Tournament Eligibility Regulations

WPA Sanctioned Events

Version 2
Effective: [1 October 2026]
Ref: COMP-003

#	Review Date	Effective Date	Approved By	Changes
1	Sept 2026	1 October	Play Committee	Added in sections for schools and changed 60 day window to be registered for event with primary or secondary clubs to
2	Sep-Oct 2025	[insert]	Board	Moved to new template. Significant rewrite for clarity. Inclusion of Referees and Technical Delegates Selection Guidelines into policy. Removal of concepts that are already dealt with in the Competition Manuals to avoid duplication.

Review frequency: annually

1 Background

1.1 Purpose

These regulations are made by Water Polo Australia Limited ("**WPA**") under its constitution ("**Constitution**") with the purpose of providing participant, player, official and team eligibility rules across all WPA Sanctioned Events.

1.2 Scope

1.2.1 These regulations apply to WPA Sanctioned Events only.

1.2.2 The approach to eligibility of Officials may also be used as a guide for State and local events, competitions and representative programs.

2 Definitions

2.1 Defined Terms

The following words have the corresponding meaning in these regulations:

Appointments refer to actual match appointments, scheduling or rostering at specific events from a pool of Officials.

Appointments Officer means the person appointed by WPA to manage the appointment of Officials for the Event.

Association means an Affiliate Member that is a regional association.

AWL means the Australian Waterpolo League.

AYWPC means the Australian Youth Water Polo Championships.

Club means any Affiliate Member that is a club or an AWL Member.

Club Composite Team means a team established under section 5.6.

Draft means the player draft managed by WPA for the Event in accordance with the relevant competition manual to allocate eligible players without a team to teams that require additional players.

Event means a WPA Sanctioned Event.

Membership Policy means the Membership and Registration Policy available on the WPA website.

NDC means the 13&U National Development Carnival.

Non-Primary Clubs means the Clubs a player is an active paid member of that are not the player's Primary Club.

NSC means the National State Championships.

Officials refers to all table officials, referees, technical delegates and pool controllers.

Primary Club means a player's primary club as allocated in accordance with section 4.4.

Primary Player, for a Club, means a player for whom that Club is their Primary Club.

Primary State means a player's primary State Member as allocated in accordance with section 4.4.

State Composite Team means a team established under section 5.8.

WPA Match Official Framework means the Water Polo Australia Match Official Framework in

place from time to time.

WPA Sanctioned Events means national events sanctioned by WPA, including but not limited to, the AYWPC, the AWL, the NSC and the NDC.

2.2 Terms defined in Constitution

Where a capitalised term is not defined in these regulations, but is defined in the Constitution, it has the meaning given in the Constitution.

Part A - General

3 General Participant Eligibility

Events are open to Individual Members (players, coaches, team officials, referees, match officials and other persons) who:

(a) are active within and in good standing with their Affiliate Member and State Member;

(b) have a category of Individual Membership which entitles them to participate in the relevant role they wish to play in the Event (see the Membership Policy); and

(c) are current financial Individual Members registered in the WPA Member Pool database, have agreed to abide by the Constitution and Policies and meet any other requirements under the Membership Policy.

Part B – Players and Teams

4 Player Eligibility

4.1 General

In addition to the general requirements in section 3, players must also meet the requirements in this section and any specific requirements set out in the Competition Manual for the relevant Event.

4.2 Age and other requirements

Players must meet the age eligibility criteria as per the relevant "National Technical Rules" for the competition their team enters in the Event (available on the WPA website).

4.3 Australian domiciled

4.3.1 Players must be permanently domiciled within Australia for a minimum of 300 days in the 12 months preceding the close of registrations for the Event they wish to participate in.

4.3.2 Special exemptions to the requirement in section 4.3.1 may be granted for extraneous circumstances and decisions will be made by a panel appointed by WPA, and all decisions will be final. The panel will include a minimum of 3 people from any of the following roles (or equivalent or similar roles in the event of role/title changes) (multiple from the same role is permitted):

(a) WPA CEO or their Delegate;

(b) General Manager Play;

(c) National Performance Pathway Lead;

(d) Competitions Coordinator;

(e) Panel member of the Internal Tribunal; and

(f) Member of the Sport Development Committee.

WPA will ensure that the Conflict-of-Interest Policy is considered when appointing the panel.

4.3.3 WPA may also allow exceptions to this rule if an international team is permitted to participate in an Event under section 5.11.

4.4 Primary Clubs and Primary States

4.4.1 The Primary Club and Primary State of a player is a key factor when determining their eligibility to participate in teams that are taking part in an Event, as set out in section 5.12.

