WPWAI;
 - (d) all relevant Policies and Code of Conduct; and
 - (e) the game of Water Polo.

5. PLAYER AND OFFICIALS' REGISTRATION

- 5.1 All players and officials must be registered with WPWAI to be eligible to play, coach or referee at the relevant times and prior to taking part in any match.
- 5.2 To be registered, a person must be registered on the WPWAI CMS, and fees paid.
- 5.3 Where registration is subject to a Player Transfer, the player is not permitted to register with the new (destination) club until:
 - (a) the transferring player receives approval (or clearance) from the existing (origin) club, and
 - (b) the transfer is completed in accordance with the WPWAI Player Transfer Policy, including payment of any outstanding fees/invoices.
- 5.4 Any person who makes a false declaration on their application for registration or transfer, shall have their registration cancelled.
- 5.5 Any team found to be playing an unregistered player(s) will forfeit all games the unregistered player(s) has played in.

6. LOAN PLAYERS

- 6.1 Players may only play for the Primary Club they are registered with through WPWAI unless;
- (a) a loan arrangement for a Secondary Club has been applied for; and
 - (b) granted by WPWAI.
- 6.2 Loan players may be subject to conditions imposed by WPWAI in relation to the Grade they must play at either their Primary or Secondary Club to facilitate the loan.
- 6.3 Loan players must be approved by WPWAI with the Secondary Club as a player with dispensation via the online membership platform prior to playing with the Secondary Club.
- 6.4 A Player may only represent:
- (a) one (1) Primary Club as a player at National or State competitions/tournaments in any one season (as per season dates defined in that State) as determined at the start of the season.
- 6.5 An exemption via Rule 6.1 can be used for WPWAI-controlled state competition tournaments only.

7. ANNUAL TEAM NOMINATIONS

- 7.1 Clubs shall nominate teams for each competition and grade via the approved CMS.
- 7.2 Clubs must ensure:
- (a) players nominate for an appropriate grade aligned to ability, and willingness to commit to level of competition. Noting Restricted Player definition applies to A Grade player eligibility.
 - (b) teams are nominated to an appropriate Grade.
 - (c) clubs comply with any caps applied from time to time to max or min number of teams per club per grade.
- 7.3 WPWAI will advise Clubs the time and date determined team nominations will close. No team nomination will be accepted after the closing date, unless:
- (a) a request is made in writing stating the reason why nominations are late
 - (b) the request is approved by WPWAI and, where appropriate, in liaison with the CAG; and
 - (c) subject to Rules 7.4, 7.5 and 8.
- 7.4 Teams accepted to play in the nominated year shall pay the nomination fee as specified by WPWAI.
- 7.5 Alongside rule 8.2, WPWAI has absolute discretion to:
- (a) Reject a team's nomination or
 - (b) Apply appropriate conditions for a team's nomination to be accepted.
 - (c) Fine a club as prescribed in Rule 19 where the club nominates a team after the advertised nomination date.
- 7.6 Any club that withdraws a nominated team from a Competition before round 4 of the relevant season shall not receive a financial penalty.
- 7.7 Any club that withdraws a nominated team from a Competition after round 4 of the relevant season shall pay the full team nomination fee.

