

## **NWWPL Competition Conditions – Updated 2009**

### **1 General**

- 1.1 All Championships shall be conducted under the following general conditions.
- 1.2 Anything not covered by these conditions shall be decided by the Committee where appropriate.
- 1.3 If appropriate, these conditions may be amended for the ensuing season at the AGM by a majority of the clubs attending and voting
- 1.4 The term 'club' in these conditions shall include all entrants unless the context indicates the contrary.
- 1.5 The Committee shall appoint an Event Manager for each shared venue event who shall be responsible for ensuring that the rules of the competition are complied with and all expenses paid at the appropriate time.

### **2. Rules**

- 2.1 All games shall be conducted in accordance with the FINA Technical Rules of Water Polo except where varied by this or any other of these Conditions.

### **3. Scottish or Welsh ASA Clubs/ European clubs**

- 3.1 On its entry form a club affiliated to a European Country governing body or the Scottish or Welsh asa shall undertake in writing, to accept the jurisdiction of the asa in all matters affecting these Championships.

### **4. In the Event of a Tie**

- 4.1 Where a definite result of a tie is required, this shall be determined by the FINA conditions in Appendix 1.

### **5 Field of Play**

- 5.1 The field of play shall be as near as practicable to the full size and shall not be less 22.5m long, 11.0m wide and 1.5m deep.
- 5.2 All games shall be played in covered or open-air pools in which the water temperature is recommended to be between 25 and 27 degrees Celsius (77.0 to 80.6 degrees Fahrenheit) but in no case shall the water temperature be less than 18 degrees Celsius (64.4 degrees Fahrenheit).
- 5.3 In the case of a single match the home club or promoting body failing to provide a field of play complying with this Condition shall be reported to the Competition Administrator by the referee(s) within three days of the fixture. The Committee shall have the power to order any of the following:
  - 5.3.1 the award of the match to the away club;
  - 5.3.2 the match to be rearranged;
  - 5.3.3 the result of the match to stand;
  - 5.3.4 the payment of a fine not exceeding £75 by the offending club;
  - 5.3.5 the payment of any legitimate expenses by the offending club.

### **6 Entries**

- 6.1 A Club is permitted to enter more than one team in each Competition.
- 6.2 Clubs wishing to enter teams in any competitions promoted by the NWWPL shall do so by completing an official entry form obtainable from the Secretary. This must be signed by the competing club's secretary and sent to the Secretary with the appropriate fee[s] before the specified closing date. Facsimile copies or emails will not be accepted.
- 6.3 The Committee may decline to accept the entry of any club or team.

## **7 Eligible Player Lists**

- 7.1** If more than one team from the same club is entered, each set of players shall be separately listed and there shall be no interchange of players between them during that competition.
- 7.2** Each Club having entered any of the Competitions, shall submit to the Secretary, by the date specified on the entry form, a list of the players from whom the team will be selected with their asa registration numbers
- 7.2.1** as a declaration that all the players on the list are currently registered with the asa as category 2 competitors,
  - 7.2.2** are eligible to be members of that team,
  - 7.2.3** comply with any age conditions for the competition,
  - 7.2.4** that the team manager/club secretary accepts on behalf of the team the Competition Conditions and that all the information given is correct.
- 7.3** Each club having entered the League competition shall submit a list of players for each team entered in the league competition by 31st July in the year of the competition, as a declaration that all players are currently asa Category 2 registered with that club.
- Additional players may be registered after the due date in writing and accompanied by a fee of £5 for each player. The player's name, the asa registration number and £5 fee must be sent to secretary not less than 7 days before the player is due to compete. A player registered in this way may not compete until approval of the application has been given by the League Secretary.
- 7.4** No player registered for a Women's National League team in any one competition year may play for any other team in the League, with the exception of players in the British Swimming Junior Women's Water Polo Squad. In any match between a player's registered club and the British Swimming Junior Women's Water Polo Squad, the player shall not play for the British Swimming Junior Women's Water Polo Squad but may play only for her registered club.
- 7.5** Each player listed must be domiciled in Great Britain/European Union.

## **8 The Draw**

- 8.1** The draw for each Competition shall be made within 28 days of the closing day for entries.
- 8.2** All byes shall be cleared in the preliminary or first round of a Competition. For the subsequent rounds of a Competition, numbers representing the winner of each match shall be drawn by lot.
- 8.3** Clubs shall be advised by the Competition Administrator or Secretary of the result of the draw, for each Championship entered.

