



2016 Schools Competition Handbook



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PREAMBLE

This handbook forms the by-laws for the 2016 Schools competition.

The objective of the Water Polo Tasmania (WPTAS) Schools Competition is to maximise the opportunity for all athletes to participate in a structured water polo competition and provide a pathway to club and national competition.

In their efforts to achieve this objective WPTAS will do its best not to disadvantage any school, team, or athlete. The Director of Operations may use discretion including, but not limited to:

- allow more than one school to combine to form a team;
- allow athletes to play up one division particularly in circumstances where without making such a decision the team or athlete would not be able to participate;
- limit the number of teams from one school in any one division;
- vary the eligibility rules for participation in finals.

Any decision made by the Director of Operations must be in the best interests of the sport and in the best interest of athlete development.

If a school does not believe any decision by the Director of Operations is fair they may appeal this decision to The Board. Any appeal must be in writing to the President of WPTAS.

PART 1 DEFINITIONS

1.1.1 SCHOOL: Means a recognised school or group of schools in Tasmania.

1.1.2 Water Polo Tasmania (WPTAS): Means the incorporated and recognised state association affiliated to the national covering body, Water Polo Australia Ltd.

1.1.3 BOARD (The Board): Means the WPTAS Board of Directors.

1.1.4 DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS: Means the WPTAS Board Member responsible for WPTAS Operations.

1.1.5 POOL CONTROLLER: Means the person/s nominated by the Director of Operations to oversee a competition for a particular period of time.

1.1.6 SCHOOL CONTACT: Means the nominated contact of any school.

1.1.7 TEAM COACH: Means the nominated coach of any school team.

1.1.8 THE WORDS, "Must, shall and will": Are understood to be mandatory.



PART 2 GENERAL RULES

2.1.0 RULES OF WATER POLO, APPLICATION OF RULES, INTERPRETATION, DELEGATION, PENALTY LIMITATIONS

2.1.1 All games conducted by WPTAS will be played in accordance with the FINA Rules of Water Polo and rulings thereon, and/or other local rules and rulings which are approved by WPTAS. In particular, FINA Rules 5.1 and 5.6 (must have two goalkeepers) and 12.1 (Timeouts) **will not be used.**

2.1.2 Any determination, interpretation or variation of any Rule by The Board of WPTAS shall be final and binding upon any participating school.

2.1.3 The Board may delegate powers conferred on it by these rules to the Director of Operations or Pool Controller.

2.1.5 Any school or team that fails to fulfil its requirements may be penalised a maximum of 3 points for each team competing in the WPTAS fixture and determined to be in breach of a requirement.

2.2.0 ELIGIBILITY OF SCHOOLS AND ATHLETES, TEAM REGISTRATIONS AND FEES

2.2.1 A school may only play in a game when: -

- (a) It is not financially indebted to WPTAS
- (b) It is not suspended or disqualified by WPTAS

2.2.2 An athlete may only play in a game when: -

- (a) They have been listed on the team registration form submitted to WPTAS.
- (b) That athlete is not suspended or disqualified by WPTAS.

2.2.3 School affiliation with WPTAS shall comprise: -

- (a) The school contact providing WPTAS with written details of each team which it wishes to nominate.

NB: Team nominations must be received by WPTAS on or before the due entry date for each competition.

(b) Details for each team shall comprise:

- The division in which the team wishes to compete
- A list of athlete names matched to cap numbers for each team. (As most teams will have multiple goalies during the season, and the IT software WPTAS uses requires a name, please enter the word "Nil" in the field for athlete No 1 and name all other athletes from No 2 onwards. Please do not leave any numbers blank until after at least seven athletes are named. All athlete numbers, except for the goalie, must be finalised prior to the start of Round 4, and athletes must wear the same cap number for the entire season.)
- A school contact name, phone number and email address



2.2.5 Team registrations for the 2016 season will be \$1,200.00 for teams requiring training space from WPTAS and \$900.00 for those that don't. **This fee will include entry to all games, training sessions (if applicable) and no spectator fee.** (WPTAS have made this decision based on the requirements of the Hobart Aquatic Centre, and school feedback.)

2.3.0 MOVEMENT OF ATHLETES BETWEEN TEAMS

2.3.1 Where one school has two teams in the one division, each of those teams shall be treated as if it were a separate school in relation to all aspects of competition.

