

**WATER POLO AUSTRALIA LIMITED**

**NATIONAL WATER POLO LEAGUE**



**SINCE 1990**

**OPERATIONS MANUAL**

**2015/16 SEASON**

***“27<sup>th</sup> Season”***

**Version: 2015.16.2**

**Issued 21 October 2015**

## Document Control

<b>Document title</b>	<b>Water Polo Australia Limited National Water Polo League – Operations Manual</b>
<b>Document description</b>	A manual to be used for the conduct of the National Water Polo League (NWPL). The NWPL is run under the rules of FINA and the constitution, rules, regulations, by-laws and policies of Water Polo Australia Limited (WPAL). This manual identifies and defines rules that are specific to the running of the NWPL.
<b>Version / release number</b>	2015.16.2
<b>Release date</b>	21 October 2015

## **1. PURPOSE OF THIS MANUAL**

This manual details the rules upon which the National Water Polo League (NWPL) is conducted.

The manual must be present at all league matches and should be referred to by both clubs and referees in all matters of dispute.

The manual also details the minimum standards for hosting NWPL matches.

## **2. HOW TO UPDATE THIS MANUAL**

The manual will be updated as and when required by distribution of new sections which are to be inserted in the relevant pages after the previous page has been withdrawn. Alternatively a new manual may be issued if the number of changes is significant.

A copy of this manual will be made available on the Water Polo Australia web site.

Water Polo Australia Limited (WPAL) will provide updated manual pages from time to time via e-mail to all teams.

The manual is approved by the Board of Water Polo Australia on advice from the NWPL Management Committee.

## **3. NATIONAL WATER POLO LEAGUE MANAGEMENT**

### **3.1. The Office of Water Polo Australia Limited (WPAL):**

3.1.1. The operations of the NWPL are managed by the Manager, Events and Competitions,

3.1.2. The NWPL forms part of WPAL's National Competition Structure (NCS) and is acknowledged as the elite national club competition of WPAL.

### **3.2. The NWPL Management Committee:**

3.2.1. The Management Committee of the NWPL comprises a Delegate from each of the competing clubs and the Manager, Events and Competitions.

3.2.2. The purpose of the Management Committee of the NWPL is to provide advice on the operations of the NWPL to WPAL.

3.2.3. Meetings will be held at least at least eight times per year normally by teleconference with a face-to-face meeting being held at least once per year to review the previous season.

### **3.3. Eligibility to Compete:**

Competing clubs must hold a current WPA NWPL licence to compete in the NWPL.

### **3.4. Financial Obligations:**

3.4.1. If the scheduled Participation Fee payment is not paid by the agreed due date the club will be suspended from all NWPL activities until payment is made.

3.4.2. If the scheduled Participation Fee payment is not paid for 2 (two) consecutive payments by any club that club will be suspended indefinitely from the NWPL and will be required to present a case to WPAL as to why they should be allowed to continue in the NWPL.

### 3.5. Participation and Membership:

All players, coaches, team officials, referees, match officials and other persons actively involved in the operation and playing of the National Water Polo League must be a financial Member, Individual Member, Affiliate Member or Life Member of WPAL and agree to submit to the constitution, rules, regulations, by-laws and policies of WPAL.

### 3.6. Matters for the Attention of the CEO, WPAL:

Any correspondence addressed to the Manager, Events and Competitions will be deemed to be official correspondence.

## 4. CURRENT SEASON

2015/16

## 5. PARTICIPATION FEE SCHEDULE

### 5.1. Participation Fee - Due Dates and Amounts:

<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Invoice Due Date - 30 days</u>	<u>Amount incl GST</u>
14-October-2015	Friday, 13 November 2015	\$5,000.00
21-November-2015	Monday, 21 December 2015	\$5,000.00
26-December-2015	Monday, 25 January 2016	\$5,000.00
16-January-2016	Monday, 15 February 2016	\$5,000.00
01-May-2016	Monday, 30 May 2016	Balance

Note: these costs include GST

## 4. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

All matches will be conducted in accordance with current FINA Rules, except for specific NWPL competition rules:

- Team colours will be worn at all games with cap numbers being 1 to 22 where 1 and 18 are always used for goalkeepers.

Note:

All teams must wear team coloured caps. This arrangement is to be in force for all NWPL games unless prior agreement is obtained from WPAL. **Teams must have two sets of contrasting caps in the colours of their team. Both sets of caps must be present at all games – both home and away.**

Should, in the opinion of the referees, the cap colours of both teams be deemed to be too close to enable clear distinction by the referees and players then the away (visiting team) shall wear their alternate set.

During the NWPL final series, the team ranked higher at the end of the rounds (that is prior to the finals) will retain their caps and the other team will change if necessary. However, should both teams agree to the home/higher ranked team changing caps instead of the away/lower ranked team, then this will be acceptable to the NWPL noting this agreement must be mutual and under no pressure.

The following cap colour exemptions are approved:

Adelaide Jets & KFC Qld Breakers are permitted to use Red caps.

Balmain Tigers are permitted to wear Gold with black trim caps.

- Costumes: All team members must wear the same coloured/ pattern costumes in club colours at all games. **National costumes must not be worn.**
- Coaches and team officials who occupy the team bench during games must be dressed in the same uniforms – preferably team uniform. There may only be a maximum of 3 officials and 6 players on the bench during any match.
- Games cannot commence before 10.00 am without prior approval of WPA.
- A minimum of 20 minutes MUST BE scheduled between games. If the game is running late the 20 minutes is still to be observed.

