



Water Polo
AUSTRALIA

TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS

For all WPA Sanctioned Events

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Purpose

The purpose of this [document](#) is to provide transparent and clear Player and Team Eligibility Rules across all Water Polo Australia (WPA) National Events; including the Australian Youth Water Polo Championships (AYWPC), Australian Waterpolo League (AWL), Open Championships (Country, Masters, Polo4's) and National State Championships (NSC).

This document provides information of individual eligibility, team eligibility, the players correct eligible team process as well as outlines the Draft Process.

For the purposes of this document, referring to the term Event means a tournament such as AYWPC, Open Champs, NSC.

Tournament Eligibility Regulations

1. General Participant Eligibility

- 1.1 Competitions are open to registered members who are active within and in good standing with their affiliated club and State Association, with competitive membership types in accordance to the [WPA Membership and Registration Policy](#).
- 1.2 All players, coaches, team officials, referees, match officials and other persons actively involved in the operation and playing in the competitions must be a current financial Individual Members registered in the WPA MemberPool database and agree to abide by the constitution, rules, regulations, by-laws, and policies of WPA.
- 1.3 The members with the below membership types are permitted to participate in the Event.

Minimum Membership Type	Role - Player	Role – Official (Coach, Asst. Coach, Manager, Referee)
Platinum	Yes	Yes
Gold	No	Yes
Silver	No	Yes
Bronze	No	Yes

[WPA Membership and Registration Policy](#)

- 1.4 All participants are bound by all WPA Codes and Policies which can be found [here](#).

2. Player Eligibility

- 2.1. Players must meet the age eligibility criteria as per the [WPA National Technical Rules](#) for the competition their team enters.
- 2.2. Members should refer to the specific Competition Manual to clarify any further eligibility requirements.
- 2.3. 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. It is the Club or States (depending on the event) responsibility to



ensure the criteria is met and they may be asked to provide appropriate evidence to support. Special exemptions may be granted for extraneous circumstances and decisions will be made by a panel appointed by WPA, and all decisions will be final.

- 2.4. The Panel will include a minimum of 3 people from the following roles:
 - a. WPA CEO or their Delegate, and/or;
 - b. National Events Manager, and/or;
 - c. General Manager - Competitions and Pathways, and/or;
 - d. Member of the Disciplinary Tribunal, and/or;
 - e. Club President or their delegate of a competing club, and/or;
 - f. Member of the Sport Development Committee.
 - g. WPA will ensure that the Conflict of Interest Policy is taken into account when appointing the panel.
- 2.5. Players must select their Primary Club and Primary Nominated State through their MemberPool profile no later than two months prior to the start of the Event.
- 2.6. If the player actively participates with more than one club, all other clubs are listed as a secondary club.
- 2.7. State Associations may have specific eligibility requirements for Primary and Secondary Clubs – please refer to the appropriate policy.
- 2.8. If the State or Club are unsure of the eligibility of the player, advice must be promptly sought from WPA where confirmation of eligibility, exemptions/special considerations may be granted.
- 2.9. For any player that breaches the eligibility rules, penalties can be applied retrospectively at the sole discretion of WPA.

3. Team Eligibility

- 3.1. All teams must complete the Team Nomination Process online as outlined by WPA during the Call of Entries for each event.
- 3.2. The Team Nomination Form must be completed electronically by an official representative from the Club, State or Association of the nominating team.
- 3.3. For State-based events, it will be the State Associations responsibility to ensure that members, teams and clubs are financial, playing with the correct club, and inform of any relevant sanctions to Team Staff or Players to WPA. The State Associations will be granted access to the Team Lists through the MemberPool. Any issues must be communicated in writing to the National Competitions and Pathways Coordinator.
- 3.4. For Club-based events, it will be the Clubs responsibility to ensure that their players and team staff are financial and in the correct payment class for the current season. The Club Representative will be granted access to the Team Lists through the MemberPool. Any issues must be communicated in writing to the National Competitions and Pathways Coordinator.
- 3.5. WPA may accept or decline entry into the event of a team that has nominated for entry.
- 3.6. In some instances, a minimum of a 50% deposit of the listed team fee will be required at the time of Team Nomination.
- 3.7. In the event of an International or Invitational team entering, endorsement is required by WPA.
- 3.8. Team Type (Club/Composite/Regional/State) must be clearly indicated on the nomination form.



4. Team Types

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

	Club Team	Composite Club Team	Regional State/Composite Team	Independent Team
AYWPC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
AWL	Team holding AWL License			
NSC	No	No	Yes	Yes
Open Champs (Country, Masters, Polo4's)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

5. Club Team

- 5.1. A Club Team is a team comprising players all of whom are primary members of that one club.
- 5.2. A Club that has ten (10) or more available players who nominate to play in the Event must enter the event in their own right.
- 5.3. Each Club should encourage its players to nominate for their Club Team for the Event and must select the team(s) from Club players.
- 5.4. A club that is found to have discouraged an eligible player or players 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. Club teams that do not have enough eligible players to make up a Club Team may form a composite team with another eligible club.
- 5.6. A club with an excess of eligible players may form a second composite team with another eligible club.
- 5.7. A club that intends to form a second Composite Team with their excess eligible players must select their strongest players in their first Club team.
- 5.8. A Club Team with less than ten (10) players must enter the draft.



6. Composite Teams (Club, Regional or State)

- 6.1. A Composite Team is a team comprising eligible players from multiple Clubs that have entered into a written agreement between them and which has been approved by WPA.
- 6.2. A Club Team in the first instance should form a Composite Team with another Club or Clubs within its own State. If there isn't another team within the state to form a composite team with, they can request to form a composite team with a team from another State.
- 6.3. Composite teams with less than 10 players must enter the draft.
- 6.4. To seek approval from WPA, all Clubs must;
 - i. Ensure the Clubs involved in the Composite Team have no other Composite Teams in that division.
 - ii. Sign the Composite Team Form in Appendix A and send off to the State for endorsement
 - iii. Once endorsed by the respective State Association/s, the State will then request approval from the WPA. The assigned WPA representatives will approve or reject the request based on the information supplied by the State Association.
- 6.5. A Club cannot participate in more than one Composite Club 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.
- 6.6. Composite Club Teams are eligible to select players from the Player Draft for the Event, however they will be placed behind all single teams who enter the draft, regardless of their draft selection position.
- 6.7. Composite Regional Teams are formed from the Clubs within a defined Regional Association (as defined by the WPA State Members Membership and Registration Policy).
- 6.8. A State Composite Team is a team comprising eligible players from multiple Clubs within a State Association.

7. Independent Team

- 7.1 WPA may in their absolute discretion form an independent team should there be sufficient players, but there are insufficient places in other teams for them.
- 7.2 WPA will provide team staff and all logistics for this team.

8. Correct Eligible Team

A player must enter in their correct eligible team, as described below;

- 8.1 For Club-based events, a player's correct eligible team is determined by the player's Primary Club.
- 8.2 In order of priority of claim for the services of a player, a player's correct eligible team is as follows:
 - i. If a player's Primary Club has entered a standalone Club Team, the player's correct eligibility is to that Primary Club Team; or



- ii. If a player has not been selected in their Primary Club Team, but that Club has entered a second Club Team Club or Composite Club Team, the player's correct eligibility is to that second Club Team or relevant Composite Team; or
 - iii. If a player's State or Territory (the State or Territory that is their nominated 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
 - iv. If a player is actively playing 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 the secondary club.
 - v. If a player is not eligible or selected to a team in any of the above circumstances, they are eligible to enter the Player Draft. If the player is selected by a Club Team in the draft process, then the player's correct eligible team is to the Club Team to which they are drafted.
- 8.3 For State-based events, a player's correct eligible team is determined by their nominated Primary State.
- 8.4 A player will be required to seek exemption from WPA to participate for any team that is not their Primary Club or Primary State, or a Composite team to which their Primary Club is party to.

9. Regional Player Eligibility for Open Championships – Country Divisions

- 9.1 For State-based events, a player's correct eligible team is determined by their nominated Primary State.
- 9.2 A player will be required to seek exemption from WPA to participate for any team that is not their Primary Club or Primary State, or a Composite team to which their Primary Club is party to.
- 9.3 For the purpose of the Country Division at the WPA Open Championship, please refer to the Competition Manual for player eligibility.

Draft Process

1. Individual Nominations

- 1.1. The player draft will be managed by WPA.
- 1.2. All eligible players must apply to WPA to be included in the draft on the appropriate form by the publicised closing date, including a short resume, contact details and payment of \$150.00 draft application deposit.
- 1.3. In the instance where the individual is unsuccessful, the draft application deposit will be refunded.
- 1.4. States may be required to endorse individuals to ensure athletes are of a suitable standard for the National Championships as part of the Nomination Process.

2. Team Nominations

- 2.1. Teams with less than the minimum number of players listed in the specific Event Competition Manual are required to enter the draft.
- 2.2. Clubs/States must apply to WPA to request the number of players required and an indication of preferred positions.
- 2.3. If successful, the \$150.00 draft application deposit will be transferred to the receiving Club/State.



3. Draft Process

- 3.1. WPA may conduct the Draft via teleconference with a representative from each Club/State.
- 3.2. A list of individual nominations will be circulated prior to the Representatives.
- 3.3. In the instance where there are insufficient athletes or positions within teams, the athlete will be put forward to other nominating clubs from other States.
- 3.4. The lowest seeded teams (outlined in the Competition Manual) will have the first pick of the athletes. One athlete at a time will be selected by all teams entered into the draft before returning to the lowest seeded team until all positions are filled.
- 3.5. Teams will not be able to 'pass' on a player.
- 3.6. WPA will endeavour to ensure that all athletes are successful, however cannot guarantee the number of positions that will be available.
- 3.7. WPA will consider forming an independent team should there be sufficient players of suitable quality who should be competing at the Event but there are insufficient places in other teams for them. See section 8 for further details.



Composite Teams Application

Date Submitted: ____/____/____

Name of Club 1: _____

President of Club 1: _____

State: _____

Name of Club 2: _____

President of Club 2: _____

State: _____

Name of Club 3: _____

President of Club 3: _____

State: _____

Name of Club 4: _____

President of Club 4: _____

State: _____

Signature Club 1 _____ Signature Club 3 _____

Signature Club 2 _____ Signature Club 4 _____

The above Clubs/Associations agree to commit to a Composite Team for the upcoming
_____ (Event) in the _____ (Age/Gender) Division.

The rules listed in this document and the relevant Event Competition Manual have been
acknowledged and understood.

Club _____ will be responsible for administering the Team Lists in the
MemberPool and the payment of invoices from WPA.

_____ will be the primary contact for correspondence from WPA National
Competitions and Pathways Coordinator during the event.

Signature State 1 _____ Signature State 3 _____

Signature State 2 _____ Signature State 4 _____

Approved by WPA on ____/____/____ Name and Signature: _____

Declined by WPA on ____/____/____ for the reasons as follows:

Form must be submitted by Club 1 to lateisha.kenny@waterpoloaustralia.com.au prior to nominating the
team on the online form.