

GENERAL COMPETITION RULES 2011/12

1. Player Transfers

- 1.1 Players who have played for a club must be cleared by that club to play for a new club. A WA Water Polo transfer form must be completed by the transfer applicant and the club granting the transfer. It is the responsibility of the transfer applicant to ensure the completed transfer form due payment (for in season transfer \$50) is provided to WA Water Polo prior to the applicant playing for his/her new club. Transfers will not be accepted without payment of the transfer fee.
- 1.2 It is the responsibility of clubs to ensure players who have played with another club have been cleared by WA Water Polo to play with a new club. Teams playing players who have not been transferred will incur a forfeit.
- 1.3 Players who join a new club but have not been registered members of WA Water Polo for the preceding year are exempt from completing a transfer form, unless financial debts are outstanding to their previous club.
- 1.4 International players – clearances are required by Australian Water Polo and WA Water Polo from the players National Body. In turn the International player must be cleared on departure to be eligible to play in the new country. This can be arranged electronically.
- 1.5 Eastern state players – clearances are required by Australian Water Polo and WA Water Polo. National transfer forms are available from WA Water Polo office.

2. Forfeiture/Withdrawal

- 2.1 If a club is not ready to field a team of at least 5 players, that team shall receive a forfeit and be deemed to have lost five (5) goals to nil (0).
- 2.2 Any team which has received four (4) forfeits shall be withdrawn from the competition with the exception of junior teams (rule 2.5). Clubs will be fined \$150 for every senior team which withdraws from the competition as a result of forfeiture or withdrawal after team nomination due date.
- 2.3 A club playing a person other than in accordance with the constitution and rules of WA Water Polo shall automatically forfeit the game in which such person had taken part.
- 2.4 When a player has played for two (2) junior teams in the same fixtured round and is in breach of the competition rules for doing so, a forfeit shall be awarded against the team from the higher division. If the teams concerned are from the same division, a forfeit shall be awarded against the team which played the latter game.
- 2.5 'A' grade premiership points will only be awarded to clubs with 14 & under and 17 & under teams actively competing in junior competition. Should a junior team incur three forfeits, every forfeit thereafter shall result in a 4 point penalty deducted from the 'Premier League team of the same gender from the club concerned.
- 2.6 Juniors who compete in a junior division can play for opposition clubs in senior grades only if their junior club does not have a team in that senior grade. Such players cannot play in any junior grade for another club unless approved in writing by the Board of Directors.
- 2.7 Teams participating in fixtures involving country teams shall incur a forfeit for each game forfeited but will not be included as part of **rule 2.2**
- 2.8 When it is found that a club has played an unregistered or unqualified player, or a player has played under a false or assumed name, or a player has played under disqualification, a \$20 fine shall be imposed on the club regardless of whether they won or lost the game and rule **2.4** shall apply.

2.9 Clubs will be fined \$20.00 each game forfeited (unless rule **2.7** is applicable).

3. Registration System

- 3.1 All players need to be registered with WA Water Polo before they are eligible to play in any WA or Australian Water Polo Competition.
- 3.2 **If 2 or more teams are entered in the same division from one club, a list of first seven players must be sent to the WAWPI office by the registration due date**
- 3.3 **For Premier League Teams the clubs must send in a list of their first seven players by the due date in each year.**
- 3.4 **The State Association then will have to confirm the first seven players of the clubs. If a club fail to provide the state association with information by the registration due date, 4 points reduction will occur to the team we have not received information for.**
- 3.5 Club Registrars are responsible for updating the Sporting Pulse player registration database details and payments to WA Water Polo before due dates in each season.
- 3.6 An audit of game sheets conducted by WA Water Polo shall be sent to clubs prior to finals to assist reconciliation of registered players.

4. Judiciary

Referees must report all exclusions for the remainder of the match on the Referee Report Form. This includes players and coaches or officials red carded. A separate form will be provided to all referees by e-mail for this purpose. The referee is to advise the team/s of all reports. Referees should determine from the excluded player/red carded coach if they are to accept the penalty or if they wish to appeal (see Appeal section 4.1.2)

This information must be relayed to the Competition and Development Manager (CD-M).

Distribution of the Report Form is as follows:

1. Referee completes report and gives it to the host club team delegate.
2. The host club ensures report on game sheet sent to WAWPI office within 3 days. Fax 9387 8018 or .pdf copies can be emailed to wawpolo@ozemail.com.au.
3. If the club whose player has been reported decides to appeal they do so directly to the CD-M who then arranges a tribunal hearing. Appeals can be written to CD-M, Tibor Seress by email wawpolo@ozemail.com.au or phone 0400 512101.
4. Referee to text or email CD-M to advise a report from a game has been given stating – grade, team, player, contact number/email of player.

The following judiciary policy will apply to all matches.

4.1 Players

Players ejected from a match have two options:

4.1.1 Accept the decision and the following suspensions

Note: Number of offences for players relates to the current and previous season only and balances (not suspensions which do carry over) are re-set to zero at the start of every third season in which the player participates.

Charge	1st Offence	2nd Offence	3rd Offence
Misconduct – disrespect/ Disobedience Grade 1	No penalty		
Grade 2	1 match	2 matches	4 matches
Misconduct – violence Grade 1	No penalty		
Grade 2	2 matches	4 matches	8 matches
Brutality No Grading	4 matches	8 matches	16 matches

Note: If a player is suspended for a fourth offence in any two season period as described above regardless of what the previous offences were then he/she shall be suspended for the higher of a minimum of 12 matches or whatever the offence would normally incur as a 3rd offence.

