



## ***CONSTITUTION***

**Post 2010/11 AGM**

## ***IRISH WATER POLO ASSOCIATION: Constitution***

### ***Foreword***

Swim Ireland is the National Governing Body for swimming, diving, waterpolo and associated aquatic disciplines for the whole of Ireland. The Irish Water Polo Association is affiliated to Swim Ireland and carries out the governance of waterpolo in the whole of Ireland under the auspices and direction of Swim Ireland.

### ***Introduction***

Wherever in this document the letters "IWPA" appear, they shall mean the Irish Water Polo Association; the word Branch shall mean Provincial Branch of the IWPA; and the word Club shall include all affiliated bodies.

The letters "FINA" shall mean Federation Internationale de Natation. The letters "LEN" shall mean Ligue Européenne de Natation.

Words importing the masculine gender shall include the feminine. Words of the plural number shall include the singular, and words of the singular shall include the plural.

The term "Member" shall include all competitors and officials unless the context indicates otherwise. The term player shall include all competitors unless the context indicates otherwise. No person may be a member of the Irish Water Polo Association, unless he or she is a member of Swim Ireland.

The term "Associate Member" means a water polo coach duly qualified and recognised as such by the association and who is affiliated to SI subject to and in accordance with the terms of membership as set out in the M & A.

Wherever in this document the letters 'SI' appear, they shall mean Swim Ireland.

The term "AGM" shall mean Annual General Meeting

The term "EGM" shall mean Extraordinary General Meeting

IWPA Rules that cover the General operation of the Irish Water Polo Association shall be published in a separate document from this one. The IWPA Rules shall cover (but not be limited to):

- IWPA Competitions (Championships and National Leagues)
- IWPA Licence and Transfers
- IWPA Complaints and Judicial Rules
- Eligibility of Players
- Financial Rules, Levies, Fines and Conditions
- National Teams, International Events and Team Managers

## **PART 1 – CONSTITUTION**

### **NAME AND HEADQUARTERS**

The name of the Association shall be the Irish Water Polo Association (IWPA) and its official Headquarters shall be the Swim Ireland office.

### **OBJECTS**

IC 1 The objects of the IWPA shall be to:

- a) foster and develop water polo whether in competition or otherwise and to use water polo in promoting the development of physical, moral and social qualities;
- b) promote the teaching and practice of Water Polo in Ireland in accordance with current best practices;
- c) draw up, publish and enforce uniform Rules and Regulations for the control and regulation of Water Polo in Ireland, including championships and competitions, and deal with any infringement thereof;
- d) establish and maintain alliances with recognised bodies and organisations interested in Water Polo both at home and abroad;
- e) promote and develop any project for the better achievement of all or any of the foregoing objectives; and
- f) promote and develop the sport of water polo at national and international levels.

IC 2 In pursuance of the above objectives the Irish Water Polo Association shall:

- a) endeavour to provide a positive and safe environment for all its members;
- b) have a focus which continues to emphasise the overall development, safety, health and welfare at all levels within the sport;
- c) enforce, through its rules and regulations, the Irish Anti-Doping Rules as published by the Irish Sports Council as amended from time to time;
- d) co-operate and comply with the regulations of Federation Internationale de Natation (the International Swimming Association) ("FINA") and the Ligue Européenne de Natation (the European Swimming Association) ("LEN") and SI;
- e) promote, through its rules and regulations, adherence to the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport as published by the relevant regulatory authorities in Ireland and as amended from time to time; and
- f) promote, through its rules and regulations, adherence to the Swim Ireland Child Protection Guidelines as published and as amended from time to time.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

- IC 3 No person may be a member of the Irish Water Polo Association without being a member of a SI Club or an associate member of SI
- IC 4 In order to participate in waterpolo activities a person must be hold an IWPA licence.
- IC 5 To obtain an IWPA licence a person must:
- a) be a member of a SI club affiliated to IWPA; or
  - b) an associate member of SI with a waterpolo qualification; and
  - c) must pay the IWPA licence fee as determined by the IWPA Rules.
- IC 6 All applications for membership to the IWPA shall be subject to the approval of the IWPA executive.
- IC 7 Membership shall be personal to the Member and shall not be transferable or transmissible by the act of the Member or by operation of law.
- IC 8 Membership shall automatically cease on any Member's death.
- IC 9 Every Member must comply with the following conditions of membership:
- a) that he agrees to be bound by the SI Child Protection Guidelines and by the Code of Ethics ;
  - b) that he agrees to be bound by the SI and the Irish Water Polo Association's complaints and disciplinary procedures including any adjudication or determination made pursuant to such procedures;
  - c) that he agrees to be bound by any other conditions as may be imposed by the IWPA Executive from time to time; and
  - d) that he agrees to comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Irish Water Polo Association as adopted/amended from time to time.
- IC 10 The Irish Water Polo Association shall keep an accurate and up to date register of Members at the Registered Office.

## **MEMBERS RIGHTS**

- IC 11 Club Members shall have the following rights only:
- a) the right to compete, for their club at all waterpolo competitions held by or under the auspices of the Irish Water Polo Association subject to compliance with the relevant rules of the competition;
  - b) the right (through their clubs) to notice of, and to attend at, general meetings of the Irish Water Polo Association
  - c) the right to speak and vote at general meetings of the Irish Water Polo Association but only as a delegate or delegates duly elected by that Member's Club;
  - d) the right through their Club and only if agreed by the Club at a general meeting of the Club, to put forward notices of motion at any general meeting of the Irish Water Polo Association subject to compliance with the

applicable standing orders of the Irish Water Polo Association in relation thereto;

- e) the right to stand for election to any office of the Irish Water Polo Association subject to compliance with the Irish Water Polo Association's nomination procedures; and

IC 12 Associate Members shall have the following rights only:

- a) the right to notice of, and to attend at, general meetings of the Irish Water Polo Association
- b) Associate Members shall not have the right to speak or to vote at general meetings of the Irish Water Polo Association.
- c) Each Associate Member shall sign a legally binding undertaking to the Irish Water Polo Association (in such form as the IWPA Executive may require) to adhere to the Child Protection Guidelines applicable and the Code of Ethics in carrying on the profession or practice of Waterpolo coaching/teaching/officiating. Such undertaking shall not to conflict with any of SI's documentation in this regard

## **CLUBS**

IC 13 Clubs shall comply with all affiliation regulations and procedures set down by the Irish Water Polo Association whether in the Rules or any bye-laws or standing orders and as drawn up by the IWPA Executive from time to time and shall be bound by this constitution.

IC 14 All IWPA member clubs shall affiliate to the IWPA, in accordance with IWPA affiliation procedures and fees as detailed in the IWPA Rules.

IC 15 A Club's rules, bye-laws, procedures and standing orders shall not be in conflict with any provision of this document or the Rules.

IC 16 A Club Member who ceases to be a member of a water polo Club automatically ceases to be a Member of the Irish Water Polo Association.

IC 17 In the event of a Club failing to comply with or failing to enforce any disciplinary or other measure prescribed by the IWPA Executive, the SI or IWPA Disciplinary and Complaints Committees and/or the Irish Water Polo Association general meeting, the Club shall be liable to be disaffiliated from the Irish Water Polo Association in accordance with the procedures for disaffiliation set down in the Rules or any bye-laws or standing orders.

IC 18 Clubs and their members shall comply with Swim Ireland and Irish Sports Council anti-doping regulations and measures and shall submit to any doping control under said regulations.

## **CESSATION / SUSPENSION / EXPULSION OF MEMBERSHIP**

IC 19 A Member shall forthwith cease to be a Member if he fails to pay any licence or other contribution for which he becomes liable whilst he is a Member within the period laid down by the IWPA Executive for any such payments.

- IC 20 Without prejudice, if the conduct of any Member is such as shall in the opinion of the IWPA Executive be injurious to the character or interests of the Irish Water Polo Association or render that Member unfit to remain a Member of the Irish Water Polo Association, or if any Member shall refuse or wilfully neglect to comply with any of these Rules or if the IWPA Executive shall for any good reason require that a Member be expelled from membership, the Executive Committee may by a resolution of a majority of at least three-fourths (75%) of the Executive Committee present and voting at an IWPA Executive meeting specially convened for this purpose suspend such Member from membership indefinitely or otherwise limit for a stated period the rights of membership of that Member or may expel such Member from membership of the Irish Water Polo Association provided that such a Member shall have fourteen (14) clear days' notice sent to him of the IWPA Executive meeting and shall be entitled to attend such a meeting and be heard in his defence but shall not be present at the voting or take part in the proceedings otherwise than as the IWPA Executive shall permit. Any such decision may be appealed to the SI Complaints Committee, pursuant to the procedures detailed in the rules.
- IC 21 Cessation of membership of the Irish Water Polo Association howsoever occurring:-
- a) shall not entitle the Member to repayment of the whole or any part of any contribution or subscription previously paid by him; and
  - b) shall be without prejudice to the Member's liability to pay any contribution or subscription which has become due and payable before such cessation.

## **BRANCHES**

- IC 22 For the purpose of regional competitions, squad preparation and election of branch representatives, the IWPA, shall be divided into four Branches as follows:
- a) Connaught Branch governing the Province of Connaught;
  - b) Leinster Branch governing the Province of Leinster;
  - c) Munster Branch governing the Province of Munster; and
  - d) Ulster Branch governing the Province of Ulster.
- IC 23 If for any reason it is not possible to organise a Branch within a Province a nomination may be accepted from the club(s) in that province. The person(s) accepted shall be regarded as the Association's Local Representative within that Province.

- IC 24 Except with the agreement of both Branches concerned and the approval of the IWPA Executive Committee a Club may affiliate only to the Branch in which its headquarters are situated.

