



## **506 MEN'S WATER POLO REGULATIONS**

### **506.1 Federation Championship**

The Mountain Pacific Sports Federation shall be composed of a nine-team division for play in the sport of men's water polo.

#### **506.1.1 Scheduling**

The Federation schedule shall be a single round-robin with each member institution of the Federation playing four home and four away games.

#### **506.1.2 Federation Champion**

The Federation Championship and automatic berth in the NCAA Championship shall be determined by a post-season tournament.

##### **506.1.2.2 Championship Site Rotation**

The site of the Championship Tournament shall be selected annually by the Federation Administrative Committee using a three-year rotation schedule of two years in Southern California, followed by one year in Northern California.

##### **506.1.2.3 Tournament Qualification**

The top-eight seeds after the conclusion of conference play shall qualify for the tournament.

##### **506.1.2.4 Seeding**

Teams shall be seeded one through eight based on their standing after Federation conference play is concluded.

##### **506.1.2.5 Tournament Format**

The eight-team bracket will be a single elimination format with a winner's and a loser's bracket with all places being determined.

##### **506.1.2.6 Tiebreakers – Two Teams**

Any two-way tie for seeding position shall be broken based on the head-to-head winner of the regular season Federation conference game receiving the higher seed.

###### **506.1.2.6.1 Two-Way Tie:**

In order to break a tie for the purpose of determining the seeding of the MPSF Championship Tournament, a two-way tie in the W-L record in official Federation Conference games shall be broken by comparing the head to head results of the official Conference game between the two tied teams, with the head-to-head winner receiving the higher seed.

###### **506.1.2.7 Tiebreakers - Three or More Teams Tied (1/10):**

If three teams finish the Conference season with identical Conference W-L records in official Conference games, the MPSF Championship Tournament seeding shall be determined by the following tiebreakers in this order:

- A. Head to Head Results (W-L record) in the official Conference games between the tied teams
- B. Goal difference in the official Conference games between the tied teams
- C. Most goals scored in the official Conference games between the tied teams

First: Compare the W-L records of the official Conference games between the three teams tied with identical Conference records, utilizing Tiebreaker A. If one team defeated the other two teams in the official Conference games, that team shall receive the highest seed. If one team has one win and one loss, that team shall receive the next highest seed, and the remaining team with two losses shall be seeded third.

Second: If the three teams have identical W-L records in the official Conference games against each other (each winning one game and losing one game), the next applicable tiebreaker shall be Tiebreaker B, the goal difference between these three teams. The team with the highest goal difference shall receive the highest seed.

Note: Ties may not necessarily be broken in this order. For example, if three teams are tied in their W-L record against each other, goal difference shall be calculated. If the top two teams are tied in goal difference, the team which won the game between them shall be seeded first and the other second. The team with the lowest goal difference would be seeded third.

Third: If the goal difference is identical between the three tied teams, the next tiebreaker shall be Tiebreaker C, the most goals scored in the official Conference games between the three tied teams. The team scoring the highest number of goals in these games shall receive the highest seed.

Fourth: If the three teams remained tied after comparing most goals scored, then the record in order, (W-L record, goal difference, and most goals scored) of each team shall be compared with the highest available seeded conference team outside of these tied teams and working down through the already established seeded teams until the tie is broken. For example, if there is an unbroken three-way tie for first, the comparison shall be made to the fourth seed. If there is an unbroken three-way tie for fifth seed, the comparison shall be with the top seeded team.

Four-way tie: If four or more teams finish the Conference season with identical W-L records the seeding shall be determined by utilizing the same tiebreakers listed above. When comparing official Conference W-L records between four teams, the team with the best Conference record among the teams shall receive the highest seed. If two teams are tied with the best record among the four teams, the winner of the official Conference game between the two teams shall be seeded first, the loser second. The winner of the game between the other two teams shall earn the third-highest seed, with the loser being assigned the fourth-highest seed. If three of the four tied teams have identical won-loss records against each other, the fourth team is placed either first or fourth, as appropriate. The seeding of the remaining three teams shall be determined as described in 506.1.2.8 using Tiebreakers A-C.