#### **4.1. Venues:**

- Pools must comply with FINA rules and must be at least 1.8 metres deep with a preferred minimum depth of 2.2 metres. Clubs may apply to WPAL for minimal exemptions from this rule.
- Approved NWPL Venues for the 2015/16 season are:

##### **New South Wales:**

Ashfield Aquatic Centre, Elizabeth Street, Ashfield, Sydney, NSW

Dawn Fraser Baths, Elkington Park, Fitzroy Avenue, Balmain, Sydney, NSW (*day matches only without WPA prior approval*)

Drummoyne Swimming Centre, Henley Marine Dr, Drummoyne, Sydney, NSW

Lambton Pool, Durham Road, Lambton, Newcastle, NSW

Peter Montgomery Pool, Sydney University Sports Centre, Codrington Street, Darlington, Sydney, NSW

Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre, 504 Victoria Road, Ryde, Sydney, NSW

Sutherland Leisure Centre, 1 Rawson Ave, Sutherland, Sydney, NSW

Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre, Olympic Blvd, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW

University of NSW Fitness and Aquatic Centre, Anzac Parade, Kensington, Sydney, NSW

##### **Queensland:**

Kawana Aquatic Centre, Sportsman Parade, Bokarina, QLD

Stuartholme School, Swimming Centre, Birdwood Terrace, Toowong, Brisbane, QLD

Valley Pool Brisbane, 432 Wickham St, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane QLD

Yeronga Park Heated Swimming Complex, 55 School Rd, Yeronga, Brisbane QLD (*women's matches only*)

##### **South Australia:**

South Australia Aquatic and Leisure Centre, 443 Morphett Road, Oaklands Park, Adelaide, SA

##### **Victoria:**

Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre, Albert Park, Melbourne, VIC

Wodonga Waves Swimming Pool, 8 Mactier Avenue, Wodonga, VIC

**Western Australia:**

HBF Stadium (formerly Challenge Stadium), Stephenson Ave Mount Claremont WA 6010

Melville Water Polo Pool, Durdam Crescent, Bicton, Perth, WA

The University of Western Australia Fitness Centre, (Parkway Entrance 3 or 4) Crawley, Perth, WA

**4.2. Pools must have:**

4.2.1. Markers for the goal line (white), 2 metre (red), 5 metre (yellow), half way (white) on BOTH sides of the field of play. The markers must be clear to the players as well as officials and spectators.

4.2.2. The home team must provide as a minimum 5 (five) Official Mikasa Water Polo Balls as specified by FINA for each competition match. The balls must be of competition standard.

***The Mikasa ball, which is the approved ball for all FINA events, MUST be used in all NWPL matches – no other brands may be used.***

Men's ball - Mikasa Men's (W6000W) competition size.

Women's ball - Mikasa Women's (W6009W) competition size.

NOTE: if the host team does not provide the required number of Official Water Polo Balls they are subject to fines at the discretion of WPAL.

4.2.3. Exclusion boxes or areas clearly marked.

4.2.4. Team benches at each end of the field of play opposite the table and behind the goal line.

4.2.5. The host club MUST provide three fully operational air horns to be used for signalling timeouts at ALL matches. Each team and the table/secretary/timekeeper will be provided with one air horn. Should one of the teams' air horns fail then the tables' air horn will be reallocated to them. The tables' air horn is to be used for signalling time outs as well as the teams.

4.2.6. NOTE: if an air horn fails then the team may revert to the FINA rule for signalling, however the time out will only start when the referee or secretary hears the call. The NWPL Technical Delegate, in conjunction with the table officials, will decide when the time out was called if there is a dispute. If the delegate is not present then the referees will decide.

4.2.7. Goal judge seats and ball storage facility.

4.2.8. A central table at the half way mark that suitable room for NWPL Delegate, a timekeeper, secretary and a 30-second clock operator where applicable.

4.2.9. Each team will provide an exclusion re-entry flag in its own colours. The team must carry this flag with them at all times and provide it to the table officials before each match so it may be used to signal players returning to the water after exclusion. No team may have a solid red or yellow flag.

4.2.10. The host club must provide a red and yellow flag in addition to their own team flag.

4.2.11. A public address system to announce the teams, play the national anthem and provide scores throughout the match. The National Anthem may be played before league matches subject to the host club's wishes. The National Anthem will be played before both Championship Final matches.

4.2.12. Appropriate spectator seating and refreshment facilities.

4.2.13. Changing facilities for players and referees.

#### 4.2.14. Security for referees

### 4.3. Timing Equipment:

4.3.1. Electronic timing equipment must be used for all matches.

4.3.2. The minimum standard is two (2) 30-second clocks and a main clock with appropriate sound devices to indicate the end of quarters and the expiration of the 30-second attack period.

4.3.3. The equipment must be operational and must be able to be viewed by each team (players in the water and bench). Where sunlight hinders the clear view of the timing system, the host club is responsible to take appropriate measures to ensure all players; coaches and referees can view the timing equipment.

### 4.4. Scoreboard:

4.4.1. A scoreboard must be used in all matches.

4.4.2. A scoreboard must indicate the team score, period of play and major fouls for each player. It is critical that a board or similar is provided to that clearly indicates as a minimum the major fouls for each player as well as the score – this is “bare minimum”. Failure to provide this facility will result in the club being subject to fines.

4.4.3. The scoreboard should indicate the following:

- Score for each team
- Name and number of each player
- Major fouls for each player
- Goals for each player
- Timeouts

### 4.5. Referees:

Adequate and safe changing facilities must be provided for the referees. It is the host clubs responsibility to ensure the safety and needs of the referees are met.

### 4.6. Responsibility of Host Clubs:

4.6.1. Free entry must be provided to all visiting team players and management (that is a minimum of 15 tickets) as well as NWPL Delegates, Referees and Officials. NWPL Officials identification cards will be supplied by WPAL.