## **PART 2 - GOVERNMENT OF THE IWPA**

### **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE IWPA (IWPA EXECUTIVE)**

#### **COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- IC 25 The Members shall, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, elect the Executive Committee at Irish Water Polo Association AGMs. No person other than a Member of the IWPA shall be eligible to be an IWPA Executive Member. The Branches shall nominate their representative for ratification at the AGMs
- IC 26 The IWPA Executive shall comprise of the following:
- a) The three Officers
  - b) 4 Branch Representatives or their substitutes
  - c) Honorary Competitions Secretary
  - d) Director of Referees (Referees Controller)
- IC 27 The AGM of the IWPA shall elect the following Officers of the Association:
- a) the Chairperson of the IWPA;
  - b) the Honorary Secretary;
  - c) the Honorary Treasurer;
- IC 28 The AGM of the IWPA shall also elect:
- a) the President of the IWPA; The President of the IWPA shall be entitled to attend and speak at Executive meetings in a non voting capacity for 1 year
- IC 29 The AGM of the IWPA shall elect the following Members of the IWPA Executive:
- a) the Honorary Competitions Secretary;
  - b) the Director of Referees (Referee's Controller);
- IC 30 The immediate previous Chairperson shall be entitled to attend and speak at Executive meetings in an ex-officio - non voting capacity for 1 year
- IC 31 The AGM of the IWPA shall ratify one (1) representative per Branch who shall be Members of the IWPA Executive. In the event that a Branch

Representative is unable to attend an Executive Meeting then a substitute may attend in his place. The substitute should be nominated at the AGM

- IC 32 The National coaches (Senior Men's, Senior Women's, Junior Men's and Junior Women's) shall have the right to attend and speak at all Executive meetings in a non-voting capacity.
- IC 33 All National coaches shall be appointed by the IWPA Executive and shall be subject to reappointment at the end of each 2-year European Championship cycle. The IWPA Executive may remove from office at any time any of the National Coaches by a vote of a majority of those present at an Executive meeting
- IC 34 All members of the IWPA Executive, shall be elected or ratified at the AGM and shall hold office from the conclusion of said AGM until the conclusion of the next AGM.
- IC 35 Where any IWPA Executive member has served as an IWPA Executive member in any capacity for 4 years (whether consecutive or not) he may not serve as a member of the Executive Committee again until at least two consecutive years have elapsed since he last served. For the purposes of this article, "year" means the period between the conclusion of one IWPA AGM and the conclusion of the next.
- IC 36 The members may remove from Office an IWPA Executive member, before the expiration of his period of office, by a two-thirds vote of the members voting at a general meeting.

#### **QUORUM AND NUMBER OF MEETINGS**

- IC 37 The quorum for an Executive Meeting shall be 50% of the Executive Committee plus 1, rounded to the lower whole number (5 - as currently constituted), at least one of who must be an Officer (Chairperson, Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer).
- IC 38 The IWPA Executive shall meet at least 6 times per year.

#### **DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- IC 39 The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the management of the waterpolo in Ireland and the affairs of the IWPA;
- IC 40 Their powers shall include, but not be limited to:

- a) to review the income and expenditure of the IWPA and all other committees
- b) to review reports in relation to the management of IWPA
- c) to appoint sub-committees if considered necessary
- d) to exercise powers of discretion to set aside or suspend IWPA Rules and regulations where good cause can be shown for so doing, i.e. hardship,



suffering, financial loss, or natural justice; and to amend the rules of the IWPA as necessary to take account of changes in the Rules of FINA, subject to the approval of the members at its next general meeting.

- e) fill any vacancy which occurs amongst officers or appointees until the next Annual General Meeting;

#### **DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- IC 41 The decisions of the IWPA Executive shall take immediate effect and its instructions shall be acted upon.

#### **EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE**

- IC 42 Matters requiring urgent decisions between Executive Meetings may be decided upon by a majority of the Chairperson, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, provided that it does not involve an alteration to this constitution. Such decisions shall be binding until the next Executive Meeting.

#### **PRESIDENT OF THE IWPA**

- IC 43 The President of the IWPA shall be entitled to attend and speak at Executive meetings in a non-voting capacity. The President should represent the IWPA at official functions and presentations.

#### **CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- IC 44 The Chairperson of all meetings of the Executive shall be the Chairperson of the IWPA, save that in his absence the meeting shall elect a Chairperson. The Chairperson shall have:
  - a) authority upon every question of order and shall be the final interpreter of the Laws governing the Executive for the purpose of a meeting;
  - b) The responsibility for dealing with queries on standing orders, rules, bye-laws, notices of motion and proceeding as they arise from time to time; and
  - c) the right to vote on every motion and additionally, a casting vote in the event of an equal number of votes being recorded.

#### **HONORARY SECRETARY IWPA**

- IC 45        The Honorary Secretary of the IWPA shall act as Honorary Secretary to the Executive Committee and be a person with the necessary organisational skills to act as the Honorary Secretary to the Executive, whose duties shall include issuing notices and agenda of all meetings of the IWPA Executive within the appropriate time limits, recording minutes of all meetings of the IWPA Executive, attending to the daily correspondence on behalf of the IWPA Executive keeping all the records of the IWPA Executive, carrying out all such other administrative and management duties as the office of the Honorary Secretary of the Association requires from time to time and any other duties assigned to the Honorary Secretary from time to time, shall, in consultation with the Chairperson, schedule meetings at such venues and times as may in his opinion be considered most convenient.

#### **HONORARY TREASURER IWPA**

- IC 46        The Honorary Treasurer of the IWPA shall act as Treasurer to the IWPA Executive and shall monitor all income and expenditure of the IWPA, bank statements, accruals and prepayments, funding, investments and loans, the financial records of the IWPA, budget preparation and reporting, shall keep a register or Members up to date, and shall make a report at meetings of the Executive and/or the IWPA AGM where appropriate on all financial matters of the IWPA. He shall also report to SI on the above, as required.
- IC 47        That a full IWPA statement of account should be sent out every quarter to every Club Treasurer detailing all income and expenditure for the previous month. Details of payments that have been received or have not been received from each club should be made public to every club and also a full detailed and concise breakdown of all foreign trips from all international teams.

#### **DIRECTOR OF REFEREES IWPA**

- IC 48        The Director of Referees of the IWPA shall oversee refereeing and the application of the FINA/LEN rules of water polo and shall appoint, or delegate the appointment of referees for IWPA Competitions. He shall recommend for approval of the Executive Committee the appointment of International referees to travel with Irish Teams to friendly tournaments. He shall submit, or cause to be submitted, nominations of LEN and FINA referees to the appropriate bodies, as directed by the IWPA Executive.

#### **COMPETITIONS SECRETARY IWPA**

- IC 49        The Competitions Secretary of the IWPA shall draw up and supervise the fixtures of the IWPA and shall publish results and National League tables.

#### **GENERAL MEETINGS**

IC 50 The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 11 Club Delegates.

### **VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

IC 51 Voting on all motions or amendments shall be by a show of hands but any member may demand a ballot, when the Chairperson shall appoint tellers. All motions, except those for which provision is otherwise made, shall require only a majority of the members voting.

### **REPRESENTATION AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

IC 52 Each Affiliated Club shall be entitled to be represented by 2 (two) delegates, who may speak and vote.

IC 53 Decisions of the General Meeting shall take immediate effect unless otherwise indicated, and its instructions shall be acted upon.

IC 54 A copy of all decisions of the General Meeting shall be sent by the Honorary Secretary IWPA to each Club and Branch Secretary, and to Swim Ireland.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

IC 55 The IWPA financial year shall end on the 31<sup>st</sup> December and the Annual General Meeting shall, save for exceptional circumstances, be held on or before 31<sup>st</sup> May at a place to be decided by the Executive.

IC 56 The Agenda of the AGM, the Chairperson's Report, the Honorary Secretary's Report, Treasurer's Report together with an audited financial statement for the year last past, the minutes of the preceding AGM and every intervening General Meeting, reports from the Director of Referees and the Competitions Secretary, a list of nominations, notices of motion and recommendations, shall be forwarded to all those entitled to attend at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

IC 57 The latest date for receipt of nominations, notices of motion and recommendations by the Honorary Secretary shall be 21 days prior to the meeting.

IC 58 The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include but not be limited to:

- a) to receive and deal with the minutes of the previous AGM, the minutes of all intervening Council or Special Meetings and the decisions of the IWPA Executive in the past year;
- b) to receive and deal with Reports from Chairperson, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Director of Referees, Honorary Competitions Secretary and the National Coaches;
- c) to elect Officers and Executive Members as in accordance with Laws IC 27 and IC 28;
- d) decide on any Notices of Motion or Recommendations properly before the meeting; and
- e) decide any other matter brought before them, provided that it does not involve an alteration of this document or the rules.

### **MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

IC 59 A motion without due notice may only be discussed or voted on at the AGM with the sanction of the Chairman and two-thirds of the members present and provided it does not include an alteration of this document.

### **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS (EGM)**

IC 60 An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Irish Water Polo Association shall be convened:

- a) if a resolution to that effect is passed at the Annual General Meeting;
- b) at the request of two-thirds of the IWPA Executive;
- c) at the request of 5 (five) Clubs, each of which has held their own EGM and passed a resolution to request such a meeting;
- d) at the request of Swim Ireland Board.

IC 61 Unless otherwise instructed by the Executive, an EGM shall be held within 21 days of the passing of the resolution or receipt of the request. No item, which is not included in the published Agenda, shall be discussed at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

IC 62 At least fourteen days notice of meeting, stating where and when it will be held, shall be sent to all those entitled to attend an EGM. Each Notice of Meeting shall be accompanied by an Agenda of the matters to be discussed and voted upon.

IC 63 Seven clear days notice shall be sent for an adjourned EGM. It shall not be necessary to circulate an Agenda.

### **NOMINATIONS**

- IC 64 A candidate wishing to stand for election to the Executive where election at the AGM is required, must receive the nomination of his club and must be approved at a general meeting of the relevant club which must be held at least 30 days prior to the AGM.
- IC 65 The names of nominees seeking election or re-election to the executive where election at the AGM is required shall be circulated to all Members subject to the notice provisions provided in this document.

### **ALTERATIONS**

- IC 66 An alteration to the IWPA Constitution or Rules may normally be made only at an Annual General Meeting or EGM except as directed by FINA, LEN or Swim Ireland.
- IC 67 In exceptional circumstances, the IWPA Executive shall have the power to alter, implement or set aside IWPA Rules. Any such decision shall be binding until the next General meeting.

### **PROPOSALS FOR ALTERATIONS**

- IC 68 A proposal for an alteration of the Constitution shall be carried if at least 75% of those present and voting are in favour of the proposition. The Agenda for such meetings shall contain full notice of the proposed alteration. For the purpose of this Rule (and where voting is by ballot rather than a show of hands):
- a) only ballots returned shall be considered for voting purposes;
  - b) ballot papers endorsed "abstain" or otherwise spoiled, shall be excluded for the purposes of determining the total number of votes cast and calculating whether or not the required majority above has been achieved;
  - c) the Chairperson shall be the sole arbiter in the event that a ruling or interpretation is required in relation to a ballot.
- IC 69 A proposal for an alteration shall not be included in the Agenda unless it has been received in writing by the Honorary Secretary of the IWPA at least 21 days before the date of the General Meeting.

