



**USA Water Polo, Inc.
Conduct of Championships**

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USA WATER POLO, INC. CONDUCT OF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Preamble

This USA Water Polo Conduct of Championships (“Conduct of Championships”) governs the following championship events in the sport of water polo conducted by USA Water Polo, Inc. (“USA Water Polo”): Women’s U.S. Open of Water Polo; National Junior Olympics; and Champions Cup. The purpose of this Conduct of Championships is to provide uniform policies and procedures for the foregoing USA Water Polo Championships regardless of when or where they are held.

ARTICLE 1

CHAMPIONSHIPS, DATES, SITES, HOSTS, FACILITIES AND RULES

1.1 Championships

1.1(a) USA Water Polo shall conduct annually the following USA Water Polo national championships in the sport of water polo:

Championships	Gender	Age Limitations
Women’s U.S. Open of Water Polo	Women	None
National Junior Olympics	Male	Age 18 and under
		Age 16 and under
		Age 14 and under
		Age 12 and under
	Female	Age 18 and under
		Age 16 and under
		Age 14 and under
		Age 12 and under
Mixed	Age 10 and under	
Champions Cup	Male	Age 14 and under & 8th grade and lower
	Female	Age 14 and under & 8th grade and lower

1.1(b) Where age limitations are specified in Article 1.1(a) of this Conduct of Championships, all water polo players are qualified on the basis of their age on August 1 of the year in which the Championship is to be held. For Champions Cup, athletes must be 14 and under and not in high school. An athlete in the 8th grade and lower at the time of the Championship Finals shall be considered not in high school. Athletes who are 19 years old and graduate from high school in the year in which the Championship takes place will be eligible to compete in the 18 & Under National Junior Olympics, if an official high school transcript is received in USA Water Polo’s National Office not later than three (3) weeks prior to the Zone Qualification tournament, in the event that there is a Zone Qualification tournament in the Zone in which the Athlete’s water polo club is located or, if there is no Zone Qualification tournament in the Zone in which the Athlete’s water polo club is located, July 1.

1.1(c) The term “Championship(s)” refers to all competitions that lead up to the conclusion of the final game in a competition, including those competitions at the USA Water Polo Zone level that relate to the selection or seeding of qualifying teams for the championship finals. The term “Zone Qualification Tournaments” refers to the competitions at the USA Water Polo Zone level that relate to the selection or seeding of teams for the championship finals. The term “Championship Finals” refers to the competition among the teams that have qualified to compete for a national championship based on the provisions in Article 6 of this Conduct of Championships. For purposes of this Conduct of Championships, each age/gender division of a Championship shall be considered as a separate Championship.

1.1(d) Event titles with gender references mean that competition in those events is restricted to athletes of that gender. Event titles with the term “Mixed” mean that competition in those events is not restricted to athletes of a particular gender.

1.2 Facilities and Rules.

1.2(a) USA Water Polo Rules.

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Except as otherwise noted in this Article 1.2, the water polo playing rules for all Championships shall be as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.

1.2(b) Field of Play

- (1) Unless varied by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer with respect to a particular Championship, or except as otherwise stated in this Article 1.2, the field of play for all Championships shall be of the measurements and markings as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
- (2) For all Championships, except for National Junior Olympics and Champions Cup, the field of play shall be the maximum length and width as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
- (3) For age group 10 and under in the National Junior Olympics:
 - (A) The length of the field of play shall be eighteen (18) meters or twenty (20) yards; and
 - (B) The width of the field of play shall be fifteen (15) yards or, if the facility in which the Championship is being contested cannot accommodate a field of play of that width, the width of the field of play shall be as close to fifteen (15) yards as the facility can accommodate.
- (4) Except as provided in Articles 1.2(b)(3) and (5), for all age/gender groups in the National Junior Olympics:
 - (A) The length of the field of play shall be a minimum of 25 yards, measured from the rear of the goals (for this purpose, the rear of the goals shall be deemed to include any space between the rear of the goals and the wall or other structure to which the goals are affixed) and a maximum of 25 meters, measured from the faces of the goals; and
 - (B) The minimum width of the field of play shall be the greater of fifteen (15) yards or, if the facility in which the Championship is being contested cannot accommodate a field of play of that width, as close to fifteen (15) yards as the facility can accommodate.
- (5) For age/gender groups of: (a) ages 16 and under male and female, (b) 18 and under male and female and (c) all semi-final and first through fourth place games in the 12 and under and 14 and under age groups of both genders in the National Junior Olympics:
 - (A) For the Championship Bracket (Platinum and Gold Divisions)
 - (i) The length of the field of play shall be 25 meters; and
 - (ii) The width of the field of play shall be 20 meters; provided that: (a) if the facility in which the Championship is being contested cannot accommodate a field of play of that width, the width of the field of play shall be as close to twenty (20) meters as the facility can accommodate and (b) in no event shall the width of the field of play be less than fifteen (15) meters.
 - (B) For the Classic Bracket (Silver and Bronze Divisions) and Invitational Bracket (Nickel and Copper Divisions)
 - (i) The length of the field of play shall be no less than 25 yards and no more than 25 meters; and
 - (ii) The width of the field of play shall be 20 meters; provided that: (a) if the facility in which the Championship is being contested cannot accommodate a field of play of that width, the width of the field of play shall be as close to twenty (20) meters as the facility can accommodate

and (b) in no event shall the width of the field of play be less than fifteen (15) meters.

- (6) If a Championship Finals or Zone Qualification Tournament is played in two (2) or more pools, the dimensions of the field of play for each age/gender group shall be the same in each pool; provided that, in the event that a pool in which a game is scheduled is not able to be utilized due to mechanical failure or other cause, the games scheduled in that pool, in the discretion of USA Water Polo, may be rescheduled in another pool such that the dimensions of the field of play for such rescheduled game may differ from those of other games for the same age/gender group.
- (7) For Champions Cup, the length of the field of play shall be a minimum of 25 yards as measured from the rear of the goals (for this purpose, the rear of the goals shall be deemed to include any space between the rear of the goals and the wall or other structure to which the goals are affixed).

1.2(c) Goal Size

- (1) Except as otherwise stated in this Article 1.2, the size of all goals shall be as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
- (2) For age group 10 and under in the National Junior Olympics, the goals shall be approximately 2 meters by .75 meters.

1.2(d) Shot Clock

Except as otherwise stated in this Article 1.2, the shot clock for all Championships shall be as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules. The shot clock for the 10 and under mixed division in the National Junior Olympics shall be 35 seconds.

1.2(e) Game Duration

- (1) Unless varied by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer with respect to a particular Championship, or as otherwise provided in this Section 1.2, each game shall consist of four periods with the duration of each period as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
- (2) For the National Junior Olympics Championship Finals, the duration of each playing period shall be as follows:
 - (A) Championship Bracket (Platinum and Gold Divisions):
 - (i) 10 and under mixed gender and 10 and under female: four (4) minutes on day 1 of the competition and five (5) minutes on all other days.
 - (ii) 12 and under male and female: five (5) minutes on day 1 of the competition and six (6) minutes on all other days.
 - (iii) 14 and under and 16 and under male and female: six (6) minutes on days 1 and 2 of the competition and seven (7) minutes on all other days.
 - (iv) 18 and under male and female: seven (7) minutes on days 1 through 3 of the competition and eight (8) minutes on all other days; provided that on any day on which a team may play more than two (2) games, the duration of the periods in all games played on that day for that team shall be seven (7) minutes.
 - (B) Classic Bracket (Silver and Bronze Divisions) and Invitational Division (Nickel and Copper Divisions):
 - (i) 10 and under mixed gender and 10 and under female: four (4) minutes on day 1 of the competition and five (5) minutes on all other days.

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- (ii) 12 and under male and female: five (5) minutes on day 1 of the competition and six (6) minutes on all other days.
- (iii) For all other age divisions in both genders: six (6) minutes on days 1 and 2 of the competition and seven (7) minutes on all other days.

(3) For the Champions Cup, the duration of each playing period shall be six (6) minutes.

1.2(f) Period Breaks

- (1) Unless varied by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer with respect to a particular Championship, or otherwise specified in this Section 1.2, the time between periods and at half-time shall be as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
- (2) For the National Junior Olympics Championship Finals, the duration of the breaks between each period and at half-time shall be 2:00 minutes; provided that on the last day of the National Junior Olympics Championship Finals, the duration of the breaks between the first and second and third and fourth period shall be 2:00 minutes and the duration of the break between the second and third periods shall be 5:00 minutes.

1.2(g) Time Outs

Unless varied by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer with respect to a particular Championship, each team shall be entitled to call time two time outs per game.