8. TEAM GRADING

- 8.1 Clubs shall nominate their teams for competitions and grades in accordance with Rule 7.
- 8.2 CAG will review team nominations and prepare an initial grading report. Information and documents to assist with initial grading will include but are not limited to:
- (a) previous competition results;
 - (b) submitted team lists from the clubs; and
 - (c) a submission from the club regarding a nominated player and team grading, if required.
- 8.3 WPWAI will invite the CAG and club representatives (max two Club Representatives per club) to a pre-season Grading Session to:
- (a) review and agree on nominated teams and nominated grades for each competition,
 - (b) a vote by simple majority will apply,
 - (c) provide clubs the chance to appeal, challenge, and or accept nominations and gradings,
 - (d) ensure the integrity of WPWAI competition through collaborative agreements between clubs, and
 - (e) tie-break situations will be escalated to CAG to recommend a decision to the WPWA Board for final approval.
- 8.4 Agreed teams for all Grades from the Grading Session will be presented to the WPWAI board for ratifying, and considered final, subject to rule 8.5.
- 8.5 During the season, a decision may be made to move a team up (promote) or down (relegate) a Grade. Such decision(s) is at the absolute discretion of WPWAI, which may from time to time liaise with the WPWAI Competition & Pathways Coordinator and CAG and will include but not limited to the following provisions:
- (a) Teams promoted to a higher grade prior to round 5 will have points earned to date adjusted to the equivalent points as if the team drew every game up to the time of promotion.
 - (b) Teams relegated to a lower grade prior to round 5 will have points earned to date adjusted to the equivalent points as if they drew every game up to the time of their relegation.
- 8.6 Any team that forfeits four Qualifying games in one season will be removed from the Competition.
- 8.7 WPWAI may relegate or promote a team for Competition and Grade composition at

its absolute discretion.

- 8.8 All correspondence in relation to the grading of teams must be sent to the WPWAI Competition & Pathways Coordinator by a club representative.

9. FIELD OF PLAY AND DURATION OF GAMES

9.1 The relevant Competition will use the following equipment, field of play sizes and game durations:

Table 1.1: Junior A Grade and Senior Competition equipment, field of play sizes and game durations

	14&U	16&U	18&U	Seniors (B Grade and below)	Senior A Grade
Ball Size	Size 4	Boys - Size 5 Girls - Size 4	Boys - Size 5	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 (Lowest grade may be played in 15m wide pool)	Men's- 30m Length (minimum 25 meters) 20m wide Women's - 25m Length (Minimum 22.5m)
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	4 quarters 8 mins of actual playing time.
Age group eligibility	Born 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013	Born 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011	Born 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009	Born 2009 or older athletes	Born 2009 or older athletes

Table 1.2 Junior B Grade equipment, field of play sizes and game durations

	Year 5/6	Year 7/8	Year 9/10	Year 11/12
Ball Size	Size 3	Size 4	Boys - Size 5 Girls - Size 4	Boys - Size 5 Girls - Size 4
Field Size	20m> <25m Length 15m Wide	20m> <25m Length 15m Wide	25m> Length 20m Wide	25m> Length 20m Wide
Game Duration (including finals)	4 quarters of 7 minutes running clock	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
Age group eligibility	Attending school in years 5, 6 in 2023.	Attending school in years 7, 8 in 2023	Attending school in years 7, 8, 9 or 10 at the start of 2023	Attending school years 10, 11, or 12 at start of 2023
Year Born	Year 5 in 2023: Born between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013; Year 6 in 2023: Born between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012	Year 7 in 2023: Born between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2011; Year 8 in 2023: Born between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010	Year 9 in 2023: Born between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009; Year 10 in 2023: Born between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008	Year 11 in 2023: Born between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007; Year 12 in 2023: Born between July 1, 2005, and June 30, 2006

