



WATER POLO

COMPETITION RULES

8th February 2021

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

WPCR-1 INTRODUCTION

- a. These rules are intended to supplement the current ASA Statute and the Disciplinary Code and they shall not in any way supersede any rule contained in the said Statute or Disciplinary Code. If, on any point, there is a conflict between the Statute/Disciplinary Code and these Competition Rules, then the provisions of the Statute/Disciplinary Code shall prevail.
- b. These rules shall remain in force until cancelled and or amended by the Council.

WPCR-2 LAWS GOVERNING THE GAME

All laws governing the game are to be regulated as per FINA Rules and Regulations unless otherwise specified by local rules and regulations.

SECTION 2 - FORMAT

WPCR-11 COMPETITIONS

The following competitions shall be organised by the ASA:-

- a. National Water Polo Competitions
- b. Super Cups
- c. Winter Competitions
- d. Women's League and Knock Out Competitions
- e. Age-Group Competitions
- f. Any other competitions.

It is assumed that clubs which participated in any of the above competitions in the previous season would also participate in the same competitions during the following season. Clubs that wish to withdraw from any competition are to inform the General Secretary by not later than the first week of December.

For league competitions, clubs will participate in the division in which they are eligible to participate by virtue of the Relegation/Promotion Rule.

Clubs that would like to participate in any competition in which they did not participate in the previous season are to apply to do so by not later than one week prior to the Calendar Meeting and, in the case of league competitions, shall only be eligible to participate in the lowest division. These applications are to be approved by the Executive Committee.

For Women's and Age Group competitions, late applications may be considered by the Executive Committee (*amended 9th January 2017*)

WPCR-12 NATIONAL WATER POLO COMPETITIONS

The National Water Polo Competitions shall consist of League Championships and Knock-Outs for the Premier Division Clubs and First Division Clubs. These shall be considered to be one single competition (*as amended at Council 22.01.2018*)

The format of the competitions (including the number of rounds and start and end dates) shall be determined during the annual Calendar meeting for Club Officials that will be held by not later than the 20th December and approved by Council (*amended 21st January 2019*).

- a. Premier Division League
 - i. The Premier Division shall consist of six (6) clubs.

- b. First Division League
 - i. The First Division League shall consist of the remaining clubs who do not form part of the Premier Division and who may apply to participate in the First Division League; (*amended AGM 2016*)

- c. Knock-Out Competitions
 - i. Separate KO competitions shall be held for Premier and First Division clubs.
 - ii. The KO competitions shall be spread throughout the season.
 - iii. Every KO fixture shall be a best-of-1 play-off.

WPCR-13 SUPER CUPS

- a. The Premier League Super Cup will be played between the previous season's Premier Division League champions and the KO winners.
- b. The First Division Super Cup will be played between the previous season's First Division League champions and the KO winners.
- c. In the case that a team would have won a "double" in the previous season, these matches will be played between the runner-up in the league and the winner of the Knock-Out.
- d. Super Cups will be played as distinct competitions and not as part of another competition.
- e. The games may be played in aid of philanthropic organisations and may be named as required.

WPCR-14 WINTER COMPETITIONS

The Winter Competitions shall consist of League Championships for the Premier Division Clubs and First Division Clubs. These shall be considered to be one single competition.

The format of the competitions (including the number of rounds and start and end dates) shall be determined during the annual Calendar meeting for Club Officials and Council Members. This will be held as early as possible before the start of the season.

a. Premier Division Winter League

- i. The Premier Division Winter League shall consist of the six (6) clubs that are eligible to play in the same season's National Premier Division Competition (*amended 9th January 2017*).
- ii. The format of the competitions (including the number of rounds and start and end dates) shall be determined during the annual Calendar meeting for Club Officials and Council Members. This will be held as early as possible before the start of the season (*amended – AGM 2019*)

b. First Division Winter League

- i. The First Division League shall consist of the remaining clubs who do not form part of the Premier Division and who may apply to participate in the First Division Winter League; (*amended 9th January 2017*)
- ii. The format of the competitions (including the number of rounds and start and end dates) shall be determined during the annual Calendar meeting for Club Officials and Council Members. This will be held as early as possible before the start of the season (*amended – AGM 2019*).

WPCR-15 WOMEN'S COMPETITIONS

The Women's competitions shall consist of a league and a Knock-Out. Participation shall be by application from affiliated clubs. The closing date for applications shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

The format of the Women's competitions, including venues, shall be determined every season by the Council.

