

# WPWAI COMPETITION RULES

## 2024-2025

Competition Rules 2024/25



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## Competition Rules 2024/25



## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Constitution of Water Polo Western Australia (Inc) (WPWAI) is the authority under and through which WPWAI governs and manages the sport and business of Water Polo in Western Australia.

The Competition Rules are made under the authority of WPWAI to ensure the following guiding principles:

- To provide a safe, fair and inclusive game environment for all involved;
- To promote, develop and ensure the effective management of the WPWAI Senior State League and Junior State League;
- To recognise that WPWAI competitions sit within a national framework;
- To adopt good governance and integrity within the WPWAI competition
- To create an exciting and even competition that appeals to the public

The intent of this document is to provide clear and unambiguous guidance to all members of WPWAI on the conduct of the Senior State League and Junior State League Competitions. The Competition Rules have various directions and requirements of WPWAI, clubs and officials and are binding on all clubs, players and officials. All players and officials on registering for the season agree to abide by the Competition Rules.

All WPWAI competitions play under the Rules and Regulations of Water Polo as determined by World Aquatics (AQUA). These Rules and Regulations are updated annually and published by World Aquatics (AQUA). WPWAI may deviate from these Rules and Regulations in order to provide rules that better suit the WPWAI competition needs.

Any matter of any kind whatsoever not dealt with or provided for in this document may be dealt with in such manners as WPWAI determines.

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## 2. GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

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:

[World Aquatics Competition Regulations-](#)

[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](#)

[WPA Inclusive Uniform Guideline](#)

The WPWAI Board may delegate any power, authority, duty or function other than the powers of delegation and appeal, conferred on it by the Rules to any person or persons. Limitations that apply to the Board will also apply to any such delegations.

Any determination, interpretation or variation of any Competition Rule by the WPWAI Board shall be final and binding upon all members of WPWAI participating in competitions under which these rules are enforced. The Competition Rules may be updated from time to time.

Sub-committees, Advisory Groups (e.g. Competition Advisory Group, Officials Advisory Group) and/or forums may give non-binding recommendations to the WPWAI Board and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to act on. These recommendations are a non-binding procedural way of formalising and recording advice to the Board or CEO on a specific issue.

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### 3. DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
<b>Board</b>	The Board of the WPWAI
<b>Board Member</b>	A member of the Board of the WPWAI
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	Means the Chief Executive Officer or other title of WPWAI and includes any person acting in that position.
<b>Club</b>	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 that aligns with and is consistent with the objects of WPWAI.
<b>Club Official</b>	A person elected or appointed as a Club committee member, Coach, team manager, support personnel, table official or any other person acting in an official capacity for a Club.
<b>Club Representative</b>	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.
<b>Coach</b>	Senior or head coach of a team; all other coaches are deemed to be assistant coaches.
<b>Competition</b>	A group of Grades for purposes of competition (i.e.: Men's, Women's, Juniors).
<b>Competition Advisory Group (CAG)</b>	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.
<b>Competition Coordinator</b>	Any person/s that has been provided the delegated authority by the CEO or Board for the purposes of administration of any WPWAI competition.
<b>Competition Week</b>	This means the playing week for fixtures and competition which commences Sunday and ends on the following Saturday.

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<b>Competition Management System (CMS)</b>	Means the approved electronic management system used for the registration of teams, players, and competitions i.e., Revolutionise.
<b>Emerging Player</b>	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 2022, 2023 and /or 2024.) This definition only applies to the Senior State League competition.
<b>Fairest and Best</b>	The Fairest and Best is an award presented by WPWAI based on the total number of votes allocated by referees post match in accordance with Rule 12.1 in the Qualifying Games.
<b>Grading Session</b>	A club forum hosted by WPWAI and CAG for the purpose of agreeing with team nominations and grades for the upcoming season.
<b>Grade</b>	Means an individual grade for purposes of the Competition (i.e., A, B, C, U14A, U14B).
<b>Junior Player</b>	A player aged 18 years and under.
<b>Junior State League (JSL)</b>	The junior league of competition as organised by WPWAI.
<b>Neutral Venue or Pool</b>	THAC 1, THAC 2, HBF Dive Pool, HBF Outdoor 8 Lane Pool, Christ Church/MLC, Hale and any other pool so designated by WPWAI
<b>Official/(s)</b>	Includes Club Official, WPWAI Official and referees.
<b>Officials Advisory Group (OAG)</b>	A group established by WPWAI to provide advice to WPWAI on matters relating to the effective operation, development, education, planning and administration of all WPWAI referees, coaches and table official matters.