1.2(h) Tied Games

- (1) In the Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo, in the event that a game is tied at the end of the fourth period, USA Water Polo Rule 11.3 shall apply.
- (2) In the National Junior Olympics and Champions Cup, in the event that a game is tied at the end of the fourth period, teams shall proceed to a penalty shootout in accordance with the rules specified in Appendix A.

1.2(i) Ball Size

The water polo ball used in each Championship shall conform to the current USA Water Polo Playing Rules, with the ball size as follows:

- (1) Men's size 5: National Junior Olympics male 18 and under and male 16 and under.
- (2) Women's compact size 4: Women's U.S. Open; National Junior Olympics female 18 and under, female 16 and under, female 14 and under, and male 14 and under; and Champions Cup female 14 and under and male 14 and under.
- (3) Intermediate size 3: National Junior Olympics male 12 and under and female 12 and under.
- (4) Junior size 2: National Junior Olympics female 10 and under and mixed 10 and under.

1.2(j) Forfeits.

Subject to the provisions of Article 3.4(c) regarding unfair advantage, if a team does not have a rostered coach present and seven (7) eligible players in the field of play and ready to play at the scheduled game time, the game shall be declared forfeited to the opponent. In the event a team forfeits a game for any reason, abandons a game, or is disqualified for one or more games, the game(s) shall be awarded to the opponent with a score of 5-0. See Article 6.7 of this Conduct of Championships for potential penalties associated with teams that miss games, do not appear for games at the scheduled start time, refuse to play games, and/or abandon a game once it has begun.

1.2(k) Suspensions.

- (1) For purposes of this Section 1.2(k) only, each session of a Championship Final that is conducted in more than one session, such as National Junior Olympics, shall be considered

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to be a separate Championship, but all Championships conducted during a single session shall be considered to be a single Championship.¹

- (2) Red cards, brutalities and the resulting suspensions received during Zone Qualification Tournaments shall carry over into the Championship Finals for the Championship (as defined in Section 1.2(k)(1)) in which the red card or brutality and resulting suspension were received.²
- (3) Any participant in a Championship Finals that receives two (2) red cards, two (2) misconducts, two (2) brutalities or any combination of the foregoing during that Championship Finals shall be excluded for the remaining duration of the Championship Finals as well as all other Championship Finals that are being conducted concurrently, including all age/gender groups of the National Junior Olympics and Champions Cup being conducted during the same session of the National Junior Olympics and Champions Cup.
- (4) If a coach receives a red card and there is no other coach member present and on that team's verified roster, that team will forfeit that game and a score of 5-0 will be recorded in favor of the opposing team. If a coach receives a red card and there is no other coach member on that team's verified roster, in order to avoid a forfeit of that team's game following the game in which the red card was issued, that team may petition the CFMC to permit it to add a coach member affiliated with that team's club to that team's verified roster for the game following the game in which the red card was issued. The CFMC may grant or deny such a petition in its sole and absolute discretion.

1.2(l) Game Schedule.

All games shall be scheduled to allow each team to have a minimum of two (2) hours rest between games. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that games at one or more pools do not conclude at or before their scheduled time, teams may not have at least two (2) hours of rest between games.

1.2(m) Coaches' Meeting.

All Championship Finals shall conduct a Coaches Meeting for the Head Coaches, or the Head Coaches' designees, of all teams in the Championship Finals during the evening prior to the day upon which competition begins in the Championship Finals. Any team whose Head Coach, or Head Coaches' designee, fails to attend the Coaches Meeting is required to obtain the information

¹ For example: (a) If the male 16 and under Junior Olympics and female 16 and under Junior Olympics are held in different sessions, each of them shall be considered to be separate Championships; and (b) if the female 16 and under Junior Olympics and the mixed 10 and under Junior Olympics are held in the same session, they shall be considered to be the same Championship.

² Example 1: Assume: (a) the male 16 and under Junior Olympics Championship Finals and the female 16 and under Junior Olympics Championship Finals were conducted in separate sessions, with the male 16 and under Junior Olympic Championship Finals preceding the female 16 and under Junior Olympics Championship Finals, (b) a single coach coached a male 16 and under team and a female 16 and under team and (c) the coach received two red cards during the female 16 and under Zone Qualifying Tournament, the coach would be disqualified from coaching during the female 16 and under Championship Finals, but would not be disqualified from coaching during the male 16 and under Championship Finals (the male and female Zone Qualifying Tournaments being considered as separate Championships and the suspension arising from the red cards during the female Zone Qualifying Tournament would carry over into the female Championship Finals, but not the male Championship Finals).

Example 2: Assume the same facts as in Example 1, except in lieu of (c), the coach received a single red card in the last game of the female Zone Qualifying Tournament, the coach would be disqualified from coaching the first game of the female team's Championship Finals (the suspension carrying over into the female Championship Finals), but would not be disqualified from coaching in the male Championship Finals (the male Championship Finals being considered as a separate Championship).

Example 3: Assume the same facts as in Example 2, except that the coach received a second red card in the male Championship Finals, the coach would be considered as having received his/her first red card, the red card from the female Zone Qualification Tournament not carrying over to the male Championship Finals as they are considered to be a separate Championship.

Example 4: Assume the same facts as in Example 2, except that the coach received a second red card in the female Championship Finals, the coach would be considered as having received his/her second red card, the red card from the female Zone Qualification Tournament would carry over to the female Championship Finals as they are considered to be the same Championship.

disseminated at the meeting and will be responsible for knowing that information without regard to their failure to attend that meeting. In particular, the failure of such Head Coach, or Head Coach's designee, to attend the Coaches' Meeting, shall not be considered as an excuse for such Head Coach to obtain a waiver or other relief from the rules applicable to the Championship.

1.2(n) Deviations from Conduct of Championships.

USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer may approve deviations from the provisions of Article 1.2 of this Conduct of Championships. Any deviation from this Article 1.2 must receive the written approval of USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer prior to the distribution of the Entry Form per Article 5.1 of this Conduct of Championships.

ARTICLE 2

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

2.1 Championship Finals Organizing Committee

The host as, selected, approved, and issued an event contract shall appoint a Championship Finals Organizing Committee ("CFOC") consisting of one (1) or more persons of their choice (including a Chair, a Tournament Director, etc.) who shall partner with USA Water Polo to organize the Championship Finals.

2.2 Event Contract

2.2(a) Host Rights and Duties.

The Host's rights and duties, including the revenues that will be made available to the Host in relation to the Championship Finals, shall be as specified in the Event Contract.

2.2(b) USA Water Polo Rights and Duties.

Subject to such rights and duties as may be specified in the Event Contract, USA Water Polo shall provide:

- (1) Online event registration
- (2) Roster verification and athlete compliance
- (3) Tournament referees, and other USA Water Polo representatives
- (4) Event-specific web page(s) on the USA Water Polo web site,
- (5) Event-specific logo and marketing materials,
- (6) A Championship Program for the National Junior Olympics
- (7) Advance marketing and public relations
- (8) Results reporting
- (9) Event merchandise provider for USA Water Polo licensed products
- (10) Tournament game balls and score sheets for each game;
- (11) Awards and trophies:
 - (A) Trophies for the three (3) top placing teams in the Championship Finals
 - (B) Medals for the players for the three (3) top placing teams in the Championship Finals (up to 15 medals per team). With respect to the National Junior Olympics,

medals (up to 15 medals per team) shall be awarded to the three (3) top placing teams in each Division.

- (C) Awards for special recognition as outlined in Article 7 of this Conduct of Championships

The cost of the foregoing awards and trophies shall be allocated between USA Water Polo and the Host as specified in the Event Contract.

- (12) USA Water Polo and National Sponsor signage

ARTICLE 3

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

3.1 Requirement.

All Championship Finals shall have a Championship Finals Management Committee ("CFMC"). The members of the CFMC shall be available at all times during the conduct of the Championship Finals.

3.2 Composition of CFMC.

The CFMC shall be comprised of three (3) to five (5) individuals, each of whom must be a USA Water Polo Member. The CFMC shall include: (a) the National Director of Referees (or the Director's designee); (b) the USA Water Polo Zone Chair (or the Zone Chair's designee) for the Zone in which the Championship Finals are being held and (c) additional USA Water Polo Members as needed to complete the CFMC to be appointed by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer. USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer (or his designee) shall serve as the Chair of the CFMC.

3.3 Appointment of CFMC.

All appointments to the CFMC shall be made not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the first day of competition of the Championship Finals.