10. PRE-MATCH REQUIREMENTS

- 10.1 Home teams (Senior Competition only) shall be responsible for:
- (a) setting up of the venue fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled starting time, of the first fixtured match at the venue;
 - (b) ensuring that timing equipment used is of an appropriate standard and in working order; and
 - (c) an official's table is erected and WPWAI approved game sheets are available.
- 10.2 In neutral venues or pools, the team listed first on the scoresheet are responsible for:
- (a) the set-up of the pool; and
 - (b) to assist the Away team in packing up at the conclusion of the final fixtured match at the venue.
- 10.3 Clubs must supply their own individually numbered caps. The Home team on fixtures wears white and the Away team wears blue caps.
- (a) Clubs can wear their own-coloured caps. If they are not white or blue, the Home team must have a lighter colour set (closer to white) and the Away team wear a darker colour set (closer to blue).
 - (b) Clubs must submit their own-colour cap to WPWAI for approval, prior to ordering, production and playing in the caps.
- 10.4 For A Grade Competition and Challenge Cup, in line with the WORLD AQUATICS Rules, the playing uniform shall be bathers and caps registered and approved by WPWAI. Where a player does not wear the correct playing bathers and/or caps:
- (a) The club shall incur a fine as prescribed in Rule 19; and
 - (b) The referee will note on the game sheet any breaches of this rule.
- 10.5 Game sheets must be completed in legible print including player's first names and surnames, prior to the game's scheduled start time.
- 10.6 Each team shall line up five (5) minutes before the time fixtured for the match, to be inspected by the referee (nail and sunscreen checks as appropriate) and to ensure game sheets are filled in correctly.
- 10.7 If a player arrives after the scheduled start time, for the game but before halftime, then teams are to ensure the player's name is added to the game sheet and the referee is informed. The player can then join the team bench. The referee is responsible for:
- (a) Checking the game sheet at half time to ensure all players named on the game sheet are present. Any players arriving after halftime are ineligible to participate in the game and their names must not be entered on the team sheet.

- 10.8 WPWAI highly recommends all players wear a mouth guard.
- 10.9 Sunscreen is highly recommended for games played during the day and outdoors. Sunscreen used must be alcohol based and non-slip.

11. MATCHES

- 11.1 WPWAI shall decide the fixtures for qualifying and finals matches for the given season.
- 11.2 The Competition Week for fixtures and competition starts Sunday and ends on the following Saturday.
- 11.3 No team shall play in any official match without the sanction of WPWAI.
- 11.4 All official Competition matches, must use an approved sponsor's Water Polo Ball, supplied by the team named first on Revolutionise Sport. Failure to do so will result in a fine (see Rule 20).
- 11.5 From Qualifying games WPWAI shall keep for each Grade a competition ladder showing matches won, matches lost, matches drawn, points scored for and against, and premiership points determined as follows:
- (a) 2 points for a win.
 - (b) 1 point for a draw.
 - (c) 0 points for a loss.
 - (d) Minus 2 (-2) for a forfeited game (the losing team). The winning team will then receive 2 points. [See section 13].
- 11.6 Qualification for finals shall be determined in order on the competition ladder by:
- (a) Teams total number of competition points gained (CP), divided by the maximum number of possible competition points (MCP) and multiplied by 100 to give a "percentage of possible points" (PPP). $[CP \div MCP \times 100 = PPP]$.
 - (b) If two teams finish on the same number of points or percentage of possible points, further classification will be established as follows:
 1. Goal difference in games played against each other.
 2. Team's total goal difference; and
 3. Teams' total goals for.
- 11.7 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:
- (a) Determine the result, or
 - (b) Order the match be replayed at such time and place as they see fit.
- 11.8 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 where it is needed.
- 11.9 Matches must start and finish on time. If the start of the game is delayed for any reason:
- (a) Referees are to calculate the length of the quarters once both teams are ready to start; and
 - (b) The quarter length will be dependent on the total allocated time left to ensure the following games will start on time.

11.10 Misconduct towards Officials will not be tolerated. All Players, Officials and spectators reported by referees for misconduct, bringing the game into disrepute, or for brutality shall be administered under the National Sanctioning policy.

12. POST-MATCH REQUIREMENTS

12.1 At the completion of the game, WPWAI referees and Club referees shall:

- (a) Check the game sheet and ensure that all details including players names, scores and exclusions are correct.
- (b) Complete any details for players issued with a red card into CMS
- (c) Award Best & Fairest points for the match; and
- (d) Clearly print their name and sign the game sheet.