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<b>Player</b>	Means a person registered to play in WPWAI competitions.
<b>Primary Club</b>	This means the club where a player is first registered to play for that competition year.
<b>Primary Team</b>	This means the team where a player is first registered to play for that competition year.
<b>Qualifying Game</b>	Means a game played in a Competition that is not a semi-final or Grand final.
<b>Referee</b>	Means an approved and qualified person who referees competition games.
<b>Restricted player</b>	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 an A Grade player only.
<b>Secondary Club</b>	Is the club where a player has received a dispensation to play at in addition to their Primary 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.
<b>Senior Player</b>	A player aged 19 years and older.
<b>Senior State League (SSL)</b>	The senior league of competition as organised by WPWAI
<b>WPAL</b>	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
<b>Water Polo Western Australia Inc (WPWAI)</b>	Mean the incorporated body for water polo in Western Australia and is referred to as Water Polo Western Australia Inc., “Water Polo WA” or “WPWAI” where used throughout this document has the same meaning.
<b>WPWAI Official</b>	Is a Board Member, WPWAI staff or any person appointed by 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 and from the WPA Code of Conduct.
- 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 in accordance with the principles of the Think. Act. Play. Guidelines and with respect for:
- (a) all Officials;
  - (b) all Players;
  - (c) WPWAI;
  - (d) all relevant Policies and Code of Conduct; and
  - (e) the game of Water Polo.

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## 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 Any person who makes a false declaration on their application for registration shall have their registration cancelled.
- 5.4 Any team found to be playing an unregistered player(s) will forfeit all games the unregistered player(s) has played in and be fined in accordance with Rule 19.

## 6. LOAN PLAYERS

- 6.1 Players may only play for the Primary Club they are registered with through WPWAI CMS unless:
- (a) a loan arrangement as set out in Appendix A 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 being granted by WPWAI via the CMS prior to playing with the Secondary Club.
- 6.4 A Player may only represent 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.

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## 7. ANNUAL TEAM NOMINATIONS

7.1 Clubs shall nominate teams for each competition and grade by the means advised by WPWAI.

7.2 Clubs must ensure:

- (a) Teams nominate for an appropriate Grade aligned to player ability, and willingness to commit to level of competition;
- (b) Team lists are entered into CMS as nominations in preparation for the Pre-Season Grading Session
- (c) compliance with any limitations applied from time to time to maximum or minimum number of teams from any one club competing in the Grade.

7.3 WPWAI will advise Clubs the time and date 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.

7.4 Teams accepted to play in the nominated year shall pay the team nomination fee as specified by WPWAI by the due date.

7.5 WPWAI Board 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 after the completion of 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) any submission from the club regarding a nominated team, player and/or team Grade, if required.
- 8.3 WPWAI will invite a maximum of two Club Representatives per club to a pre-season Grading Session to:
- (a) review and agree on nominated teams and nominated Grade for each competition,
  - (b) provide clubs the chance to appeal or challenge any nominations and gradings provided that any challenge is notified to WPWAI at least 3 business days prior to the Grading Session,
  - (d) ensure the integrity of WPWAI competition through collaborative agreements between clubs, and
  - (e) CAG will recommend a decision to the WPWAI Board for final approval.
- 8.4 Agreed team nominations 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, WPWAI may relegate or promote a team for Competition and Grade composition at its absolute discretion. Such decision will be with liaison with the WPWAI Competition Coordinator and CAG.
- 8.6 There will be no adjustment of competition points for teams promoted or relegated as the Win Ratio (WR%) in the CMS accounts for the movement of teams in a Competition. Fairest and Best votes for players in teams that are moved will be carried forward in the determination of the Fairest and Best award.
- 8.7 Any team that forfeits four Qualifying Games in one season will be removed from the Competition.
- 8.8 All correspondence in relation to the nominations and Grade of teams must be sent to the WPWAI Competition Coordinator by a Club Representative.