4.6.2. The safety of the referees, officials and visiting team is the responsibility of the host club.

4.6.3. The host club must ensure that matches start on time.

4.6.4. Host clubs must provide a trained/qualified and registered timekeeper, 30 second clock operator, secretary and two goal judges. These persons must have completed a WPAL Table Officials Course and attend to their duties correctly and in a manner that is suitable to an elite level match – this excludes goal judges talking to friends, drinking or eating during the match in progress. The officials should be dressed similar – either in white shirts or club shirts etc.

4.6.5. Provide THREE operational air horns for time out signalisation – one to each team and one to the table.

4.6.6. Provide an exclusion re-entry flag in club colours to the official table prior to the match as well as a red and yellow flag for signalisation.

- 4.6.7. Ensure their team has caps in accordance with NWPL rules and all team members wearing the same coloured/pattern costumes in all games.
- 4.6.8. Ensure players, coaches and managers adhere to the WPAL Code of Conduct,
- 4.6.9. Provide Scorecard and Penalty Shoot Form, complete same by writing the player's names on the scorecard 15 minutes prior to the start of the game.
- 4.6.10. At the completion of the game provide the scorecard and any other documentation e.g. penalty shoot-out for to the NWPL Match Delegate before distribution to any other parties.
- 4.6.11. Have a copy of this Operations Manual at all games.
- 4.6.12. Provide a club liaison person for the NWPL Match Delegate.

#### **4.7. Responsibility of Visiting Clubs:**

- 4.7.1. Visiting clubs must attend the match in order that the game can start on time and in team uniform and adhere to the WPAL code of conduct. It is expected the visiting club will be courteous to the host club's sponsors and officials and meet all reasonable media or sponsor requests.
- 4.7.2. Ensure their team has caps in accordance with NWPL rules and all team members wearing the same coloured/pattern costumes in all games.
- 4.7.3. Provide an exclusion re-entry flag in club colours to the official table prior to the match.
- 4.7.4. Complete the scorecard by writing the player's names on the scorecard 15 minutes prior to the start of the game.

#### **4.8. Scorecards and Notifying Results including Twitter responsibilities:**

- 4.8.1. All matches must use the approved NWPL Scorecard. Scorecard pdf files will be provided to all teams prior to the start of the season.
- 4.8.2. Official Match Scorecards must be scanned/photographed by the NWPL Match Delegate and forwarded within 1 hour of completion of the match to the Manager, Events and Competitions via text or email.
- 4.8.3. The original copy of the scorecard must be retained by the host club until the season, including finals, is completed.
- 4.8.4. The original scoresheet is required to validate any claims lodged by players, officials or volunteers.
- 4.8.5. Each club must provide quarter and full time scores on twitter in accordance with the WPA Social Media Guidelines. Clubs will be provided with the Social Media Guidelines prior to the commencement of the season.

## **5. REFEREES/DELEGATES**

### **5.1. Appointments:**

Match Delegates and Referees will be appointed by the NWPL Referee Appointments on advice from the WPAL Delegate Panel.



## **5.2. Delegate Panel and Responsibilities:**

A panel of NWPL Match Delegates will be selected by the WPA Referees Commission to officiate at all NWPL matches. The qualifications to be a NWPL Match Delegate will be determined by the WPA Referees Commission.

The role of the NWPL Match Delegate is as follows:

- Ensure the match is conducted in accordance with the rules of FINA and the NWPL.
- Meet with the match Referees at pool side at least 15 minutes prior to every match to ensure instructions are delivered as necessary.
- Review and report on the performance of the host club in meeting their match day obligations.
- Ensure the table officials comply with the rules by maintaining a duplicate card throughout the match and ensuring the timing equipment is operated in accordance with the rules.
- After the referees have signed and ensured the scorecard is correct also sign the scorecard.
- Formally evaluate the performance of the referees by completing the Delegate report for each match. Provide direct feedback to both referees post game.
- Obtain feedback from both coaches and include this in the Delegate report ensuring the coaches sign off whether they wish to make comments or not.
- Review and report on any incidents pre, during or post match including advising the Manager, Events and Competitions of any incidents, especially that result in injury, within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the match.
- Record the name of the MVP player for each team on the Delegate Report.
- Participate in TWPC meetings as required.

## **5.3. Referee Panel Responsibilities:**

A panel of NWPL Match Referees will be selected by the WPA Referees Commission to officiate at all NWPL matches. The qualifications to be a NWPL Match Referee will be determined by the WPA Referees Commission.

The role of the NWPL Match Referee is as follows:

- Ensure the match is conducted in accordance with the rules of FINA and the NWPL.
- Referee in a manner that is unbiased and fair to all participants.
- Adhere to the WPA Code of Conduct and Member Protection Rules.
- Arrive at the pool a minimum of 45 minutes prior to any match and be dressed and ready to officiate at pool side to meet with the NWPL Match Delegate at least 15 minutes prior to every match.
- Follow directions of the NWPL Match Delegate at all times.
- Attend and listen to the post match evaluation meeting with the NWPL Match Delegate.
- Complete and sign and referee report forms.
- Ensure the scorecard is correct and sign the card to verify its correctness.

## **5.4. Reports of excluded players/coaches/officials:**

A referee or match official may report a player, coach or team official who, in his or her opinion, has been guilty of conduct warranting such report whether by virtue of this Operations Manual, the By-Laws or Constitution of WPAL, or such other conduct as that referee or official should consider appropriate to warrant a report. This power to report a player, coach or team official extends to any conduct of a player, coach or team official directly or indirectly involving or concerning the NWPL or a game of the NWPL and includes but is not limited to any conduct committed within the thirty (30) minutes before or after a NWPL game.