WPCR-16 AGE-GROUP COMPETITIONS

Age-Group competitions shall be organised for age-groups as defined below

- **U/20** – players must be aged 20 or less on the 31st December of the year of competition;
- **U/17** – players must be aged 17 or less on the 31st December of the year of competition;
- **U/15** – players must be aged 15 or less on the 31st December of the year of competition.
- **U/13** – players must be aged 13 or less on the 31st December of the year of competition.

- a. Competitions for other age-groups may be organised.

- b. The format of age-group competitions, including venues, shall be determined every season by the Executive Committee, as recommended by the Youth Committee and approved by Council (*amended 21st January 2019*).

WPCR-17 OUT OF COMPETITION PARTICIPATION

- a. The Council may, at its sole discretion, give its permission to a team to participate “out of competition” in any seniors or age-group competition organised by the ASA.
- b. The Youth Water Polo Committee may give its permission to a team to participate “out of competition” in any age-group competition organised by the ASA. Such decisions may be reversed by the Council.
- c. In matches involving teams playing “out of competition”:
 - i. no points shall be earned or lost by either of the teams;
 - ii. disciplinary measures taken in respect of incidents that occur during the match shall apply to both teams. Match suspensions incurred shall be discounted in future matches of the same team with which the suspended player was playing when the offence occurred;
 - iii. match suspensions shall not be discounted.

In the case that the team playing out of competition is an ASA selection, then, in all matches played by this selection, any players registered with the opposing team shall play for the ASA selection unless previous arrangements are made.

SECTION 3 - WATER POLO GAMES

WPCR-21 DURATION OF THE GAME

- a. The duration of Senior matches shall be as per FINA Rule WP 11, except as stipulated in sub article d below.
- b. The duration of age-group matches shall be as per the table below (*amended 9th January 2017*).

	U/20	U/17	U/15	U/13	Women
Time - 4 sessions (actual play)	8 minutes	8 minutes	7 minutes	6 minutes	8 minutes
Interval between 2nd and 3rd Sessions	5 minutes	5 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes	5 minutes

- c. The teams, including the players, coaches and officials shall change ends before the start of the 3rd period.
- d. Should the scores be level at full time in any game for which a definite result is required, in any competition, there shall be a penalty shoot out to determine the result (as per FINA Rule WP 11.3 FINA Handbook 2017) (*amended 21st January 2019*).

WPCR-22 CAPS

- a. Caps worn during all ASA Competitions shall be in conformity with FINA Rule WP 4.
- b. Clubs are solicited to have an additional set of caps so that the player’s cap, lost or torn during the match, could be changed by a cap the same number.
- c. Caps are not to be taken off until the players have left the pool area and entered the dressing rooms.
- d. Teams listed in the first column of the fixture list shall be considered to be the home team. The home team shall wear white caps.

WPCR-23 WATER POLO BALLS

- a. Senior matches (men & women) shall be played with balls that conform to the provisions of FINA Rule WP 3. Age-group matches shall be played with ball sizes as per the table below (*amended 9th January 2017*).

U/20	U/17	U/15	U/13	Women
Size 5	Size 5	Size 5	Size 4	Size 4

- b. Balls for matches played at the National Pool shall be provided by the ASA.

- c. The home team shall provide a minimum of 4 balls in matches that are played in Clubs' pitches.

WPCR-24 PITCH RIGGING

- a. The size of the field of play for Senior matches (men & women) shall be as per FINA Rule WP 1. The pitch shall be set up at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled commencement of the match. The field of play for age-group matches shall be as per the table below (*as amended on 21st January 2019*).

	U/20	U/17	U/15	U/13	Women
Pitch Length	30m	30m	30m	20m-25m	20m-25m
Pitch Width	10m-20m	10m-20m	10m-20m	10m-20m	10m-20m
Goal Width (Inner Sides)	3m	3m	3m	3m	3m
Goal Height (Inner Sides)	0.9m	0.9m	0.9m	0.9m	0.9m

- b. The Executive Committee may approve requests made by clubs to allow inconsistencies with the provision of this rule due to limitations imposed by the structure of the particular club's facilities.
- c. White cones – goal line and half distance line
 Red cones – 2 metres from the goal lines
 Yellow cones – 6 metres from the goal lines
 Red cones – 5m from the goal lines (*as amended 8th February 2021*)