2.4.0 GRADING OF ATHLETES AND TEAMS

2.4.1 Where a school cannot provide sufficient athletes to field a team, the school may apply to the Director of Operations to combine with another school/s and/or play sufficient athletes up a division to enable that team to have sufficient members to compete.

2.4.2 Where school/s combine to form a team, participation in finals of any combined team shall be at the sole discretion of WPTAS. Schools will be advised of The Boards decision no later than prior to commencement of the fourth roster game.

2.4.3 Where a school applies to the Director of Operations to play an athlete up a division the Director of Operations can allow this to occur if, and only if the criteria in the third paragraph of the Preamble are satisfied.

2.4.4 **Where an unregistered or ineligible athlete competes in a game then:**

- (a) The athlete's team shall receive nil competition points and nil goals for that game, and the opposing team shall be deemed to have won the game 5 goals to nil, or the winning margin should it be greater than 5 goals.
- (b) Where both teams have played unregistered or ineligible athletes each team shall receive nil points and nil goals.

2.4.5 Athletes must only play in the team that they are registered in.

2.4.6 For an athlete to be eligible for finals competition that athlete:

- (a) Must be registered to compete in that division
- (b) Must have played five games for the team

NB: A bye counts as a game played.

2.5.0 POOL CONTROLLERS, DUTY SCHOOLS AND REFEREES

2.5.1 The Director of Operations will be in overall control and may give directions as to the conduct of a game, team, athletes or pool controller and shall report any issues considered relevant to The Board.

2.5.2 The Director of Operations may appoint a Pool Controller for a nominated period of time.

2.5.3 The Pool Controller: -

- (a) Is responsible for overseeing the setup prior to, and dismantling after completion of all games, of the goals and sideline ropes and scorer's bench.

- (b) May refuse a person entry to or require a person to leave the precincts of the pool where in the Pool Controller's opinion the person's presence may be detrimental to the sport.
- (c) Shall report any action under 2.5.3 (b) immediately to the Director of Operations.
- (d) Shall record any complaint by the team coach or school contact or Referee concerning the Competition Rules or the Rules of Water Polo and shall report any such complaint to the Director of Operations.
- (e) Is responsible for the orderly and timely presentation of all games.
- (f) Is responsible for the collection of all score cards, team fees, reports and complaints and must forward them to the Director of Operations at the first available opportunity.
- (g) May select a Referee/s when the officially appointed Referee/s are not present at the scheduled commencement time of a game.

2.5.4 Schools are responsible:

- (a) For providing one person to act as timekeeper or game secretary. This person must present to the score desk five minutes prior to the scheduled start of that game.
- (b) Must act upon any direction of the Director of Operations or Pool Controller.
- (c) The last teams playing **must** assist with the removal and correct storage of competition equipment in their defensive half of the pool. **Any failure to assist after being asked once may result in a deduction of three competition points.**

2.5.5 Referees will be appointed on a neutral basis wherever possible.

2.5.6 A WPTAS Board Member, Official or Referee must report to the Director of Operations any complaint or breach of competition rules or any event that may be detrimental to the sport of Water Polo.

2.6.0 PRE GAME RESPONSIBILITIES

2.6.1 Five minutes prior to the scheduled commencement time of any game the team managers must ensure

- (a) the team representative has reported to the desk to act as time keeper or game secretary.
- (b) the team is ready to commence the game.

2.6.2 Where requested by a Referee, each team must line up in cap number sequence for player inspection.

2.6.3 The first team mentioned in the fixture must wear white or light coloured customised caps. The second team mentioned in the fixture must wear blue or dark coloured customised caps. Should, in the opinion of the referee/s or the Pool Controller, the cap colours of both teams are deemed to be too close to enable clear distinction by the referees and/or athletes then the second named team shall wear an alternate cap as follows:

- Alternative customised set acceptable to the referee
- Blue caps

2.7.0 IN GAME RESPONSIBILITIES

2.7.1 At the scheduled game commencement:

- (a) Each team shall line up on their respective 2 meter lines
- (b) A team is ineligible to compete unless they have a minimum of five players in the pool.
- (c) All games will start at the scheduled start time provided at least one team is in the water and ready to start.
- (d) If neither team is in the water and ready to start the referee shall request the timekeeper to start the game clock at the scheduled start time. The referee shall also drop the ball at the halfway line when at least one team has properly lined up.

