



# Water Polo

## NEW SOUTH WALES

### U16 State Age Championships

#### Information Brief

for Coaches, Managers & Referees

#### **Event Management – Orange**

Steff Jelic – Co-Tournament Director

David Whittaker – Co-Tournament Director/Technical Delegate

#### **Event Management - Canberra**

Ryan McDermott – Tournament Director

Ash Kaesler –Technical Delegate

#### **Venues**

##### **Orange Aquatic Centre**

21 A Hill Street,  
Orange NSW 2800

##### **Canberra International Sports and Aquatic Centre (CISAC)**

100 Eastern Valley Way,  
Belconnen, ACT

#### **Think. Act. Play**

is a program developed by Water Polo Australia and NSW Sport & Recreation to promote and encourage good sportsmanship behaviour within the sport of water polo.

It is designed to provide a safe, fair and inclusive environment for everyone involved in our sport, and ensuring that our core values, good reputation, and positive behaviours are maintained is a priority of Water Polo Australia and Water Polo NSW.

Coaches have a key role to play in the implementation of the program. Coaches behaviours and reactions to situations within games and outside of play influence the attitude of players and spectators. It is an important aspect of the program that coaches take a leadership role and thus behave in a respectful and appropriate manner at all times when communicating to players, referees and officials.

The key messages that the program aims to promote are:

**THINK** before you speak

**ACT** with respect

**PLAY** in the spirit of the game

All Clubs are encouraged to look to implement the program within their local training and activities. If you would like more information, please see the officials table to speak with a tournament director/coordinator.



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### **Caps & Balls**

The first named team shall wear white (or light coloured) caps and start the game from the left side of the officials table. Each team are to have available two (2) match balls at the start of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter for use during the game. No goal judges shall be used during any game and balls are only able to be thrown into the pool during the game by the coach of each team. This must occur in a timely manner and any waste of time or contravention of this shall result in a yellow card being awarded against the coach.

### **Pre-Game Responsibilities**

All coaches & managers are required to meet with the Pool Controller 10 minutes prior to their 1<sup>st</sup> game on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the tournament for a simple briefing.

Each team is required to provide one (1) competent table official for your own game to act as time keeper or game secretary. These game officials MUST be available at the scheduled start times. Infringement penalties will apply per incident if people are not available at the required time to attend to duties. All nominated persons are to be familiar with the WPA Table Officials Teaching Manual.

Link: [http://issuu.com/waterpoloaus/docs/wp\\_aust\\_table\\_officials\\_manual\\_vers](http://issuu.com/waterpoloaus/docs/wp_aust_table_officials_manual_vers)

### **Match Duration**

Preliminary, Playoff and Qualifying Games are to be 4x 6min running quarters. No time-outs to be allowed. All semi-finals and grand finals are to be 4x5min actual quarters with two (2) timeouts allowed.

### **Post-Game Responsibilities / Duties**

As part of the Think. Act. Play initiative, at the conclusion of your game, players, coaches, managers, and referees are to participate in the **post-game handshake**, which will occur on the bench side of the pool.

Each team is required to provide One (1) suitably qualified or competent referee for the next game after the team plays OR be available as appointed by the Referees Coordinator or Tournament Director. Referees are to be appropriately attired with the wearing a white shirt for each game.

### **Competition Rules & Clarifications**

This tournament will be played under the rules for Junior & Youth level competitions as approved by FINA on 7th October 2014 and as adopted by Water Polo Australia (WPA). A copy of the Competition Rules for your reference is included as part of this information pack.

### **Points of Emphasis**

The below points are some key refereeing behaviours that we are focussing on, particularly for this age group so help them in their water polo development.

**Fouls in the Defensive Half** – Any foul by a defending player on an attacking player in the attacking player's defensive half, where the attacker is actively trying to promote the ball up the pool to a teammate on a fast break, shall be penalised with an exclusion.



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**Double Hands in Centre Back** – If a player makes no attempt other than to lay arms or elbows over the centre forward the player should be excluded, regardless of where the ball is in the pool. This includes if a centre back sinks with their elbows (and 'shows hands'), and also where a centre back brings both arms across the face of the centre forward in an attempt to show the referee that they are not holding, but also to prevent to movement of the centre forward.

**Double Hand Defence** - any player who defends the ball with two visible hands when the attacker is actively trying to pass, shoot or progress the ball forward shall be excluded, regardless of their position in the pool. It is the responsibility of the defenders to defend within the parameters of the game. Additionally, any player who uses two hands to defend a player or slow the progress of the attack (i.e. two handed sink on a counter attack), shall be excluded.

**Poor Behaviour** – In accordance with the Think.Act.Play principles governing this carnival, any player who shows disrespect (verbally or in actions) to any official, coach or player will be excluded for the remainder of the game. Additionally, any player who exudes unnecessary aggression and violence will be automatically excluded (regardless of whether they are a part of the attacking team or not), and will be liable to be excluded for the remainder of the game.

**Defender's Responsibility to Create Space** – it is the responsibility of defenders to make a conscious effort to concede space from the attacker after a minor foul is awarded . The defender cannot rely on or hope that the attacker distances themselves from the defender.If the defender does not give enough space (arm's length or about 1m), the defender must be excluded.

**Time Wasting** – as games are being played with a running clock, no waste of time by either team is allowed. Referees are to provide a warning and then proceed to issuing yellow/red card for any incident of time wasting weather during play or prior to the commencement or re-commencement of play.

**Team Bench** – There are to be only three (3) additional coaching staff on the bench with the remaining substitute players. These coaching staff may include the coach, assistant coach and manager. However, of these three coaching staff, only the head coach is permitted to stand and pose any questions to the referees. All other members of the bench must be seated and remain quiet.

**Illegal Player Substitution**– referees are to clearly see the heads of both in the exchange box players being substitution being made. If this does not occur then an ejection of the player and change of possession shall occur (for attacking teams) or a 5metre penalty (for defending teams).

**Last Minute Substitutions (Last Quarter)** – no substitutions shall be allowed in the last minutes of play in any game. The only exception shall apply for an injured player in which case the game shall be stopped by the referee and the player **MUST** be substituted for the remainder of the game.

If a substitution is made in this time, the ball shall be awarded to the non-offending team.