### **NOTIFICATION OF ALTERATIONS**

- IC 70 The Honorary Secretary of the IWPA shall within ninety days of a General Meeting, prepare, complete and forward to the Honorary Secretary of each

Club and to each member of the Executive Committee and to SI a copy of all alterations to this document or the IWPA rules passed thereat.

## **FINANCE**

- IC 71        The Irish Water Polo Association is an integral part of Swim Ireland. Annual accounts must be submitted to SI and will be integrated in SI Annual Accounts.
- IC 72        The currency of the IWPA shall be Euro (€) except that Ulster Branch may for its own internal structure use Sterling. The IWPA may operate a sterling bank account, if the Honorary Treasurer deems this advisable.
- IC 73        Unless otherwise agreed with SI the control and management of the financial affairs of the IWPA shall be vested in the Executive Committee of the IWPA, which shall have powers to create special funds for any specific purpose consistent with the Objectives of the Association.

## **PAYMENT OF LEVIES, FINES ETC**

- IC 74        In the case that IWPA fines, levies or other monies properly due are not paid to the IWPA within 28 days from the date of demand, the IWPA may suspend such club or individual.

## **NOTICES**

- IC 75        Any notice to be given to or by any person, shall be in writing, which shall be defined to include by post, fax or email.



***RULES***

**August 2011**

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## **IRG: GENERAL RULES**

### **IRG 1. COMPETITIONS, TOURNAMENTS AND EXHIBITIONS**

IRG 1.1 This document should be taken in tandem with and under the control of the IWPA Constitution.

IRG 1.2 All competitions, tournaments and exhibitions held or sponsored by an affiliated Club or Body shall be held under IWPA Laws.

#### *Documents, Literature, Posters, etc*

IRG 1.3 All advertisements, entry forms, programmes, tickets and official notices shall include the following words "Under IWPA Laws".

#### *Permits*

IRG 1.4 An affiliated Club wishing to hold an Invitation Tournament must receive permission from the Branch Honorary Secretary.

IRG 1.5 An affiliated Club wishing to hold an Invitation Tournament involving Clubs outside its Branch must receive permission from the Honorary Secretary IWPA.

#### *Mixed Competitions*

IRG 1.6 A competition involving mixed gender teams shall not be permitted to take place in public, with the exception of a competition designated as a "Development" competition.

#### *Costumes*

IRG 1.7 The costumes of all competitors shall be in good moral taste and shall be non-transparent. The Referee of a competition has the authority to exclude any player whose costume does not comply with this rule. Costumes must also comply fully with the FINA Rules of Water Polo.

#### *Referees*

IRG 1.8 That all National League Referees be appointed as far as possible, at least 28 days in advance of the game they are to referee.

#### *International Training*

IRG 1.9 That international training dates be agreed and inserted into the fixture-list from its publication

## **IRI: INTERNATIONAL RULES**

### **IRI 1. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS: GENERAL CONDITIONS**

- IRI 1.1 International competitions shall be held under the laws of the Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) and Ligue Européene de Natation (LEN).

#### *International Officials in Ireland*

- IRI 1.2 The officials for all international competitions held in Ireland shall be appointed by the IWPA Executive Committee - on the recommendation of the IWPA Director of Referees - unless the event is a listed LEN/FINA Calendar event, in which case Referees shall be appointed by LEN or FINA.

#### *International Officials on Trips outside of Ireland*

- IRI 1.3 The referees for all international competitions held outside Ireland - at which Irish National Teams are participating - shall be appointed by the IWPA Executive Committee - on the recommendation of the IWPA Director of Referees - unless the event is a listed LEN/FINA Calendar event, in which case Referees shall be appointed by LEN or FINA.

#### *Team Designation*

- IRI 1.4 No team, unless selected by the appropriate coach shall be designated "Irish", "Ireland", "International" or accorded any other title calculated to give it apparent national status.

### **IRI 2. IWPA INTERNATIONAL TEAM MANAGERS**

#### *Team Manager's Duties and Responsibilities*

- IRI 2.1 In addition to the duties allocated to the Manager by the Executive, his duties shall include:
- a) Notification of the panel from which the team shall be selected;
  - b) Establish training requirements in conjunction with the Coach;
  - c) Organising a chaperone and/or parental supervision where required (A chaperone is required in the case of a person or persons under 18 attending training or travelling with a team or squad, where the players are of different gender to coach/manager.);
  - d) Agreement with Executive Committee of any and all trips and training sessions;
  - e) Agreement with Executive Committee of any assistant or additional coaches;
  - f) Notification of the panel of all training times, locations, travel arrangements (include financial arrangements where necessary) to training;
  - g) Notification of all requisite information to parents of underage players. This should include all times and points of departure and collection, contact details of Team Manager while abroad and the name and address of the foreign base or hotel. It should also include a summary of any financial contributions required from players.
  - h) Arrangements for and reservations for travel to the event, including travel to and from home destination;

- i) Agreement with Executive Committee of monies to be contributed by team members, together with breakdown of proposed costs of trip;
- j) Collection and care of requisite equipment, including water polo caps, balls etc.;
- k) Attending to all matters of an administrative nature connected with the event; and implementing the coach's requirements in matters relating to discipline, leisure, etc.;
- l) Attending any Technical Meetings, prior to or during a tournament;
- m) Collection of any and all monies levied by the Executive Committee on participants;
- n) Collection and retention of *Players' Code of Conduct Forms*, signed by the players and, where appropriate players' parents;
- o) Submission to the Hon. Treasurer IWPA of a detailed report and an itemised financial statement, within fourteen days of the team's return to Ireland;
- p) Report to Honorary Secretary IWPA of any important or disciplinary matters, and a summary of the trip, within fourteen days of the team's return to Ireland;

### IRI 3. **VISITS AND TOURS OUTSIDE IRELAND**

#### *Approval*

- IRI 3.1 Irish Club teams wishing to compete in other countries outside Ireland shall first obtain the sanction of the National Association of the Country to be visited and subsequently a status certificate from the Honorary Secretary of Swim Ireland to whom details of the proposed visit shall be furnished in advance of departure. A copy of the application shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary IWPA.

#### *Reports of Misconduct*

- IRI 3.2 All such teams including National Representative sides or officials shall remain within the jurisdiction of the IWPA during the period of time from their departure from Ireland until their return to Ireland. Any team, individual player or official alleged to have been guilty of misbehaviour or unfair practice during such period, shall within fourteen days of their return, be reported to the Honorary Secretary of the IWPA who shall bring the report to the notice of the Disciplinary Committee of the IWPA, such committee being the sole authority to consider the report and determine the action to be taken.

#### *Financial Statements*

- IRI 3.3 Teams or officials taking part in any competition outside Ireland shall, within fourteen days of their return, submit a full financial statement of the visit to the Honorary Secretary of the IWPA.

#### *Code of Conduct*

- IRI 3.4 All players and officials representing Ireland in or outside of the country shall sign the appropriate Swim Ireland/IWPA Code of Conduct. This document shall incorporate the Swim Ireland Code of Conduct. Anyone who refuses to sign this shall not be eligible for selection or appointment as an official. Anybody travelling abroad for water polo purposes shall also sign the Code of Conduct.

IRI 4. **VISITS AND TOURS OF TEAMS FROM OUTSIDE IRELAND**

*Prior Approvals*

IRI 4.1 Clubs or individuals arranging visits of teams from outside Ireland shall submit particulars of the proposed arrangements to the Honorary Secretary of the IWPA before such arrangements are definitely concluded. The information required is:

- a) the name of the Club promoting and responsible for the visit;
- b) a statement in writing from the Honorary Secretary of the Branch to which the Club is affiliated that his Branch has approved of the proposed visit;
- c) an assurance that the visit has been approved by the National Federation to which the visiting Club is affiliated;
- d) the financial arrangements;
- e) any other information requested by the Honorary Secretary of the IWPA.

## **IRLT LICENCE & TRANSFER RULES**

### **IRLT 1 IWPA LICENCE**

- IRLT 1.1 Definition: The IWPA Licence is defined as the eligibility to play for a particular club. While a player may be a member of a number of clubs, he can only be licenced as a player with one club at any given time. When a player transfers from one club to another, it is this Licence he transfers to the new club
- IRLT 1.2 For all water polo competitions organised under the auspices of the IWPA, including branch competitions, players must hold a Licence from the IWPA and Swim Ireland.
- IRLT 1.3 The IWPA Licence fee shall be as decided by the Executive Committee. (Information: 2007 Fee €15 for senior players; €7.50 for under 19s) The Licence shall be renewed each calendar year.
- IRLT 1.4 There may be a late Licence fee as decided by the Executive for any players Licenced after the start of a calendar year. A player shall be deemed to be licenced upon receipt of his Licence fee by the Honorary Treasurer.
- IRLT 1.5 IWPA Licence applications shall show the player's full name, his postal address, and his date of birth if he is to play in under age competition, and his Swim Ireland Licence number. The Club Honorary Secretary shall sign all applications.
- IRLT 1.6 The minimum number of licensed players that must accompany an entry for a competition shall be numerically the minimum playing strength for that competition, unless otherwise stated in these Rules.
- IRLT 1.7 In the case of under age competition, the Executive has the right to seek verification of age.
- IRLT 1.8 A Club playing an unlicensed player shall concede a walkover in that match and all subsequent matches that the player takes part in while unlicensed, and walkover fines will be charged accordingly. There shall in addition be a fine equal to twice the normal Licence fee to Licence players who have played without a Licence. There shall be no appeal against this ruling.

### **IRLT 2 IWPA TRANSFERS**

- IRLT 2.1 Definition: A transfer changes the club for which a player is licenced to a new club. IWPA transfers (i.e. transfer of IWPA Licence) are entirely different to and separate from Swim Ireland transfers. Any person wishing to transfer his IWPA Licence from one IWPA water polo club to another **must** complete an IWPA transfer. This is in addition to any Swim Ireland transfer, which the player may or may not undertake.
- IRLT 2.2 All IWPA transfers must be affected at IWPA Executive level. Transfer applications, together with the appropriate Transfer Fee should be sent to the Hon Treasurer IWPA. The Hon Secretary IWPA shall inform the relevant Branch Secretaries of all transfers.
- IRLT 2.3 There shall be a transfer fee as laid down by the Executive Committee (Currently €25). Where a player has not competed for at least two years, this fee shall be waived. Other transfer requirements shall not be waived under this Rule.
- IRLT 2.4 Transfers may only take place during the Transfer Windows. These shall comprise the months of June, July, August and September (the Summer Transfer Window) and the month of December (the Winter Transfer Window). This Rule shall apply equally to domestic and foreign (including LEN) Transfers.