Section 10 refers to further matters relating to reports/appeals and protests.

All exclusions for the remainder of the match must be reported by the referee on the appropriate **'NWPL Referee Report Form'** (See section 15 - Forms). This includes players and coaches or officials red carded. A separate card/form will be provided to all referees by e-mail for this purpose. The referee is to advise the team/s of all reports.

Distribution of the Report Form is as follows:

5.4.1. Referee completes report form and gives it to the NWPL Match Delegate who will forward it the Manager, Events and Competitions as well providing the club of the player reported the opportunity to make a copy of the report.

5.4.2. The reporting referee is to text the Manager, Events and Competitions on 0407324537 to advise a report from a game has been given to the host club - e.g. "MEN SYD v BAL SUN 26 FEB - 2 REPORTS - Michael Hart reporting referee".

### **5.5. MVP Votes:**

Immediately following the conduct of a match, the NWPL Match Delegate is required to record the MVP player for each team on the Delegate Report.

### **5.6. Referee – Late Arrival or No Show:**

A list of mobile phone numbers for all referees and at least two club contacts including the coach will be prepared and provided to all clubs and referees.

In the event that an appointed referee is late for a match it is the NWPL Match Delegates responsibility (or in his/her absence the referee in attendance) to do the following in order:

1. Call the other referee or if no answer;
2. Call one/both Home team contacts or if no answer;
3. Call one/both Visiting team contacts - to advise of the delay and estimated time of arrival.

If fifteen minutes before any match one of the appointed referees has not arrived the NWPL Match Delegate (or in his/her absence the referee in attendance) is to attempt to contact the referee to ascertain estimated arrival time. If he/she cannot contact the referee - e.g. they may still be in a plane that has been diverted, out of mobile range etc. - then the following will occur.

The NWPL Match Delegate (or in his/her absence the referee in attendance) is to ascertain who, if any, qualified referees are at the pool. The most senior Referee generally should be used. The NWPL Match Delegate (or in his/her absence the referee in attendance) is to make the decision in consultation with both coaches. If there is a dispute then the NWPL Match Delegate (or in his/her absence the referee in attendance) is to decide.

If both referees do not arrive in time for the game then the NWPL Match Delegate is to consult with the Manager, Events and Competitions as to what action should be taken.

### **5.7. Post-Match Protocol:**

Team players/officials and referees may not discuss the match in any detail for at least a 30-minute "cooling off" period after each match. A simple thank you or acknowledgement from team officials/players is acceptable but they may not engage in any form of criticism/advice until the cooling off period has elapsed. A breach of this policy could result in a charge of bringing the game into disrepute being made against the player/manager /coach/referee.

The NWPL Match Delegate will approach the Head Coach of each team for feedback immediately the game has finished and certainly within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the match.

### **5.8. Referee Appointments:**

Referee appointments will be advised progressively through the season. Should any changes be required, referees should contact the Referees Appointment Officer as soon as possible

## **6. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

Team lists must be submitted each season by all clubs.

The following rules will apply to team lists:

### **6.1. Squads:**

The maximum size of a NWPL squad is 22 players. Each team may substitute Australian players however once a player has been taken off the list in this manner he/she cannot return to that list and is ineligible for the remainder of the season including finals. All additions/substitutions must be advised in writing by e-mail to WPAL at least 48 hours prior to a player being entitled to play in a match. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture for the offending team/s for the matches played in. WPAL will exercise discretion in exceptional circumstances which are beyond the club or players control should they arise – e.g. overseas transfer delay. Import players may not be substituted with another import player but may be substituted by an Australian player. When the import player is substituted in this manner they may not return to the squad during that season.

### **6.2. Team Nomination - Closing Date:**

Each team must nominate at least thirteen players, coach, manager, qualified table officials and team contact by cob Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 via e-mail to WPAL. They must ensure that the '**NWPL Team Nomination Form**' (See section 15 - Forms) is completed and submitted. Failure to submit a list by the above date will incur a penalty of three competition points and a \$250 fine. If any team continues not to submit a list they will forfeit each match until they do so.

### **6.3. Cap Numbers:**

All players must be allocated a cap number when a squad or addition is notified. The player MAY NOT change cap numbers during the season. Goalkeepers will be number 1 and 18 ONLY. The reason for this rule is to ensure accuracy of programs, web site, media and player records as well as web cast. Where a squad has three or more goal keepers then cap changes will be permitted between goal keepers only.

### **6.4. Registration:**

All players, coaches, referees, and team and table officials must be registered members of a State Association and have obtained, if necessary, relevant international clearances before participating in the NWPL.

### **6.5. Transfers:**

Players transferring from one NWPL club to another during the off-season must ensure they are not in debt to the NWPL club they are leaving. Players must submit a '**NWPL Transfer Form**' (See section 15 - Forms) to the losing club by Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 and WPAL by the Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Transfer forms submitted after this date but prior to the commencement of the first game played by any team in the NWPL season will be accepted, however, Transfer Forms submitted after this date will be considered to have been received after the commencement of the season.

Failure to submit a Transfer Form will result in the forfeit of any games that the player competes in until such a form is submitted as detailed above.

This system is to be used for transfers from one NWPL club to another NWPL club only and does not replace any other transfer arrangements in place with WPAL or State Associations from time to time.

#### **6.6. Import Players:**

An import is a person who does not hold Australian Citizenship/Australian Passport.

A person who has made Australia their permanent place of residence for at least 24 months continuously and up to the commencement of the 2015/16 season will be considered to have obtained the status of a local player as long as they have not represented another country apart from Australia during that time. If they do represent another country in water polo at any time even after they have achieved local player status they will revert to the status of import and the two-year period of qualification will re-start. (Refer Minutes 23 Oct 2005).