WPCR-25 TEAM LINE-UPS

- a. For all matches at the Tal-Qroqq Sports Complex as well as those held at the Clubs' premises, Official Team line-ups in duplicate must be presented to the match secretariat at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the match. The line-ups must include
- The name of the team and the opponent;
 - The competition, date and time;
 - The cap numbers and the **full** names of the players that will be participating in the match;
 - The team captain and vice-captain are to be named;
 - The designation and **full** name of the officials who will be on the team's bench;
 - The full name of the medical persons (where applicable);
 - The signature of the team captain or team/club official;
- b. Only players included in the line-ups are eligible to participate in the match.
- c. Line-ups may be amended up to the start of the match in question. Any amendments are to be signed by the team captain or team/club official.
- d. Line-ups may not be amended once the match has started. (*amended 9th January 2017*)

WPCR-26 NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- a. Each team shall consist of seven players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper, and not more than 8 reserves. This applies to all competitions organised by or played under the aegis of the ASA. This rule supersedes the provisions of WP 5.1 of the FINA Rules.
- b. As from season 2019, each team may have a maximum of two players of non-Maltese nationality in its line-up for any Senior match organised by or played under the aegis of the ASA. This rule shall apply at least until the end of season 2023 (*as amended at AGM 2017*)
- c. The following rules shall apply for age-group matches:
U/11, U/13, U/15, U17 and U20 (All Competitions) - Teams may include players who are Resident Foreigners in their line-up. These players shall be registered on the ASA Senior or Junior registration form. In addition, the registration forms of players of non-Maltese nationality that will be participating in U/11, U/13, U/15, U17 and U20 competitions are to be accompanied by proof that the player was ordinarily resident in Malta for at least nine months preceding the commencement date of such competition which proof may include evidence that the player would have attended school in Malta for the whole of the previous scholastic year and/or evidence that the player would have worked in Malta in the preceding 9 months. The General Secretary of the ASA will be the sole judge on the validity of such evidence. (*amended 9th January 2017*)
- d. U/20 - First Division clubs, in addition to the provisions stated above, may include a maximum of 1 player of non-Maltese nationality in their line-up in U/20 competitions or they may opt to include 2 Maltese over-aged players (players must be aged 21 on the 31st December of the year of competition) instead of such foreigner.
- e. Resident Foreigners, who would have participated in any age group competitions organised by the ASA, during three of the previous five years, will be eligible to participate in the senior competition organised by or played under the aegis of the ASA (*amended – AGM 2019*)
- f. Since no age-group competitions are organised for the women, female Resident Foreigners who provide proof that they have been in Malta for at least 9 months prior to the submission of their registration form, will be eligible to participate in the Senior Women's competitions organised by or played under the aegis of the ASA (*amended 8th February 2021*)

WPCR-27 ASA IDENTITY CARDS

A player must be in possession of an ASA Identity Card before he/she is eligible to participate in an age-group competition. These identity cards are issued when a recent passport-sized photograph is submitted to the ASA Secretariat four (4) days before the start of the water polo event in which the player will be participating. A player without the required card shall not form part of the team's line-up. It is the responsibility of the club's officials to make the necessary arrangement to collect the players' Identity Cards from the ASA Office. Cards are to be inspected by the match referee prior to the commencement of any age-group match. A game shall not be played if each team does not present at least seven identity cards (*amended 21st January 2019*).

WPCR-28 EXCLUDED PLAYERS

- a. Players excluded for the rest of the match by the referee for misconduct or brutality, are to leave the restricted area and retire directly and immediately to the dressing rooms. No lingering is permitted. The restricted area shall mean those areas reserved for the referees, goal judges, the match secretariat, athletes and team officials. The restricted area also includes those sections on pool stands/terraces that are indicated to be Guest or VIP areas. The restricted area at the National Pool also includes the whole pool deck (including the deck surrounding the Diving Pool) (*amended – AGM 2019*)
- b. The excluded player shall keep to his team's side of the pool and should not cross over to the opponent's side for any reason whatsoever.
- c. Players who may not participate any further in the match because of three personal faults are to remain seated on the substitutes' bench wearing their caps.

WPCR-29 TEAM OFFICIALS

- a. Team Officials shall be limited to one head coach, two team officials and two medical persons. The head coach and the two team officials shall sit on the substitutes' bench while the two medical persons shall sit behind the substitutes' bench (by the wall). The medical persons are to remain seated throughout the match and are only allowed to approach their team players should an injury occur (*amended 9th January 2017*)
- b. The head coach of the attacking team shall be allowed to move to the 5-meter line at any time.
- c. Only the head coach or team official is allowed to approach the Table during a match. Disciplinary action shall be taken against offenders.
- d. All the officials shall wear the same club's uniform.
- e. At the end of the match, the coach and the team official shall direct the team straight to the dressing rooms and shall not allow any lingering, verbal or physical contact with the opposing team and or supporters. The retiring teams shall keep to their side of the pool and should not cross over to the other side for any reason whatsoever. Disciplinary action will be taken against offenders.
- f. Each club will be responsible for all their Officials and medical staff (*amended 9th January 2017*).
- g. For matches played at the National Pool a team official must return the Time-Out control to the ASA Officials. Failure to do so will result in a charge of €100 to cover the cost of the controls.