IRLT 2.5 A player can only undertake one transfer in any Transfer Window.

IRLT 2.6 In all cases, the player must produce:

- a) Written clearance from the club he wishes to leave;
- b) Written acceptance from the club he wishes to join; and
- c) A written request from him seeking to transfer.

IRLT 2.7 The IWPA may sanction the use of a single form combining i, ii and iii above. The three relevant parties must sign this form in all cases.

IRLT 2.8 The Executive Committee has set a cut off date for naming players for the Irish Senior Cup as December 31<sup>st</sup> each season. All transfers, including any LEN International Transfers, must be concluded on or prior to this date.

## **IRC: RULES RELATING TO COMPETITIONS**

### **IRC 1. IWPA COMPETITIONS AND GENERAL CONDITIONS**

IRC 1.1 The IWPA shall organise National Leagues, Cup competitions and Interprovincial Championships each year.

#### *Venues*

IRC 1.2 The IWPA Executive Committee shall decide:

- a) the venues for Cup Competitions;
- b) the venues Interprovincial Championships;
- c) any alterations deemed necessary for entry fees for all competitions referred to in these Rules.

Once agreed by the Executive and circulated, these dates may not be changed except in extraordinary circumstances.

IRC 1.3 The closing date for receipt of entries shall be as decided by the Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee deems fit, it may name different closing dates for National League and Irish Cup competitions.

IRC 1.4 Generally, and unless good cause has been shown, entries will not be accepted if the amount tendered is less than the full amount due or if the information requested is inaccurate or incomplete. There will be no appeal against a decision by the Honorary Treasurer that good cause has not been shown.

IRC 1.5 The entry fees for all IWPA Competitions shall be decided by the Executive Committee.

IRC 1.6 No entry shall be accepted from a Club in default of fees, walkover fines or other financial commitments to the Association from the previous season, unless fully paid by the closing date in as referred to in IRC 3 above.

IRC 1.7 The IWPA Executive shall send regular statements to Clubs detailing monies due for walkovers etc. Any Club failing to pay these monies within 28 days of the date of such statements shall stand suspended until such payments are made.

### **IRC 2. ELIGIBILITY OF FOREIGN PLAYERS / CORE TEAM PLAYERS**

IRC 2.1 Irish-born Players resident outside Ireland, for reasons of work or study, shall be eligible to play for a Club in competition under the auspices of the IWPA provided they have been licensed both with the IWPA and Swim Ireland by the closing date for entries for that competition. Players who have good reasons may apply in writing to the IWPA Executive Committee for a dispensation from the constraints of this Rule.

IRC 2.2 Teams are permitted to play up to a maximum of 2 (two) **overseas players** per 13-member team sheet for all national league and cup competitions, the remainder of players being made up of **core team players**. There is no restriction placed upon Clubs in relation to the number of overseas players registered to play. Restrictions under this rule will only apply to players aged 18 and over.

Existing player registration and transfer regulations remain in force.

## Definitions

- i. **'Overseas players'** are defined as those players, moving or transferring to Swim Ireland/IWPA from another water polo jurisdiction, who have not been registered with Swim Ireland/IWPA for each of the five seasons prior to the playing season applying and who have not **regularly played** under the auspices of the IWPA during each of those five seasons.
  - ii. **'Core team players'** are defined as those players, (i) not having been transferred from another water polo jurisdiction or (ii) players who although, have transferred from another water polo jurisdiction, have been registered with the IWPA & Swim Ireland for each of the five years prior to the playing season applying and have regularly played under the auspices of the IWPA during each of those five years.
  - iii. **'Regularly played'** is defined as having played in at least six National League games in each of the preceding five seasons applying. The responsibility for substantiation of a 'regularly played' assertion being upon the Club applying, by means of providing the relevant match sheets.
  - iv. The IWPA Executive Committee may grant 'core team' qualification **exemptions**, by application, in cases such as maternity related playing breaks and also potentially in relation to participation of teams representing a University or College, the final decision on eligibility of such exemptions being the responsibility of the Executive Committee.
- IRC 2.3 The Foreign Player Rules below (IRC 2.4 to IRC 2.7) shall also apply to holders of Irish Passports who were not born in Ireland, or have not been resident in Ireland for the preceding twelve months.
- IRC 2.4 No player who has been a member of a National squad of any other National Federation shall be eligible to play for a Club playing in any IWPA competition without the prior permission of the IWPA Executive.
- IRC 2.5 A club wishing to play any foreign National must seek the permission of the IWPA Executive Committee.
- IRC 2.6 Any club wishing to play a foreign National in any Irish Cup must obtain the permission of the Executive Committee at least fourteen days prior to the start of the tournament
- [Ruling: The start of an Irish Cup shall be the date of the first match of the competition.]
- IRC 2.7 In the case of the Irish Senior Cup, all players must have completed any requisite transfer - whether domestic or international - by December 31<sup>st</sup> in the season of said Cup. Only players who are licensed playing members of the club on this date may play in the Irish Senior Cup.

## IRC 3. **WALKOVERS AND FINES**

- IRC 3.1 For the Cup and League Competitions, a team that has not the required number of players for the minimum playing strength in the said competition when the referee signals the start of the match, shall be deemed to have conceded a walkover.
- IRC 3.2 Where a team fails to fulfil a fixture in any IWPA competition, they shall be deemed to have conceded a walkover and the fine shall be as fixed by the Executive (Currently €200). Where a Club concedes a walkover in virtue of playing an illegal player, this fine shall also apply.
- IRC 3.3 For the purposes of 'Goal Difference', Walkovers shall be rated in accordance with IWPA Rules (Currently 4-0).



- IRC 3.4 A Club conceding a walkover in National League Divisions 1 and 2 shall also be deducted four (4) points from their points total.
- IRC 3.5 All walkover fines, save as otherwise provided for in these Laws, shall be in accordance with the IWPA Walkover Charges as decided by the Executive Committee (Currently €200). The Executive shall also have the right to instruct the offending Club to pay part or all of the travelling team's expenses in the case where a "home" team conceded the walkover.
- IRC 3.6 A club which fails to fulfil table duty as appointed shall be fined (Currently €250)

## IRC 2. **GENERAL CONDITIONS**

- IRC 4.1 Save as otherwise provided for, all Irish Cup Competitions shall be played as Tournaments at a centralised venue.
- IRC 4.2 Save as otherwise provided for, all National League Competitions shall be played on a Tournament basis, with 2 'rounds' of matches per Divisional weekend.
- IRC 4.3 Save as otherwise provided for, the National League Cups (Br Philip Cup for Men and Women's KO Cup) shall be played on 1 weekend as a tournament on a Knockout basis.
- [Note: suggested end of September or at Christmas time]
- IRC 4.4 All competitions under the auspices of the IWPA shall be controlled by two referees except in extraordinary circumstances, and with the agreement of both teams.
- IRC 4.5 The Director of Referees shall ensure that the appointed Referees are not registered members of the competing clubs, unless prior agreement has been given by both clubs, to such an appointment.
- IRC 4.6 All competitions under the auspices of the IWPA shall be under FINA & LEN Rules with the necessary adaptations approved by the Executive Committee Irish Water Polo Association.
- IRC 4.7 For all Cup Competitions, there shall be a Jury of Appeal, in accordance with IWPA Tournament Rules.
- IRC 4.8 Where more than one match is taking place at the same venue, matches shall follow immediately after the previous match has concluded or at the designated time. If the previous match was a walkover, the next match shall start at the designated time.
- IRC 4.9 For all National League and Irish Cup matches, the IWPA shall be responsible for the booking of the pool, the collection of admission fees and the payment of pool rental and the provision of the necessary equipment. The Executive Committee may delegate this responsibility to the local Branch or Organiser.
- IRC 4.10 In the case of under age competitions, a list of all competitors taking part on behalf of a Club shall be sent to the Honorary Competitions Secretary at least two weeks prior to the competition in question. This list will include dates of birth for each player.
- IRC 4.11 As far as possible, An IWPA delegate should be appointed to control National League matches. The delegate shall:
- a) Evaluate the referees
  - b) Debrief and advise referees

- c) Keep a delegate match sheet, which may be used to correct the match sheet
- d) Arbitrate on any protests or problems

## IRC 5. **IWPA TOURNAMENTS RULES**

### *Caps*

- IRC 5.1 Players must keep the same cap numbers for the duration of the tournament. The first goalkeeper should wear number 1 red cap and the second goalkeeper red number 13 cap. In the event that an outfield player has to play in goal, he shall wear the red "no number" or red number 1 cap and the coach must inform the referees / table of the player's original number

### *Match Sheets*

- IRC 5.2 Each team must list their squad of up to 15 players before the start of their first match. In the event that a team has 14 or 15 players, they must inform the table ½ an hour before each match which 1 or 2 players are not playing.

### *Pool Fees*

- IRC 5.3 Each team must pay their pool fees to the Tournament Director or his nominee before their first game. Any team which fails to do so will not be allowed to play, will forfeit their games, and will be liable for walkover fines for their matches, in addition to still being liable for the pool fees

### *Brutality*

- IRC 5.4 Any player excluded for the remainder of the game without substitute for 4 minutes, for brutality shall be suspended for *at least the next game*. The Tournament Director and/or Jury of Appeal may impose a greater penalty due to the nature of the brutality. Any such punishment shall be in addition to any punishment that the IWPA Disciplinary Committee may impose at a later hearing.

### *Yellow and Red Cards*

- IRC 5.5 Any coach or other official who addresses comments at the referees will receive a yellow card. This is a warning and is only applicable in the match in question – it is not carried forward to his next match. Any coach, player or other official, who receives a red card must immediately leave the poolside and go to the spectator area, *without speaking to or communicating with his team*. After receiving a red card, the coach may not attempt to coach, instruct or communicate with his team from the spectator area. If he attempts to do so, he will be ejected from the precincts of the pool and further sanctioned.