12.2 At the completion of the game, each team shall:

- (a) Take a photo of the game sheet after the referees have completed their post-match actions as set out in 12.1;
- (b) Enter the data for the game sheet into WPWAI online CMS system;
- (c) The Home team is responsible for:
 - Entering the full-time result for both teams;
 - Uploading an image of the game sheet and the required data for their own team by the cut off time in Rule 12.3;
 - Required data includes player lists, player goals scored, player exclusions and best & fairest votes for own team; and
 - Entering the names of the Referees for the match.
- (d) The Away team shall check the details entered by the Home team and:
 - Use the protest function of the online CMS in case of any discrepancy;
 - Enter the required data for their own team by the cut off time in Rule 12.3; and
 - Required data includes player lists, player goals scored, player exclusions and best & fairest votes for own team.

12.3 Timelines for online results entry are:

- (a) Junior Competition – 9pm Wednesday (AWST).
- (b) Senior Competition – 9pm Friday (AWST).

12.4 A Club not complying with Rule 12.2 will incur a forfeit for that game and fine as prescribed in Rule 19.

12.5 For all games played at HBF Stadium, the original Game sheets are to be placed by the referees on the day of the match in letter box on wall of UWA Water Polo Club Rooms.

12.6 For all other venues the Home Club is responsible for retaining the original Game sheet for the period of 3 months.

13. FORFEITS

- 13.1 Clubs are to notify WPWAI as soon as is possible and at least 48 hours prior to the game:
- (a) That they are forfeiting, in writing (this includes email).
 - (b) If done within the prescribed fine in Rule 19 will be halved but loss of competition points as prescribed will still apply.
- 13.2 As described, matches shall also be forfeited on the following basis:
- (a) Playing an unregistered player;
 - (b) Playing an ineligible player;
 - (c) Failure to enter results in accordance with Rule 12.2; and
 - (d) Junior player playing more than three matches in a Competition Week.
- 13.3 Teams forfeiting a match will result in a fine as described at Rule 19 and loss of competition points in accordance with Rule 11.5(d)

14. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – GENERAL

- 14.1 All players must be registered as per Section 5.
- 14.2 Three weeks prior to Round 1 of each Competition or by date as directed by WPWAI:
- (a) Clubs must enter all team nomination lists into the online CMS.
 - (b) Team lists are to be entered as nominations in preparation for Pre-Season Grading.
- 14.3 Following WPWAI Board ratification of Pre-Season Grading, and prior to Round 1 of each Competition, clubs must finalise all team lists for each nominated team entered in the CMS.
- 14.4 SSL Only - SSL players are only permitted to nominate and play in one (1) senior grade. Exception is when playing as a substitute (see Rule 14.6). The following rules apply:
- (a) In addition to Rule 16, A Grade competition is played as an open competition to allow Emerging Players and players in lower grades the chance to play up grades from time to time in accordance with Rules 14.5 – 14.10 and Rule 16.
 - (b) A Grade listed players can only play A Grade competition and cannot also play in lower grades.
- 14.5 SSL Only - Teams can play games with a minimum of six (6) and no more than thirteen (13) players. Where teams have listed players unable to play, a maximum of two (2) players from a lower age group or lower grade can be used as substitutes. The total team size, including substitutes, must not exceed thirteen (13) players.
- 14.6 During the Qualifying Games, a player may be a substitute for a maximum of three (3) games across the SSL and JSL.
- (a) Players listed in B Grade and below, can only substitute in grades above their listed grade.
 - (b) Players playing as substitutes shall also be eligible to play in games for that round of their Primary Team (own age group or grade).
 - (c) When playing as a substitute, games played in the player's Primary Team will be the only game counted towards qualification for finals;
 - (d) The game sheet must indicate an 'S' beside the substituted player(s) name;
 - (e) The player must be registered for the game in the online CMS as a "fill in" player; and
 - (f) The substitute player must not be listed within another team in the same grade.
- 14.7 No players from teams which have a bye or forfeit during a Competition Week can play or substitute in a lower Grade or other team in their Grade during the Competition Week. They are able to play for a team in a higher grade as a substitute player.
- 14.8 Any request for an exemption from this rule 14 and subsequent player eligibility rules 15, 16, 17 and 18 must be provided in writing to WPWAI at least three (3) days prior to any match for which an exemption is being sought. All requests will be decided on a case-by-case basis.
- 14.9 Teams playing ineligible players, as deemed by the Competition Rules, will forfeit all the games

these players have played in or as specified in these Rules.