WPCR-30 MATCH OFFICIALS, REFEREES & TABLE OFFICIALS

- a. Only referees appointed by the ASA shall control competition matches organised by or played under the aegis of the ASA.
- b. It is the responsibility of the ASA to appoint table officials for matches played at the National Pool.

- c. For matches played at clubs' premises, the home Club shall appoint table officials (match secretary and time-keepers) for the match and provide all the timing equipment required. These officials are to present themselves to the referee/s before the match starts. Two officials of the away team have the right to sit on the secretary's table to act as observers.
- d. For matches played at clubs' premises, the home club shall ensure that the table officials are supplied with a copy of the FINA WP Rules before the match.
- e. At the end of matches played at the National Pool, the match secretary shall give the original match record to the ASA Secretary or in his absence to an ASA Official.
- f. At the end of the matches not played at the National Pool, the match secretary shall give the original match record and the team line-ups to the referee (*amended 9th January 2017*).
- g. The copies of the match records are always to be handed to the official of the participating teams. It is the duty of the club official to collect a copy of the match card at the end of the match, failing which, the club will be considered as having received said copy of the match card (vide Disciplinary Commissioner's Terms of Reference Article DC-07 regarding contestation of any report on the match cards).
- h. One Committee Member of the home club should be present during matches played at their club premises. The name of the Committee Member is to be written on the match-card in the space marked Delegates. Should no Committee Member be available to be present, the club is to inform the ASA of this fact and they are to supply the name of the substitute 'delegate' by not later than 24 hours before the match in question (*amended 9th January 2017*)

WPCR-31 MATCH INSPECTOR

A match inspector may be appointed by the ASA to observe match proceedings. He shall have the right to make reports to the Council about any incidents that may take place.

WPCR-32 RESTRICTED AREA AND SECURITY

- a. The Restricted Areas at the National Pool during water polo matches consist of
 - The VIP stand;
 - The referees' office at pool deck level.
 - Those areas reserved for the referees, goal judges, the match secretariat, athletes and team officials.
 - The whole pool deck (including the deck surrounding the Diving Pool)
 - Those sections on pool stands/terraces that are indicated to be Guest or VIP areas. (*amended – AGM 2019*)
 - Additional restricted areas identified by the Executive Committee from time to time and communicated to the clubs (*amended 8th February 2021*)
- b. The Restricted Areas during matches and/or competitions played at Clubs' premises consist of
 - The area around the secretariat's table.

- A two-metre area around the pool.
 - A referees' changing room.
- c. The organising club shall make available to the referee/s a secure changing room together with a key to the room.
 - d. It is the responsibility of the organising Club to ensure that only the match officials, team players, two team officials per club and a medical doctor/physiotherapist are present in the restricted area.
 - e. The organising Club shall be responsible for all security arrangement during matches and/or competitions played on their premises. The organising Club should make the required security arrangements in good time before the actual date of the event.
 - f. Unauthorized entry into the restricted areas may result in disciplinary action being taken against the individual/s involved.

WPCR-33 YELLOW AND RED CARDS

- a. Yellow and red cards may only be shown by the referee/s controlling the match.
- b. Players may be shown yellow and/or red cards as provided by FINA Rules.
- c. Whenever a referee is of the opinion that a coach has misbehaved, he/she shall show the coach the yellow card if this is his first offence of the match. Subsequent misbehaviour must be penalised with a red card. The yellow card cannot be shown to any of the other team officials.
- d. Whenever a referee is of the opinion that an assistant coach, team official or player on the substitute bench has misbehaved, he/she shall show him the red card directly.
- e. When a coach, assistant coach, team official or player on the substitute bench is shown a red card, he shall be dismissed for the rest of the match and shall leave precincts of the pool without lingering. He/she is not to go up to the stands for the remainder of the game/activity during which he/she was shown a red card. He/she is not to return to the pool deck until such time that the referees leave the precincts of the pool.
- f. When a coach, assistant coach, team official or player on the substitute bench is shown a direct red card, the referee is to make a detailed report of the incident/s on the match-card.
- g. The referee/s must clearly indicate in their report if a red card shown to a coach was the result of two yellow cards.
- h. No reports need to be filed when a single yellow card is shown.