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## 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	U14	U16	U18	Seniors (B-F Grade)	Senior A Grade
<b>Ball Size</b>	Size 4	Boys - Size 5 Girls - Size 4	Boys - Size 5 Girls - Size 4	Men - Size 5 Women - Size 4	Men - Size 5 Women - Size 4
<b>Field Size</b>	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- 30m Length (minimum 25m) 20m wide Women - 25m Length (Minimum 22.5m) 20m wide
<b>Game Duration (including finals)</b>	4 quarters of 5 minutes actual time in finals otherwise 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 (6 mins for B Grade) or 7 minutes running clock	4 quarters of 8 minutes of actual playing time.
<b>Age group eligibility</b>	Born 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014	Born 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012	Born 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010	Born 2009 or older athletes	Born 2009 or older athletes

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

	Year 4-6	Year 7/8	Year 9/10	Year 11/12
<b>Ball Size</b>	Size 3	Size 4	Boys - Size 5 Girls - Size 4	Boys - Size 5 Girls - Size 4
<b>Field Size</b>	20m > <25m Length 15m Wide	20m > <25m Length 15m Wide	25m > Length 20m Wide	25m > Length 20m Wide
<b>Game Duration (including finals)</b>	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
<b>Age group eligibility</b>	Attending school in years 4, 5, 6 in 2024.	Attending school in years 7, 8 in 2024	Attending school in years 9 or 10 in 2024	Attending school years 11 or 12 in 2024

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Year	
	<b>Year 4 in 2024:</b> Born between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015;
	<b>Year 5 in 2024:</b> Born between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014;
	<b>Year 6 in 2024:</b> Born between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2013
	<b>Year 7 in 2024:</b> Born between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012;
	<b>Year 8 in 2024:</b> Born between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2011
	<b>Year 9 in 2024:</b> Born between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010;
	<b>Year 10 in 2024:</b> Born between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009
	<b>Year 11 in 2024:</b> Born between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008;
	<b>Year 12 in 2024:</b> Born between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007

## 10. PRE-MATCH REQUIREMENTS

10.1 Home teams (**Senior Competition** only) playing in their Home pool are responsible for:

- (a) setting up of the venue fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled start 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.
- (d) at the conclusion of the final fixtured match at the venue to pack up with the assistance of the Away team

10.2 In Neutral Venues or Pools:

- (a) For the first fixtured match at the venue , the first named team on the fixture, the Home team (White Caps) are responsible for the set-up of the pool fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled start time; and
- (b) At the conclusion of the final fixtured match at the venue the second named team on the fixture, the Away team (Blue Caps) are responsible for the pack down of the pool with the assistance of the Home team.
- (c) To support set up and pack up the Competition Co-ordinator will issue instructions to all Clubs.

10.3 Clubs must supply their own individually numbered caps. The first named team (Home team) on fixtures wears white and the second named team (Away team) wears blue caps.

- (a) Clubs can wear their own-coloured caps however if they are not white or blue, the Home team must have a lighter colour set (closer to white) and the Away team a darker colour set (closer to blue).
- (b) If a club fails to supply caps in accordance with this Rule, it will result in the forfeiture of the game.

10.4 For Senior A Grade Competition and Challenge Cup, in line with the World Aquatics Rules (AQUA), the playing uniform shall be the club bathers and caps. 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.