3.4 Duties of CFMC.

The CFMC will oversee the conduct of the Championship Finals including the following:

- 3.4(a) Seeding of the Championship Finals. Prior to the Coaches Meeting on the day preceding the start of competition in a Championship Finals, the CFMC shall seed all teams (see Article 6.4 of this Conduct of Championships).
- 3.4(b) Eligibility. The CFMC shall rule on whether teams, players, and other participants have complied with the applicable entry and qualification requirements of this Conduct of Championships. The CFMC shall review team rosters and ensure that the Head Coach and the Assistant Coach of each participating team is identified and if sanctions are in effect for any of the teams' coaches, athletes, or other participants.
- 3.4(c) Forfeit evaluation. If a forfeit by one team gives another team an unfair advantage, the CFMC can take such action, as the CFMC deems appropriate to redress such advantage. For purposes of this rule, a forfeit includes an instance in which, in the judgment of the referees assigned to a game, one team intentionally loses to another team or one or more of the teams competing in a game play in a manner, other than exerting their best effort, so as to determine the score differential in a game for the purpose of affecting the seeding or placement of teams in a Zone Qualifying Tournament or Championship Finals. For purposes of this rule, a forfeit shall not include an instance in which one team intentionally exerts less than its best effort to avoid "running up" the score on the other team.
- 3.4(d) Assignment of Technical Officials. Except for Referees, the CFMC shall have the right to assign USA Water Polo Members to positions as Technical Officials for the Championship Finals; e.g., secretary, table staff and other positions required to operate the Championship Finals.

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- 3.4(e) Coaches' Meeting. The Chair of the CFMC, or the Chair's designee, shall chair the Coaches' Meeting held during the evening prior to the first day of competition in a Championship Finals (see Article 1.2(m) of this Conduct of Championships).
- 3.4(f) Action on Protests. The CFMC shall act upon any written protest concerning the Championship Finals.
- 3.4(g) Suspension of Participants for Detrimental Conduct. After notice to the offending party and an opportunity for the offending party to be heard, the CFMC shall have the authority to suspend any player, coach, Technical Official, Referee or any other person involved in the conduct of a Championship Finals for one or more game(s) during the Championship Finals for violation of USA Water Polo's Rules Governing Athletes' Conduct, USA Water Polo's Rules Governing Coaches' Conduct or USA Water Polo's Rules Governing Referees' Conduct. The CFMC Chair must provide USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer with a written report regarding any suspensions imposed by the CFMC within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the Championship Finals.

3.5 Protests

- 3.5(a) Any protest or complaint pertaining to actions, decisions, or events during a Championship Finals shall be submitted in writing, in the form attached hereto as Appendix B, to the Site Director at the site of the game to which the protest or complaint pertains, along with a one hundred dollar (\$100) cash deposit within thirty (30) minutes after the conclusion of the game or incident pertaining to the protest or complaint. If an adverse condition or circumstance is known prior to the start of a game, a written protest with a one hundred dollar (\$100) cash deposit must be lodged with the Site Director of that game before the signal to start the game is given, at which point the Site Director will notify the non-protesting coach that a protest has been lodged. Notwithstanding the lodging of a protest, teams will proceed with the game at the scheduled time (See Appendix B).
- 3.5(b) The final decisions of a referee during a competition regarding a field of play decision (a matter set forth in the rules of the competition to be within the discretion of the referee) shall not be reviewable unless the decision is: (i) outside the authority of the referee or (ii) the product of fraud, corruption, partiality or other misconduct of the referee. For purposes of this Article 3.5, the term "referee" shall include any individual with discretion to make field of play decisions.
- 3.5(c) All protests shall be considered by the CFMC, whose decision shall be final.
- 3.5(d) Nothing herein shall be construed as affecting the right of any party to file a grievance pursuant to Article 14 of USA Water Polo's Bylaws; the right to protest under this provision and the right to file a grievance being cumulative, and not in lieu, of one another.

ARTICLE 4

REFEREES

4.1 Referee Qualification.

All referees refereeing at a Championship shall be USA Water Polo referee members and have achieved the necessary qualifying standards as established by USA Water Polo to officiate at the Championship to which such referee is assigned. Referees selected for a Championship Finals shall attend the Championship Finals and be available to be assigned, starting with the first game of the Championship Finals through the final game of the Championship Finals.

4.2 Referee Assignments.

Excluding the Referees serving as goal judges, there shall be two referees assigned to each game in a Championship. USA Water Polo's Director of Referees (or his designee) shall select all referees (including a Head Referee) for all Championship Finals.

4.3 Head Referee Responsibilities.

The Head Referee for all Championship Finals shall:

- 4.3(a) Assign the referees to all games;

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- 4.3(b) Participate in the Coaches' Meeting during the evening prior to the day upon which competition begins in the Championship Finals;
- 4.3(c) Track all coach and athlete code of conduct violations and inform the supervising referee of the affected age/gender group of sanctions resulting from violations;
- 4.3(d) Inform participating referees of the identity of each team's Head Coach and Assistant Coach, and any sanctions that are in effect for any of the Coaches, Athletes, or team officials participating in the Championship Finals;
- 4.3(e) For Championship Finals requiring additional administrative or technical referee support, as determined by USA Water Polo (e.g., large, multi-site events), assign qualified referees to serve in such roles; and
- 4.3(f) Enter all referee game assignments into USA Water Polo's online assignment system and generate accurate invoices within 48 hours of the close of the Championship Finals.

4.4 Referees Fees.

The game fees for all referees and administrative fees for the Head Referee for all Championship Finals shall be as determined by USA Water Polo.

ARTICLE 5

ON LINE ENTRY, ENTRY FEES AND ENTRY DEADLINES

5.1 On Line Entry

- 5.1(a) Preparation and Posting of Entry Forms

USA Water Polo shall prepare online entry forms for each Championship and shall post those entry forms on its website not later than thirty (30) days prior to the Entry Deadline as set forth in Article 5.3.

- 5.1(b) Content of Online Entry Forms

Online entry forms shall include the entry deadline(s) and specify the entry fee for the Championship to which they pertain.

5.2 Entry Fees

- 5.2(a) The entry fee per water polo team for Championship Finals shall be established by USA Water Polo, shall be stated on the event registration form, and is non-refundable unless a team does not qualify for the Championship Finals in which it entered.
- 5.2(b) The entry fee per water polo team for a Zone Qualification Tournament shall be as set by the organization hosting the Zone Qualification Tournament.

5.3 Entry/Roster Deadlines

- 5.3(a) National Junior Olympics

- (1) Entry Deadline

Any team wishing to enter the National Junior Olympics must submit its entry to USA Water Polo via the USA Water Polo web-based entry system before the earlier of: (a) June 1 of the year in which the Championship is being held or (b) fifteen (15) days before the commencement of the Zone Qualifying Tournament for the Zone in which the club with which that team is affiliated is located (the "Initial Entry Deadline").

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(2) Payment of Initial Fee

On or prior to the Initial Entry Deadline, all teams entering the National Junior Olympics shall pay at least fifty per cent (50%) of the entry fee, and may pay the entire entry fee, for the Championship Finals to USA Water Polo (the "Initial Fee"). In the event that a team pays the Initial Fee and does not qualify for the Championship Finals, USA Water Polo will refund the entirety of Initial Fee (whether the team elected to pay all, or a portion, of the entry fee) to that team. No team that fails to pay its entry fees as provided in this paragraph will be eligible to compete in that team's Zone Qualifying Tournament or the Championship Finals.

(3) Submission of Zone Qualifying Team Rosters

On or before fifteen (15) days prior to the commencement of each team's Zone Qualifying Tournament (the "Zone Roster Deadline"), each team competing in the National Junior Olympics shall submit its roster for the Zone Qualifying Tournament to USA Water Polo through the Regional Roster Verification System. Each roster shall include no more than fifteen (15) athletes and contain the following information:

- (A) The names, verified birth dates, gender and USA Water Polo membership numbers of the athletes on the roster, listed by the cap numbers they will wear in the Zone Qualifying Tournament (number 1 for the goalkeeper, numbers 2 to 15 for all other members of the team roster including any alternate goalkeeper, who shall wear a red cap, numbered 13); and
- (B) The names and USA Water Polo member numbers of the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Alternate Coaches and up to one other team official responsible for the team (the "Team Manager"). A team roster may contain up to four coaches; however each team will be issued no more than three credentials entitling team coaches to enter the game venues and no more than three coaches may sit on the team bench during games.

(4) Roster Changes After Submission of Zone Qualifying Team Rosters

Teams may make changes to their rosters following the Zone Roster Deadline applicable to that team provided that: (a) all such changes must be made not later than eleven (11) days after the Zone Roster Deadline applicable to that team (the "Zone Roster Lockdown Date") and (b) each time that a team makes a change to its roster, it pays a \$100.00 change fee to USA Water Polo (multiple changes to a single roster at the same time incur a single \$100.00 change fee; any changes to the roster at different times incur a fee each time there is a change to the roster). No rosters may be changed after the Zone Roster Lockdown Date.