## **9 Match Officials**

- 9.1** The Committee shall appoint sufficient officials for each game, except where the entry form states each entered team must provide a tale official. Any team failed to do so will be fined £100.
- 9.2** In the case of tournament or group play the Delegate where appointed shall nominate the Referees for each match from the list of appointments.
- 9.3** In the case of a single match the home club or promoting body shall provide a minimum of two timekeepers, where possible neutral, and one secretary and each club shall provide a goal judge.
- 9.4** Any appointed referee unable to officiate shall forthwith notify the person named on the appointment document, who shall appoint a substitute.
- 9.5** Any appointed auxiliary official unable to officiate shall forthwith notify the Secretary, who shall appoint a substitute.
- 9.6** In the case of a single match, should one referee fail to appear for a match, the remaining referee and the two captains may, by unanimous agreement, appoint another eligible referee. If this is not possible the referee and the two captains may, by unanimous agreement, appoint any other referee or agree for the original referee to conduct the match alone. If for any reason, a game is started with one referee and a second referee becomes available to officiate in time for the normal commencement of the third period of the game, then the last two periods of the game shall be conducted with two referees.

## **10 Notice of matches**

**10.1** Each club will receive notification of the event/match from the Competition Administrator or Secretary at least 10 days prior to the next round or series of matches.

**10.2** The Secretary or Competition Administrator, competing club(s) and appointed officials shall be given by the home club or promoting body not less than ten days clear notice of the date, time and venue of each match. A home club failing to give such notice in writing may forfeit the match and may be fined a sum not exceeding £10. A promoting body failing to do so shall be dealt with by the Committee at its discretion.

**10.3** A club failing to receive the specified notice shall take all reasonable steps to ascertain the date, time and venue of the match and such steps shall be taken into account by the Committee in any decision regarding the forfeiture of the match.

## **11 Scoreboard**

**11.1** It shall be the duty of the promoting body, or the home club in the case of a single match, to provide all equipment necessary to stage the group matches/tournament/match and maintain a scoreboard.

**11.2** A promoting body, or home club, failing to comply shall be dealt with by the Committee at its discretion.

## **12 Match Record Sheets**

**12.1** Each team captain at least 30 minutes before the game is due to start shall give to the Match Secretary a list in writing of his players with cap numbers. When a match program has been published with cap numbers those numbers must be used for all purposes, subject only to revision by the Referees or the Delegate if one has been appointed whose decision shall be final.

**12.2** The Match Secretary shall, on the official match sheet, enter the names of all officials, players, and other standard details required before the match starts and during the match keep it up-dated. At the end of the match the Match Secretary shall complete the sheet by calculating the score and hand the sheet to the Referees, who shall check it, sign it and advise the teams of the result.

**12.3** The completed form shall be posted by the event Promoter of a group or tournament or the Referee in the case of a single match to the Secretary or Competition Administrator within three days of the match. If the game was not played or not brought to a proper conclusion, the details of the circumstances must be recorded on the Match Record Sheet by the event Promoter or Referee(s), as appropriate.

**12.4** One copy of the form and/or referees evaluation form, with the Referee Evaluation Report section fully completed, shall be posted by each club to the Referees Coordinator, Competition Administrator or Secretary within three days (date as postmarked) of the match, failing which the club shall incur a fine of £5.00.

**12.5** The results of all matches in a Competition shall be circulated to all clubs entered in that Competition as soon as possible after, and in any case within 28 days of, the completion of each round by the Secretary or Competition Administrator.

## **13 Points**

**13.1** With the exception of the League competition, each team shall play each other team in their group once. Two points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a draw.

**13.2** In case of equality of points where a definite result is required the procedures for tie breaking as issued by FINA in appendix 2 shall be followed

**13.3** In league matches where if two or more teams have equal points at the end of the competition, the placing shall be decided by considering the following factors in order until precedence is established by:

- 13.1.1** The team gaining the most points in the matches between those teams;
- 13.1.2** The team with the greatest goal difference in the matches between those teams;
- 13.1.3** The team scoring the most goals in the matches between those teams;
- 13.1.4** The team with the greatest goal difference overall;
- 13.1.5** The team scoring most goals overall.

In the event of continuing equality the places shall be decided by lot.

