



2026
COMPETITION MANUAL

**Thursday July 9 –
Sunday July 12, 2026**

**Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic
Centre, Hobart, TAS**



**WATER POLO
AUSTRALIA**

Purpose of Manual

This competition manual details the rules and minimum delivery requirements of the
13&U National Development Carnival in Hobart, Tasmania.

1. Event Objectives

Players & Teams:

- To allow teams from different States to come together and enjoy Water Polo in a fun, 'carnival' atmosphere.
- Teams will experience playing with and against players from other states and enjoy meeting new people through Water Polo.

Referees:

- For Community Referees: To enhance their skill development at a National Event, and receive feedback in real time, in a smaller nurturing environment.
- For Advanced Referees: To undertake and learn the role of a Delegate at a National Water Polo Event, which develops and increases Water Polo Australia's pool of delegates.

Coaches:

- Provides an opportunity for States to encourage junior coaches to attend and coach state-based teams, to develop their learnings and skills at a National Water Polo Event.

2. Key Contacts

Any general enquiries can be sent through to info@waterpoloaustralia.com.au

For specific enquiries, the Competition Staff contacts are listed in the below table:

Paula Woolley	WPA National Competitions Coordinator	paula.woolley@waterpoloaustralia.com.au
Dannette Taylor	WPA GM Play	dannette.taylor@waterpoloaustralia.com.au
Michael Hart	WPA National Officials Manager	michael.hart@waterpoloaustralia.com.au
David Nissen	WPA National Officials Coordinator	david.nissen@waterpoloaustralia.com.au

3. Equipment

- **Pool Length** - L 20-25m, W 10-25m (as per World Aquatics rules) and subject to availability.
- **Pool Depth** - minimum 1.8m (preferably 2m) subject to availability.
- **Ball Size** - Matches will be conducted using KAP7 Balls. All games will be played with a Size 4 ball.
 - o Game Balls will be supplied by Water Polo Australia.
 - o Warm-up/Training balls to be supplied by States/Teams
- **Goal Size** - All matches will be played with goals that are W 3.0m x H 0.9m (inside measurements), approximately.



4. Key Timelines

States to confirm Team Entries	Monday 18th May 2026
Teams added to RevSport	Friday 29th May 2026
WPA to invoice States	Monday 1st June 2026
Draw Released	Friday 5th June 2026
Players, Coaches & Team Staff to be added by	Friday 12th June 2026
Invoices to be paid by	Monday 15th June 2026
State Meeting - Online 12 noon TBC	Monday 6th July 2026
Coach & Manager Meeting - Online 6pm	Monday 6th July 2026
Referee & Delegate Meeting – Online TBC	Tuesday 7 th July 2026
SIA Education Workshop - University of Tasmania, 17 Liverpool St, Hobart, TAS - 2 sessions (First Session 5pm, Second Session 6pm)	Thursday 9th July 2026

5. Eligibility

- 5.1 All players, coaches, team officials, referees, match officials and other persons actively involved in the operation and playing in the 13&U NDC must be a current 2025/26 Season financial Member in the WPA Member Pool database, agreeing to abide and be bound by the constitution, rules, regulations, by-laws, and policies of WPA including the rules set out herein.
- 5.2 The 13&U National Development Carnival is open to Platinum Junior Registered members for Season 2025/26.
- 5.3 In accordance with the National Technical Rules, all players must be born **Born 2013 & younger to be eligible to play.**

6. Team Composition

- **Teams** - Each team consists of 14 players (12 field & 2 goalkeepers)
- **Cap Numbers** - All players must be allocated a cap number, with Red Cap 1 & 13 dedicated for goalkeepers.
- **Team Staff** - Must be listed during the entry process via the Member Pool Team Lists. One (1) Head Coach and one (1) Manager per team are the minimum requirements for team entry, any additional Assistant Coaches may be listed. For these Rules, any Head Coach, Assistant Coach or Manager entered on the Team list will be considered a 'Team Official'.
 - o A Manager may be allocated across multiple teams (Example: One State sending a manager for two teams).



- **Referees**
 - Referees will be managed by Water Polo Australia and selected in consultation with the State Association and who are of a suitable standard for this tournament.
 - All referees are required to be a current 2025/26 Gold Membership (minimum) with Water Polo Australia.
- **Sports Integrity**
 - The State Association is responsible for ensuring that each Team Official meets the minimum SIA (Sport Integrity Australia) requirements listed below by **Friday July 3, 2026**:

