

EXTRACT OF OFFENCES National Sanctioning Policy September 2025

Annexure A Offences

#	Offence	Offence Description	Offence Guide (not limited to)	Suspension if charge heard and upheld at tribunal	Suspension if charge accepted:
1.	Misconduct	Unacceptable Language or Actions / Disrespect	Abusive, insulting or obscene language or actions directed at anyone and includes foreign language. Continuous/ongoing disrespect to anyone. Refusal to comply with the reasonable directions of an Official.	Two Game/Two Week Suspension*	One Game/One Week Suspension*
		Aggravated Foul Play	Aggressive foul play, which is defined in the World Aquatics Water Polo Rules as <i>"Behaviour that can lead to injuries of opponents. The intention of these kind of fouls is to destroy and completely stop the advantage or progress of the game or a player, or to provoke the opponent. It is dangerous play, without a clear intention to injure the opponent player, but typically is caused by emotions"</i> . Persistent foul play, which is defined in the World Aquatics Water Polo Rules as <i>"Unallowed fouls of defending players, which are stopping the attack. The intention of these fouls is not to injure an opponent, but to destroy the flow of the game, advantage and speed, as well as to intimidate the opponent"</i> . To perform actions which would normally be single personal fouls as described in the World Aquatics Water Polo Rules, but are performed unreasonably aggressively or recklessly and/or continue longer than is reasonable. The World Aquatics Water Polo Rules that may be considered under this behaviour include but are not limited to: - To hold, sink or pull back an opponent who is not holding the ball - Anywhere in the field of play, to use two hands to hold an opponent not holding the ball. - To make disproportionate movements including kicking and striking.		
		Other Offences	Any other occurrences of misconduct, which may, depending on the circumstances, include behaviour against the Think.Act.Play guidelines.		
2.	Violent Action	Violent Action inside the field of play	Including without limitation, to play in a violent manner, kicking, striking or attempting to kick or strike with malicious intent, against a person. The World Aquatics Water Polo Rules that <i>may</i> be considered under this behaviour are identified as per the following definition taken from the World Aquatics Competition Regulations: <i>"Violent action: An action by a player intended to cause harm or to injure another player or official, regardless of whether contact is made or not"</i>	Three Game/Three Week suspension*	Two Game/Two Week suspension* or N/A if deemed serious enough to refer directly to Internal Tribunal

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3.	Assault	Assault (actual or threatened) outside the field of play	Actual or threatened unwanted physical force against a player, coach, Official, Member or other person including pushing, striking, standing unreasonably close to the other person in a manner which is perceived by the other person to be physically threatening or where the other person has asked for some physical separation or attempted to provide some physical separation and the offender persists in limiting the distance between the two, verbal threats, or inviting the other person to engage in fighting.	Sanction at sole discretion of Internal Tribunal	N/A - must be referred to Internal Tribunal
4.	Verbal abuse or Intimidation	Verbal Abuse and/or Intimidation of a Player, Coach, Official, Member or other person	Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation. Conduct that could be interpreted as threatening and/or intimidatory.	Sanction at sole discretion of Internal Tribunal	N/A - must be referred to Internal Tribunal
5.	Disrepute	Damaging the image of water polo or bringing it into disrepute	Behaviour that occurs in and around the field of play, by persons connected to a game (including players, coaches, officials, Organisation leaders, committee members, delegates, representatives and spectators) that damage the image of water polo or bring it into disrepute. Such behaviours may include but are not limited to physical violence, intimidation, emotional abuse, sexual harassment and abuse of position, power or age. It is recognised that some of the behaviours and conduct described here may constitute an offence under law.	Sanction at sole discretion of Internal Tribunal	N/A - must be referred to Internal Tribunal
For matters not witnessed or sanctioned by the Officials					
6.	Unwitnessed or Unreported Inappropriate Conduct	Inappropriate conduct that was not witnessed or sanctioned by the Officials	Any conduct not witnessed or sanctioned by the Official, but which could reasonably be considered: (a) an offence within the offence list above; (b) non-accidental, reckless or careless; (c) engaged in by the perpetrating player for no proper purpose; and (d) not conduct of the type or kind that would under any reasonable circumstances be conduct that would be expected to occur in a game of water polo. Eg inappropriate contact.	As per the relevant offence above that the conduct is linked to	As per the relevant offence above that the conduct is linked to

* Subject to the right of Competition Manager or Tribunal to apply alternative or additional sanctions under section 10.