- IRC 5.6 A coach, player or other official who receives a red card will be suspended for *at least the next game*. The Tournament Director and/or Jury of Appeal may impose a greater penalty due to the nature of the offence. Any such punishment shall be in addition to any punishment that the IWPA Disciplinary Committee may impose at any later hearing.

- IRC 5.7 In the event of a red card for the head coach, the second or assistant coach may stand and coach the team, but may not move to 5 metres - he must remain at the bench.

- IRC 5.8 If a coach receives a red card and consequent suspension, he may not coach or play in a game involving a team of another gender in the Cup competition until that suspension has been served.

### *Team Benches*

IRC 5.9 All players not in the water at a given time must remain seated at the team bench at all times. Any assistant coaches or team managers must also remain seated at all times. An assistant coach or team manager who breaches this Rule shall receive a red card. A player, who is excluded from the remainder of the game by way of 3 personal fouls, must remain on the team bench, with their cap on. A player excluded from the remainder of the game by the referee (for Misconduct, Brutality etc.) shall immediately leave the team bench.

*Results*

IRC 5.10 Points shall be awarded as follows:

- i. Win - 3 Points
- ii. Draw - 1 Point
- iii. Loss - 0 Points

IRC 5.11 All knockout matches will be played to a definite result. In the event of a tie at the end of normal time, there will be extra time in accordance with the Tournament Rules. If still tied, the game shall go into a "penalty shoot-out" in accordance with FINA Rules.

*Timeouts*

IRC 5.12 In the event of a game continuing into extra time, each team receives an additional (third) timeout. This may only be used in extra time. If the team still has one or both of their original timeouts unused, they can also use these during extra time.

**IRC 6. THE IRISH SENIOR CUP**

IRC 6.1 The Irish Senior Cup shall be organised by the Executive Committee and shall be a competition open to all clubs affiliated to the IWPA, with one entry per Club being accepted. There shall be separate competitions for Men and Women and there may be different Rules applicable to Men's and Women's Cups.

IRC 6.2 All players who wish to play in the Irish Senior Cup must have played a minimum of six (6) games in the Irish National League.

**IRC 7. THE MEN'S IRISH SENIOR CUP**

IRC 7.1 Where more than eight entries are received, a qualification tournament shall take place at venues and on dates to be decided by the Executive Committee. The top 4 teams from the previous season's National League Division 1 shall not take part in the qualification tournament.

IRC 7.2 The Tournament proper (The Irish Senior Cup Final Tournament or Irish Senior Cup) shall consist of 4 qualifiers from the qualification tournament and the top 4 teams from the previous season's National League division 1.

IRC 7.3 The draw for the qualification tournament shall be an open draw.

IRC 7.4 For all Irish Senior Cup matches IWPA Tournament Rules above shall apply. Additionally:

- i. playing times shall be in accordance with FINA Rules of Waterpolo;
- ii. extra time shall also be in accordance with FINA Rules of Waterpolo.

IRC 7.5 For the Qualification Tournament:

- (a) The teams will be drawn into 4 groups.
- (b) Each team shall play each other team in their group.
- (c) The Winner of group A will play the Runner-up of Group D

- (d) The Winner of group B will play the Runner-up of Group C
  - (e) The Winner of group C will play the Runner-up of Group B
  - (f) The Winner of group D will play the Runner-up of Group A
  - (g) The 4 winners (c, d, e and f above) shall qualify for the Tournament proper (The Irish Senior Cup Championships)
- IRC 7.6 For the Tournament proper, the eight teams shall be divided by draw into two groups of four. Each team shall play the other three teams in its group. Two teams shall qualify from each group. The teams exempted from pre-qualifying shall be seeded in the Tournament Proper as follows: the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4th from the preceding years NLD1 into Group A and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> from the preceding years NLD1 into Group B.
- IRC 7.7 The semi-finals shall be contested between the winner of one group and the runner-up in the other. The order of the Semi-finals shall be:
- Winner of Group A vs Runner Up in Group B
  - Winner of Group B vs Runner Up in Group A
- IRC 7.8 The entire draw shall be made at a suitable time and location at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- IRC 7.9 The maximum number of medals that shall be awarded shall be 15.
- IRC 7.10 Where a team withdraws from the Irish Senior Cup Finals tournament, the withdrawal fine shall be as laid down by the Executive Committee or the cost of pool rental, whichever is the greater.
- IRC 7.11 Where a team withdraws from the qualification tournament, the withdrawal fine shall be as laid down by the Executive Committee or the cost of pool rental, whichever is the greater.
- IRC 7.12 The Tournament Director, in consultation with the IWPA Director of Referees, shall appoint the referees.

#### IRC 8. **THE WOMEN'S IRISH SENIOR CUP**

- IRC 8.1 Where more than 6 entries are received, a qualification tournament shall take place at venues and on dates to be decided by the Executive Committee. The top 2 teams from the previous season's Women's National League Division 1 shall not take part in the qualification tournament.
- IRC 8.2 Any Qualification shall follow as far as possible the Rules for the Men's Irish Senior Cup.
- IRC 8.3 The Tournament proper (The Irish Senior Cup Final Tournament or Irish Senior Cup) shall consist of 4 qualifiers from the qualification tournament and the top 2 teams from the previous season's Women's National League division 1. In 2 groups by open draw, each team shall play each other team in a 'round-robin' and the top 2 teams shall contest in Semi-Final crossovers where the winners will compete in the Irish Senior Cup Final. The draw for the qualification tournament shall be an open draw.
- IRC 8.4 For all Irish Senior Cup matches IWPA Tournament Rules above shall apply. Additionally:
- i. playing times shall be in accordance with FINA Rules of Waterpolo;
  - ii. extra time shall be also being in accordance with FINA Rules of Waterpolo.
- IRC 8.5 For the Tournament proper, the 6 teams shall be divided in open draw into two groups of 3. Each team shall play the other 2 teams in its group. 2 teams shall qualify from each group.

- IRC 8.6 The semi-finals shall be contested between the winner of one group and the runner-up in the other. The order of the Semi-finals shall be:
- Winner of Group A vs Runner Up in Group B  
Winner of Group B vs Runner Up in Group A
- IRC 8.7 The entire draw shall be made at a suitable time and location at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- IRC 8.8 The maximum number of medals that shall be awarded shall be 15.
- IRC 8.9 Where a team withdraws from the Irish Senior Cup Finals tournament, the withdrawal fine shall be as laid down by the Executive Committee or the cost of pool rental, whichever is the greater.
- IRC 8.10 Where a team withdraws from the qualification tournament, the withdrawal fine shall be as laid down by the Executive Committee or the cost of pool rental, whichever is the greater.
- IRC 8.11 The Tournament Director, in consultation with the IWPA Director of Referees, shall appoint the referees.

**IRC 9. THE IRISH UNDER 19 CUP**

- IRC 9.1 The Irish Under 19 Cup shall be open to all affiliated Clubs, one entry per Club being accepted.
- IRC 9.2 There shall be separate Irish Under 19 Cups for Men and Women. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, there may be different rules for Men and Women
- IRC 9.3 Players for this competition shall be under 19 years on January 1<sup>st</sup> in the year of competition. [ Definition: The competition is open to players who are 'Under 19' at the start of the relevant season, whether the Championship is held before or after January 1<sup>st</sup> mid-season.]
- IRC 9.4 the tournament shall be split into 4 groups (A; B; C and D). Each team will play each other team in their group. The top 2 teams in each group shall qualify and proceed to the quarter-finals.
- IRC 9.5 In the quarter-finals:
- The winners of group A will play the runners-up in group D (QF1)  
The winners of group B will play the runners-up in group C (QF2)  
The winners of group C will play the runners-up in group B (QF3)  
The winners of group D will play the runners-up in group A (QF4)
- IRC 9.6 In the semi-finals:
- The winners of QF1 will play the winners of QF2  
The winners of QF3 will play the winners of QF4
- IRC 9.7 All matches in this tournament shall obey the Laws for the Irish Senior Cup, except where specific alternative Laws are given.
- IRC 9.8 All matches shall be four periods of 7 minutes actual play.
- IRC 9.9 Teams shall consist of a maximum of 13 players from a panel of 15 players. The maximum number of medals awarded shall be fifteen.
- IRC 9.10 A team withdrawing from the Irish Under 19 Cup after publication of the draw and within four weeks of commencing date shall pay a withdrawal fine as laid down by the Executive Committee or the pool rental, whichever is the higher.

IRC 10. **THE IRISH UNDER 16 CUP**

- IRC 10.1 The Irish Under 16 Cup shall be open to all affiliated Clubs, one entry per Club being accepted.
- IRC 10.2 There shall be separate Irish Under 16 Cups for Men and Women. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, there may be different rules for Men and Women
- IRC 10.3 Players for this competition shall be under 16 years on January 1<sup>st</sup> in the year of competition. [ Definition: The competition is open to players who are 'Under 16' at the start of the relevant season, whether the Championship is held before or after January 1<sup>st</sup> mid-season.]
- IRC 10.4 the tournament shall be split into 4 groups (A; B; C and D). Each team will play each other team in their group. The top 2 teams in each group shall qualify and proceed to the quarter-finals.
- IRC 10.5 In the quarter-finals:  
The winners of group A will play the runners-up in group D (QF1)  
The winners of group B will play the runners-up in group C (QF2)  
The winners of group C will play the runners-up in group B (QF3)  
The winners of group D will play the runners-up in group A (QF4)
- IRC 10.6 In the semi-finals:  
The winners of QF1 will play the winners of QF2  
The winners of QF3 will play the winners of QF4
- IRC 10.7 All matches in this tournament shall obey the Laws for the Irish Senior Cup, except where specific alternative Laws are given.
- IRC 10.8 All matches shall be four periods of 6 minutes actual play.
- IRC 10.9 Teams shall consist of a maximum of 13 players from a panel of 15 players. The maximum number of medals awarded shall be fifteen.
- IRC 10.10 A team withdrawing from the Irish Under 16 Cup after publication of the draw and within four weeks of commencing date shall pay a withdrawal fine as laid down by the Executive Committee or the pool rental, whichever is the higher.