	SSO Staff / Administrators	SSO Board Members	Coaches (including S&C)	Support Personnel (Team Manager, First Aid, Physio)	Table Officials	Officials (Referees and Delegates)	NSC State Athletes	Other State Athletes	Volunteers (including Tribunal Members)
WWCC	Required	Required	Required	Required	Recommended	Required	-	-	Recommended
WPA Accreditation	-	Required Bronze Member Minimum	Required Gold Member Minimum	Required Bronze Member Minimum	Recommended Bronze Member Minimum	Required Gold Member Minimum	Required Platinum Member	Required Platinum Member	-
Role Specific	-	-	Required Safe and Effective Coaching of Young Athletes in High Performance Sport (when coaching U18 athletes)	-	Recommended Table Official (WPA Portal)	Required Community Officiating Essential Skills (WPA Portal)	-	-	-
National Integrity Framework	Recommended	Required	Recommended	Recommended	-	-	-	-	-
Anti-Doping Fundamentals	Required	Required	Required	Required	-	-	Required	Recommended	-
Annual Update	Required	Required	Required	Required	-	-	Required	Recommended	-
Whereabouts Course	-	-	Recommended (if coaching RTP or NTP athletes)	Recommended (if working with RTP or NTP athletes)	-	-	Required (RTP and NTP athletes)	Required (RTP and NTP athletes)	-
Competition Manipulation and Sport Gambling	Recommended	-	Recommended	Recommended	-	Required	Recommended	Recommended	-
Decision Making in Sport	-	-	-	-	-	-	Recommended	Recommended	-
Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport Induction	Required	Required	Required	Required	Recommended	Recommended	-	-	Recommended
Illicit Drugs in Sport	-	-	-	-	-	-	Recommended	Recommended	-

If SIA requirements are not met by Friday July 3, officials will not be granted access to pool deck at Hobart Aquatic Centre.

7. Conduct of Matches

The competition will be conducted in accordance with current World Aquatics rules or as modified at the discretion of Water Polo Australia.

- 7.1** Teams must have two sets of contrasting caps in the colours of their team.
- The first named team must wear white/light caps and start from the end of the pool, which is to the left when facing the pool from the officials table.
 - The second named team will wear a cap of contrasting colour, predominantly dark.
 - If in the opinion of the referees, there is a clash of caps, the first named team has the choice.
- 7.2** All team members must wear the same swimmer/uniform at all games except for composite teams and possible draft players who wear their club or state swimmer/uniform.



- 7.3** Coaches and team officials who occupy the bench during games must be dressed in the same team uniform including enclosed shoes. There may be a maximum of 3 officials and 7 players on the bench during any match.

7.4 Match Times

- Four quarters of 4-minute actual time with 1-minute breaks between periods and 2-minute break at half time.
- All games will have a shot clock.

7.5 Participation Rule

- The participation rule will be in play at this tournament.
- Within the first quarter and second quarter, each team **MUST** change all their players in the water.

Player exit for changeover is via the official table (See Red Arrow), player entry is via the team bench (Yellow Arrow).



- If there is an appropriate time in the quarter, the referee will stop the game and call a timeout so the athletes can change over.
- If a player plays the entirety of the first quarter, they **must** be on the bench for the entirety of the second quarter.

7.6 Goalkeeper Rotation Clarification

Some States have recently enquired about whether the Goalkeeper position can be rotated with a field player. To ensure transparency and consistency across all States, and in consultation with the WPA Officials Manager and Competitions team, we advise that as this tournament focuses on development, a field player may act as goalkeeper for one half, but **the cap swap is temporary**. After the rotation, **each player must resume their original allocated cap number**.



- **Goalkeeper rotation** — States may rotate goalkeepers from game to game, and also within a game **at half time only**.
- **Cap swapping** — When a field player becomes goalkeeper, he must wear the goalkeeper's cap (usually cap 1).
- **Returning to field play** — Once the rotation ends, the player must swap back and resume his original cap number.
- **Example**
 - **Cap 8** plays goalkeeper for the first half.
 - At half time, **Cap 8 swaps caps with Cap 1** (the original goalkeeper).
 - When Cap 8 returns to the field, he **must go back to wearing cap 8**.
 - If another field player (say **Cap 10**) is rotated into goalkeeper next, **Cap 10 swaps caps with Cap 1**.

7.7 Errors and Conduct of Game Officials

- For the purposes of these Rules, any Referee, Delegate, will be considered a "Game Official".
- One Team Official will be provided with the WPA approved statistics sheet (see helpful links below for printing) to keep track of in-match statistics and for the purposes of any issues they may wish to raise during the match. If the Team Manager is not available than any other Team Official may use the sheet, however use of the sheet must be limited to one person for the duration of the match for the sheet to be considered reliable. This person is the 'nominated team official'.
- Decisions of Game Officials are final and cannot be appealed. Reasons are not required to be given for such decisions and any form of harassment of Game Officials during or after the game may result in disciplinary action.
- Technical Errors may be raised with the Delegate by the Nominated Team Official during one of the scheduled breaks in play (quarter-time, half-time and three-quarter time) and for 10 minutes after conclusion of the match. Only one Nominated Team Official from each team may approach the Delegate. Breach of this provision may result in a red card.
- The Technical Errors which may be raised with the Delegate are limited to Exclusions and Scoring Errors.
- The Delegate will consider and rule on any Technical Errors at the time they are raised as per above and will immediately rectify, as deemed appropriate, without applying a replay. Such decisions are made in their sole and absolute discretion. The delegate is not required to give reasons for their decision, and their decision is binding and cannot be appealed.