2.7.2 If after the scoring of the first goal the opposing team does not have sufficient players in the pool to re-commence play the game shall be deemed a forfeit.

2.7.3 Where a team forfeits the game: -

- (a) A team shall receive no competition points for the game and its athletes receive no recognition for competing in the game.
- (b) Where the non-offending team have complied with all rules other than lining up at its respective goal line and has no ineligible athletes that team will be credited with a five goals to nil win.
- (c) Where both teams forfeit the game then neither team shall be credited with any points.

2.7.4 A forfeiting team must advise the Director of Operations no less than twenty four hours prior to the scheduled game of their intention to forfeit if this is known to them by that time otherwise as soon as possible thereafter.

2.8.0 POST GAME RESPONSIBILITIES

2.8.1 Referees shall sign the scorecard; certify the correctness of the score and the Game Secretaries records. Referees are also responsible for the completion of Most Valuable Player votes (see 3.5.3) which must be recorded on the reverse of the scorecard.

2.8.2 Teams Captains shall, if their game is the last of the session, ensure that the goals and all relevant equipment in their defensive half are removed and stored in accordance with the Pool Controller's directions.

2.8.3 Where any athlete is ordered from the water by the referee for either misconduct or brutality.

The referee shall advise the Pool Controller or Director of Operations (who in turn will notify the respective coach and/or school contact) as soon as practical and that athlete will incur a suspension in accordance with the terms of 2.9.

2.9.0 ATHLETE REPORTS, SUSPENSIONS AND JUDICIARY PROCEDURES

2.9.1 Where an athlete is ordered from the water for the remainder of the game and is reported by the referee the following suspensions will automatically apply.

2.9.2

FOR ATHLETES			
	1 st Offence	2 nd Offence	3 rd Offence
Misconduct: Disrespect/Disobedience/Other			
Grade 1:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unacceptable Language Equipment Abuse Disobedience Disrespect Any other occurrences determined by the reporting official 	1 game	2 games	4 games
Grade 2:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of Grade 1 (Depending on circumstances) Persistent Rough Play Continuous Disrespect Any other occurrences determined by the reporting official 	2 games	4 games	6 games
Misconduct: Violence			
Grade 1:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempting to kick an opponent Attempting to strike an opponent Unwelcome and deliberate contact to a sensitive body part (eg. Female breast, genitals) Any other occurrences determined by the reporting official 	2 games	4 games	6 games
Grade 2:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of Grade 1 (Depending on circumstances) Kicking an opponent Striking an opponent 	3 games	6 games	10 games
Brutality:			
No Grading	4 games	8 games	16 games

FOR COACHES / TEAM OFFICIALS			
	1 st Offence	2 nd Offence	3 rd Offence
Red Card	1 game	2 games	4 games

FOR ATHLETES, COACHES, TEAM OFFICIALS & SPECTATORS

	1 st Offence	2 nd Offence
Assault of an Official (Including threat to assault)	3 games	6 games

The levels of suspension that the judiciary will apply if the charge is upheld are:

FOR ATHLETES

	1 st Offence	2 nd Offence	3 rd Offence
Misconduct: Disrespect/Disobedience/Other			
Grade 1:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unacceptable Language Equipment Abuse Disobedience Disrespect Any other occurrences determined by the reporting official 	2 games	4 games	6 games
Grade 2:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of Grade 1 (Depending on circumstances) Minor Contact – No Injury Persistent Rough Play Continuous Disrespect Any other occurrences determined by the reporting official 	4 games	8 games	12 games
Misconduct: Violence			
Grade 1:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempting to kick an opponent Attempting to strike an opponent Unwelcome and deliberate contact to a sensitive body part (eg. Female breast, genitals) Any other occurrences determined by the reporting official 	2 games	4 games	8 games
Grade 2:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of Grade 1 (Depending on circumstances) Kicking an opponent Striking an opponent 	6 games	12 games	10 games
Brutality:			
No Grading	6 - 8 games	12 - 16 games	24 - 32 games

FOR COACHES / TEAM OFFICIALS

	1 st Offence	2 nd Offence	3 rd Offence
Red Card	2 games	4 games	6 games



FOR ATHLETES, COACHES, TEAM OFFICIALS & SPECTATORS		
	1 st Offence	2 nd Offence
Assault of an Official (Including threat to assault)	8 Games	16 Games

NB: Any suspension can only be counted on games that the team plays in and does not include byes or forfeits from their team.