4.4.2 A player's **Primary Club** is:

(a) if they are an active paid member with only one Club, then that Club; or

(b) if they are an active paid member of multiple Clubs, then it is the Primary Club as noted in the WPA MemberPool as of 31 December in the relevant season.

4.4.3 A player's **Primary State** is:

(a) the State Member that administers the sport in the state or territory of the player's registered residential address; or

(b) if the player's registered residential address is within 50 kilometres of a state or territory border, that nearby State Member, provided that both State Members agree and provided approval by 31 December in the relevant season.

4.4.4 WPA may at its discretion allow exemptions / special consideration in respect of the allocation of a Primary Club and Primary State for a player.

4.4.5 If the State Member or Club are unsure of the eligibility of a player, advice must be promptly sought from WPA where confirmation of eligibility and any exemptions/special considerations may be granted.

4.5 Secondary Club Registrations

4.5.1 Players must have registered with their Secondary Club or Secondary State through their MemberPool profile and be a fully financial and active member by 31 December in the relevant season.

4.5.2 Secondary Club members can only play for their secondary Club;

(a) If their Primary Club does not enter a team

(b) If they are not selected in their Primary Club team

4.5.3 Secondary Club and State players will need to provide evidence that they are fully financial with their secondary club and state and are regularly active within club.

4.5.4 Registering for a Secondary State and/or Club will not guarantee eligibility to play and will be at the discretion of WPA.

4.6 State Member Requirements

State Members may have additional specific eligibility requirements as set out in their relevant State Member policies, that may differ to WPA eligibility requirements.

5 Team Eligibility

5.1 Nomination

5.1.1 All teams must complete the team nomination process online as outlined by WPA during the call of entries for each Event.

5.1.2 The team nomination form must be completed electronically by an official representative from the Club, State Member or Association of the nominating team.

5.1.3 In some instances, a deposit will be required at the time of team nomination.

5.1.4 Team type (club/composite/regional/state) must be clearly indicated on the nomination form.

5.1.5 Clubs and State Members should note their responsibility to ensure eligibility as set out in section 6.

5.2 Acceptance

5.2.1 WPA may accept or decline entry into the Event of a team that has nominated for entry.

5.2.2 Teams should refer to the specific Competition Manual to clarify any further eligibility requirements.

5.3 Team Size

Unless otherwise set out in the Competitions Manual for the Event, in accordance with World Aquatics water polo rules, each team's start list shall consist of a maximum of fourteen (14) eligible players, consisting of twelve (12) field players and two (2) goalkeepers.

5.4 Team Types

5.4.1 The following team types are eligible to compete in WPA Events. Please refer to the Competition Manual for each Event for any specific requirements.

Event	Club Team	Club Composite Team	State Composite Team	Independent Team
AYWPC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
AWL	Team holding AWL License			
NSC	No	No	Yes	Yes
NDC	No	No	Yes	Yes

5.5 Club Teams

5.5.1 A Club Team is a team comprising entirely of that Club's Primary Players.

5.5.2 A Club that has 10 or more available Primary Players who are eligible and nominate to play in the Event must enter the event as a Club Team.

5.5.3 Each Club should encourage its eligible Primary Players to nominate for a Club Team for the Event and must select the team(s) from the Primary Players. A Club that is found to have discouraged an eligible Primary Player(s) from nominating for its Club Team in circumstances where it can reasonably be concluded that the discouragement was intended to exclude that player to provide a benefit to that Club Team shall be deemed to have committed misconduct and be liable to sanctions, including but not limited to disqualification from the Event.

5.5.4 A Club that intends to form a Composite Team with excess eligible Primary Players (see section 5.6) must select their strongest Primary Players in their Club Team.

5.5.5 A Club Team with less than 10 eligible Primary Players that has not formed a Composite Team must enter the Draft to complete their team.

5.6 Club Composite Teams

5.6.1 A Club Composite Team is a team comprising eligible Primary Players from two Clubs that have agreed in writing to enter a Club Composite Team which has been approved by WPA.

5.6.2 A Club cannot participate in more than one Composite Team per age group, per division, per gender; that is to say, a Club cannot participate in multiple agreements nor have players spread across multiple Composite Teams in a particular age group of the same division and gender.

5.6.3 A Club Composite Team should be formed between Clubs within its own Association / State. However, if there isn't another Club within the Association/State to form a Composite Team with a Club can request to form a Club Composite Team with a Club from another State.

5.6.4 To seek approval from WPA, all Clubs must register using the RevSport link: 2026-2027 Composite Team Entry Request - Water Polo Australia - revolutioniseSPORT by the date nominated in the Competitions Manual for each Event.