7.8 Table Duty

Teams must provide a minimum the names of four (4) qualified table officials with their team lists through the Member Pool. One to two (1-2) listed table officials from both teams are required for duty during the team's scheduled match. Failure to provide table officials may result in a monetary fine as a sanction.

The roles that must be filled from both teams are:

1. Timekeeper - Clock/Shot Clock
2. Scorecard



3. Flags/Caller and Exclusion Card
4. Live Scoring

To do the table officials course, you must be a registered bronze volunteer member with your club. For any membership or table official related questions, please email info@waterpoloaustralia.com.au

7.9 Conclusion of the Match

The delegate of the match will check and sign the card to confirm its accuracy within 5 minutes of the match concluding. The delegate will confirm that the result of the match is correct and final. All games will not go into penalty shoot outs. If a game is a draw at the end of full time, that is the result.

8. Disciplinary Matters

- 8.1** Disciplinary Matters will proceed in accordance with the procedures set out in the Water Polo Australia National Sanctioning Policy.
- 8.2** A daily hearing schedule will be provided prior to the tournament start date. All hearings will be held via teleconference to manage complaints or offences that need to be heard from previous days of play. If there are no complaints or offences that need to be heard from previous days the Disciplinary Tribunal will not convene a daily hearing on the relevant day.
- 8.3** The Disciplinary Tribunal's decision is final, binding upon all parties and can only appealed in accordance with the Water Polo Australia National Sanctioning Policy.
- 8.4 Video**
 - If an Internal Tribunal Hearing is being convened, the Competition Manager/Officials Manager (or their Nominee) will identify and secure any video footage available of the Incident and make this available to the Internal Tribunal if required.
 - Official footage taken by the Organization of the Match can be provided to the Internal Tribunal if available.
 - All Submissions of Video footage must be by an authorised representative and registered for a photography pass before the start of the tournament. These submissions are subject to include a declaration that the footage hasn't been edited in any capacity.
 - The Internal Tribunal at their discretion can choose to view video footage or not.

9. Forced Delay or Cancellation of Matches

Should circumstances occur which prevent play in some, or all matches in any round, Water Polo Australia shall assess the situation and decide on delaying or cancelling matches affected.

10. Breaching Competition Rules

- 10.1** Any team that is found to be in breach of any of the competition rules, during the competition, at the discretion of WPA, may be sanctioned or disqualified.
- 10.2** If a matter arises which is not explicitly dealt with under these rules, but which in the reasonably held view of WPA is a breach of World Aquatics Rules/WPA modified



competition rules, and not in the spirit of the game or results in clear unfairness to one team if not remedied, WPA will have sole and absolute discretion to rectify the matter using any remedies and penalties such as it sees fit. The relevant remedies and penalties can include but are not necessarily limited to fines, exclusions, warnings or disqualification.

- 10.3** Any decision made by WPA under this section is final, binding upon all parties and cannot be appealed.

11. Photography

Photographers or Videographers (including using mobile phones on a stand) with SLR Cameras must complete their details, including evidence of their Working with Children Check through this online form prior to their attendance at a venue.

On the first day of the competition the Photographer is to have their name marked off the Photography Register and collect their Photography pass from WPA Staff.

They must show their WWCC/Driver's License to a WPA staff member to sight and approve. The photography pass must always be visible when taking photos.

Those with photography passes can take photos with their SLR Cameras from the designated photography areas being the Grandstand seating area only. No Pool Deck access is permitted.

Professional Photographers or accredited Media Personnel will be wearing an identifiable Photographers Bib. Due to OHS concerns these are the only personnel allowed to photograph on Pool Deck.

WPA Staff and Event Officials have the authority to escort any persons that do not follow these rules off pool deck and remove any Event Entry Passes and/or photography tags.

12. Helpful Links

Please review the below table to assist with viewing additional Water Polo Australia policies and accessing additional documentation.

Think. Act. Play.	Think. Act. Play. – Water Polo Australia
Water Polo Australia Match Centre	Match Centre – Water Polo Australia
Water Polo Australia Sanctioning Policy	Policies & Procedures – Water Polo Australia
Water Polo Australia Statistics Sheet	WPA Approved Statistics Sheet
Water Polo Australia Photography Registration Link	2025/2026 Water Polo Australia Photographers Pass - Water Polo Australia - revolutioniseSPORT