## **14 Medals**

- 14.1 In all Final Ties the winning teams shall receive thirteen gold medals and the runners-up thirteen silver medals.
- 14.2 In all Final Tournaments the winning teams shall receive thirteen gold medals and the runners-up thirteen silver medals.
- 14.3 In the League, the winning team in each division shall receive thirteen gold medals and the runners-up in each division shall receive thirteen silver medals.
- 14.4 Medals may be withheld from a team or individual by the delegate at his discretion and subsequently awarded only by the decision of the Committee.
- 14.5 Only players listed on the match sheet and in attendance shall be presented with medals on the day of the final.

## **15 Trophies**

- 15.1 Trophies, where appropriate, shall be presented to the winners on the day of the Final or Final group matches of the league.

## **16 Finance**

The permissible allowed expenses are as detailed in these rules.

### **16.1 Appointed Officials**

- 16.1.1** In single matches the home or promoting club shall pay the expenses of all appointed officials.
- 16.1.2** In Final Ties and Group Matches and Tournaments the NWWPL shall pay the expenses of all appointed officials.
- 16.1.3** The Management Committee shall apportion the expenses of each shared venue event equally between all teams, including the British Swimming Junior Women's Water Polo Squad, participating in that event.
- 16.1.4** Each Club shall be responsible for its own travelling expenses etc., in all rounds, groups and finals

#### **16.2 The league Competition Guarantee & promotional Expenses**

- 16.2.1** Following acceptance of its entry, each club including the British Swimming Junior Women's Water Polo Squad shall be required to deposit with the NWWPL a guarantee before the first day of May in the year of the Competition. Failure to pay this guarantee shall be deemed to be withdrawal under Condition 19. The amount of the guarantee shall be determined by the AGM.
- 16.1.2** The net promotional expenses of all divisions after deducting all income received from any source shall be paid in equal proportions by all clubs competing in that group, including the British Swimming Junior Women's Water Polo Squad, irrespective of which division they compete in.

### **17 Dates and Venues**

- 17.1** The Committee shall draw up annually a calendar of dates of rounds, groups, final ties and final tournaments and shall publish this calendar not later than 1st December in the year preceding the Competitions.
- 17.2** All games shall be played on the date published in the calendar except that in the case of a single match, provided both clubs agree at the time of making the arrangement on a date and the time of start, and subject to the prior approval of the Committee, the game may be played on any date which does not prejudice the timely completion of that or any subsequent round of the Competitions.
- 17.3** The Committee shall promote all finals at such venues and on such dates as it deems suitable. Should a club wish to promote a final or finals the Committee may delegate the promotion to that club subject to suitable financial arrangements. A club wishing to promote a final or finals shall apply in writing with full details of the proposed venue and financial arrangement before 1st September in the year preceding the competition.

### **18 Match Times**

- 18.1** No single game may be timed to start before 2.30 p.m. or later than 9.00 p.m. on a Saturday, or later than 6.00 p.m. on a Sunday without the consent of the visiting club.
- 18.2** No group or tournament game may be timed to start before 08.00 or later than 21.00 on a Saturday or later than 18.00 on a Sunday without the consent of the participating clubs and except where provided for in these conditions.

### **19 Team Withdrawing**

- 19.1** A team that withdraws from a competition prior to the draw shall not be penalised.
- 19.2** After the draw has been made and more than ten clear days before its next game shall be fined £50.00 and/or shall pay such expenses as the Committee may decide.
- 19.3** With less than ten clear days notice before its next game shall be fined £75.00 and/or shall pay such expenses as the Committee may decide;
- 19.4** In the case of a team withdrawing from a tournament prior to a final tournament the tournament shall be played between the remaining teams.
- 19.5** A team that withdraws from the League after its entry has been accepted shall be fined £100.00 and/or shall pay such expenses as the Committee may decide.

**19.6** The remaining group(s) shall be played between the remaining teams.

**19.7** A team having qualified to compete in a Competition, Final Tie or Final Tournament which withdraws there from shall be fined £100.00 and/or shall pay such expenses as the Committee may decide.

**19.8** The team last defeated by the withdrawing team shall qualify for and play in the Final Tie or Final Tournament provided arrangements can be made. If arrangements cannot be made, a new date for a Final Tie may be arranged at the discretion of the Committee or the Final Tournament shall be played between the remaining teams, as the case may be.