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- 10.5 Game sheets must be completed in legible print including the player's first names and surnames who are in attendance 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 half time, 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.
- 10.8 The referee is responsible for checking the game sheet to ensure all players named on the game sheet are present. Any players arriving during half time or after halftime are ineligible to participate in the game and their names must not be entered on the team sheet.
- 10.9 WPWAI highly recommends all players wear a mouth guard.
- 10.10 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 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 forfeiting team). The non-forfeiting team will receive 2 points for a win and the result will be recorded as 10-0 in their favour.  
[See section 13].
- 11.5 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

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possible points” (PPP). This is the WR% as determined on CMS.

(b) If two teams finish on the same WR %, 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.

11.6 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.

11.7 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.

11.8 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.

11.9 Misconduct towards Officials will not be tolerated. All Players and Officials reported by referees for misconduct, bringing the game into disrepute, or for violent action shall be administered under the [National Sanctioning Policy](#).

11.10 Exclusions in Junior Grade competition in the school years 4-6 group will be touch and re-enter. Exclusions are otherwise in accordance with World Aquatic Rules.

11.11 During Qualifying Games or Semi Finals no timeouts are available. In Grand Finals, timeouts are available to each team in accordance with World Aquatics rules (AQUA). In any game that has a running clock in a Grand Final, no timeout or substitution can be called in the final minute of the game.

## 12. POST-MATCH REQUIREMENTS

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

- (a) Check the game sheet and ensure that all details including players names, scores and

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exclusions are correct.

- (b) Complete any details for players issued with a red card on the Offence Report Form and submit to [reports@waterpolowa.asn.au](mailto:reports@waterpolowa.asn.au) within the required 24 hours
- (c) Award Fairest & Best points for the match;
- (d) Record if either team did not provide a table official in accordance with rule 18.1 and
- (e) Clearly print their name and sign the game sheet. Any unsigned sheets are deemed to be a failure to provide a club referee and the club will be fined in accordance with rule 19.

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

- (a) Take a photo of the game sheet (front and back if required) after the referees have completed their post-match actions as set out in 12.1;
- (b) Enter the data for the game sheet into CMS ;
- (c) The 1<sup>st</sup> named team (Home team) is responsible for:
  - Entering the full-time result for both teams;
  - Uploading an image of the game sheet signed by the referees and the required data for their own team by the cut off time in Rule 12.3;
  - Required data includes player attendance, player goals scored, player exclusions and best & fairest votes for their own team and any fill in players; and
  - Entering the names of the referees for the match.
- (d) The 2<sup>nd</sup> named team (Away team) shall check the details entered by the Home team and:
  - Use the dispute function of the CMS in the event of any discrepancy and set out clearly the discrepancy identified;
  - Enter the required data for their own team by the cut off time in Rule 12.3; and
  - Required data includes player attendance, player goals scored, player exclusions and best & fairest votes for own team and any fill in players.

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 or 12.3 without reasonable grounds will incur a forfeit for that game and/or fine as prescribed in Rule 19.

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12.5 For all venues the Home Team as the 1<sup>st</sup> named team in the fixture is responsible for retaining the original Game sheet for a period of 3 months.

### 13. FORFEITS

13.1 Clubs are to notify in writing (this includes email) the Competition Co-ordinator as soon as is possible and at least 48 hours prior to the game if a team is forfeiting.

13.2 If notification is provided within the prescribed time, the fine in Rule 19 will be halved but loss of competition points and scoreline as prescribed will still apply.

13.3 As provided for in the Competition Rules, matches will also be forfeited and fines applied on the following basis:

- (a) Playing an unregistered player;
- (b) Playing an ineligible player as set out in the rules;
- (c) Playing any player under another registered player's name;
- (d) Failure to enter results in accordance with Rule 12.3 without due reason;
- (e) Any Junior player playing more than three matches in a Competition Week.
- (f) Failure of a club to supply caps in accordance with Rule 10.3

13.4 Teams forfeiting a match will result in a fine as described at Rule 19 and loss of competition points and scoreline in accordance with Rule 11.4(d)

### 14. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – GENERAL

14.1 All players must be registered as per Section 5.

14.2 Team Player lists will be entered in the CMS as follows:

(a) Following WPWAI Board ratification of Pre-Season Grading, and prior to Round 1 of each Competition, clubs must enter all team player lists for each nominated team in the CMS.