14.10 In the event of a dispute, the matter will be referred to WPWAI for determination.

15. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – JUNIORS SPECIFIC

- 15.1 A junior age player from 15 years – 17 years can play a maximum of three (3) games in each competition week across the junior and senior competitions, where:
- (a) An exemption request is submitted to WPWAI three (3) days prior to game(s).
 - (b) Approval granted by WPWAI prior to the nominated game(s).
 - (c) Failure to comply will result in a forfeit for the team for which the fourth (4) and any subsequent game was played.
- 15.2 A player eligible to playing the 14&U Grade is not eligible to play in the 18&U Grade or in any Senior Competition, with exception of Rule 15.1.
- 15.3 Players born 2010 and 2011 are eligible to play in the 14&U Grade or the 16&U Grade but are not eligible to play in both in any Competition Week.
- 15.4 Players born 2008 and 2009 are eligible to play in the 16&U Grade and are eligible to play in the 18&U Grade with there being no requirement for clubs to limit the number of these players.
- (a) These Players can play a maximum two games in the same Competition Week, one for their 16&U team and one for their 18&U team with exception of Rule 15.1.
 - (b) Failure to comply will result in a forfeit for the team for which the third (3) and any subsequent game in the junior round was played.
 - (c) Players must be listed on both team lists in RevolutioniseSport.

16. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – A-GRADE SPECIFIC

- 16.1 Three weeks prior to the commencement of the A Grade Competition or by date as directed by WPWAI clubs must submit to WPWAI a team list for each A Grade team. Rule 8 applies. Only Club Representatives from Clubs nominating A Grade Teams are eligible to attend Pre-Season Grading for A Grade Competition.
- 16.2 The listed team players are eligible to play in A Grade only, subject to rule 16.3.
- 16.3 The team list submitted at nomination must identify any players the club considers to be an Emerging Player. Emerging Players are eligible to play in both the A Grade and B Grade only.
- (a) Emerging Players are eligible to play in both A Grade and B Grade finals where they qualify under Rule 17.
 - (b) It is to be clear the intent of the Emerging Player provision is for developing players to gain experience in A Grade whilst playing regularly in B Grade.
- 16.4 For all other Players, Rule 14.4 applies.
- 16.5 Where a team has player(s) participating in official AWL, State or National water polo programs a replacement from a lower grade or junior age group may be played without penalty.
- (a) This would NOT be a 'substitution' for the purposes of rule 14.6
 - (b) This player will be eligible to play in finals if they meet the criteria outlined in Rule 17.
 - (c) The name of the player absent on representative duties must be recorded on the game sheet.

17. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY - FINALS

- 17.1 A player must play at least five (5) games or 25% of the games for their Club whichever is least in the qualifying rounds to qualify for finals.
- (a) The finals eligibility regarding the minimum number of games to be played per finals per Competition will be set and displayed:
- Online via the online CMS and
 - Confirmed to all Clubs at the beginning of the season once round 4 is completed.
- 17.2 Clubs must run a report through the online CMS at least two (2) weeks before semi- finals to check on their players' eligibility for finals.
- (a) If any questions arise regarding the eligibility of players, the Club must seek clarification from WPWAI no later than a week before finals.
- 17.3 The team for which a player is eligible during the finals is determined by:
- (a) The greatest number of games played during the preliminary rounds.
- (b) If an equal number of games are played in different grades, eligibility shall be for the highest grade played.
- 17.4 16 and under players who are eligible and have played in the 18 and under age groups must have qualified for both age groups if they are to play finals in both competitions.
- 17.5 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. Players may play in a higher grade in the finals for which they have qualified. They cannot play in a lower grade.
- 17.6 Players are not permitted to play in two finals in the Senior State League unless an exemption applies.