## **20 Delayed Start**

**20.1** If the start of a match is delayed beyond 5 minutes of the published starting time the club responsible for the delay shall be fined £10.00 and if the start of a match is delayed beyond 15 minutes of the published starting time the club responsible for the delay shall be fined £25.00.

## **21 Failure to fulfill a fixture**

**21.1** In the event of a club failing to have seven players available to start a single match within 30 minutes of the appointed starting time the match may be cancelled by the Referee(s) and deemed to be a non-fulfillment.

**21.2** In the event of a club failing to have seven players available to start a group or tournament match at the appointed starting time the match may be cancelled by the promoter and deemed to be a non-fulfillment.

**21.3** If a club fails to participate without 48 hours prior notice, in any League match, it shall be deemed to be a non-fulfillment of a fixture.

The remaining matches in the group shall be played between the remaining teams.

**21.4** In the event of any non-fulfillment the promoter of a group or tournament (or in the case of a single match a Referee or and the Secretary of each club involved), shall within three days submit a written report to the Committee, which shall have the power to order any of the following:

**21.4.1** the award of the match to the non-offending team.

**21.4.2** the match to be rearranged.

**21.4.3** the payment of a fine of £75.00 by the offending club.

**21.4.4** the payment of allowable expenses by the offending club in the case of 21.4.2.

## **22 Fines and ordered expenses**

**22.1** All fines and expenses ordered under these conditions shall be sent to the Secretary, and made payable to the NWWPL, within twenty one days of the date of the notification of the decision.

**22.2** Failure to comply with this condition shall result in an additional fine of £20.00 and the team may be disqualified from the Championship by the Committee.

**22.3** Failure to pay the whole of the outstanding monies within a further fourteen days of the notification of the additional fine may be dealt with by the committee.

## **23 Ineligible Player**

**23.1** A club playing one or more ineligible players shall be deemed to have lost the match, forfeit any points gained in the match to their opponents, be fined £100.00 and/or shall pay such expenses as the Committee may decide.

**23.2** In a League group match or NWWPL tournament, the non-offending team shall have the option of recording a 5 – 0 score in its favor or maintaining the score as recorded on the match sheet.

## **24 Unlisted Player**

**24.1** A club playing one or more players not included in the team's submitted list of entrants may be deemed to have lost the match, forfeit any points gained to the match to their opponents, be fined £25.00 and/or shall pay such expenses as the Committee may decide.

**24.2** In a League group match or NWWPL tournament, the non-offending team shall have the option of recording a 5 – 0 score in its favor or maintaining the score as recorded on the match sheet.

## **25 British Junior Squad**

**25.1** Notwithstanding any other provision in these conditions, if an entry into the League competition from the British Swimming Junior Women's Water Polo Squad is accepted by the Management Committee, the following conditions shall apply to it:

**25.2** The team shall be allocated to Division One for the first part of the season and its results shall count in the league table;

**25.3** For phase two of the season, irrespective of its position in the table, the team shall be allocated to either the top or bottom group according to the prior decision of the NWWPL AGM

**25.4** The team shall not be required to participate in any playoff(s) in order to maintain its position in Division One in the following year.

## **26 Organisation of the League Competition**

**26.1** The League shall consist of sufficient divisions to accommodate the entries up to a maximum of four divisions. The number of teams in each division shall be determined by the AGM.

**26.2** The Management Committee may organise a competition to determine new entrants to the League.

**26.3** Where a club has two or more teams in the same division those teams will play each other as the first matches in the fixture list.

**26.4** In Division One each team shall play each other once. From the resulting League table the teams will be divided into two groups. After taking into consideration condition 25 teams in group one placed 1 to 4 and teams in group two placed 5 to 8 will then play each other twice. Points and goals will be carried over from the first phase of the competition into the second phase in respect of matches played between teams in the same group.

**26.5** Teams in Divisions 2, 3 and 4 shall play each other twice.

**26.6** Two points will be awarded for a win and one point for a draw. If two or more teams have equal points at the end of the competition the procedures for tie breaking shall be followed as laid out in condition 13.3.

**26.7** All matches shall be played in groups at such central venues and on such dates as the Management Committee shall decide.

**26.8** Teams shall be allocated to divisions in the order in which they finished in the previous year's championships except that the top team in the lower division shall be promoted to the higher division and the bottom team in the higher division shall be relegated to the lower division

**26.9** The second placed team in the lower division shall have the option to challenge the next to bottom placed team in the higher division. The challenge must be notified to the Secretary, in writing, with 3 days after the last game in the current year's championship.