SECTION 4 - GENERAL

WPCR-41 SUBMISSION OF REGISTRATION FORMS (PLAYERS OF MALTESE NATIONALITY)

- a. Registration Forms for players of Maltese nationality shall be submitted to the ASA office at least four (4) days before the start of the match in which the player will be participating.
- b. Loan Registration Forms
 - i. These forms shall be submitted to the ASA Office at any given time during a competition, provided the player going on loan has not been listed in any other clubs' team list, or played for any other club during that same competition.
 - ii. Should the Loan Form be for an athlete participating in an age-group competition, said Loan Form is to be submitted together with a passport photo, 4 days before the start of the match in which the player will be participating in (*amended 21st January 2019*)
- c. Shared Player Form
 - i. These forms shall be submitted to the ASA Office at any given time during a competition, provided the player being shared has not been listed in any other clubs' team list, or played for any other club during that same competition.
 - ii. Should the Shared Player Form be for an athlete participating in an age-group competition, said Loan Form is to be submitted together with a passport photo, 4 days before the start of the match in which the player will be participating in (*amended 21st January 2019*)
- d. A player shall not participate in the same competition with different Clubs in the same season (ASA Statute Rule 35a)

WPCR-42 POINTS

In each match, in all competitions, or phases of a competition, played on a league basis,

- 3 points shall be awarded to the winning team;
- 1 point shall be awarded to each team if the result is a draw;
- 0 points shall be awarded to the losing team.

WPCR-43 CLASSIFICATION

- a. In all Water Polo Leagues including age-group competitions (Men and Women) classification shall be determined as per FINA By Law 9.8 with the provisions that
 - 3 points (and not 2) shall be awarded for a win;
 - If 2 or more teams finish with the same number of points and these teams have the most points in the league, then the championship will be determined by means of a deciding match (best-of-1 play-off) as detailed below:
 - If only 2 teams are on equal points, then the decider shall be played between these 2 teams;

- If more than 2 teams are on equal points, then a “temporary” classification shall be established as per FINA By Law 9.8. The top 2 teams in this “temporary” classification shall then play each other in the decider.
 - The decider shall be played by not later than 3 days after the last match of the league. The date is to be determined before the start of the competition.
 - If 2 or more teams finish with the same number of points and these teams do not have the most points in the league, then the classification shall be determined as per FINA By Law 9.8 with the provision that 3 points (and not 2) shall be awarded for a win (amended – AGM 2015)
- b. When applying FINA By Law 9.8 in terms of any section of WPCR-43, the references in BL 9.8.3.1.1 and BL 9.8.3.1.2 to the result of “the game between them” shall be interpreted as follows:
- The winner of the game between them shall be the team that won the greater number of direct encounters. In the case that the number of victories is equal then the team with the better net result (aggregate score) in the direct encounters shall be the winner.

FINA BL 9.8.1 Classification of Teams

The classification of teams in the Preliminary Round will be made on points namely two (2) points for each match won, one (1) point for each match drawn and zero points for each match lost.

BL 9.8.2 Forfeited Games

If a team declares a forfeit or is disqualified for one (1) or more matches, the match or matches shall be awarded to the opponent with a goal score 5 - 0.

BL 9.8.3 Tie Breaking

BL 9.8.3.1 If two (2) teams shall have equal points, further classification shall be established as follows:

BL 9.8.3.1.1 The team winning the game between them shall be placed higher.

BL 9.8.3.1.2 If the game between them was tied, then the results against the highest placed team(s) in the group shall be considered.

BL 9.8.3.1.3 The first comparison shall be based on goal difference, and if still tied, then based on goals scored. BY LAWS 2017 – 2021 Version 7.11.2018 56

BL 9.8.3.1.4 The comparison shall be made first compared to the highest placed team (or teams, if tied) in the group.

BL 9.8.3.1.5 If still tied, the results against the next highest placed team (or teams, if tied) shall be used in succession until all results have been considered.

BL 9.8.3.1.6 If still tied, the teams shall shoot penalty shots to determine which team shall be placed higher. Each team shall nominate five (5) players and a goalkeeper who will participate in the penalty shoot-out. The team shall shoot five (5) penalty shots at the goal of the other team, alternating shots. If a tie exists after each team has taken five (5) shots, then teams shall take sets of alternate shots until one team scores and the other does not. The procedure shall be conducted following the final game of the round or at the first practical opportunity.