(b) Prior to Round 4 of each Competition, clubs must finalise their team list for each team nominated in the CMS.

14.3 SSL players are only permitted to nominate and play in one (1) senior Grade, except when playing as a fill in (see Rule 14.6) or as an Emerging Player playing in SSL A Grade.

14.4 Restricted Players can only play in the SSL A Grade competition

14.5 Teams can play games with a minimum of six (6) and no more than thirteen (13) players.

14.6 Where teams have listed players unable to play, a **maximum** of two (2) players from a lower

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age group ( JSL players) or lower Grade can be used as fill ins. The total team size, including fill ins must not exceed nine (9) players.

- 14.7 During the Qualifying Games, a player may be a fill in in a team for a **maximum** of three (3) games across the SSL and/or JSL
- (a) Players playing as a fill in shall also be eligible to play in games for that Competition Week in their Primary Team (own age group or Grade).
  - (b) When playing as a fill in, the games played in the player’s Primary Team are the only games in the CMS that are counted towards qualification for finals;
  - (c) The player must be registered for the game in the CMS as a “fill in” player in accordance with rule 12.
- 14.8 Players from teams which have a bye or forfeit during a Competition Week cannot play or fill in in any other team in their Grade during the Competition Week. They are only able to play for a team in a higher grade or age group as a fill in 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) business days prior to any match for which an exemption is being sought. All requests will be decided by WPWAI 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.
- 14.11 A player found guilty of a reportable offence under the WPA National Sanctioning Policy is ineligible to win Fairest and Best for the season.

## 15. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – JUNIORS SPECIFIC

- 15.1 A junior age player from 15 years – 18 years old can play up to a maximum of three (3) games in each Competition Week across both the JSL and SSL competitions. Any further games require:
- (a) An exemption request submitted to WPWAI three business (3) days prior to game(s).
  - (b) Approval granted by WPWAI prior to the nominated game(s). 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 play in the U14 Grade is not eligible to play in the U18 Grade or in

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any Senior Competition.

15.3 Players born 2011 and 2012 are eligible to play in the U14 Grade or the U16 Grade but are not eligible to play in both Grades in any Competition Week.

15.4 Players born 2011 playing in U14 Grade can fill in in the U16 Grade for a maximum of 3 games in accordance with rule 14.7.

15.5 Players born 2009 and 2010 are eligible to play in the U16 Grade and are also eligible to play in the U18 Grade with there being no requirement for clubs to limit the number of these players.

- (a) These players can play a maximum of two games in the same JSL Competition Week, one for their U16 team and one for their U18 team.
- (b) Failure to comply with 15.4 (a) will result in a forfeit for the team for which the third (3) and any subsequent game in the JSL Competition Week was played.
- (c) Players must be listed in both the U16 and U18 team lists in CMS.

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## 16. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – SSL A-GRADE SPECIFIC

16.1 Three weeks prior to the commencement of the A Grade Competition or by a date as directed by WPWAI clubs must submit to WPWAI a team list for each SSL A Grade team.

16.2 At the same time as providing the A Grade team list clubs will nominate Restricted Players

16.3 The team list submitted 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. The intent of the Emerging Player provision is to allow developing players to gain experience in A Grade whilst playing regularly in B Grade

16.4 Emerging Players are eligible to play in both A Grade and B Grade finals where they qualify under Rule 17.

16.4 For all other players, Rule 14.3 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 'fill in' for the purposes of rule 14.7 and is a substitution.
- (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 next to the Substitute player.