**26.10** The team winning the challenge shall be placed in the higher division and the losing team in the lower division. A team refusing a challenge or failing to fulfill a challenge fixture shall be deemed to have lost the challenge.

**26.11** The challenge shall be played in such a manner at such a venue(s) and on such date(s) as the Management Committee may from time to time specify. In case of equality of points in a challenge match the procedures for tie breaking as issued by FINA shall be followed.

## **Appendix 1: FINA WP Rule 11.3** re Extra Time and note on the procedures for penalty shoot outs

WP 11.3 Should the scores be level at full time in any game for which a definite result is required, any continuation into extra time shall be after an interval of five minutes. There shall then be played two periods each of three minutes actual play with an interval of two minutes for the teams to change ends. If at the end of the two periods of extra time the score is equal, there shall be a penalty shoot out to determine the result.

If a penalty shoot out is necessary, the following procedure shall be followed:

- if it involves the two teams having just completed a game, the shoot out will begin immediately and the same referees will be used;
- otherwise, the shoot out will occur 30 minutes following the completion of the final game of that round, or at the first practical opportunity. The referees involved in the most recent game of that round will be used, provided they are neutral;
- if two teams are involved the respective coaches of the teams will be requested to nominate five players and goalkeeper who will participate in the penalty shoot out; the goalkeeper may be changed at any time provided the substitute was listed amongst the team list in that game;
- the five players nominated will be required to be listed in order and that order will determine the sequence in which those players will shoot at their opponents goal; the sequence cannot be changed;
- no players excluded for the game are eligible to be listed amongst those players to shoot or substitute as goalkeeper;
- if the goalkeeper is excluded during the penalty shoot out, a player from the nominated five players may substitute for the goalkeeper but without the privileges of the goalkeeper; following the taking of the penalty shot, the player may be substituted by another player or alternate goalkeeper;
- shots will be taken alternately at either end of the pool and all players with the exception of the player shooting and defending goalkeeper will be required to be seated on team bench;
- the team to shoot first will be determined by toss;
- should teams still be tied following the completion of the initial five penalty shots, the same five players shall then take alternate shots until one team misses and the other(s) score.
- if three or more teams are involved, each team will shoot five penalty shots against each of the other teams, alternating at each shot. The order of the first shot will be determined by draw.

## **Appendix 2: Tie Breaking**

- 1 If two (2) teams shall have equal points, further classification shall be established as follows:
  - 1.1 The team winning the game between the two (2) teams shall be placed higher.
  - 1.2 If the game between the two (2) teams resulted in a tie, a further classification shall be established based on their results against the other teams including tied teams in order of their ranking; first based upon goal difference, and next, based upon goals scored. The comparison shall be made first, compared to the highest team or tied teams, and then, if still tied to the next highest team, and so on.
  - 1.3 If they are still tied, the tie shall be resolved by each team shooting five penalty shots at its opponent's goal in alternate succession. The first team shall take its first penalty shot and then the other team shall take its first penalty shot, etc. If a tie shall exist after that procedure, each team shall then take alternate shots until one team scores and the other misses. Different members of the team must shoot each shot. The procedure shall be conducted following the final game of that round or at the first practical opportunity.
- 2 If three (3) or more teams shall have equal points, further classification shall be established as follows:
  - 2.1 Any time during the application of this Section 2, when the number of the then tied teams is reduced to two (2), Sections 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 shall be followed.
  - 2.2 The results among the tied teams shall determine the placings. The comparison shall be made upon first, the points of the games among them, next, the goal difference, and next, based upon goals scored.
  - 2.3 If more than two (2) teams are then still tied, a further classification shall be established based on their results against the other teams including tied teams in order of their ranking; first, based upon goal difference, and next, based upon goals scored. The comparison shall be made first, compared to the highest team or tied teams, and then, if still tied, to the next highest team or tied teams, and so on.
  - 2.4 If they are still tied, the tie shall be resolved by each team shooting five penalty shots at its opponent's goal in alternate succession. The first team shall take its first penalty shot and then the other team shall take its first penalty shot, etc. If a tie shall exist after that procedure, each team shall then take alternate shots until one team misses and the other(s) score. Different members of the team must shoot each shot. The procedure shall be conducted following the final game of that round or at the first practical opportunity.