IRC 11. **THE IRISH UNDER 14 Mixed Gender Development CUP**

- IRC 11.1 The Irish Under 14 Cup shall be open to all affiliated Clubs, one entry per Club being accepted.
- IRC 11.2 The Irish u/14 cup shall be a development competition open to teams of a mixed gender
- IRC 11.3 Players for this competition shall be under 14 years on January 1<sup>st</sup> in the year of competition. [Definition: The competition is open to players who are 'Under 14' at the start of the relevant season, whether the Championship is held before or after January 1<sup>st</sup> mid-season.]
- IRC 11.4 The tournament shall be split into 4 groups (A; B; C and D). Each team will play each other team in their group. The top 2 teams in each group shall qualify and proceed to the quarter-finals.
- IRC 11.5 In the quarter-finals:  
The winners of group A will play the runners-up in group D (QF1)  
The winners of group B will play the runners-up in group C (QF2)  
The winners of group C will play the runners-up in group B (QF3)  
The winners of group D will play the runners-up in group A (QF4)

- IRC 11.6 In the semi-finals:  
The winners of QF1 will play the winners of QF2  
The winners of QF3 will play the winners of QF4
- IRC 11.7 All matches in this tournament shall obey the Laws for the Irish Senior Cup, except where specific alternative Laws are given.
- IRC 11.8 All matches shall be four periods of 5 minutes actual play.
- IRC 11.9 Teams shall consist of a maximum of 13 players from a panel of 15 players. The maximum number of medals awarded shall be fifteen.
- IRC 11.10 A team withdrawing from the Irish Under 14 Cup after publication of the draw and within four weeks of commencing date shall pay a withdrawal fine as laid down by the Executive Committee or the pool rental, whichever is the higher.

### **THE IRISH UNDER 14 CUP**

- IRC 11.11 The Irish Under 14 Cup shall be open to all affiliated Clubs, one entry per Club being accepted.
- IRC 11.12 The Irish u/14 cup shall be a development competition open to teams of same gender
- IRC 11.13 Players for this competition shall be under 14 years on January 1<sup>st</sup> in the year of competition. [Definition: The competition is open to players who are 'Under 14' at the start of the relevant season, whether the Championship is held before or after January 1<sup>st</sup> mid-season.]
- IRC 11.14 The tournament shall be split into 4 groups (A; B; C and D). Each team will play each other team in their group. The top 2 teams in each group shall qualify and proceed to the quarter-finals.
- IRC 11.15 In the quarter-finals:  
The winners of group A will play the runners-up in group D (QF1)  
The winners of group B will play the runners-up in group C (QF2)  
The winners of group C will play the runners-up in group B (QF3)  
The winners of group D will play the runners-up in group A (QF4)
- IRC 11.16 In the semi-finals:  
The winners of QF1 will play the winners of QF2  
The winners of QF3 will play the winners of QF4
- IRC 11.17 All matches in this tournament shall obey the Laws for the Irish Senior Cup, except where specific alternative Laws are given.
- IRC 11.18 All matches shall be four periods of 5 minutes actual play.
- IRC 11.19 Teams shall consist of a maximum of 13 players from a panel of 15 players. The maximum number of medals awarded shall be fifteen.
- IRC 11.20 A team withdrawing from the Irish Under 14 Cup after publication of the draw and within four weeks of commencing date shall pay a withdrawal fine as laid down by the Executive Committee or the pool rental, whichever is the higher.

IRC 12. **THE INTERPROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- IRC 12.1 The IWPA shall organise Interprovincial matches each year. The age groups shall be as for the Cup Competitions, except that there shall be no Under 14 age group.
- IRC 12.2 Entries shall be sought at least eight weeks before the published date. Only written entries, accompanied by a bond as fixed by the Executive shall be accepted. This bond shall be refunded if the Branch fulfils its commitments to the Interprovincial series concerned.
- IRC 12.3 Only members of properly affiliated Clubs may be selected to represent a Branch. A player should play for the Province in which he plays.
- IRC 12.4 Where more than one match is to take place in a given Interprovincial series, the Rules governing teams shall be for the corresponding Cup competitions.
- IRC 12.5 The duration of the Interprovincial matches shall be as follows:  
Under 16: four periods of 6 minutes actual play;  
Under 19: four periods of 7 minutes actual play;  
Senior Men: four periods of 8 minutes actual play;  
Senior Women: four periods of 8 minutes actual play.
- IRC 12.6 The draw for the Interprovincial matches shall be made by the IWPA Executive Committee.
- IRC 12.7 The IWPA Director of Referees shall appoint the referees for the Interprovincial matches. Other match officials shall be from the host Branch.
- IRC 12.8 At least fourteen days notice of the times and venue shall be given for all Interprovincial matches.
- IRC 12.9 The winners of the National Interprovincial Championships shall be eligible to play in the LEN Club Competition. In the event that the National League Champions elect to play in the Euro League, then the Interprovincial Champions may play in the LEN Trophy. If not, the Interprovincial Champions may play in whichever LEN Club competition they wish.

IRC 13. **THE NATIONAL WATERPOLO LEAGUES: GENERAL CONDITIONS**

- IRC 13.1 The National Leagues shall be open to all affiliated Clubs. Teams shall be divided into Divisions whose composition and format shall be in accordance with these Rules. Except as otherwise provided for in these Rules, promotion and relegation shall apply. No more than one team shall be accepted from a Club for any given division without the permission of the Executive Committee.
- IRC 13.2 Entries for the National League shall be at the invitation of the Executive Committee. Such invitation shall specify the minimum playing strength for each division.
- IRC 13.3 Entries, accompanied by the appropriate fees and other charges and documentation specified, shall close with the Honorary Treasurer of the IWPA on date as decided by the Executive Committee each year. Late or incomplete entries shall not be accepted.
- IRC 13.4 Fixture lists shall as far as possible, be circulated at least twenty-eight days prior to the start of the National Leagues.
- IRC 13.5 Referees for all matches in the National League shall be appointed by the Director of Referees.



- IRC 13.6 Except in exceptional circumstances, all matches in the National League shall be controlled by two referees.
- IRC 13.7 Referees from outside a Branch may be appointed to control matches at venues under the jurisdiction of another Branch. Unless as otherwise decided by the Council or Executive Committee, such referees shall be paid expenses as agreed by the Executive Committee.
- IRC 13.8 Each team shall nominate a home location (pool) for the purpose of the National League and that each team will play a home game in their nominated location and an away game in the nominated location of the opposing team.
- IRC 13.9 The "home" team (first named on the fixture list) shall wear white caps.
- IRC 13.10 Except as provided for in the Transfer Rules, no player may play for more than one Club in the National League, irrespective of the divisions being contested by the clubs concerned, without the permission of the Executive Committee.
- IRC 13.11 In accordance with the Transfer Rules, players may only transfer during the Transfer Windows.
- IRC 13.12 All players in the National League shall hold a current Swim Ireland and IWPA licence in accordance with these Rules.
- IRC 13.13 Where a Club is entering more than one division in the National League, players must be named on each team at the start of the season and any transfers must comply with the deadlines set by the current IWPA transfer regulations, with one exception i.e. no IWPA transfer fees will be required.
- IRC 13.14 Winners of a fixture shall be awarded three points. A draw shall be awarded one point to each team.
- IRC 13.15 Where teams finish with the same number of points in the final points table and where a decision must be reached in relation to relegation and promotion the final positions shall be decided as follows:
- i. The team which has gained the most points in matches between the teams shall be ranked higher.
  - ii. If the teams are still tied, the team with the largest difference between goals scored for and against in results between the teams shall be ranked higher.
  - iii. If the teams are still tied, the team having scored the higher number of goals in matches between the teams, will be ranked higher.
  - iv. If there is still a tie, then the team with the largest difference between goals scored for and against in all matches shall be ranked higher.
  - v. If the teams are still tied, the team having scored the higher number of goals in all matches, will be ranked higher.
  - vi. If the teams are still tied, a playoff match shall be played.
- IRC 13.16 The playing times for matches in the National League shall be as follows:
- National League Division 1: four periods of 8 minutes actual play;
  - National League Division 2: four periods of 7 minutes actual play;
  - National League Division 3: four periods of 7 minutes actual play;
  - Women's National League Division 1: four periods of 8 minutes actual play.
  - Women's National League Division 2: as decided by the Executive Committee.
- IRC 13.17 All fixtures shall commence at the appointed time. If the previous match was a walkover, the next match shall start at the designated time. Teams

not having the minimum playing strength, ready to enter the water, when requested by the referee, shall be deemed to have conceded a walkover.

IRC 13.18 Walkover fines shall be as laid down by the IWPA Executive Committee and payable in accordance with these Rules.

IRC 13.19 Where a team concedes three walkovers in the same division of the National League, they shall be deemed to have withdrawn from that division and all matches involving that team shall be deemed to be unplayed when drawing up the final points table for that division. Teams excluded under this Rule shall still be liable for all match fees, or walkover fines at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

IRC 13.20 Requests for postponements of fixtures must be made, in writing and stating the reasons for the request, to the IWPA Executive Committee. The postponement can only be effected after obtaining the written permission of the Executive. Such permission shall only be granted in extraordinary circumstances. The Law applies to all requests for re-scheduling of fixtures once the fixture list has been circulated.

IRC 13.21 The walkover fine shall be as laid down by the IWPA Executive Committee. The Executive of the IWPA may, in the case of a walkover conceded to a team travelling to a venue under the jurisdiction of another Branch, order part, or all or none of the fine to be paid to the visiting team.

IRC 13.22 In special circumstances an entry may be accepted from a club whose specific purpose is participation in water polo competition and whose playing members are drawn from other swimming or water polo clubs who have not sufficient members to enter a team.

#### IRC 14. **STRUCTURE & FORMAT OF MEN'S NATIONAL WATERPOLO LEAGUES**

IRC 14.1 Entries for the National League shall be divided into 3 Divisions, 8 in National League Division 1, 8 in National League Division 2, with the remainder making up National League Division 3.

IRC 14.2 The National League Divisions shall be played over two rounds, following which, the Division will be split into Top and Bottom halves and a further (1) round played.

IRC 14.3 A club may enter more than one team (A team, B team, C team etc.) in the national leagues. Players must be named on each team at the start of the season and any transfers must comply with the deadlines set by the current IWPA transfer regulations, with one exception i.e. no IWPA transfer fees will be required.

IRC 14.4 The IWPA Executive shall decide the commencing date for the National Leagues.

IRC 14.5 For the National League, Division 1:

- a) Division 1 shall consist of not more than 8 teams;
- b) teams shall consist of not more than thirteen players;
- c) the entry fee shall be decided by the Executive Committee;
- d) playing times shall be in accordance with Rule IRC 13.15;
- e) referees shall be appointed in accordance with these Rules;
- f) After completion of 2 rounds of games the League will be split to form Top 4 and Bottom 4 sections. The 2 sections will then play 1 final round robin of games amongst themselves to determine League Champions and bottom 2 places. The bottom team will be relegated to Division 2 and the second last team may be challenged by the Runner-up in NLD 2 for the NLD 1 position.