5.6.5 After approval is sought, details will be provided to State Members for endorsement. Once endorsed by the respective State Member(s), the State Member(s) will then request approval from WPA. The assigned WPA representatives will approve or reject the request based on the information supplied by the State Member.

5.6.6 Primary Players can only be included in a Club Composite Team where their Club:

(a) does not have enough eligible Primary Players to make up a Club Team; or

(b) has excess Primary Players after forming a Club Team(s) and the Primary Player was not selected in the Club Team(s), subject to section 5.5.4.

5.7 School Teams – players whose School is their Primary Club

5.7.1 Where a player's Primary Club is a School, and that School does not enter a team in the Gold Division for the relevant age group, WPA may approve the player to participate with a Club Team in the Gold Division, provided that:

(a) the school gives written approval for the player to participate with the Club Team;

(b) the player has been registered with, and actively playing for, that Club from the beginning of the relevant season;

(c) the school provides WPA with a list of all players approved for this exemption by the date required by WPA; and

(d) WPA approves the player's participation before the player is included on the Club Team list or participates in the Event.

5.7.2 A player approved to participate with a Club Team in the Gold Division under this section is not eligible to participate in the Green Division for either their School or Club in the same age group.

5.7.3 A player participating in the Green Division for either their School or Club is not eligible to be rostered or participate in the Gold Division for the same age group.

5.7.4 Once a player has been approved to participate with a Club Team under this section, the player is not eligible to subsequently participate for their School in another age group or division at the same Event, unless otherwise approved by WPA.

5.7.5 WPA may also consider a request from a School to release a player to participate with a Club Team in the Green Division, provided that WPA is satisfied the release does not adversely affect the school's existing team entry.

5.7.6 This section applies only to movement from a School to a Club. A player must not represent

both their School and a Club in the same age group at the same Event.

5.7.7 School Teams entering Water Polo Australia events and competitions must be formed from students who attend the school.

5.8 State Composite Teams

5.8.1 A State Composite Team is a team formed by State Members comprising eligible Players for whom that State is their Primary State and in accordance with the relevant Competition Manual.

5.8.2 State Members will request approval from WPA to enter the team. The assigned WPA representatives will approve or reject the request based on the information supplied by the State Member.

5.9 Draft

5.9.1 A Composite Team with less than 10 eligible players must enter the Draft to complete their team. Composite Teams will be placed behind all Club Teams who enter the Draft, regardless of their Draft selection position.

5.9.2 The Draft will be conducted in accordance with the relevant Competition Manual.

5.10 Independent Teams

5.10.1 WPA may in its absolute discretion form an Independent Team for an Event should there be sufficient eligible players, but there are insufficient places in other teams.

5.10.2 WPA will manage these teams, including by organising team staff and logistics.

5.11 International Teams

Endorsement is required from WPA for an international or invitational team to enter an Event. These teams and their members are required to register in the WPA MemberPool as directed by WPA.

5.12 Correct Eligible Team

5.12.1 For **club-based Events**, in order of priority of claim for the services of a player, a player's correct eligible team is as follows:

(a) If a player's Primary Club has entered a Club Team, the player's correct eligibility is to that Club Team; or

(b) If a player has not been selected in their Primary Club's Club Team, but that Club has entered a second Club Team or Composite Team, the player's correct eligibility is to that second Club Team or Composite Team; or

(c) If the players Primary Club is part of an Association, and the Association has entered teams, then the players correct eligibility is to the Association team; or

(d) If a player has not been selected for their Primary Club Association team, then the player is eligible to play for their secondary club.

(e) If a player's Primary State has entered a Composite State Team, the player's correct eligibility is to that Composite State Team, subject to the selection criteria for that team; or

(f) If a player is actively playing and fully financial member with a secondary Club, and at the close of team nominations the player's Primary Club has not entered a team, the player's correct eligibility is to the Club Team of their secondary club. (Note if a player is a fully financial member of several Clubs, the secondary club is determined by the

order of date of member registration with those Clubs).

(g) If a Primary Club enters more than one team, secondary club members are not to displace Primary Club members and may not be eligible to play in the top Club team.

5.12.2 If a player is not eligible or selected to a team in any of the above circumstances, they are eligible to enter the Draft. If the player is selected by a team in the Draft process, then the player's correct eligible team is to the team to which they are drafted.

5.12.3 If a Club enters more than one team in the event/competition and requires Draft players to complete the teams, The Draft players can only be selected for second team, and are not to displace Primary Club Members

5.12.4 For **State-based events**, a player's correct eligible team is their Primary State.

5.12.5 A player will be required to seek exemption from WPA to participate for any team that is not:

(a) A Club Team formed by their Primary Club;

(b) A Composite Team formed by their Primary State; or

(c) A Composite Team formed with their Primary Club.