Each team may have import players as follows:

- A team finishing in the top eight in the 2015 season is permitted two (2) import players
- A team finishing in the bottom four in the 2015 season is permitted three (3) import players

Imports must be in Australia and available to play before the 5<sup>th</sup> game of a team's schedule – i.e. for 80% of the season. Imports may not play in any games if they are not in Australia and available to play when the 5<sup>th</sup> game is played.

WPAL may consider exceptions to Player Eligibility upon application.

#### **6.7. Australian Player:**

An Australian player is a person who is not an import as defined above.

#### **6.8. Player Home Club:**

Players may only compete for one club during any NWPL season. Once a player has entered the water during a NWPL match they are deemed to be a member of that club for the entire season.

#### **6.10 Player Milestones:**

Player milestone recognition is an important part of the NWPL culture. To acknowledge this, a standard tankard or goblet will be provided by the NWPL for the following milestones:

NWPL Games Played:

- MEN 100, 200, 300, 400, 500
- WOMEN 100, 200, 300, 400, 500

The NWPL will maintain the official record of games played. Player details including name and milestone will be published on the WPAL website

## **7. POINTS SYSTEM**

### **7.1 The following points system will be used during the home and away rounds:**

Win – 3 points – where one team has more goals scored than the other at the end of normal time – i.e. 4 quarters of play.

Draw – 2 points - where both teams have the same number of goals scored at the end of normal time – i.e. 4 quarters of play.

Loss – 1 point - where one team has less goals scored than the other at the end of normal time – i.e. 4 quarters of play.

Bonus Point – 1 point – to a team that wins a penalty shoot-out after a game has been drawn.

Disqualification/Forfeit – 0 points – (0-5 goal score)

Win on Disqualification/Forfeit – 3 points – (5-0 goal score)

No Result – 2 points each team – no goals recorded.

## **7.2 Matches that cannot be commenced or finished (No Result Matches):**

Where any scheduled match cannot start or be concluded in the scheduled time, the match will be declared a “no result” and both teams will be awarded 2 points with no goals scored. The game will be listed as a draw on the points table.

The Pool Manager is the final authority to decide on safety issues, e.g. weather conditions or pool equipment failure, that effect if a match can start or be concluded.

If a match has not started and the two teams involved can re schedule the match or find an alternate venue that is suitable to both teams and is approved by the Manager, Competitions and Events then the game will be rescheduled.

Where the match is called off by the referees for judiciary reasons – e.g. Melee, - the game will be referred to the NWPL Judiciary for consideration.

Circumstances where a match that has not been concluded but can have a result declared is as follows:

Where a match has finished the third quarter then a result can be declared by the NWPL Appointed Match Delegate based on the following model. If there is no NWPL Appointed Match Delegate in attendance the matter will be referred to the Manager, Events and Competitions for a decision. For a team to be declared the winner they must be leading by the score detailed below at or after the elapsed time:

End of 3rd quarter: 7 goals

4th Quarter- 6 minutes remaining: 6 goals:

4th Quarter- 4 minutes remaining: 5 goals:

4th Quarter- 2 minutes remaining: 4 goals:

4th Quarter- 1 minutes remaining: 3 goals:

NWPL Appointed Match Delegate may also award the match to one of the clubs should he/she consider the non-finish of the match was caused deliberately by either club noting that any such decision is subject to appeal by either team involved in the match and that the NWPL Appointed Match Delegate must publicise his reasons for such a decision. If there is no NWPL Appointed Match Delegate in attendance the matter will be referred to the Manager, Events and Competitions for a decision.

## **8. FINALS SERIES**

### **8.1. Positions after home and away games:**

Teams will be allocated positions at the end of the home and away games based on the total number of points accumulated during the season from all matches with points awarded as per Section 7.

If two or more teams are equal on points at the end of the home and away games the following will be used to determine rankings.

**Where two teams are equal on points** at the end of the regular season then the following will be used to rank the teams. The first consideration will be the result between the two teams over both games played during the season.

1. Firstly the total table points earned by each team over the two games played between the teams during the regular season with the team with the highest number of points being ranked higher, if that is level then

2. The team with the most wins over the two games played between the teams during the regular season is ranked higher, if that is level then
3. The combined goal difference over the two games played between the teams during the regular season with the team with the better goal difference (determined by total for minus total against over the two games including any penalty shoot-out goals) being ranked higher, if that is level then
4. The team with the highest number of wins over the entire season against all teams being ranked higher, if that is level then,
5. The team with the better goal difference over the entire season against all teams (determined by total for minus total against over all games including any penalty shoot-out goals) being ranked higher, if that is level then
6. The away team in the fixtures between the two teams during the season will be awarded the higher ranking.

**Where three or more teams are equal on points** at the end of the regular season then the following will be used to rank the teams. The first consideration will be the results of all games between the teams on equal points played during the season. Note should at any point during the determination of ranking process the number of teams remaining to be ranked total two then the process listed above for two teams on equal points will be used to determine those two teams ranking.