4.1.2 Appeal the Suspension

Note: That the player is suspended until the Judiciary Committee has delivered its judgment. The player may appeal the ejection within 48 hours to the WAWPI Judiciary Committee consisting of Chairman of the WAWPI Judiciary or his/her nominee and at least one other member appointed by him/her. All members of the committee must be neutral, i.e. they may not be from either club, a referee or delegate involved in the match that resulted in the complaint/charge.

Note: Should the referee/official who reported the player consider the matter should be referred to the Judiciary then he/she also has that right to do so. All charges of assaulting an official (or threat to assault an official) shall be referred to the Judiciary for a hearing. The levels of suspension that the Judiciary Committee will apply if the charge is upheld are

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Note: Number of offences for players relates to the current season and the previous season only and balances (not suspensions which do carry over) are re set to zero at the start of every third season in which the player participates.

Charge	1st Offence	2nd Offence	3rd Offence
Misconduct – disrespect/ Disobedience Grade 1	No penalty		
Grade 2	2 matches	2-4 matches	4-8 matches
Misconduct – violence			
Grade 1	No penalty		
Grade 2	4 matches	4-8 matches	8-16 matches
Brutality No Grading	8 matches	8-16 matches	16-32 matches
Assault of Official (including Threat to assault) No Grading	1 Year - Life	Life	

Note: If a player is suspended for a fourth offence in any two season period as described above regardless of what the previous offences were then he/she shall be suspended for the higher of a minimum of 12 matches or whatever the offence would normally incur.

4.1.3 Grading of Offences:

For Referees and the Tribunal the following guidelines may be used. However, each case must be individually considered when determining the grading of offences:

Grade 1 includes:

- Unacceptable language
- Equipment abuse
- Disobedience
- Disrespect
- Splashing

Grade 2 includes:

- All of Grade 1 (depending on the circumstances)
- Attempted contact that may have caused injury if contact had been made
- Minor Contact (no injury)
- Persistent foul or rough play
- Unwelcome and deliberate contact to sensitive body part (e.g. female breast, genitals)

- Continuous disrespect
- Threats of violence against official
- Violence against official
- Attempted kick, punching, elbowing or head butt with malicious intent
- Kicking, punching, elbowing or head butting with malicious intent

4.1.4 Provocation is not a defense but may be taken into consideration by the Referee and Tribunal when considering grading of offences and the sentence to apply.

4.1.5 A Referee, upon being advised that a player has appealed the automatic suspension, may advise the CD-M who will advise the Judiciary Chairman that he/she does not want to defend the appeal or that he/she is prepared to lower the Grading of the offence.

The Judiciary Chairman, at his/her sole discretion may settle the Appeal without hearing if the Player accepts the downgrading or it appears reasonable that the Player's suspension be cancelled altogether.

4.2 Coaches and Team Officials

Referees will use a yellow and red card system for all coaches and officials. Referees are encouraged to warn coaches before issuing a yellow card. A red card may only be used by a referee after using a yellow card first unless the incident is extreme and then a red card may be used without first issuing a yellow card.

A yellow card indicates a warning. A red card indicates the coach or official must leave the pool deck area for the remainder of the match. A red card will result in an automatic one-match suspension for that coach or official effective immediately after the match in which the red card was received. Red cards against players on the bench will be referred to the CD-M who organizes a Judiciary Committee for a decision based on the appropriate charge. As with players, these suspensions may be appealed as per the rules of appeal detailed in 4.1.2. A second red card during a season will result in a two (2)-match suspension with a third red card resulting in a three (3)-match suspension. Should a coach/official receive a fourth red card in a season they will be referred automatically to the CD-M to organize Judiciary Committee where a suspension of between four (4) and ten (10) matches may be imposed if found guilty. Should coaches be found guilty of the charges after appealing – that is the charges are upheld then the coach/official will receive twice the penalty that would have otherwise been imposed.

Note: Number of offences for coaches relates to the current and previous season only and balances (not suspensions which do carry over) are re-set to zero at the start of every third season.

4.3 Complaints against referees/match officials

Official complaints by clubs against referees/officials must be in writing and delivered to the CD-M within 48 hours of the completion of the match/event in which it occurred. The Board of Directors will hear the charges at the next Board Meeting. Please note FINA rule WP 7.1 when considering appeals/complaints. The rule is “The referees shall be in absolute control of the game. Their authority over the players shall be effective during the whole time that they and the players are within the precincts of the pool. All decisions of the referees on questions of fact shall be final and their interpretation of the Rules shall be obeyed throughout the game. The referees shall not make any presumption as to the facts of any situation during the game but shall interpret what they observe to the best of their ability.”

The Board reserves the right to review any such decisions as they affect the competition.

4.4 General

If a charge of bringing the game into disrepute or charges that relate to FINA/AWPI/WAWPI rules outside the charges of Misconduct or Brutality is made against any player, coach or club or league official, the Board of Directors will determine the matter.

4.5 Tribunals

Judiciary tribunals, where required, must be held within a reasonable time after the match in which the offence occurred. Tribunal hearings generally occur Tuesdays 6pm at Venue West - Sports Lotteries House following receipt of a report.

4.6 Notification of Penalties

The CD-M will advise the player/coach and club of tribunal outcomes within 24 hours of tribunal hearing.

4.7 Appeals

All appeals against decisions made by the Judiciary Committee must be directed within 7 days of any decision to the CD-M, WAWPI, P O Box 458, Claremont or email wawpolo@ozemail.com.au accompanied by a fee of \$50. The CD-M will present the appeal to the Board of Directors for a hearing at the next board meeting. The appeals process adopted by the WAWPI Board will be consistent with Section 46 c) of the WAWPI Constitution.

4.8 Suspensions

All suspensions are recorded and kept for a minimum period of 5 years.