BL 9.8.3.1.7 If there is more than one tie in a group, the highest placed tie shall be determined first.

BL 9.8.3.1.8 If it is the situation where there is more than one tie in a group and it is not possible to determine the highest placed team then all results within the group shall be used to determine the highest placed team.

BL 9.8.3.2 If three (3) or more teams shall have equal points, further classification shall be established as follows:

BL 9.8.3.2.1 The results among the tied teams shall determine which team is placed highest.

- BL 9.8.3.2.2 If, at any time during the application of the procedure set out in this BL 9.6.3.2, the number of tied teams is reduced to two (2), then BL 9.6.3.1 shall be used to determine which of the two (2) remaining teams is placed higher.*
- BL 9.8.3.2.3 The comparison shall be made first, upon the points of the games among the tied teams, second, the goal difference, and third, based upon goals scored.*
- BL 9.8.3.2.4 If still tied, the games played against the highest placed team (or teams, if tied) shall be considered.*
- BL 9.8.3.2.5 The first comparison shall be based on goal difference, and if still tied, then based on goals scored.*
- BL 9.8.3.2.6 If still tied, the results against the next highest placed team (or teams, if tied) shall be used in succession until all results have been considered. BY LAWS 2017 – 2021 Version 7.11.2018 57*
- BL 9.8.3.2.7 If still tied, the teams shall shoot penalty shots to determine which team shall be placed highest. Each team shall nominate five (5) players and a goalkeeper who will participate in the penalty shoot-out. Each team shall shoot five (5) penalty shots at its opponent's goal in alternate succession. The first team shall take its first penalty shot and then each other team shall take its first penalty shot, etc. If a tie shall exist after that procedure, the teams shall then take sets of alternate shots until one team misses and the other(s) score. The procedure shall be conducted following the final game of the round or at the first practical opportunity.*
- BL 9.8.3.2.8 If there is more than one tie in a group, the highest placed tie shall be determined first. BL 9.8.3.3 For the purpose of calculating either goal difference or goals scored, the goals in any penalty shootout will not be taken into consideration.*

WPCR-44 PLAY-OFFS

- a. Each match in a play-off series will be played until a winner is determined.
- b. A team will be declared the winner of a play-off series when it is not possible for the other team to win more games than the winner. Once a winner has been declared, the rest of the games in the series will not be played.
- c. 4 types of play-off series shall be utilised:
 - Best-of-1 play-off – this just a fancy name for a “decider”;
 - Best-of-2 series – the aggregate score of the two matches will be taken into consideration; *(as amended at Council 22.01.2018)*
 - Best-of-3 series - the first team to win 2 matches will be the winner;
 - Best-of-5 series - the first team to win 3 matches will be the winner.
- d. The “better” placed team plays the first game as the “home” team.

WPCR-45 PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

- a. It is the responsibility of the team captain to present himself/herself to receive the Winners or the Second Placed / Runners Up trophy, at the end of the final match or at a time when requested by the ASA. (Vide Disciplinary Code)

- b. It is also the responsibility of the Head coach and Team Official accompanying the team, to ascertain that the Team Captain presents himself/herself for the presentation of the Trophies. (Vide Disciplinary Code)
- c. In instances when the Captain of the team is excluded because of misconduct or brutality or because of serious injury, the Head Coach or Team Official is to appoint one of the players to receive the winners or runners-up trophy.

WPCR-46 WITHDRAWAL FROM COMPETITION AND WALK-OVERS

- a. If a team withdraws or is removed from a competition after same would have commenced, all points derived from matches played against this team shall be cancelled and the classification adjusted accordingly. The team shall be subject to disciplinary actions as per the Disciplinary Code in force.
- b. If a team concedes more than 2 walk-overs in a competition, that team shall be considered as having withdrawn from the competition in which the walk-overs were conceded. All points derived from matches played against this team shall be cancelled and the classification adjusted accordingly. The team shall be subject to disciplinary actions as per the Disciplinary Code in force.