(5) Submission of Championship Final Rosters and Payment of Final Fees

Not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the commencement of the Championship Finals for Session 1, teams participating in Session 1 shall submit to USA Water Polo their rosters for the Championship Finals and pay to USA Water Polo any balance of the entry fee for the Championship Finals that was not paid with the Initial Fee (the "Session 1 Roster Deadline"). Not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the commencement of the Championship Finals for Session 2, teams participating in Session 2 shall submit to USA Water Polo their rosters for the Championship Finals and pay to USA Water Polo any balance of the entry fee for the Championship Finals that was not paid with the Initial Fee (the "Session 2 Roster Deadline" and, together with the Session 1 Roster Deadline, the "Championship Roster Deadlines"). Each such roster shall include the following information:

- (A) The names, verified birth dates, gender and USA Water Polo membership numbers of the athletes on the roster, listed by the cap numbers they will wear in the Championship Finals (number 1 for the goalkeeper, numbers 2 to 15 for all other members of the team roster including any alternate goalkeeper, who shall wear a red cap, numbered 13); and
- (B) The names and USA Water Polo member numbers of the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Alternate Coaches.

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(6) Roster Changes After Submission of Championship Final Rosters

Teams may make changes to their rosters following the Session 1 Roster Deadline or the Session 2 Roster Deadline, whichever is applicable to that team, provided that: (a) all such changes must be made not later than seven (7) days after the roster deadline applicable to that team (the "Championship Roster Lockdown Date") and (b) each time that a team makes a change to its roster, it pays a \$100.00 change fee to USA Water Polo (multiple changes to a single roster at the same time incur a single \$100.00 change fee; any changes to the roster at different times incur a fee each time there is a change to the roster). Note that any roster changes made after the applicable roster deadline will not be reflected in the Championship Finals program. No rosters may be changed after the Championship Roster Lockdown Date.

5.3(b) Champions Cup and Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo

(1) Entry Deadline

Any team wishing to enter the Champions Cup or the Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo must submit its entry form and pay at least fifty per cent (50%) of the entry fee, and may pay the entire entry fee, for the Championship Finals to USA Water Polo (the "Initial Fee") no later than thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the Championship Finals or fourteen (14) days prior to the tournament qualifier to which that entry pertains. USA Water Polo will refund the entry fee to any water polo team that submits an entry to Champions Cups or the Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo, but does not qualify for the Championship Finals. In the event that a team entering the Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo wishes to seek an exemption from qualifying for the Championship Finals pursuant to Article 6.2(e)(5), that team must submit its roster to USA Water Polo concurrently with its entry form. Teams who fail to submit their rosters with their entry forms will not be considered for an automatic exemption from qualifying, but will be entered into the Championships.

(2) Submission of Zone Qualifying Team Rosters

On or before seven days prior to the commencement of each team's Zone Qualifying Tournament, each team competing in the Champions Cup or the Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo shall submit its roster for the Zone Qualifying Tournament to USA Water Polo (the "Zone Roster Deadline"). Each roster shall include no more than fifteen (15) athletes and include the following information:

(A) The names, verified birth dates (except Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo), gender and USA Water Polo membership numbers of the athletes on the roster, listed by the cap numbers they will wear in the Zone Qualifying Tournament (number 1 for the goalkeeper, numbers 2 to 15 for all other members of the team roster including any alternate goalkeeper, who shall wear a red cap, numbered 13); and

(B) The names and USA Water Polo member numbers of the Head Coach, Assistant Coach and Alternate Coaches. A team roster may contain up to four coaches; however each team will be issued no more than three credentials entitling team coaches to enter the game venues and no more than three coaches may sit on the team bench during games.

(3) Roster Changes After Submission of Zone Qualifying Team Rosters

Teams may make changes to their rosters following the Roster Deadline applicable to that team provided that: (a) all such changes must be made not later than eleven (11) days after the Roster Deadline applicable to that team (the "Zone Roster Lockdown Date") and (b) each time that a team makes a change to its roster, it pays a \$100.00 change fee to USA Water Polo (multiple changes to a single roster at the same time incur a single \$100.00 change fee; any changes to the roster at different times incur a fee each time there is a change to the roster. No rosters may be changed after the Zone Roster Lockdown Date.

(4) Submission of Championship Finals Team Rosters

On or before fifteen (15) days prior to the commencement of each team's Championship Finals, each team competing in the Champions Cup or the Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo shall submit its roster for the Championship Finals to USA Water Polo. Each roster shall include no more than fifteen (15) athletes and include the following information:

- (A) The names, verified birth dates (except Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo), gender and USA Water Polo membership numbers of the athletes on the roster, listed by the cap numbers they will wear in the Championship Finals (number 1 for the goalkeeper, numbers 2 to 15 for all other members of the team roster including any alternate goalkeeper, who shall wear a red cap, numbered 13); and
- (B) The names and USA Water Polo member numbers of the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Alternate Coaches and up to one other team official responsible for the team (the "Team Manager").

(5) Roster Changes After Submission of Championship Final Rosters

Teams may make changes to their rosters following the deadline for the submission of rosters provided for in Article 5.3(b)(4) provided that: (a) all such changes must be made not later than seven (7) days after the deadline applicable to that team (b) each time that a team makes a change to its roster, it pays a \$100.00 change fee to USA Water Polo (multiple changes to a single roster at the same time incur a single \$100.00 change fee; any changes to the roster at different times incur a fee each time there is a change to the roster). Note that any roster changes made after the applicable initial deadline for the submission of rosters will not be reflected in the Championship Finals program. No rosters may be changed later than seven days prior after the deadline for the submission of that roster.

5.4 Qualifying Tournaments

5.4(a) National Junior Olympics.

- (1) On or before March 15 of each year, each Zone shall provide USA Water Polo with proposed dates upon which the Zone will hold its Zone Qualifying Tournament, which dates must be no earlier than May 1 and no later than June 30. The dates selected by each Zone for its qualifying tournament shall be subject to the approval of USA Water Polo's national office, which shall, promptly following its receipt of each Zone's proposed dates, notify each Zone as to whether or not that Zone's proposed dates for its Zone Qualifying Tournament has been approved. In the event that USA Water Polo's national office does not approve a Zone's proposed dates for its Zone Qualifying Tournament, that Zone shall promptly submit alternative proposed dates for approval until the USA Water Polo national office has approved a proposed date.
- (2) All Zone Qualifying Tournaments must be scheduled so as to commence no later than May 1 and be completed no later than June 30; provided that no Zone Qualifying Tournament shall be scheduled to commence less than thirty-five (35) days following the date upon which the Zone receives its approval of the proposed date from the USA Water Polo national office.
- (3) The USA Water Polo national office shall provide notice to each club within a Zone as to the dates scheduled for that Zone's Qualifying Tournament at least thirty (30) days prior to the date upon which the tournament is scheduled to commence.
- (4) Within seven days following the Initial Entry Deadline, USA Water Polo will notify the Zone Chair of each Zone from which entries were submitted and each team that submitted an entry: (a) whether or not a Zone Qualifying Tournament will be required to select teams from that Zone to participate in the Championship Finals or to seed such teams and (b) if a Zone Qualifying Tournament is required to select teams, the number of teams from that Zone that are anticipated to be eligible to participate in the Championship Finals. The number of teams from a Zone that are eligible to participate in the Championship Finals may be increased following the giving of the notice provided for in this Article as provided in Article 6.3.
- (5) In the event that a Zone Qualifying Tournament is not required to select teams to participate in the Championship Finals, but is required to seed the teams entered in the Championship,

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if each of the teams entered agrees in writing upon their relative seeding, the Zone may elect not to conduct a Zone Qualifying Tournament, in which event the teams shall be seeded in the Championship Finals in accordance with their agreement.

5.4(b) U.S. Women's Open of Water Polo and Champion's Cup.

- (1) Not later than 30 days prior to the last day for submitting entries to the U.S. Women's Open of Water Polo or the Champions Cup, as applicable, USA Water Polo will notify the Zone Chair of each Zone from which entries were submitted and each team that submitted an entry: (a) whether or not a Zone Qualifying Tournament will be required to select teams from that Zone to participate in the Championship Finals or to seed such teams, and (b) if a Zone Qualifying Tournament is required to select teams, the number of teams from that Zone that are anticipated to be eligible to participate in the Championship Finals. The number of teams from a Zone that are eligible to participate in the Championship Finals may be increased following the giving of the notice provided for in this Article as provided in Article 6.3.
- (2) If a Zone is required to conduct a Zone Qualifying Tournament to select or seed teams, that Zone shall conduct its qualifying tournament on a date to be selected by the Zone, subject to the approval of such date by the USA Water Polo national office.