1. Firstly the total table points earned by the teams over all games played between the teams during the regular season with the team with the highest number of points being ranked higher, the team with the second highest number of points ranked next and so forth, if that is level then
2. The most wins earned by teams over all games played between the teams during the regular season with the team with the highest number of wins being ranked higher, the team with the second highest number of wins ranked next and so forth, if that is level then
3. The combined goal difference (determined by total for minus total against including any penalty shoot-out goals) over all games played between the teams during the regular season with the team with the best goal difference being ranked higher, the team with the second best goal difference ranked next and so forth, if that is level then
4. The number of wins over the entire season against all teams with the team with the highest number of wins being ranked higher, the team with the second highest number of wins ranked next and so forth, if that is level then
5. The combined goal difference (determined by total for minus total against including any penalty shoot-out goals) over all games against all teams played during the regular season with the team with the best goal difference being ranked higher, the team with the second best goal difference ranked next and so forth, if that is level then
6. The team with the most away games in all fixtures between the teams on equal points being ranked higher, the team with the second most away games ranked next and so forth, if that is level then
7. A toss of the coin between all teams with the order of toss decided by ballot.

## **8.2. Finals Series Matches:**

The top 6 ranked teams at the conclusion of the regular season will compete in the Finals Series at a venue approved by a majority of the NWPL clubs in a NWPL Management Committee meeting.

The order of matches will be determined by the Manager Events and Competitions noting that the home teams will be played in the prime time slots to maximise crowd attendance and media coverage.

All matches are to be played to a conclusion in accordance with FINA Rules.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Men:

Elimination Final 1 (MEL1) – 3<sup>rd</sup> v 6<sup>th</sup>

Elimination Final 2 (MEL2) – 4<sup>th</sup> v 5<sup>th</sup>

Women:

Elimination Final 1 (WEL1) – 3<sup>rd</sup> v 6<sup>th</sup>

Elimination Final 2 (WEL2) – 4<sup>th</sup> v 5<sup>th</sup>

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Men:

5<sup>th</sup> v 6<sup>th</sup> – loser MEL1 v loser MEL2

Semi Final 1 (MSF1) – 1<sup>st</sup> v lowest ranked winner of MEL1 and MEL2

Semi Final 2 (MSF2) – 2<sup>nd</sup> v highest ranked winner of MEL1 and MEL2

Women:

5<sup>th</sup> v 6<sup>th</sup> – loser WEL1 v loser WEL2

Semi Final 1 (WSF1) – 1<sup>st</sup> v lowest ranked winner of WEL1 and WEL2

Semi Final 2 (WSF2) – 2<sup>nd</sup> v highest ranked winner of WEL1 and WEL2

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Men:

Bronze Medal – loser MSF1 v loser MSF2

Championship Final – winner MSF1 v winner MSF2

Women:

Bronze Medal – loser WSF1 v loser WSF2

Championship Final – winner WSF1 v winner WSF2

### **8.3. Eligibility for Finals:**

Australian NWPL clubs, subject to those clubs meeting all conditions of the NWPL rules, may compete in the NWPL finals.

### **8.4. Southern Cross Trophy – Men and Women:**

The NWPL Men's Southern Cross Trophy and the NWPL Women's Southern Cross Trophy will be awarded to the men's and women's minor premiers. All men's and women's teams, including any foreign/overseas teams competing in the NWPL that play matches against ALL clubs in the competition during the season are eligible to win this Trophy. Any overseas/ domestic teams that play some or all other clubs only once during the season due to travel restrictions will have those matches counted as double points including goal averages and major fouls. Ranking will be determined by the system used in 8.1 above.

### **8.5. Peter Kerr Trophy:**

The Peter Kerr trophy is awarded to the Champion Club for the season. The winner of the trophy will be the team with the most competition points in both the men's and women's competitions at the end of the regular season. The trophy recognises the importance of clubs competing and succeeding in both genders.

### **8.6. Champions Trophy:**

The winner of the men's Championship Final will be awarded the NWPL Champions Trophy for a 12-month period as well as receiving a Fred Mayer replica trophy to keep. The winner of the women's Championship Final will be awarded the NWPL Champions Trophy as well as receiving a replica to keep. Each Champions trophy will be engraved with the name of the winning team and team members for each year of competition.

### **8.7. NWPL Awards:**

WPAL may award prizes including trophies, medals or similar as it deems appropriate. Current awards are:

Charles Turner Medal – presented to the Most Valuable Player, Men, of the season.

Tom Hoad Medal – presented to the Most Valuable Player, Men, of the Final Series.

Debbie Watson Medal – presented to the Most Valuable Player, Women, of the season.

Pat Jones Medal – presented to the Most Valuable Player, Women, of the Final Series.

John Whitehouse Medal – presented to the best referee in the NWPL Final series.

The Freddy Mayer Trophy – presented to the men’s team winning the Championship Final

All Star Team – All Star Team of 7 players to be the top ranked 6 field players and top ranked goalkeeper as per the MVP votes for the season.

### **8.8. Equalisation of Accommodation costs:**

Each of the interstate travelling teams in the Finals Series will be paid the ‘Accommodation Allowance’ of \$1,500.00.

## **9. CODE of CONDUCT**

The league and all clubs, officials, coaches, referees and players will observe WPAL’s Code of Conduct and such other policies as are adopted by WPAL from time to time.

Water Polo Australia has introduced the policy of Think, ACT, Play for all its competitions including the NWPL. Clubs are responsible for the conduct of their games in accordance with the principles of Think, ACT, Play. The manual for Think, Act, Play can be accessed at the WPA Web Site at this link: <http://www.waterpoloaustralia.com.au/think-act-play/>

In addition to the above all clubs are required AT THE START OF EACH SEASON to ensure all players, officials and persons associated with the club have read and understand the following:

*“WPAL will not accept foul play of any kind in the NWPL. Players who commit dangerous foul play with the intent of damaging a player’s person are not welcome in our sport. We support fair play and remind players that a sport is to be enjoyed and is not a vehicle to damage other person bodies.”*

## **10. JUDICIARY**

The following judiciary policy will apply to all matches.