IRC 14.6 For the National League, Division 2:

- a) Division 2 of the National League shall be open to teams from affiliated clubs, including clubs with teams in Division One of the National League;
- g) Division 2 shall consist of not more than 8 teams;
- b) teams shall consist of not more than thirteen players;
- c) the entry fee shall be decided by the Executive Committee;
- h) playing times shall be in accordance with Rule IRC 13.15;
- i) the first-placed team in NLD 2 at the end of the National League be promoted automatically and a promotion play-off shall be played between the 2nd team in NLD 2 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> last placed team in NLD 1. The winner of this play-off retains a place in NLD 1 and the losing team demoted to NLD 2. Play-off games are played to a result.
- j) the bottom team in NLD 2 at the end of the National League be relegated automatically and a relegation play-off shall be played between the 2nd last team in NLD 2 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team in NLD 3. The winner of this play-off retains a place in NLD 2 and the losing team demoted to NLD 3. Play-off games are played to a result.

IRC 14.7 For the National League, Division 3:

- a) entry to this division shall be open to all affiliated clubs, including those with teams in either or both of the higher divisions;
- b) the Executive Committee shall determine the number of teams
- c) teams shall consist of not more than thirteen players;
- d) the entry fee shall be as decided by the Executive Committee;
- k) playing times shall be in accordance with Rule IRC 13.15;
- l) the first-placed team in NLD 3 at the end of the National League be promoted automatically and a promotion play-off shall be played between the 2nd team in NLD 3 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> last placed team in NLD 2. The winner of this play-off retains a place in NLD 2 and the losing team demoted to NLD 3. Play-off games are played to a result.

IRC 15. **THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL WATERPOLO LEAGUES**

IRC 15.1 The Women's National League Division 1 shall be open to all affiliated Clubs.

IRC 15.2 The Executive Committee shall decide the number of teams in the Women's National League Division 1.

IRC 15.3 Playing times shall be in accordance with Rule IRC 13.15

IRC 15.4 The Executive Committee may at its discretion invite entries for a Women's National League Division Two. The format of this competition will be as decided by the Executive. It shall take place subject to four entries being received.

IRC 15.5 All other playing conditions shall be as in the Men's National Leagues.

IRC 16. **THE Br PHILIP MEN'S KNOCKOUT CUP**

IRC 16.1 Save as otherwise provided for, the Br Philip Knockout Cup for Men shall be played on a "Home and Away" basis. The team drawn first shall have home venue advantage.

- IRC 16.2 The Draw shall be made for the entire competition through to the final and matches fixed by the Honorary Competitions Secretary.
- IRC 16.3 All other conditions (Playing times etc. - shall be the same as the Men's NLD 1)

IRC 17. **THE WOMEN'S KNOCKOUT CUP**

- IRC 17.1 Save as otherwise provided for, the National Women's Knockout Cup shall be played on a "Home and Away" basis. The team drawn first shall have home venue advantage.
- IRC 17.2 The Draw shall be made for the entire competition through to the final and matches fixed by the Honorary Competitions Secretary.
- IRC 17.3 All other conditions (Playing times etc. - shall be the same as the Women's NLD 1)

## **IRJ: JUDICIAL RULES**

### **IRJ 1. JURISDICTION OVER WATER POLO PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS**

- IRJ 1.1 The Irish Water Polo Association recognises FINA as the sole Body governing water polo internationally, and the National Swimming Federations affiliated to FINA as the governing Bodies of the sport in their respective countries.
- IRJ 1.2 The sentence of disqualification or suspension passed by any of the organisations mentioned in IRJ 1.1 shall be binding on the IWPA.
- IRJ 1.3 All sentences of disqualification or suspension passed by Swim Ireland or its Management Committees shall be binding on the IWPA.
- IRJ 1.4 The IWPA claims jurisdiction over all players, officials and spectators at events held under IWPA Rules, including, but not limited to, all competitive water polo matches held in Ireland.

### **IRJ 2. JUDICIAL AUTHORITY**

#### *Levels of Judicial Authority*

- IRJ 2.1 The levels of judicial authority shall be, in this order:
- The match referees;
  - The Tournament Director (*in a tournament only*);
  - The Jury of Appeal (*in a tournament only*);
  - The IWPA Disciplinary Committee;
  - The IWPA Executive Committee;
  - The Swim Ireland Disciplinary Committee;
  - The Swim Ireland Appeals Committee.

#### *Match Referees*

- IRJ 2.2 Match Referees are responsible for the enforcement of FINA and IWPA Rules and the promoter's conditions governing the event. They are also responsible for dealing with protests and shall have full authority over all spectators, officials and competitors.

#### *Tournament Director*

- IRJ 2.3 The Tournament Director shall impose penalties, under current FINA and LEN Rules for brutality and Red Cards issued to Officials and Players

#### *Jury of Appeal*

- IRJ 2.4 In the event that a suspension imposed on an individual or team during a tournament is appealed, the Jury of Appeal shall convene to hear the appeal (on payment of the required appeal fee) against sanctions imposed on any player, coach or other team official who has received a suspension following a red card from the referee. The Jury of Appeal shall also hear an appeal (on payment of the required appeal fee) against sanctions imposed on any player who has received a suspension following a Brutality offence. Any penalty imposed by the Jury of Appeal shall be in addition to any further punishment deemed suitable by the IWPA Disciplinary Committee. They shall be mindful of any and all FINA, LEN and IWPA directives currently in force. LEN and FINA tournament Rules shall be observed at tournaments. The Jury of Appeal shall normally comprise the Tournament Director and the Tournament Referees not involved in the incident or match.

#### *Referees' Reports*

- IRJ 2.5 A referee shall report to the Honorary Secretary of the IWPA any player excluded for the remainder of the game without substitution for brutality.
- IRJ 2.6 A referee may report any other incident that he considers serious enough. The Honorary Secretary shall refer it to the IWPA Disciplinary Committee.
- IRJ 2.7 Referee's reports shall be dealt with in the same manner as complaints (Law I/J 5), save that the referee shall not be required to enclose any complaint fee.
- IRJ 2.8 Unless there is overwhelming evidence to the contrary, the Referee's report shall be taken as fact.

### IRJ 3. **PROTESTS**

#### *Protest Definition*

- IRJ 3.1 A protest is an allegation that the FINA, LEN or IWPA Laws or the promoter's conditions governing a competition have not been complied with or have been misinterpreted. **No protest or appeal shall be entertained on decisions of fact or application of the Rules by referees.**

#### *Lodging a Protest*

- IRJ 3.2 A player, Club or Official taking part in a water polo competition may lodge a protest. The protest must be lodged in writing and accompanied by a protest fee as currently set by the IWPA Executive (currently €100).

#### *Protests during a Competition*

- IRJ 3.3 Where a protest arises during a competition it shall be made to a referee, if regarding the Rules of Waterpolo, otherwise, it shall be made to the Tournament Director or appropriate IWPA official.

#### *Protests before a Competition*

- IRJ 3.4 When the reason for a protest is known before the competition takes place, it must be lodged with a referee before the start of the event or it shall not be heard. The organising committee shall inform all other teams before the competition starts.
- IRJ 3.5 The organising Body (or Jury of Appeal) shall hear a protest, except that if the protest involves infringement of IWPA Laws it shall be referred to the IWPA Executive.

#### *No decision reached*

- IRJ 3.6 If no decision has been reached by the promoting body within 21 days an appeal may be made to the Executive Committee of the IWPA, which shall hear the case and have powers to call upon the promoting body to pay the whole or part of the expenses incurred by the parties concerned.

#### *Withholding of Prizes*

- IRJ 3.7 When a protest is made in accordance with Laws I/J 3.2 to I/J3.4 all prizes shall be withheld until the protest and any appeal therefrom has been decided. The prizes shall be awarded in accordance with the final decision.

#### *Return of Protest Fee*

- IRJ 3.8 If a protest is upheld, or if it is considered not to be frivolous, the protest fee shall be returned.

### IRJ 4. **IWPA DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

### *IWPA Disciplinary Panel*

IRJ 4.1 The IWPA Executive Committee shall have a Disciplinary Panel to hear and determine Referee's Reports, Complaints or Appeals from any person, Club or Branch, provided that the decision involves the interpretation of IWPA Laws, Bylaws, Rules or Regulations or the conditions governing the IWPA competitions. All disciplinary matters arising from National competitions shall be heard by the IWPA Disciplinary Committee

IRJ 4.2 The Disciplinary Panel shall comprise about twelve responsible individuals. In the event of a disciplinary matter arising, the Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel shall appoint from this panel three persons (*The Disciplinary Committee*) to conduct the hearing. In the event that the Chairman of the Disciplinary Panel is involved in some way, the disciplinary committee shall be appointed by two of the following: IWPA Chairperson, IWPA Honorary Secretary and IWPA Honorary Treasurer.

IRJ 4.3 Unless the Executive decides otherwise, this Panel shall comprise the members of the IWPA Executive Committee, the members of the Branch Executives and the National Coaches.

### *Independence of Disciplinary Committee*

IRJ 4.4 The persons appointed to hear the matter shall not be related to either the complainant or the accused by virtue of the following:

- Membership of a club, either as player, coach or other club official; or
- Relationship of family; or
- Relationship of marriage or cohabitation, or
- Participation in the match or complaint in question.

In the case of a Referee's report, only participation in the match shall apply

### *Appeals against Branch Disciplinary Decisions*

IRJ 4.5 The IWPA Disciplinary Committee shall also hear appeals against Branch Disciplinary Committee decisions.

## IRJ 5. **COMPLAINTS**

### *Definition of complaint*

IRJ 5.1 A complaint is a formal expression of dissatisfaction, by any person, Club, Body or Branch, with an action of any other person, Club, Body or Branch in connection with the sport.

### *Lodging a complaint*

IRJ 5.2 A complaint may be lodged by sending the Honorary Secretary of the IWPA a detailed written statement of the action with which the complainant is dissatisfied and the reasons for his dissatisfaction. A complaint must:

Be accompanied by a fee as currently set by the IWPA Executive (currently €100);

And reach the Honorary Secretary not later than fourteen days after the alleged incident, which gave rise to it.

Where a complaint is received outside the time limit, the IWPA or Branch Executive may extend the time if the complainant can show good cause for the delay.

### *Procedure before a hearing*

IRJ 5.3 Immediately upon receipt of a Referee's Report, appeal or complaint the Honorary Secretary shall in consultation with the Chairperson arrange the date and place for the hearing. The hearing shall take place within 60 days

of receipt of the complaint or appeal, but shall be as soon as possible. Five (5) clear days notice shall be given in writing to the principle parties interested or involved together with a copy of the complaint or notice of appeal. The IWPA Disciplinary Committee in accordance with Law I/J 4 shall hear the complaint or appeal.

IRJ 5.4 The notification of the hearing shall be sent to the club secretary of the respondent.

IRJ 5.5 No appeal shall be heard if the decision concerned has been disregarded or ignored or if the complainant/appellant has failed to attend or to offer an explanation to the meeting to which he has been summoned.

*Procedure at a Hearing*

IRJ 5.6 The Disciplinary Committee shall elect a Chairperson. The procedure at a hearing shall be flexible and at the discretion of the Chairperson. The purpose is to secure expeditiously, a just outcome. In this connection:

IRJ 5.7 Each party has the right to state his case, to call witnesses, to give evidence personally, to cross-examine witnesses called by another party and, finally, to summarise his case;

IRJ 5.8 The normal rules of evidence and principles of natural justice shall apply except that the Chairperson may, at his discretion, admit evidence, which might not be admissible in a court of Law.

*Powers of IWPA Disciplinary Committee at a Hearing*

IRJ 5.9 The Disciplinary Committee of the IWPA shall have the power to:

Apply sentences of suspension or other punishments in accordance with Appendix 1 (Disciplinary Sanctions)

Order the appeal/complaint fee, either in whole or in part, to be refunded or retained;

Increase or decrease any penalty which may have been imposed;

Quash any penalty previously imposed or substitute any penalty deemed fitting;

Make any other order or determination as they may think right and just;

Given that the Disciplinary Committee shall adhere to the current IWPA Guidelines for Disciplinary Hearings and Sentences and provided always that the committee, notwithstanding that they are of the opinion that the point raised in the appeal might be decided in favour of the appellant, may dismiss the appeal if they consider that no miscarriage of justice has actually occurred.

*Procedure Following a Hearing*

IRJ 5.10 After the Hearing the Chairperson shall inform the parties, if present, orally of the decision. Whether or not this is done he or the Honorary Secretary shall communicate the decision in writing to the parties and the Branch Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Secretary IWPA within ten days of the date of the hearing by Registered or Recorded Delivery Post.

*Costs of a Hearing*

IRJ 5.11 Generally, any party calling witnesses is responsible for their expenses. However, the IWPA Disciplinary Committee may order any of the persons interested who have received notice of the hearing to pay the whole or part of all the expenses incurred. Where a complaint was originally laid before a Club, Body or Association by a duly appointed official of an IWPA Panel or Committee the IWPA Executive shall in the first instance pay his expenses of attending the hearing of the appeal and shall not order him to pay the whole or any part of the costs.



IRJ 6. **BRANCH DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

*Procedure at Branch Disciplinary Hearings*

- IRJ 6.1 The procedure followed by Branches in Disciplinary matters shall be the same as the IWPA Disciplinary procedure.

IRJ 7. **APPEALS TO IWPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*Notice of Appeal*

- IRJ 7.1 Notice of the appeal shall be in writing and sent by the appellant to the Honorary Secretary IWPA within fourteen days of the date of the decision in respect of which the appeal is made. The notice of the appeal shall be accompanied by a fee as currently set by the IWPA Executive (currently €100) and shall set out in full particulars of the grounds of appeal. Copies of the notice shall, at the same time, be sent by the appellant to the Honorary Secretary of the Executive Committee from whose decision the appeal is made and to the person who laid the original complaint or Referee's Report.
- IRJ 7.2 Where an appeal is made outside the time limit, the IWPA Executive may extend the time limit if the appellant can show good cause for the delay.
- IRJ 7.3 Where the appeal is made from the decision of the Executive Committee of a Branch, the Honorary Secretary of the Branch shall within fourteen days of the receipt by him of a notice of appeal, send to the Honorary Secretary of the IWPA a statement of the facts of the case as found by the Executive Committee of the Branch, a copy of all minutes and of any documents relating to the matter.
- IRJ 7.4 The IWPA Executive Committee shall within 60 days from the receipt by the Honorary Secretary of a notice of appeal, appoint the date and place of a hearing, and give at least seven clear days notice in writing to attend the hearing to the appellant, the Honorary Secretary of the Executive Committee from whose decision the appeal is made and to the person who laid the original complaint.
- IRJ 7.5 No appeal shall be heard if the decision appealed against has been disregarded.

*Procedure at an IWPA Executive Appeal Hearing*

- IRJ 7.6 At the hearing, the appellant, the person who laid the complaint and the Honorary Chairman (or other authorised representative) of the Disciplinary or Executive Committee from whose decision, the appeal is made shall have the right, in that order, to address the Committee.
- IRJ 7.7 No witness shall be called, save in exceptional circumstances and then only with the permission of the Committee hearing the appeal. An application to call a witness shall not be considered unless the party making the application shall have sent, at least fourteen days before the appeal is due to be heard, to the Honorary Secretary of the IWPA and to the Honorary Secretary of the Branch concerned a copy of the evidence of such witnesses. The party calling such a witness shall be responsible for the attendance and for payment of the witness's expenses.
- IRJ 7.8 The Committee hearing the appeal shall have the power to:
- Order the appeal fee either in whole or in part to be refunded or retained;
  - Increase or decrease any penalty which may have been imposed;
  - Quash any such penalty or to substitute any penalty deemed fitting;
  - Make such other order or determination as they may think right and just;

Given that the Executive Committee shall adhere to the current IWPA Guidelines for Disciplinary Hearings and Sentences and provided always that the Committee notwithstanding that they are of the opinion that the point raised in the appeal may have decided in favour of the appellant, may dismiss the appeal, if they consider that no miscarriage of justice has actually occurred.

## **IRJ APPENDIX 1 - DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS**

The following disciplinary sanctions shall be applied by the IWPA Disciplinary Committee for the offences as outlined below:

### **Brutality (ALL subject to Disciplinary Hearing Decision)**

1 <sup>st</sup> offence - single brutality (blow/kick):	2 to 4 matches
1 <sup>st</sup> offence - multiple brutality (blows/kicks)	3 to 6 matches
1 <sup>st</sup> offence - brutality with serious injury	6 to 12 matches
2 <sup>nd</sup> offence - single brutality (blow/kick):	4 to 8 matches
2 <sup>nd</sup> offence - multiple brutality (blows/kicks)	6 to 12 matches
2 <sup>nd</sup> offence - brutality with serious injury	minimum 12 months
3 <sup>rd</sup> offence - single brutality (blow/kick):	minimum 8 matches
3 <sup>rd</sup> offence - multiple brutality (blows/kicks)	minimum 12 matches
3 <sup>rd</sup> offence - brutality with serious injury	minimum 24 months

### **Serious Misconduct including threats or threatening behaviour by a coach, player, other team official, parent or spectator towards opposition players before, during or after a game.**

1 <sup>st</sup> offence:	1 match
2 <sup>nd</sup> offence:	3 matches

### **Player Excluded for Misconduct, with substitution - including verbal, non physical abuse of a referee or match official**

1 <sup>st</sup> offence	<b>1 Match automatic suspension</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	<b>2 Match automatic suspension</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> or subsequent offence	<b>2 Match automatic suspension and a Disciplinary Hearing</b>

### **The offences below will ALL receive the above sanction and will also be subject to additional Disciplinary sanctions from a Disciplinary Hearing**

#### **Serious Misconduct (verbal, non physical abuse of a referee or match official)**

1 <sup>st</sup> offence	<b>Minimum 2 Match suspension</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> or subsequent offence	<b>Minimum 3 Match suspension</b>

#### **Serious Misconduct (threats or threatening behaviour towards referee or match official)**

1 <sup>st</sup> offence	<b>Minimum 4 Match suspension</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> or subsequent offence	<b>Minimum 6 Match suspension</b>

#### **Serious Misconduct (attempted physical abuse of a referee or match official)**

1 <sup>st</sup> offence	<b>Minimum 4 Match suspension</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> or subsequent offence	<b>Minimum 6 Match suspension</b>

#### **Serious Misconduct (physical abuse of a referee or match official)**

1 <sup>st</sup> offence	6 to 24 months
2 <sup>nd</sup> or subsequent offence	minimum 36 months to Life Ban

#### **Serious Misconduct (damage or other behaviour likely to bring the Association into disrepute)**

1 <sup>st</sup> offence	4 to 24 months
2 <sup>nd</sup> or subsequent offence	minimum 24 months to Life Ban

The Disciplinary Committee shall specify matches of an appropriate standard for which the person is suspended and may specify the date of the start of the suspension. There should be no meaningless suspensions (*I.e. suspending a player for a period during which there are no matches*).

A person may not compete in or coach or manage at any other water polo or swimming competition during a period of suspension. A suspended person may not officiate at any water polo or swimming competition during a period of suspension.

A person's previous disciplinary record shall not be taken into account where the suspension served, finished at least two years previous to his latest disciplinary matter.

The suspensions above should be adhered to. In exceptional circumstances, the disciplinary committee may increase any of the suspensions above, but the committee must agree unanimously to this. The disciplinary committee should not reduce any of the above suspensions, nor should they suspend any part of a minimum sentence above, save in exceptional circumstances. The disciplinary committee may impose a sentence above the minimum sanction above and suspend part thereof, provided that this does not bring the sentence to be served below the minimum sanction above.

### **Red Cards**

In the event that a Red Card is issued to a Coach, Other Team Official or player, that individual will be sanctioned automatically in accordance with the following:

First Red Card (in a Season): 1 match suspension

Second Red Card (in a Season): 2 match suspension

Third Red Card (in a Season): 3 match suspension plus disciplinary hearing and possible further suspension.

Suspensions will apply to matches for the same team at the same level - I.e. A NLD1 Coach or Player will be suspended for the next NLD1 or Irish Senior Cup match(es). In accordance with these Rules, an individual thus suspended may not coach or play in any other competition until the suspension has been served.

Automatic suspensions that have not finished at the end of the season will carry over into the next season.