5.5 Non-Roster Athletes and Coaches

Other than as provided in Section 1.2(k)(4), athletes or coaches who are not timely listed on a team's roster, or who are incorrectly identified, will not be permitted to participate in the Zone Qualifying Tournament or Championship Finals for which that roster was required.

5.6 Athlete and Coach Identification

- 5.6(a) Except for entries in the Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo, prior to the deadline for the submission of rosters for all Zone Qualifying Tournaments and Championship Finals, all athletes who have not previously done so must verify their age using USA Water Polo's online birth date verification system. Athletes who have previously verified their age using USA Water Polo's online birth date verification system and who have not changed their USA Water Polo membership number need not do so in subsequent years as birth date verifications continue to be valid for the duration of an athlete's participation in USA Water Polo events while that athlete is using the same USA Water Polo membership number.
- 5.6(b) Prior to their first game at all Championship Finals, all athletes, coaches and staff must present an acceptable identification card that includes a current photograph of the individual. Acceptable identification cards include, but are not necessarily limited to, USA Water Polo membership cards (temporary or permanent), driver's licenses, passports or other immigration documentation and school identification cards; provided that the identification card includes a current photograph of the individual. Identification cards without current photographs are not deemed to be acceptable. Individuals wishing to present some other type of identification should check with the USA Water Polo national office prior to their competition to verify that the type of identification that they wish to present is acceptable.
- 5.6(c) Athletes who fail to present an acceptable photo identification card or, where required, have not completed their online birth date verification process will not be allowed to compete.

5.7 Athlete, Coach and Team Eligibility

The provisions of this Article 5 are limited to prescribing the procedures for submitting entries and rosters, and are subject to the provisions of Section 6.2, which govern athlete, coach and team eligibility.

ARTICLE 6

CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

6.1 Zone Requirements

- 6.1(a) All Zone Qualification Tournaments shall be conducted in accordance with Section 6.1(b) of this Conduct of Championships.

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- 6.1(b) In the event that only one team from an age/gender group in a Zone (excluding teams that automatically qualify to participate in the Championship Finals pursuant to Article 6.2(e)(5)) enters a Championship, that team shall automatically qualify to participate in the Championship Finals and no Zone Qualification Tournament need be held with respect to that age/gender group.
- 6.1(c) All Zone Qualification Tournaments must be completed prior to the deadline for submitting rosters for the Championship Finals for which the Zone Qualification Tournament is being held.
- 6.1(d) Each Zone Chair shall forward the results of that Zone's Zone Qualification Tournament to the USA Water Polo national office within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the Zone Qualification Tournament.
- 6.1(e) Referee fees for Zone Qualification Tournaments shall be set by the Zone Chair, the Zone Head Referee (or the Zone Head Referee's designee) and USA Water Polo's Director of Referees.

6.2 Eligibility

- 6.2(a) Athlete Eligibility.
 - (1) All athletes competing in a Zone Qualification Tournament or a Championship Finals must be currently registered USA Water Polo Gold level members.
 - (2) Other than as provided in Article 6.2(a)(5) and with respect to athletes competing in the 10 & under female division, for National Junior Olympics, an athlete must compete in a Zone Qualification Tournament and Championship Finals for the club with which that athlete is affiliated as set forth on the USA Water Polo website as of the earlier of: (a) 9:00 p.m. prevailing Pacific Time seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the Zone Qualification Tournament in which that athlete is to participate or (b) July 1st of the year in which the Championship Finals are held. Following the commencement of the Zone Qualification Tournament, an athlete that has been rostered for a Zone Qualification Tournament for National Junior Olympics may only compete for the club on which that athlete was rostered, without regard to whether or not the athlete actually competes for that club in the Zone Qualification Tournament for which the roster was submitted.
 - (3) For the Champions Cup, an athlete must compete in a Zone Qualification Tournament and Championship Finals for the club with which that athlete is affiliated as set forth on the USA Water Polo website as of the date that the athlete is added to a club's roster.
 - (4) If an athlete is affiliated with a club other than the club for which that athlete wishes to compete in the Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo, that athlete may compete for the club with which they wish to compete in that Championship without regard to the club affiliation deadlines prescribed in Article 6.2(a)(2) and (3).
 - (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 6.2(a)(2) and (3), an athlete may affiliate with a new club after the dates permitted in those sections if: (a) (i) the athlete obtains the prior written consent of USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer, or his/her designee, (ii) the request to affiliate with a new club is due to the relocation of the athlete's family's principal place of residence after the deadline for affiliation with a new club as set forth in those articles and (iii) the athlete has not competed for another club in a Zone Qualifying Tournament or Championship Final for the Championship in which the waiver is being sought or (b) the athlete was not a registered member of USA Water Polo during the membership year in which the Championship is being held and the entire previous membership year.
 - (6) An athlete may compete for only one team in a Championship in a particular age group. Subject to the provisions of Section 6.2(a)(2) and (3), an athlete may compete for more than one team in a Championship provided that: (a) the teams are affiliated with the same club, (b) the teams are playing in different age groups and (c) the athlete is otherwise eligible to compete in each Championship in which the athlete seeks to compete.
 - (7) In the event that a club qualifies only one team for a Championship Finals, any athlete eligible to play for that club in that Championship may compete for that club in that Championship Finals, whether or not such player was on the roster of the team that qualified for that Championship Finals in the Zone Qualifying Tournament.

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- (8) In the event that a club qualifies more than one team for a Championship Finals, any athlete who was on the roster of a team that qualified for that Championship Finals during the Zone Qualifying Tournament may compete in the Championship Finals only for the team on whose roster that athlete was listed during the Zone Qualifying Tournament.
- (9) In the event that a club qualifies more than one team for a Championship Finals, any athlete eligible to play for that water polo club in that Championship, other than an athlete who was on the roster of another team that qualified for that Championship Finals during the Zone Qualifying Tournament, may compete for any team entered by that water polo club in the Championship Finals, whether or not such player was on the roster of the team that qualified for that Championship Finals in the Zone Qualifying Tournament.³
- (10) In the event that a club enters more than one team in a Zone Qualification Tournament, a player may be on the roster of only one team in that Zone Qualification Tournament. In the event that a club qualifies more than one team for a Championship Finals, a player may be on the roster of only one team during that Championship Finals.⁴

6.2(b) Rosters

- (1) A maximum of fifteen (15) athletes listed on the team roster shall be allowed to compete in each game in the Championship Finals.
- (2) Subject to Section 1.2(k)(4), only those listed on the team roster (players, coaches, assistant coach and alternate coaches) may sit on the bench or be in the bench area at any time; provided that the maximum number of persons in the bench area (including any athletes in the water) shall not exceed 18, no more than three (3) of whom may be coaches, assistant coaches or alternate coaches.
- (3) All athletes participating in water polo games shall wear the cap numbers exactly as listed in the team roster (except as otherwise authorized by the referees officiating a game, for example, due to an equipment malfunction, such as a torn or lost cap). In the event that an athlete wears a cap number other than that listed on the team roster, the referees shall verify that the substitute cap number is noted in the score sheet for the game in which the athlete wears a cap number other than that listed on the roster.
- (4) For National Junior Olympics age group 10 & under mixed, teams may submit rosters including athletes of both genders. For that division, there is no minimum number of either gender required on the team roster, the team bench, or in play at any one time.
- (5) Subject to Section 1.2(k)(4), a rostered coach must be present and eligible to participate at the commencement of a game and for the duration of the game.

6.2(c) Violations.

Participants and/or teams found to be in violation of the athlete eligibility rules of this Conduct of Championships are subject to disqualification and to forfeiture of games. In addition, coaches who knowingly violate the athlete eligibility rules of this Conduct of Championships may be held to have violated USA Water Polo's Rules Governing Coaches' Conduct and may become subject to further sanction, including termination or suspension of their coach membership in USA Water Polo.

³ For example, if a water polo club entered three teams in a Zone Qualifying Tournament (teams A, B and C) and teams A and B qualified for the Championship Finals, but team C did not qualify for the Championship Finals, the athletes on the roster of team A in the Zone Qualifying Tournament could only compete on team A in the Championship Finals, the athletes on the roster of team B in the Zone Qualifying Tournament could only compete on team B in the Championship Finals and the athletes on the roster of team C could compete on either team A or team B in the Championship Finals, assuming that all of the athletes on the rosters of teams A, B and C for the Zone Qualifying Tournament continued to be otherwise eligible to compete for that club at the time of the Championship Finals. In addition, either of team A or team B could add players to its roster for the Championship Finals who were otherwise eligible to compete for the club, but who did not compete in the Zone Qualifying Tournament.

