



## **RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR MASTERS NATIONALS**

1. Application of Rules. These rules are intended to apply solely to the conduct of the United States Water Polo Masters National Championship Tournament (the “Championships”). Other United States Water Polo (“USAWP”) sanctioned Masters tournaments may, to the extent that they deem it appropriate, adopt all or some of these rules.
2. Conduct of Championships.
  - 2.1. The Date of The Championships shall be set by the USA Water Polo National Office and the Host Local Organizing Committee.
  - 2.2. USAWP shall solicit its Zones and Masters clubs for the purposes of selecting a Host of the Championships and shall enter into a contract with the Host selected as a result of that process.
  - 2.3. The entry fee for the Championships shall be established by the USA Water Polo National Office and shall be stated on the Event Entry Form.
  - 2.4. Site and Host selection will be made exclusively by USAWP based on the receipt of qualified bids by the submission deadline set by USA Water Polo.
3. Definition of Masters Athlete. An athlete shall be eligible to compete as a Masters athlete in the USA Water Polo Masters Nationals if that athlete will attain the age of 20 years during the year in which the competition takes place.
4. United States Water Polo Rules. Except as otherwise provided in this Conduct of Championships for Masters Nationals, the water polo playing rules for the Championship shall be as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules as amended by FINA Masters rules.
5. Team Entries. Any USA Water Polo registered club may enter one or more teams in each gender and age group in the Championships.
  - 5.1. USA Water Polo shall prepare and post entry forms via the USA Water Polo online entry system no less than forty five (45) days prior to the entry deadline for the Championships. Entries must be received prior to the entry deadline of the Championships, as determined by the USA Water Polo National Office.
  - 5.2. On or before the entry deadline, all teams entering the Championships shall pay a minimum fifty percent (50%) of the established entry fee online to USA Water Polo. No later than 14 days prior to the commencement of the Championships, any remaining balance of the entry fee is due.

- 5.3. The roster deadline shall be fourteen (14) days prior to the start of the Championships.
  - 5.4. Any changes made through the National Roster Verification System after the Entry Deadline and prior to the first whistle of the first game of the Championships will incur a late roster fee.
  - 5.5. A competition shall be held in each gender/age group in which there are three or more entries. Each team shall be scheduled to play not less than three games during the Championships and, if a team is scheduled to play only three games, the entry fee for that team shall be reduced to 75% of the entry fee otherwise charged for that Championships. In the event that there is an age/gender group in which there are less than three entries, that age/gender group may, at the discretion of the Host, play one or more games against teams of the same gender in the next younger group provided that such games shall not be counted for the purposes of advancement or placement in the Championships.
  - 5.6. USA Water Polo in conjunction with the Host Local Organizing Committee shall seed all teams entered in each gender/age group based upon, among other criteria, each team's placement in the prior year's Championships.
6. Athlete Eligibility.
    - 6.1. All athletes competing in the Championships must be current USA Water Polo Gold level members.
    - 6.2. All athletes 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 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.
    - 6.3. Prior to each game of the Championships, all athletes must present an acceptable photo identification card. Acceptable photo identification cards include, but are not necessarily limited to, USA Water Polo membership cards, driver's licenses, passports or other immigration documentation. Athletes 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.
    - 6.4. Athletes who fail to present an acceptable photo identification card will not be allowed to compete.
7. Team Rosters.
    - 7.1. No later than 14 days prior to the commencement of the Championships, all participating teams shall submit a roster through the USA Water Polo online National Roster Verification System.
    - 7.2. The team shall consist of seven players one of who shall be the goal keeper and who shall wear the goal keeper cap, and not more than eight reserves; roster max is 15 athletes.

- 7.3. All rosters must have a designated Head Coach who has completed all coaching requirements set forth by USA Water Polo. In the event the Head Coach is also playing, then s/he will need to be listed as an athlete on the verified roster.
- 7.4. Teams may make changes to their rosters following the roster deadline provided that: (a) all such changes must be made prior to the first whistle of the first game of the Championships and (b) each time that a team opens a roster to make a change or changes, a late roster fee will be incurred. Changes made 0–7 days after Roster Deadline will incur a \$100 fee. Changes made after 8-14 days, with respect to article 5.4, will incur a \$150.00 fee.
- 7.5. Athletes may compete in as many age groups in each competition as they desire; provided that:
- (a) they may only be listed on the roster of one team, and compete for one team, in each age group;
  - (b) they may not compete for more than two clubs; and
  - (c) they may only compete for two clubs if their primary club does not enter a team in the gender/age group for which the athlete competes for the other club.
- 7.6. Women athletes may be members of men's teams.
- 7.7. A team must have at least 7 players present, including a goal keeper who shall wear the goal keeper's cap, ready and able to play no later than the time at which each game is scheduled to commence. In the event that the number of eligible players on a team falls below seven players during the course of a game, the team need not designate one of its players as a goal keeper.
8. Age Groups.
- 8.1. The age of the youngest member of the team determines the age group of the team. There are no restrictions on the ages of any player older than the youngest player on the team.
- 8.2. The age groups shall be in five or ten year increments as determined by entries. Athletes shall be eligible to compete in any age group provided that they have reached the youngest age in that age group prior to or on December 31 of the year in which the Championship is being held.
9. Field of Play. The field of play shall not be less than 23 yards and not more than 25 meters, as measured from the face of one goal to the face of the other goal, in length. The field of play shall be not less than 17 meters nor more than 25 yards in width.
10. Forfeits. If a team declares a forfeit or is disqualified for one (1) or more matches, the match or matches shall be awarded to the opponent with a goal score 5 – 0. Team will incur a \$250 forfeit fee.
11. Classification of Teams. The classification of teams in the Preliminary Round will be made on points namely two (2) points for each win, one (1) point for each tie, and zero (0) points for each loss.

12. Tie Break System. In the event that two or more teams are tied for purposes of advancement to a medal round of play or for placement, further classification shall be established by FINA tiebreaker rule BL6.4.1.2.1 and BL6.4.1.2.2.

13. Shot Clock. A 35 second shot clock shall be used for all age/gender games.

14. Length of Period. For the Championships, the duration of a water polo game shall consist of four quarters. Each quarter shall consist of the following minutes of play time:

| <b>Championship:</b> | <b>Length of Period:</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 20+                  | 7 minutes                |
| 30+                  | 7 minutes                |
| 40+                  | 7 minutes                |
| 45+                  | 7 minutes                |
| 50+, and older       | 6 minutes                |

15. Interval Time. There shall be a two minute interval between each period of play, including half time. Teams shall change ends prior to the start of the third period of play and the second period of any overtime.

16. Shootout. In the event that a game is tied at the end of regulation, the game shall be determined by a penalty shootout, which shall be conducted in accordance with the USA Water Polo rules then in effect except that:

16.1. Both teams shall shoot at the same goal

16.2. Teams scheduled to play the next game shall be permitted to warm up at the end of the pool opposite the goal at which the shootout is taking place so as not to delay the start of the next game.

17. Awards. Individual awards shall be provided for each team (up to 15) finishing the first, second and third place in each gender/age group.

18. All American Teams.

18.1. There shall be an All-American Team for each gender/age group competing in the Championships.

18.2. Each All-American Team shall consist of fifteen athletes, who shall be selected as follows:

| <b>Tournament Finish</b> | <b>All-American allotment</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place    | 6 athletes                    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place    | 4 athletes                    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place    | 3 athletes                    |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> place    | 2 athletes                    |

18.3. In the event that there are only three teams competing in a gender/age group, the coach of the first and second place teams shall each nominate one (1) additional athlete.