### **10.1. Players, Coaches and Team Officials:**

Players, coaches and team officials ejected from a match, or otherwise reported pursuant to Clause 5.2, have two options:

10.1.1 Accept the decision and the following suspensions:

10.1.1.1 Except in the case of assault of a referee or match official (including threat to assault) the number of offences for players, coaches and team officials relates to the current season and the previous season only. Suspensions carry over.

10.1.1.2 If a player, coach or team official 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 3<sup>rd</sup> offence.

- 10.1.1.3.** If a player, coach or team official is suspended as a result of a misdemeanour, then that suspension applies to that gender in all activities and roles of the NWPL. A suspended player/coach/team official cannot extinguish that suspension in another role in a match in the other gender.

<b>FOR PLAYERS</b>	
<b>CHARGE</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
Misconduct – Disrespect/ Disobedience/Other Grade 1	50
Grade 2	100
Misconduct – Violence Grade 1	50
Grade 2	200
Brutality No Grading	400
Assault of Official (including Threat to Assault) No Grading	1 year - Life

<b>FOR COACHES/TEAM OFFICIALS</b>	
<b>CHARGE</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
Red card	100

A points system determines the penalty incurred by the reported player, coach or team official. For every 100 points accumulated by the offender over a two season period, a penalty of 1 game suspension applies. Points continue to accumulate for a two season period and the points from the previous season are only extinguished at the end of the current season.

Example:

Player A - Disrespect Grade 1 - 50 points (50 accumulated points) - no suspension.

Player A - Violence Grade 2 - 200 points (250 accumulated – 50 points carry over) - serves a 2 game suspension.

- 10.2 Should a player/coach/official or other party not wish to accept the mandatory penalty then the case will be referred to the WPA Disciplinary Tribunal in accordance with the WPA Disciplinary and Tribunal Rules – see: [http://waterpoloaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Disciplinary\\_and\\_Tribunal\\_Rules\\_.pdf](http://waterpoloaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Disciplinary_and_Tribunal_Rules_.pdf)

10.3 Chairman of Judiciary Panel: Andrew Ryan

10.4 WPA Counsel: TBA

## 11. PROTESTS/APPEALS

All Protests/Appeals will be conducted in accordance with the WPA – the procedures are detailed on the WPA Web Site – follow this link: <http://www.waterpoloaustralia.com.au/about-us/policies-procedures-reports/general-policies-procedure/>

## 12. TRAVEL PROCEDURES

All teams must use the ‘**Travel Names Notification Form**’ (See section 15 - Forms).

Teams must make themselves aware of the conditions of the cheaper fares now being accessed by the NWPL and be aware of the additional costs they will incur if the rules are not followed.

### 12.1. Travel procedures home and away rounds

WPA/NWPL pays for the 13 cheapest tickets at reasonable times on the days of travel for all round games.

Clubs pay for all additional tickets and changes made to the original booking.

WPA/NWPL will determine the cheapest air travel for all road trips for the coming season in July 2015. The quote through MP Travel will be the basis for calculating the NWPL contribution to each clubs air travel.

Clubs will open an account with MP Travel and be responsible for all extra costs, provision of names and any changes.

It was agreed that in July 2015 each club will decide and advise what day they wish to travel and whether they wish to adopt the above system of dealing directly with the travel agent or remain in the system used in the 2015 season.

### 12.2. Travel Allowance Finals Series

Travelling teams will be allowed up to fifteen (15) air tickets per away trip. These airfares will be aggregated and equalised over all the league teams. Booking procedures will follow procedures as per 12.1.

### 12.3. Travel Allowance - Newcastle

Teams travelling from Newcastle to Sydney and Sydney to Newcastle will be paid \$1,100 incl. GST as a Travel Allowance.

### 12.4. Vehicle Hire

Teams and Referees hiring vehicles at any time and especially whilst on road trips must use Corporate Vehicle Management – see section 14 for details.

## 13. WEB SITE CHANGES

All requests for changes to the web site information for clubs is to be completed on the ‘**NWPL Web Site Details Change Form**’ (See section 15 - Forms).

The form is to be submitted to the Manager, Events and Competitions.

## 14. POSITIONS, APPOINTEES and CONTACT DETAILS

### **WPA Manager, Events and Competitions**

Noel Harrod, WPA  
Mobile - 0407 324537  
E-mail – [noel.harrod@waterpoloaustralia.com.au](mailto:noel.harrod@waterpoloaustralia.com.au)  
Twitter - @noelharrod

### **Media and Web Site Contact Details**

Beyond the Break Consulting  
Lauren Ryan  
Phone: 0402 162 807  
E-mail: [lauren.ryan@btbconsulting.com.au](mailto:lauren.ryan@btbconsulting.com.au)  
Grant Baldock  
[grant.baldock@btbconsulting.com.au](mailto:grant.baldock@btbconsulting.com.au)

### **NWPL Vehicle Provider**

Corporate Vehicle Management Pty Ltd  
Phone - 1300 307 651  
Fax - 03 6326 8498  
Email - [enquiries@corporatevehiclemanagement.com.au](mailto:enquiries@corporatevehiclemanagement.com.au)

### **NWPL Travel Group – Air travel and Accommodation Provider**

MP Travel  
Jordan Tansley  
[jordan.tansley@mptravel.com.au](mailto:jordan.tansley@mptravel.com.au)  
Phone – 02 9993 9070

### **NWPL Judiciary Chairman**

Andrew Ryan  
Mobile - 0427 260 153

### **Chairman of NWPL Delegate Panel and NWPL Referees Appointment Officer**

Michael Hart  
Mobile – 0416 294 525

## 15. FORMS

**Forms must be submitted in word format and NOT pdf or picture format – this is not negotiable and any form not submitted in this manner will be rejected.**



## 2015/16 NWPL TRANSFER FORM

FULL NAME OF PLAYER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS NWPL CLUB – I.E. CLUB PLAYED FOR IN 2015 NWPL SEASON:

\_\_\_\_\_

NEW NWPL CLUB – I.E. CLUB PLAYED FOR IN 2015/16 NWPL SEASON:

\_\_\_\_\_

### STATEMENT BY PLAYER:

I am transferring to a new NWPL club. I have no outstanding debts or contract obligations that would prevent me from transferring:

SIGNATURE OF PLAYER: \_\_\_\_\_

### STATEMENT OF DELEGATE OR CLUB COMMITTEE PERSON OF THE CLUB WHICH THE PLAYER COMPETED FOR IN THE 2015 NWPL SEASON:

*(please note: a club may not withhold this agreement unless there are outstanding money/contract obligations and if there are they must detail them below:)*

**There are no outstanding debts or contract matter for the player listed above.**

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION HELD: \_\_\_\_\_

REASONS FOR NOT AGREEING TO TRANSFER:

**Form must be submitted to WPAL by cob Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**to**

**[noel.harrod@waterpoloaustralia.com.au](mailto:noel.harrod@waterpoloaustralia.com.au)**



## 2015/16 NWPL TEAM NOMINATION FORM

**TEAM:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Page 1 of 2**

**MEN'S/WOMEN'S:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

CAP NO	NAME	NATIONAL ID #	AGE	HEIGHT (CMS)	WEIGHT (KGS)	HIGHEST REPRESENTATIVE LEVEL	IMPORT?
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							

Please note - National ID Number can be obtained from the National Database either through your Club Registrar or State Association. All players must be registered and thus will have a National ID Number.



**2015/16 NWPL TEAM NOMINATION FORM**

**TEAM:**

**Page 2 of 2**

**MEN'S/WOMEN'S:**

**DATE:**

Coach		Natnl ID #
Coach's Mobile		
Coach's Email		
Assistant Coach		Natnl ID #
Manager		Natnl ID #
Manager's Mobile		
Manager's Email		
Media Officer		Natnl ID #
Media Officer's Mobile		
Media Officer's Email		
Table Official		Natnl ID #
Table Official		Natnl ID #
Table Official		Natnl ID #
Goal Judge		Natnl ID #
Goal Judge		Natnl ID #
Goal Judge		Natnl ID #
Goal Judge		Natnl ID #
Club Delegate		Natnl ID #
Club Delegate's Mobile		
Club Delegate's Email		
Email Address for Accounts		

Please note - National ID Number can be obtained from the National Database either through your Club Registrar of State Association. All personnel must be registered and thus will have a National ID Number.

**Form must be submitted to WPAL by cob Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**to**

**[noel.harrod@waterpoloaustralia.com.au](mailto:noel.harrod@waterpoloaustralia.com.au)**



## 2015/16 NWPL TRAVEL NAMES NOTIFICATION FORM

### NATIONAL WATER POLO LEAGUE PLAYER / OFFICIALS NAMES / AIR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

TEAM NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

WEEK / TRAVEL DATES: \_\_\_\_\_

GROUP LEADER: (must be travelling with team and included below)(+ mobile phone no)

PLAYER / OFFICIALS NAME (included in "quota")	* TRAVEL NOT REQUIRED	** TRAVEL REQUIRED BUT DIFFERENT TO NORMAL
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
PLAYER / OFFICIALS / OTHER NAME (to be charged direct to individual club)		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

\*\* Please provide detail of alternative travel that is to be organised e.g. only requires "one-way" travel etc

## 2015/16 NWPL WEB SITE DETAILS CHANGE FORM



Insert the new details to be added to the web site in the relevant area below – also advise if any information is to be deleted by crossing out those details.

<b>TEAM NAME:</b>	
<b>LOGO:</b>	
<b>COLOURS:</b>	
<b>MAJOR SPONSOR:</b>	
<b>SPONSORS:</b>	
<b>NWPL SEASONS:</b>	
<b>NWPL Honours:</b>	
<b>HOME POOL:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>HEAD COACH:</b>	
<b>Mobile:</b>	
<b>MANAGER:</b>	
<b>Mobile:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>CLUB DELEGATE:</b>	
<b>Mobile:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Club Web Site:</b>	

E-mail to [noel.harrod@waterpoloaustralia.com.au](mailto:noel.harrod@waterpoloaustralia.com.au)







## 2015/16 NWPL REFEREE REPORT FORM

### Grading of Offences:

#### 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:

#### Misconduct - Disrespect/Disobedience:

##### Examples of Grade 1 include:

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

##### Examples of Grade 2 include:

- 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
- Continuous disrespect

#### Misconduct - Violence

##### Examples of Grade 1 include:

- Attempting to kick an opponent
- Attempting to strike an opponent
- Unwelcome and deliberate contact to sensitive body part (eg female breast, genitals)

##### Examples of Grade 2 include:

- All of Grade 1 above (depending on the circumstances)
- Kicking an opponent
- Striking an opponent
- Persistent foul or rough play
- Unwelcome and deliberate contact to sensitive body part (e.g. female breast, genitals)
- Continuous disrespect

There is no grading for brutality or threats of brutality. NOTE the rule for brutality is clear and must be used when it occurs: ***WP 21.14 To commit an act of brutality (including to play in a violent manner, kicking, striking or attempting to kick or strike with malicious intent) against an opponent or official, whether during actual play, during any stoppages, timeouts, after a goal has been scored or during intervals between periods of play.***

**Note: should a melee or any breach of the member Protection Policy occur a separate report detailing the full incident will be required in addition to this form**