2.9.3 Where the referee considers the automatic suspension to be insufficient for the offence, a Judiciary of no less than three persons appointed by The Board shall meet together with the referee and the offending player to discuss the charge. The offending athlete may have an advocate present at the hearing. Upon consideration of submissions the Judiciary will then hand down a penalty they consider relevant. The meeting shall be scheduled prior to the next roster match in which the offending player may compete. The offending athlete will be ineligible for competition until the charge has been heard.

2.9.4 An athlete may appeal against a report by lodging a written appeal to the Director of Operations within 72 hours of the offence. The appeal must detail the reasons why the athlete disagrees with the report. The appeal will be conducted in terms of 2.9.2.

NB: Only matters covered in the written appeal will be discussed on appeal.

2.9.5 The Judiciary has the power to make recommendations and hand down penalties in the absence of either the athlete and/or referee. The referee's statement is sufficient evidence to enable the charge to be heard however all parties are strongly encouraged to attend any hearing.

2.9.6 Any decision of the judiciary shall be final and no further correspondence will be entered into.

PART 3 COMPETITION RULES

3.1.0 DURATION OF GAMES

3.1.1 Competition Rounds

All competition games will comprise two periods of 12 minutes of continual play with a two minute break at half time. Games will be scheduled at 30 minute intervals.

NB: Any variation to the duration of games will be at the discretion of the Director of Operations or Pool Controller.

3.1.2 Finals

Finals will comprise two periods of 12 minutes of continual play with a two minute break at half time.

Should scores be level at the end of play following a further two minute break play will continue until one team scores. (Golden Goal)





3.2.0 FIELD SIZE

3.2.1 Subject to pool availability College Boys, College Girls, 9/10 Boys and 9/10 Girls games shall be played using a field of play as close as practical to 25 metres in length. Primary Polo Mixed, 7/8 Boys and 7/8 Girls games shall be played using a field of play as close as practical to 20 metres in length.

3.3.0 BALL SIZE

Primary Polo Mixed will use:	Mikasa W6608W or Size 2
Grade 7/8 to College Students will use:	Mikasa W6009W or Size 4

3.4.0 DETERMINATION OF PREMIER TEAMS

3.4.1 The premier team shall be determined in each division of the competition by playing semi-finals and grand finals between the four teams with the most competition points at the end of the roster season. Finals will be structured as follows: -

Semi Finals:

1 V 4

2 V 3

The teams winning the semi finals will progress to the grand final.

3.4.2 Competition points shall be:

Win or Bye	3 points
Draw	2 points
Loss	1 point
Forfeit or disqualification	0 points

3.4.3 If two or more teams have equal points, firstly goal difference and if still equal, goal difference in the games between the respective teams shall be used to determine final ladder positions.

3.5.0 MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

3.5.1 A Most Valuable Player Award will be presented at the completion of the roster season to the athlete who has accumulated the most Most Valuable Player votes in each division.

3.5.2 Athletes who have been suspended or found guilty by the Judiciary shall be ineligible for the Most Valuable Player award.

3.5.3 Match referees shall award Most Valuable Player votes on a 3-2-1 basis. With 3 votes being for the best player, 2 votes for the 2nd best player and 1 vote for the 3rd best player in the game. The votes must be recorded on the Game Sheet at the completion of each game.

3.5.4 If two or more athletes have equal votes at the completion of the roster season an award shall be given to each of those players.



3.6.0 TEAM STRUCTURE

3.6.1 Teams shall be structured as follows:

Teams in all divisions shall comprise a maximum of 13 players with a maximum of 7 players including a goalkeeper to take the field at any one time.

Part 4 2016 SEASON INFORMATION

4.2.0 COMPETITION CALENDAR

The competitions will be played over ten regular rounds plus finals.

Season games will be played on Friday evenings commencing on Friday 29 April 2016 at The Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre and will conclude with Grand Finals on Friday 5 August 2016.

Rounds: As below:

R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	No game	R7	R8	R9	No game	No game	R10	SF	GF
29/4	6/5	13/5	20/5	27/5	3/6	10/6	17/6	24/6	1/7	8/7	15/7	22/7	29/7	5/8
Term 2										Holidays		Term 3		