WPCR-47 PROTESTS

- a. Protests on points of fact during and/or after a match shall not be upheld as per WP7.1. (WP 7.1 - All decisions of the referee/s on questions of fact shall be final and their interpretation of the rules shall be obeyed throughout the game).
- b. Protests on technical errors can be made only during a match by the coach or the team official. Protests on technical errors lodged at the end of the match will not be upheld. The procedure for protests on technical errors is as follows:-
 - The coach or team official must calmly approach the match secretary or the referee immediately the incident occurs, clearly indicating that he would like to lodge a technical protest.
 - At the first suitable stoppage, the match secretary shall whistle and the referee shall call for the ball.
 - The match secretary shall call a team official of each team and both referees to the Secretariat's table. The match secretary may ask any ASA Official to be present. The team official who lodged the technical protest shall be asked to present his case. The match secretary/ASA officials and the referees will rule after consulting the FINA Rules if required. This ruling is final and cannot be appealed during or after the match.
 - If the protest is not upheld, the match shall proceed without further delay.
 - If the protest is upheld, then the match shall restart from the point in which the technical error occurred, with the match clock and shot-clocks being reset to that time. All actions, except brutality, recorded in the match card between the technical error and the stoppage of the match shall be null and void.
- c. Protests regarding LEN ITC forms can only be made if a request for transfer is not submitted to LEN by the Federation of the player/s of non-Maltese nationality who is/are to be registered with the Maltese clubs. It is the responsibility of the Maltese Club to

ensure the foreign club submits to LEN through its Federation the required transfer certificate and request proof that same had in fact been submitted. All registration rules applying at the time of registration of a Water Polo Player of Non-Maltese nationality shall continue to apply and therefore protests regarding these rules may be made.

WPCR-48 SUCCESSFULLY CONTESTED REPORTS

If a referee's report is successfully contested and the Disciplinary / Adjudicating Body overturns the referees' report, this will have no effect on the result of the match. The fines and/or suspensions imposed on the player/s and/or the club will be cancelled.

SECTION 5 - MISCELLANEOUS

WPCR-51 PLAYERS OF NON-MALTESE NATIONALITY

- a. All ASA Rules regulating the registration of players shall apply for the registration of players of non-Maltese nationality with the exception of Rule 34(a)(viii)(g): “Signature of any two of the Club officials of the previous Club (if applicable) authorising the transfer”.
- b. The following rules shall apply and shall regulate the registration of Players of non-Maltese nationality:
 - i. For the scope of the registration of non-Maltese Players, the Water Polo season shall be deemed to consist of the following phases:
 - a. The Winter League;
 - b. The 1st round of the Premier and First Division leagues;
 - c. The 2nd and subsequent rounds of the Premier and First Division leagues.
 - d. In the case that matches in connection with the Knock-Out competitions are scheduled to be played in the interval between any of these phases, then the Knock-Out matches shall be deemed to form part of the earlier phase.
 - ii. Clubs may register different players of non-Maltese nationality for each of these phases provided that the relative registration forms are submitted to the ASA Office at least four (4) days prior to the start of the first match of the phase in which the players will be participating. This rule applies to all categories.
 - iii. In order to be eligible to participate in the final phase of the season, that is, the 2nd and subsequent rounds of the Premier and First Division leagues, players of non-Maltese nationality had to be in Malta on the 3rd July and had to remain in Malta until the end of the competitions. Such players cannot be absent from Malta for more than two weeks. (amended 22nd January 2018)
 - iv. Players of non-Maltese nationality, who, for some reason or other, are not residing in Malta for a continuous period of fifteen (15) days during the final phase, will be ineligible to participate further in the said phase.
 - v. Clubs are to inform the ASA, in writing, whenever any player of non-Maltese player, registered with their club, is leaving the Island.
 - vi. In order to participate in any competition organized by/or under the aegis of the ASA of Malta, the clubs registering players of non-Maltese nationality must submit a LEN ITC form duly signed and stamped by the federation the player had previously been registered with, and approved by LEN.
 - vii. It is not necessary for a club to submit a new Registration Form for a player of non-Maltese nationality for each phase of a Water Polo season if the player is being retained for more than one phase.
 - viii. The minimum registration period of players of non-Maltese nationality may be of less than four competitive seasons only if these are registered on the ASA form issued specifically for use by players of non-Maltese nationality. Players of non-Maltese nationality are to produce an International Transfer Certificate if their registration period exceeds one competitive season.
 - ix. Clubs registering players of non-Maltese nationality that were registered with a local club that same or during the previous competitive season, shall be obliged to pay a

transfer fee as regulated by the parameters stipulated in the ASA Transfer Tribunal Code.

- x. It is the obligation and duty of the registering club to enquire, seek and obtain the necessary permits as required by the relevant authorities.

WPCR-52 SHARED PLAYERS

Players who are eligible to participate in an age-group Water Polo competition organised by the ASA during a particular season may be given permission by their club to play for another club in the same season subject to the conditions below.

- a. Players that are given this permission shall be referred to as “Shared Players”. The club who is making the player available shall be referred to as the “Grantor” and the club that shall be making use of the player shall be referred to as the “Grantee”. The Grantor and the Grantee may be in any division.
- b. The Shared Player must be registered either as a Senior Player or as a Junior Player with the Grantor. Players who are registered on Loan may not be shared.
- c. Shared players may be of any nationality.
- d. Two types of player sharing are allowed:
 - i. The Grantor gives permission to any of its age-group players to play for the first team of the Grantee. In this case the Shared Player is only eligible to play for the Grantor’s age-group teams (as eligible by virtue of date of birth) and for the Grantee’s first (senior) team.
 - ii. The Grantor gives permission to any of its age-group players to play for the age-group teams of the Grantee. This is only permissible if the Grantor is not or will not be participating in an ASA age-group Water Polo competition in which the player is eligible to participate by virtue of date of birth in the season. In this case the Shared Player is only eligible to play for the Grantor’s first (senior) team and for the Grantee’s age-group teams (as eligible by virtue of date of birth).
- e. Sharing of players must be made on an appropriate form supplied by the ASA. Shared Players Forms shall be submitted to the ASA Office at any given time during a competition, provided the player being shared has not been listed in any other clubs team list, or played for any other club during that same competition.
- f. A “sharing” will remain in effect till the end of the competition (i.e. the competition in which the Grantee is participating) in which it was made and shall not be terminated until the end of this competition.
- g. A club may give permission to any number of its players to be available as Shared Players.
- h. If a shared player is suspended from all ASA activities, then this suspension shall apply to both the Grantor and the Grantee. However, the period of suspension that is in force in the period between the imposition of a fine by the ASA on a shared player and its payment, shall apply only to the player’s activity with the club that he was representing when the fine was imposed.

WPCR-53 PLAYERS OF THE YEAR HONOURS

The ASA shall organise Player of the Year Honours governed by the provisions below.

- a. The best player in each of the categories below shall be declared Player of the Year
 - i. Premier Division, including any preliminary rounds and play-offs, if any
 - ii. First Division, including any preliminary rounds and play-offs, if any
 - iii. Women's Competitions
 - iv. U/20
 - v. U/17
 - vi. U/15
 - vii. U/13
 - viii. Any other category as decided by the Council.
- b. Players of the Month may be awarded to comply with agreements with ASA sponsors.
- c. Only players of Maltese nationality can be declared Players of the Year.

Premier Division, First Division and Women's Honours

- d. The Council shall nominate a panel of persons who shall be given the right to select the best player of "approved" matches. This panel shall consist of
 - i. Council members eligible to vote on WP matters
 - ii. 1 Club Official (President, Secretary or Treasurer) to be selected by the clubs
 - iii. All members of the Executive Committee
 - iv. Water Polo National Team Coaches
 - v. First Team club coaches
 - vi. Active referees
 - vii. Not more than another 5 persons nominated and approved by the Council
 - viii. Not more than 5 members of the Media who regularly attend and report on water polo matches.
- e. An individual will only have 1 vote if he/she falls into more than 1 of the above categories.
- f. Voting shall only take place in the following "approved" matches
 - i. Premier and First Division League matches including any preliminary rounds and play offs
 - ii. Premier and First Division Knock-outs
 - iii. Matches of the National Team (Seniors)
- g. Voting shall be conducted as follows:
 - i. At the end of each month, the Vice President Water Polo will send an email to each member of the panel from a pre-determined address. Votes are to be submitted within 72 hours of receipt of said email.
 - ii. Each member of the panel is to submit the names of three players, giving votes of 5, 3 and 1. Out of these 3 votes, a maximum of 2 votes can be given to players from the same team.
 - iii. For the National Team matches, the Panel are to submit an overall vote for the entire competition (and not per match)
- h. One point shall be deducted for every match that a player is suspended in the National Water Polo competitions in which a player is suspended.
- i. If 10 votes or less are cast for any particular month, these shall be discarded (*amended 21st January 2019*).

- j. The player obtaining the greatest number of votes/points in each category shall be declared Player of the Month (*amended 21st January 2019*)

Age-Group Competitions

- a) Voting shall take place in all league and knock-out competitions of these categories.
b) Club coaches of the Age-Group teams, National Coaches and any other persons nominated by Council shall have the right to select the best player of each of the age-group categories and women's competitions. Their selections are to be submitted to the General Secretary at the end of the season (*amended 9th January 2017*).

All Competitions

- a. Any player found guilty of brutality shall not be considered during that particular month and any votes received will be discarded (*amended 21st January 2019*).
b. The players obtaining the greatest number of votes/points in each category shall be declared Player of the Year of that category.