UniSport Australia Guideline

Water Polo

Men and Women

UniSport water polo competitions are conducted in accordance with the rules of the Australian recognised Fédération Internationale de Natation *(FINA)* except where these differ from UniSport competition guidelines; in which case the latter shall take precedence. Reference should be made to the UniSport breach of competition requirements guideline and the penalties related to breaches.

1. Team/squad size

- Minimum registered players – 10
- Maximum registered players – 13
- Maximum cross registrations – 3
- Minimum number of players that can take the field without incurring a forfeit – 6

2. Competiton rules

2.1. Game duration

a) All games will be four x five minute (actual time) duration with one minute break between quarters and two minutes for half time.

b) Semi finals and medal matches will have a two minute break between quarters and five minutes for half time.

c) Time outs are only allowed in semi finals and medal matches.

d) Pool points scoring

Points for each match shall be awarded as follows:

- Winning team: 3 points
- Drawn match: 2 points per team
- Losing team: 1 point
- Forfeited team: 0 points

2.2. Pool tiebreakers

In the event that two or more teams have the same number of points at the completion of the preliminary rounds, the higher placed team(s) will be decided when the first of the following criteria in order, favours one team:

a) The team with the highest goal difference (goals for – goals against) in all pool matches

b) The team that scored the most goals in all pool matches

c) The team with the best result against the top team in their pool shall be placed above the other team(s). The best result to be determined by applying the following in order until the teams are separated:

d) Largest winning margin

e) Highest scoring draw

f) Lowest losing margin

g) Drawn matches

h) If preliminary matches are drawn at full time, both teams will be awarded two points as per section 2.2.

i) If progression or medal matches are drawn at the end of normal time, there shall be a penalty shoot out to determine the result.

2.3. Misconduct

a) If a player/coach is excluded during the course of the game for a clear breach of the code of conduct an incident report form will be completed and will incur relevant penalties.

b) All players and coaches who are reported must adhere to the penalty that is handed down by the technical committee. If they fail to do so, it may result in further penalties handed down.

3. Team duties

3.1. Team duty requirements for water polo are:
3.2. One team from the previous game will be appointed to undertake duties on the game immediately following theirs
3.3. Duty roles to be covered are 1 x referee, 1 x goal judge, 1 x scorer, 1 x timekeeper
3.4. The person fullfilling the team duty requirements can be any competent person associated with that team or university and does not necessarily have to be a player e.g. team manager.

4. Uniform requirements

4.1. In addition to the requirement outlined in the the 2017-2021 FINA Water Polo Rules (Rule 4), the following requirements also apply:
4.2. Swimsuit is compulsory and must be in good moral taste
4.3. Teams are to supply two sets of numbered caps, dark (home) and light (away)
4.4. Mouth guards are strongly recommended
4.5. No goggles are permitted except in warm up

5. Forfeits, delays and abandonments

5.1. Water Polo teams are subject to penalties under the UniSport guideline – breach of competition requirements.
5.2. A forfeit will be declared 10 minutes after the scheduled start of play time where either team is unable to commence play.
5.3. The forfeit score is five goals to nil (0).
5.4. Should the commencement of a game be delayed due to no fault of either team (as determined by the competition management or UniSport), the game shall be played in its full duration if possible. If full game duration is not possible, the recommended revised game duration will need to be agreed upon by both teams. If resolution between the teams is not possible then the competition manager (or their delegate) will make the final decision regarding match format, which will not be subject to appeal.

Previous amendments

August 2001 | July 2004 | July 2005 | August 2005 | April 2008 | March 2010 | April 2011 | May 2012 | May 2015 | February 2015 | April 2017 | March 2018 | March 2019 | February 2020 |January 2021

*All competitions will be held in accordance with the UniSport competition guidelines.