⁴ Each age group/gender division of the National Junior Olympics is a different Championship. Therefore, this Section would not preclude an athlete from being listed on the rosters of two teams entered in the Junior Olympics, provided that the two teams were in different age groups.

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6.2(d) Coach Eligibility

- (1) Each team in a Championship shall have a Head Coach who is currently registered with USA Water Polo as a Coach Member (or other membership type that includes USA Water Polo Coach Membership).⁵
- (2) A Head Coach can only be a Head Coach for one team in each Championship (each age/gender group being considered a separate Championship). The foregoing limitation does not, however, preclude a Head Coach from serving as an Assistant Coach for another team from the same club in the same Championship.
- (3) A coach may only coach teams from a single club in any Championship (each age/gender group being considered a separate Championship). A coach need not be affiliated with the club of the team to be coached by that coach and may participate as an athlete for a club other than the club represented by the team to be coached by that coach; provided that: (a) the coach is otherwise eligible to compete as an athlete for that team and (b) if the coach wishes to participate as an athlete on a team other than the team to be coached by the coach, such participation must be in an age/gender group other than the age/gender group of the team to be coached by that coach.

6.2(e) Water Polo Team Eligibility

- (1) All teams competing in a Championship must represent a currently registered USA Water Polo Club.
- (2) Except as permitted by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer and as explicitly set forth in this Article 6.2(e) of this Conduct of Championships, only teams from USA Water Polo clubs based in USA Water Polo Zones shall be eligible to compete in Championships. For the purposes of this rule a club must have its principal administrative office within the United States and must regularly conduct its practices within the United States in order to be considered as being "based" within the United States.
- (3) Teams from the United States, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico shall be allowed to compete in Champions Cup.
- (4) All non-United States water polo teams wishing to participate in a Championship must submit, together with their entry form, a written letter from their water polo federation (with the names of all athletes, the Head Coach and other participants listed therein) sanctioning the non-United States water polo team's participation in the Championship in which that team wishes to participate
- (5) A team competing for the same club as a team that placed in the top four (4) teams from the preceding year's National Championships, except National Junior Olympics and Champions Cup, shall automatically qualify for the current year's Championship Finals; provided that a minimum of seven (7) players who were on the Championship Finals team roster of a team that competed for the club whose team placed in the top four in the preceding year's National Championships are also on the roster of the team for which automatic qualification is sought in the current year.⁶
- (6) Any team with an automatic qualification in a Championship Finals shall have the right to participate in a Zone Qualification Tournament; however, any such participation in a Zone Qualification Tournament shall void the team's automatic qualification for the Championship Finals.

⁵ USA Water Polo Coach Members must be in good standing with all required licenses and certifications on file at the USA Water Polo National Office.

⁶ For example, if a water polo club has two teams that qualified for the Championship Finals in the prior year, one of those teams placed in the top four (4) teams in the prior year's Championship Finals and any seven (7) athletes who were on the team roster of one or the other of those teams in the prior year's Championship Finals are on the team roster of the team entered in the current year's Championships, the team entered in the current year's Championships shall automatically qualify for the current year's Championship Finals.

6.3 Participating Teams

Water polo teams shall qualify for the Championship Finals as follows:

- 6.3(a) Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo. A maximum of sixteen (16) teams may compete in the Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo. These teams shall include the top four (4) placing teams (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place) from the preceding year's Championships, if such teams enter and automatically qualify pursuant to Articles 6.2(e)(5) and (6) of this Conduct of Championships, the eleven (11) teams winning their respective Zone Qualification Tournaments and one host team selected by the CFOC. If the foregoing does not provide for sixteen teams, Article 6.3(d) shall apply.
- 6.3(b) National Junior Olympics. The maximum number of teams in each age group, gender and competition division (each age group, gender and competition division is a distinct Championship) of the National Junior Olympics shall be determined by the USA Water Polo national office. The USA Water Polo national office shall allocate the maximum number of team entries for each USA Water Polo Zone based on the number of USA Water Polo athlete members in each age group and gender in each Zone as of December 31 of the year prior to the year in which the Championship is held; provided, however, that each Zone shall have at least one entry allocated to it for each age/gender/competition division. The teams eligible to compete in the National Junior Olympic Championship Finals shall be determined in Zone Qualifying Tournaments as set forth in this Conduct of Championships.
- 6.3(c) Champions Cup. A maximum of twelve (12) teams may compete in the Champions Cup Championship Finals. These teams shall include the eleven (11) teams winning their respective Zone Qualification Tournaments and one (1) team selected by the USA Water Polo National Office. If the foregoing does not provide for twelve teams, the CFMC shall allocate the remaining entries to the Zones based upon Zone membership size as of December 31 of the year prior to the year in which the Championship is being held. If the foregoing still does not provide for twelve teams, the CFMC shall invite teams from Canada, Mexico, or Puerto Rico and thereafter the CFMC shall select team(s) of their choice.
- 6.3(d) If application of the rules set forth above fail to provide for the teams required to complete the field for a Championship Finals, the remaining teams required to complete the field for a Championship Finals shall be selected by the CFMC by allocating the remaining entries to the Zones based on USA Water Polo Zone membership size as of December 31 of the previous year for the age group and gender group of the Championship Finals for which additional teams are required, beginning with the largest Zone (based on membership for the respective age group and gender as of December 31 of the prior year) in accordance with the following: (a) each Zone will be allocated entries equal to a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of members in that Zone (as specified above) and the denominator of which is the total number of USA Water Polo members (as specified above) times the number of teams needed to complete the field for the Championship Finals, (b) in the event that the entries allocated to a Zone in accordance with the foregoing provision do not equal a whole number, the number of entries shall be rounded to the nearest whole number, (c) in the event that the foregoing rounding produces a result allocating more entries than are available, entries shall be allocated to Zones based upon the size of the unrounded fraction as determined above, and (d) in the event that a Zone is allocated entries pursuant to this provision that exceed the number of teams entered in the Championships (or a team entered in the Championships decline to participate in the Championship Finals), the additional vacant entries so created shall be reallocated to other Zones as provided herein.

6.4 Seeding and Placement of Teams into Groups

- 6.4(a) USA Water Polo shall seed all teams participating in a Championship Finals prior to the Coaches Meeting.
- 6.4(b) At the option of the CFMC, in instances in which teams have qualified for a current year's Championship Finals based upon their performance in the prior year's Championship Finals, the CFMC may either seed those teams in the order in which they placed in the prior year's Championship Finals (omitting any teams that placed in the top four of the prior year's Championship Finals that are not competing in the current year's Championship Finals) or seed those teams in accordance with Section 6.4(c) of this Conduct of Championships.
- 6.4(c) Subject to Section 6.4(b), and except the National Junior Olympics and Champions Cup, teams shall be seeded in the Championship Finals as follows:
 - (1) First, the CFMC shall select teams to be seeded first to fourth and place them into the First Round Groups by either seeding them as the CFMC shall agree with the first seed as A1 in

- Group A, the second seed as B1 in Group B, the third seed as C1 in Group C, and the fourth seed as D1 in Group D, or seeding them using the Random Draw Method specified in Article 6.4(e) of this Conduct of Championships (the "Random Draw Method").
- (2) Second, the CFMC shall select teams to be seeded fifth to eighth and place them into the First Round Groups by either seeding them as the CFMC shall agree with the fifth seed as D2 in Group D, the sixth seed as C2 in Group C, the seventh seed as B2 in Group B, and the eighth seed as A2 in Group A, or seeding them using the Random Draw Method; however, if the Random Draw Method was used to seed the first to fourth seeds, the Random Draw Method shall be used to seed the fifth to eighth seeds.
 - (3) Third, the CFMC shall select the teams to be seeded ninth to twelfth and place them into First Round Groups by either seeding them as the CFMC shall agree with the ninth seed as A3 in Group A, the tenth seed as B3 in Group B, the eleventh seed as C3 in Group C, and the twelfth seed as D3 in group D or seeding them using the Random Draw Method; however if the Random Draw Method was used to seed the fifth to eighth seeds, the Random Draw Method shall be used to seed the ninth to twelfth seeds.
 - (4) Fourth, for Championship Finals with a sixteen (16) team field, the CFMC shall select the teams to be seeded thirteenth to sixteenth and place them into First Round Groups by either seeding them as the CFMC shall agree with the thirteenth seed as D4 in Group D, the fourteenth seed as C4 in Group C, the fifteenth seed as B4 in Group B, and the sixteenth seed as A4 in group A, or seeding them using the Random Draw Method; however if the Random Draw Method was used to seed the ninth to twelfth seeds, the Random Draw Method shall be used to seed the thirteenth to sixteenth seeds.
 - (5) Notwithstanding anything else written herein, if two or more teams from the same club are participating in a Championship Finals, each of those teams shall be placed into a different First Round Group.
- 6.4(d) The Championship Finals for National Junior Olympics and the Champions Cup shall be seeded based upon the results of the prior year's National Junior Olympics and Champions Cup, respectively, in each age/gender bracket as follows:
- (1) Each Zone shall submit the final standings for all teams participating in its Zone Qualifying Tournament to USA Water Polo within 48 hours of the completion of the tournament.
 - (2) The team placing first in the Zone Qualifying Tournament from the Zone of the team that placed first in the prior year's Championship in each age/gender group shall be the first seeded team in the current year's Championship Finals. The highest unseeded team from the Zone of the team that placed second in the prior year's Championship in each age/gender group shall be the second seeded team in the current year's Championship Finals, and so forth until all teams from Zones having teams that participated in the prior year's Championship Finals have been seeded. After each of the foregoing teams has been seeded, the CFMC shall seed any remaining teams using the Random Draw Method.
- 6.4(e) Placement of teams into First Round Groups of the Championship Finals by the Random Draw Method shall be done as follows:
- (1) First, slips of paper labeled with the First Round Group designation shall be placed in one container and slips of paper labeled with the names of the teams shall be placed in another container.
 - (2) Second, a Group designation shall be drawn and then a team designation shall be drawn. The team drawn shall be seeded in accordance with the Group designation drawn. The process of drawing Group designations and teams shall be continued until all teams to be seeded in accordance with the Random Draw Method have been seeded.
 - (3) In the event that less than all teams that are to be seeded are seeded by the Random Draw Method, the CFMC may select more teams for a Random Draw than the number of teams required to be seeded in that Random Draw, with any team not seeded by that Random Draw being placed into the next group of teams to be seeded.