506.1.3 Squad Size - The maximum squad size for the MPSF Men's Water Polo Championship Tournament is 16 student-athletes and four additional bench personnel for a total of 20 persons allowed in the bench area during championship competition per NCAA Men's Water Polo Championship regulations. All student-athletes must be in official school uniform. Coaches and trainers must also be in appropriate school athletic attire. (8/00, 1/08, 6/09)

506.1.4 Travel Squad Limitations – Teams shall not travel more than 16 eligible student-athletes to any MPSF conference game or to participate in the MPSF Men's Water Polo Championship Tournament. Institutions may determine their own limitations for non-conference games and contests played during non-traditional seasons shall not be affected by this policy. (6/09)

### 506.2 Official Ball

The official NCAA championship ball is recognized as the official Federation ball for men's water polo competition. (8/11)

### 506.3 Officials

At least one "A" rated official shall be assigned to work each match counting in the Federation Men's Water Polo Championship standings. Goal judges shall be used during all championship games. *(See also 404 and 405 regarding appropriate contact with officials and penalties for inappropriate contact with officials, misconduct and other unsportsmanlike acts.)*

### 506.4 Playing Rules

All Federation games shall be conducted using NCAA Water Polo Rules.

#### 506.4.1 Violent Conduct

Specific to men's water polo, any student-athlete removed from a game for flagrant misconduct or other violent acts shall automatically receive an additional game suspension (total of two games) to be served immediately after the first game suspension imposed by NCAA rules and in the manner prescribed in the NCAA Rule Book. (9/02, 7/10)

### 506.5 Scouting

MPSF teams may only videotape games in which they are competing or any/all games during the Southern California and Northern California Invitational Tournaments and Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championship Tournament. For the purposes of this regulation a tournament is defined as an event requiring full participation for the duration of the tournament and which has a championship game Videotape exchange is prohibited. (11/98, 1/08)

#### 506.5.1 Videotaping

All games involving MPSF teams shall be videotaped by the home team and, if requested, the home team shall provide video to the MPSF executive director for administrative review. Visiting teams may also be required to send video if requested. (1/09)

### 506.6 Pre-game Countdown (in minutes prior to game start)

- :60 Pool available for warm-ups
- :30 Referees arrive
- :20 Referees inspect course/athletes
- :10 Referees clear pool
- :09 Referees meet with Team Captains
- :07 Referees walk players in from sides for introductions
- :06 Introduce/announce VISITING team (maximum 16 athletes)
- :05 Introduce/announce HOME team (max 16 athletes at MSPF championship/unlimited otherwise)
- :04 Introduce Officials
- :03 National Anthem
- :02 Teams to benches
- :00 Game begins

SIDs/Scorekeepers/Referees: After each game referees MUST sign the official scoresheet either at the desk or in their designated changing area.

**Notes:** (see Countdown notes next page)

1. SIDs shall provide a written pregame itinerary to each head coach and referee upon their arrival on the pool deck.
2. Minor deviations to the above protocol must appear on the itinerary and pointed out to the visiting coach/referees. (example: no national anthem, etc.)
3. Major deviations to approved protocol must be approved by the executive director and opposing coach at least 48 hours prior to the date of competition. Example: special ceremony honoring seniors, Olympians, etc. (8/00)

#### **506.7 Game Management Responsibilities**

Game managers and host institutions shall be responsible for but not be limited to the following responsibilities. (8/08) *See Game Management Handbook:*

1. Ensuring competitions are administered in accordance with MPSF, NCAA and institutional regulations, policies and standards.
2. Safety and security of all participants.
3. Crowd control, including compliance with MPSF Sportsmanship Announcement which is to be read prior to the start of each contest and as often as is deemed necessary.
4. Establishing pre-game contact with officials to ensure parties responsible for handling in-game issues are known to officiating crews.
5. Course set-up is in compliance with MPSF and NCAA regulations.

#### **506.8 Tournament Host Responsibilities**

##### **506.7.1 Seeding NorCal and SoCal Invitational Tournaments**

Seeding of the Southern California and Northern California Invitational Tournaments by the host coach shall be conducted using the National Coaches' Poll published the week prior to the weekend of each tournament.

- NorCal seeding tiebreakers shall be the final poll of the previous season after the NCAA championship.
- SoCal seeding tiebreakers shall be head to head results if the tied teams have played. If no head to head results or head to head records are tied then the tiebreaker will revert to the final poll from the previous season after NCAA championship. (1/08, 8/11)

506.7.2 The Southern California and Northern California Invitational Tournaments shall utilize two pools.

506.7.3 Table Staff Supervision – It is highly recommended that host teams retain Barbara Kalbus and/or Mary Sprague to manage scorers desks at tournaments requiring two pools.