6 Responsibility for Compliance

6.1 State and Club Responsibility

6.1.1 It is the responsibility of the State Member (for State-based Events) or Club (for Club-based Events) to ensure eligibility criteria are met, including to:

(a) ensure that its Individual Members are financial and within an applicable Membership category class for their participation in the Event;

(b) ensure that any of its players nominated and participating in the Event are playing with the correct team in accordance with these Regulations;

(c) ensure that all its participating entities are financial; and

(d) advise WPA of any relevant sanctions affecting any of its teams or Individual Members.

6.1.2 The responsible party (State Member or Club) will be granted access to the team lists through WPA MemberPool.

6.1.3 Any issues must be communicated in writing to the WPA competitions coordinator.

6.1.4 Club or State Member's may be asked to provide appropriate evidence to support claims of eligibility.

6.2 Breach of eligibility rules

For any State Member, Association, Club or Individual Member that does not comply with the eligibility rules, penalties can be applied retrospectively at the sole discretion of WPA.

Part C - Officials

7 Official Eligibility

7.1 General

7.1.1 In addition to the general requirements in section 3, Officials must also meet the requirements in this section and any specific requirements set out in the Competition Manual for the

relevant Event.

7.2 WPA Match Official Framework

7.2.1 In addition, to be permitted on pool deck at a WPA Sanctioned Event, various core and recommended requirements apply which are set out in the WPA Match Official Framework, as applicable to the WPA Sanctioned Event.

7.2.2 All courses listed in WPA Match Official Framework are available through the WPA Learning Hub. You must be a current Member to gain access to this resource.

7.3 WWCC

7.3.1 To be eligible to participate as an Official at a WPA Sanctioned Event, all applicable working with children/vulnerable people check (**WWCC**) requirements must be met and evidence must be submitted and approved by the relevant State Member through this link. Requirements need to be satisfied even for Officials that are parents of participants.

7.3.2 In some instances, Officials may be required to hold a WWCC from the State in which the competition is played in, rather than their home State. This will differ between Events, and the appointed Officials will be notified if necessary. WPA will reimburse the fee charged by the relevant State body to get an additional WWCC from outside their home State.

8 Official Nomination & Selection Process

8.1 WPA Sanctioned Events (ex AWL)

8.1.1 This section applies to the process to be appointed as an Official for all WPA Sanctioned Events other than the AWL.

8.1.2 Individuals that meet the requirements in these regulations applicable to the relevant event are to nominate for a role as an Official at the event through the applicable EOI/application form by the relevant due date established for that event.

8.1.3 After nomination, details will be provided to State Members for endorsement by the State Member's head referee and/or executive.

8.1.4 Appointments will be made by the Appointment Officer(s) based on the following conditions:

(a) Eligibility – Official meets the eligibility requirements for the relevant role at the event, subject to section 8.4;

(b) Number of Officials Required – Determined by size, format and scheduling needs;

(c) Availability – Individuals must confirm availability for the duration of the event, including travel and briefing sessions;

(d) Location and Logistics – where appropriate, local officials may be prioritized to reduce travel cost and support local development;

(e) Development – Considerations maybe given to developmental goals; and

(f) Performance History – prior performance feedback, including assessments from previous events may be considered in the selection process.

8.2 AWL

8.2.1 This section applies to the process of being appointed as an Official for the AWL.

8.2.2 Individuals must meet the requirements in these regulations and the minimum requirements as outlined in the WPA Match Official Framework to be part of the "AWL Panel".

8.2.3 Individuals on the AWL Panel are to nominate their availability for the AWL Season when

requested by the WPA Appointments Officer(s).

8.2.4 Appointments will be made by the Appointment Officer(s) based on the following conditions:

(a) Eligibility – Official meets the eligibility requirements for the relevant role, subject to section 8.4;

(b) Number of Officials Required – Determined by scheduling needs;

(c) Availability – Individuals must confirm availability and non-availability throughout the season;

(d) Location and Logistics – where appropriate, local officials may be prioritized to reduce travel cost;

(e) Development – Considerations maybe given to developmental goals; and

(f) Performance History – prior performance feedback, including assessments from previous events may be considered in the selection process.

8.3 Notification

Selected Individuals will be notified formally and provided with event specific details and expectations.

8.4 Discretion of WPA

WPA may at its discretion allow Officials to be appointed that don't strictly meet all requirements for the relevant event on a case-by-case basis, for example if there are insufficient Officials that meet the requirements.

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