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(4) In the event that a Random Draw results in a team being designated for a Group to which a team from the same club is already assigned, the team shall be substituted for either the previous draw or the subsequent draw, as determined by the CFMC, to prevent two teams from the same club being seeded into the same Group.

6.4(f) In the event that a team withdraws from the Championship Finals after the Championship Finals have been seeded and within seven (7) days prior to the start of the Championship Finals, any team that replaces the seeded team that withdrew shall succeed to the withdrawn team's seeding.

6.4(g) In the event that a team withdraws from the Championship Finals after the Championship Finals have been seeded and seven days or more prior to the start of the Championship Finals and there are other teams from the Zone of the withdrawn team that elect to participate in the Championship Finals, each of the teams from the Zone of the withdrawn team that were seeded below the withdrawn team, including the team replacing the withdrawn team in the Championship Finals, shall be elevated in the seeding of the Championship Finals such that the next highest seed from the Zone of the withdrawn team shall receive the seeding previously accorded to the withdrawn team, the next highest team from that Zone shall succeed to the seeding previously accorded to the team succeeding to the withdrawn team's seeding, and etc. until all Zone teams from the Zone of the withdrawn team have been seeded.

6.4(h) In the event that a team withdraws from the Championship Finals after the Championship Finals have been seeded and seven days or more prior to the start of the Championship Finals and there are no other teams from the Zone of the withdrawn team that elect to participate in the Championship Finals, each of the teams from the Zone of the withdrawn team that were seeded below the withdrawn team, including the team replacing the withdrawn team in the Championship Finals, shall be elevated in the seeding of the Championship Finals such that the next highest seed to the withdrawn team shall receive the seeding previously accorded to the withdrawn team, the next highest team from that Zone shall succeed to the seeding previously accorded to the team succeeding to the withdrawn team's seeding, and etc. until all Zone teams from the Zone of the withdrawn team have been seeded and the seeding previously accorded to the lowest seeded team from the Zone of the withdrawn team shall be awarded to the team selected to replace the withdrawn team in the Championship Finals.

6.5 Group System of Play

6.5(a) For each Championship, the Group System of Play shall be as determined by the USA Water Polo National Office based on the number of teams in each gender/age group. All entered teams shall play off to a final placing.

6.5(b) For all National Championships, teams shall be selected to advance on the basis of: (i) four (4) points for a win (including a win by forfeit), other than as a result of a shootout, (ii) three (3) points for a win in a shootout, (iii) two (2) points for a loss in a shootout, (iv) 1 point for a loss, other than in a shootout or as a result of a forfeit and (v) no points for a loss as a result of a forfeit.

6.5(c) In the event that two or more teams are tied in points after the completion of play in a round, the FINA tie break system currently in effect and published in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules shall be used.

6.6 Game Schedule and Start Times

6.6(a) The USA Water Polo national office shall provide the game schedules and start times for all Championship Finals.

6.6(b) When the field of play is outdoors and sufficient artificial lighting is unavailable, the CFMC may shift game start times, depending upon the daylight conditions on the dates on which the Championship Finals are held.

6.6(c) The CFMC may alter the scheduled time and/or location for games in the event the location for a scheduled game becomes unavailable as, for example, due to an equipment malfunction.

6.7 Forfeits and Withdrawals From Competition

6.7(a) Once the championship is seeded, should the tournament require reseeding due to a team withdrawing from the Championship Final, that team shall pay a fine equal to hundred percent (100%) of the entry fee; such fine shall be collected by the USA Water Polo National Office. Clubs that do not pay fines will be subject to suspension. In the event that a team withdraws, the USA Water Polo National

Office shall endeavor to replace the withdrawn team, however, in the event that it cannot do so, scheduled games against the withdrawn team shall be deemed to be forfeited and forfeit fines (See Section 6.7(b)) shall apply for each scheduled game that is deemed forfeited. Forfeit fines payable under this provision shall be applied to pay officials scheduled to referee deemed forfeited games, with the balance of the forfeit fine paid to the non-forfeiting club whose team was otherwise scheduled to play the deemed forfeited game.

- 6.7(b) During a Championship Finals, teams shall be subject to penalties in the discretion of USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer for missing games, not being ready to commence games at the scheduled start times, refusing to play a game prior to the start of that game, forfeiting a game as defined in Article 1.2(j) and/or abandoning a game once it has begun. Such penalties include a mandatory \$250.00 fine and may include additional penalties including, but not limited to: additional fines, disqualification from the Championship in which the conduct occurs, the team and/or club being placed on probation or being disqualified from Championships in subsequent years, athletes being rendered ineligible for All-Tournament/All-American selections, and suspension of one or more of the team's coaches as coach members of USA Water Polo; provided that any athlete or coach whose ability to participate in a competition is affected must be afforded with notice and an opportunity for a hearing prior to the coach or athlete's ability to participate being affected. Sanctions imposed pursuant to this Article may be appealed under the grievance procedures established by USA Water Polo's Bylaws.
- 6.7(c) USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer may modify any penalties imposed under this Section, if he/she determines that valid health or safety issues related to the game created circumstances that caused a team to miss, refuse to play, forfeit or abandon a game.
- 6.7(d) Entry Fees, penalties and fines shall be paid by clubs to the USA Water Polo National Office and are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

ARTICLE 7

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

7.1 All American Recognition

- 7.1(a) Athletes for All American water polo teams shall be selected from among athletes competing in each age/gender division of the National Junior Olympics. All American teams shall not be selected as a result of competition in the Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo or the Champions Cup.
- 7.1(b) The All-American teams shall include: (a) a first team, which shall be comprised of the Most Valuable Player in each age/gender division of the National Junior Olympics, seven first team athletes, (b) a second team, which shall be comprised of seven second team athletes from each age/gender division of the National Junior Olympics and (c) an Honorable Mention team, which shall be composed of athletes from teams placing 5th through 15th in the platinum division of the National Junior Olympics as outlined in chart below.

7.2 Selection Process for All American Recognition.

- 7.2(a) The Head Coach of each team placing fifteenth or higher in the Championship Finals of each age/gender division in the National Junior Olympics shall submit a list of athletes from their team for Most Valuable Player and All American designation to the Chair of the CFMC after the conclusion of their play in the Championship Finals according to the following allotment schedule:

Overall Team Placing	Allotment			
	MVP	First Team	Second Team	Hon. Mention
1 st	1	2	2	
2 nd		2	2	
3 rd		2	1	
4 th		1	1	
5 th			1	1
6 th				2
7 th				2
8 th				1
9 th				1

Overall Team Placing	Allotment			
	MVP	First Team	Second Team	Hon. Mention
10 th				1
11 th				1
12 th				1
13 th				1
14 th				1
15 th				1

7.2(b) If a team otherwise eligible to nominate an athlete for All American honors is penalized pursuant to Section 6.7(b) of this Conduct of Championships with sanctions that include removing athlete eligibility for All America/All Tournament selection, all other teams with eligible players who placed lower than the penalized team will move one allocation higher and the penalized team shall receive no allocation.