## 17. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY - FINALS

17.1 A player must play at least five (5) games or above 25% of the Qualifying Games for the team in the Grade to qualify for finals.

17.2 Clubs must run a report through the CMS at least two (2) weeks before semi- finals to check on their players' eligibility for finals. If any questions arise regarding the eligibility of players, the Club must seek clarification from WPWAI no later than a week before semi-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 Qualifying Games.
- (b) If an equal number of games are played in different Grades, eligibility shall be for the highest Grade played.

17.4 U16 players who are eligible and have played in the U18 age group must qualify for both age groups if they are to play finals in both competitions.

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- 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.
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> named team (Home team) on the fixture is to supply the Timekeeper.
  - (b) The 2<sup>nd</sup> named team (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 (Club referee) for matches played at their home pool or in any Neutral Venue where they are the 1<sup>st</sup> named Team or nominated Home team
  - (b) Failure to comply will result in a fine as set out in Rule 19.
- 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 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.

### 19. FINES FOR BREACHES OF COMPETITION RULES

Infringement	Rule	Fine
Failure to nominate team by nominated date	7.3, 7.5 (c)	\$100
Incorrect bathers per player (A Grade Only)	10.4	\$50
Failure to list player on team sheet. (per player)	10.5, 10.7	\$50
Failure to submit results by the prescribed time	12.3	\$50
Forfeited Match	12.4, 13	\$100
Playing an unregistered player	5.4, 13	\$500
Playing an ineligible player or Player under another player name. (per player) (not exceeding \$1000 per week)	13, 14, 15, 16, 17	\$100
Failure to provide a table official	18.1	\$50
Failure to provide a Club referee where required	18.2	\$100



## 20. WORLD AQUATICS (AQUA) 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 (AQUA) Water Polo Rules + Summary from TWPC	Structural	Referees	Applies to:			
			School Year 5-6 7-9 & UB	U18, U16-U14	SSL B_F Grade	SSL A Grade
30/20sec Possession Clock Timekeeper shall reset the clock to 20 seconds when: 1. Ball is put into play after awarding a corner throw. 2. After a rebound from a shot which does not change possession. 3. After an exclusion. Clock is not reset when possession time reads 20	Clocks to have a 20/30 second capability.	As per World Aquatics (AQUA) Rules.	No Shot Clocks	As per World Aquatics (AQUA) Rules.	As per World Aquatics (AQUA) Rule or no Shot Clocks.	As per World Aquatics (AQUA) Rules.

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seconds or more. Clock is not reset when possession time reads 20 seconds or more						
Each team may request 2 timeouts at any time during the game.	Airhorns	As per World Aquatics	Grand Finals : No time outs in	Grand Finals	Grand Finals	As per World Aquatics (AQUA) Rules.
There shall be a 3 minute half-time		As per World Aquatic Rules	1 minute qtr breaks 2 minute HT break	1 minute qtr breaks 2 minute HT break	1 minute qtr breaks 2 minute HT Break	As per World Aquatic Rules (AQUA)
An additional substitution re-entry area will be at any place in between the goal line and the centre field line on the team's half of the field of play (for flying substitutions). Excluded player must re-enter via re-entry box.	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 Aquatic rules where possible

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## Appendix A Loan Player Agreement

The Metropolitan Competition Rules provide the following:

- 6.1 Players may only play for the Primary Club they are registered with through WPWAI CMS unless:
  - (a) a loan arrangement as set out in Appendix A 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 being granted by WPWAI via the CMS prior to playing with the Secondary Club.
- 6.4 A Player may only represent 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.

The following information is required to ensure the loan arrangement is communicated between parties and can be considered for approval by WPWAI.

Name: National Player ID:

Primary Club:

Proposed Secondary Club:

Proposed grade to play at Primary Club (subject to WPWAI approval):

Proposed grade to play at Secondary Club (subject to WPWAI approval):

Reason for loan:

Primary Club approval of loan (signed by Club Representative):

Secondary Club approval of loan (signed by Club Representative):

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