18. TABLE OFFICIALS AND REFEREES

18.1 Each team must supply a table official.

- (a) The Home team on the fixture is to supply the Timekeeper.
- (b) The Away team on the fixture is to supply the Table Secretary.
- (c) Failure to provide a table official will result in a fine as set out in Rule 19.

18.2 All Clubs in the metropolitan Senior State League (B Grade and below) must:

- (a) Supply a second referee for matches played at their home pool or in any neutral venue where they are the Home team or nominated home club.
- (b) Failure to comply will result in a fine as set out in Rule 19 and the home team or nominated home club forfeiting the match or matches, whichever is relevant.

18.3 There shall be no discussion on pool side with referees.

- (a) Only the playing team captain/Coach may approach the referee/s at quarter time, half time or after the game to clarify an interpretation/rule.
- (b) This must be done in a respectful manner and if the referee asks, the team captain/Coach must return to their bench.
- (c) Questions related to interpretations can also be directed in writing to WPWAI and the Officials Advisory Group within 7 days of the fixture.

18.4 At the discretion of the Junior League Referee's coordinator, certain fixtures may be allocated a supervising referee who will have the full authority of, and in addition to, the appointed referees.

The supervising referee must:

- (a) Be dressed in official clothing and identifiable as a supervising referee.
- (b) Make themselves known to both competing team Coaches.

18.5 Time outs apply for Grand Final matches only and A Grade games and are available to teams in accordance with WORLD AQUATICS rules.

19. FINES

Table 1: Fines for breaches of Competition Rules

Infringement	Rule	Fine
Incorrect bathers per player (A Grade Only)	10.4	\$25
Failure to list player on team sheet. (per player)	10.5, 10.7	\$25
Failure to provide WPWAI Approved Ball	11.4	\$100
Failure to submit results by the prescribed time	12.3	\$50
Forfeited Match	12.4, 13	\$100
Ineligible player. (per player) (not exceeding \$1000 per week)	14, 15, 16, 17, 18	\$100
Failure to provide a table official	19.1	\$25
Failure to provide a referee where required	19.2	\$100

20. WORLD AQUATICS WATER POLO RULES - WPWAI COMPETITIONS IMPLEMENTATION

20.1 the implementation and use of these rules is subject to the appropriate equipment being available at the venue.

World Aquatics Water Polo Rules + Summary from	Structural	Referees	Applies to:			
			14&UB and 12&U	18&U, 16&U and 14&UA	Senior D, E and F Grade plus Masters	Senior A, B and C Grade
30/20sec Possession Clock Timekeeper shall reset the clock to 20 seconds when: 1. Ball is put into play after awarding a corner	Clocks to have a 20/30 second capability.	As per World Aquatics Rules.	No Shot Clocks.	As WORLD AQUATICS rules.	As per WORLD AQUATICS rules or no Shot Clocks	As per WORLD AQUATICS rules

Each team may request 2	Air horns	As per WORLD AQUATICS	Grand Finals	Grand Finals	Grand Finals	As per WORLD AQUATICS
There shall be a 3-minute interval		As per WORLD AQUATICS Rules	1-minute qtr breaks 2-minute	1-minute qtr breaks 2-minute HT break	1-minute qtr breaks 2-minute HT break	As per WORLD AQUATICS rules
An additional substitution re-entry area will be at any place in between the goal line and	Wide pool, lane ropes Lane ropes with anchor points minimum bench side. No lane ropes	Monitor substitutions	Not in use	At referee's discretion	At referee's discretion	As per WORLD AQUATICS rules where possible