7.3 All Tournament Recognition.

7.3(a) Athletes for All Tournament teams shall be selected from among athletes competing in the Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo.

7.3(b) The All Tournament teams in the Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo shall include a Most Valuable Player and seven other athletes.

7.4 Selection Process for All Tournament Recognition.

7.4(a) The Head Coach of each team placing fourth or higher in the U.S. Opens of Water Polo Championship Finals shall submit a list of athletes from their team for Most Valuable Player and All Tournament designation to the Chair of the CFMC after the conclusion of their play in the Championship Finals according to the following allotment schedule:

Overall Team Placing	Allotment	
	All Tournament Team	
	MVP	Team
1 st	1	2
2 nd		2
3 rd		2
4 th		1

7.5 Designation of Most Valuable Player Award

The John Felix Award has been designated as the Most Valuable Player Award for the Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo.

7.6 Sportsmanship Award.

Sportsmanship Awards (designated as the Jody Campbell Awards for males and the Maureen O'Toole Awards for females) shall be awarded to one player on each team competing in the Champions Cup Championship Finals. Players shall be selected for the Sportsmanship Awards based on criteria and with a selection process as determined by the Chair of the CFMC.

7.7 Awards Certificates.

Coaches of teams eligible for All-American or All-Tournament recognition shall submit their nominations for all Special Recognitions awarded under this Article 7 of this Conduct of Championships by deadlines set forth by the USA Water Polo national office. In the event that a Coach fails to timely submit his/her nominations, the Coach shall be deemed to have failed to nominate anyone and the award otherwise available under this Article shall be deemed to have been forfeited. The USA Water Polo national office shall prepare proper certificates and distribute them to the recipients of the Special Recognition Awards within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the nomination.

ARTICLE 8

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WATER POLO CLUBS

8.1 Male, Female and Overall Categories

The USA Water Polo Chairman's Cup for Male Championships, for Female Championships and for Overall Championships shall be awarded each calendar year determined by points earned by clubs in Championships during that calendar year; provided that: (a) no points shall be awarded for placements in the: (i) Female 10 and under, (ii) mixed gender 10 and under divisions of the National Junior Olympics and (iii) Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo and (b) if a Championship is played twice in the same calendar year (e.g., January and December), the points earned in the Championship played the earliest in the year shall be used to determine the USA Water Polo Chairman's Cup awards in that year and the points earned in the Championship latest in the year shall be used to determine the USA Water Polo Chairman's Cup awards in the following year. In cases where water polo clubs are tied, co-champions shall be declared.

8.2 Point System

At each Championship, water polo clubs shall earn points for each water polo team from their water polo club that places in the top twelve (12) places in the Championship as follows:

Place	Points	Place	Points
1 st	15	7 th	6
2 nd	13	8 th	5
3 rd	11	9 th	4
4 th	9	10 th	3
5 th	8	11 th	2
6 th	7	12 th	1

8.3 Water Polo Team Eligibility

If a club enters more than one team in a Championship, the water polo club is eligible to earn points based upon the placement of all of its teams entered into the Championship.⁷

ARTICLE 9

COMPLIANCE

The USA Water Polo national office shall monitor and administer compliance with this Conduct of Championships in relation to all Championship Finals in accordance with the terms of the USA Water Polo Events Contract. A designated member of the USA Water Polo national office, or a USA Water Polo member designated by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer, shall prepare an event summary for each Championship Finals for USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of each Championship Finals.

ARTICLE 10

AMENDMENTS

10.1 Proposed Amendments

Any USA Water Polo member may propose an amendment to this Conduct of Championships by delivering the following to USA Water Polo's national office, attention Chief Executive Officer:

10.1(a) A copy of the entire section, as amended,

⁷ For example:

- (a) If a water polo club enters three female teams in the Championship Finals of the National Junior Olympics (one in each of the age groups) and four male teams in the Championship Finals of the National Junior Olympics (two in one age group and one each of two age groups), the water polo club could earn a maximum of one hundred three (103) points (six first places and one second place).
- (b) If a water polo club enters two teams in the Championship Finals of the Women's U.S. Open of Water Polo, the water polo club could earn a maximum of twenty-eight (28) points (one first place and one second place).

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- 10.1(b) A “redline” of the proposed amendment reflecting the text of the proposed amendment with any new language underlined and any deleted language lined through and
- 10.1(c) A brief explanation of the purpose and impact of the proposed amendment.

10.2 Approvals

Any proposed amendment to the Conduct of Championships shall be submitted to USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer for consideration. Any amendment approved by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer shall be effective on the date specified by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer.

APPENDIX A
PENALTY SHOOTOUT PROCEDURE

1. The shootout will commence immediately following the conclusion of the game, with the same referees as those who officiated the game.
2. Each team shall select five field players and a goal keeper to participate in the shootout. Players who have been excluded from the game are not eligible to participate in the shoot out. The five field players shall be placed on the scorekeeper's desk side of the pool, apart from the other members of the team participating in the shoot out.
3. The teams need not declare the order in which their five field players will shoot in advance, but the desk shall maintain a record of the order in which the five field players shoot. In the event that the shoot out is tied after the first round, the field players must shoot in the same order in the second and subsequent rounds.
4. In the event that the goalkeeper is excluded during the shoot out, a field player may substitute for the goal keeper with respect to the penalty shot being taken at the time of the exclusion, but such field player shall not have the privileges of the goal keeper. Following the taking of the penalty shot being taken at the time of the goal keeper's exclusion, the team may select a substitute goal keeper, who shall thereafter participate in the shoot out with the goal keeper's privileges.
5. In the event that a field player is excluded during the shoot out, the team may substitute another field player for the excluded field player.
6. The referees shall toss a coin to determine the shooting order, with the visiting team calling the coin toss.
7. All shots shall be taken at the goal to the right of the scorekeeper's table, as viewed from the scorekeeper's table, with the teams alternating shots until each team has taken five shots. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event, in the referees' judgment, it would further the competition to conduct the shoot out at the other goal, as, for example, if the sun were obscuring the goal keeper's vision at the goal to the right of the scorekeeper's table, the referees may direct that the shoot out take place at the goal to the left of the scorekeeper's table.
8. The team having its bench at the opposite end of the pool from which the shoot out is occurring may move to the middle of the pool during the shoot out.
9. In the event that the teams are tied after each team has taken five shots, the teams shall continue taking shots, with players taking shots in the same order that they shot in the first round until one team misses its shot and the other team scores on its shot, i.e., sudden death.

APPENDIX B

PROTEST FORM

Protestor Name _____	Protesting Team Name, Age & Gender: _____
Game Date: _____	Game Start Time: _____
Cell Phone Number: _____	Game Site: _____
Opponent Team Name, Age & Gender: _____	Opponent Coach: _____
Official #1: _____	Official #2: _____
Signature of receipt: _____	Date/Time Received: _____

PROTEST PROCEDURE

The referee shall record the ending time for each game on the official score sheet. The following procedures must be followed in order to protest a misapplication of the rules in a game:

1. The head coach of the team wishing to file a protest must file the protest within thirty (30) minutes of the game's ending time; provided that, if the protest is based upon a condition or circumstance known prior to the start of a game, the protest must be filed before the signal to start the game is given, at which point the individual receiving the protest shall notify the non-protesting coach that the game is being played under protest. Notwithstanding the lodging of a protest prior to the start of a game, the game will proceed at the scheduled time.
2. The team filing the protest must pay a one hundred dollar (\$100) cash protest fee concurrently with the filing of the protest. Upon the filing of the protest and payment of the protest fee, the individual receiving the protest and protest fee shall note that a protest was filed on the backside of the original score sheet.
3. All protests and protest filing fees must be delivered to the Site Director, if available. If the Site Director is not available, the protest may be filed with, and the protest fee paid to, the Lead Referee of the game in question.
3. The party filing the protest must describe the circumstances upon which the protest is based and why the party filing the protest believes that those circumstances involved a misapplication of the rules. All protests must be in writing and must utilize this Protest Form.
4. Following the filing of the protest and the payment of the protest fee, the party receiving the protest shall notify each of the following (if not the party receiving the protest) of the filing of the protest: (a) the Site Director, (b) the Lead Referee at the game site, or in his/her absence, the event's Head Referee(s) and (c) the Tournament Director.
5. The Lead Referee shall notify the opposing team's coach of the protest.
6. All protests shall be considered by the Championship Finals Management Committee (CFMC) and its decision shall be final.
7. If the protest is rejected, the protest fee shall be forfeited to the USA Water Polo National Office. If the protest is accepted, the protest fee shall be refunded.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT AND BASIS OF THE PROTEST
(Use back of page if necessary)

Protestor's Signature: