



Western Australian  
Underwater Hockey Commission

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# BY LAWS

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. These by laws supplement the Rules of the Western Australian Underwater Hockey Commission Incorporated (“WAUWH”) otherwise known as the Constitution (“the Constitution”). In the event of an inconsistency between these by laws and the Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail.

## 2. AIMS

2.1. WAUWH acts as the peak state body for underwater hockey in Western Australia in accordance with the Constitution.

2.2. The core aim and purpose of WAUWH is to promote fairness, inclusiveness and safety, and foster the development of the sport of underwater hockey in Western Australia.

## 3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1. Any person that meets the following criteria is a member of WAUWH:

- Current membership with the Australian Underwater Federation (“the AUF”);
- Current membership with an affiliated Western Australian underwater hockey club; and
- That person’s membership with WAUWH has not been terminated pursuant to the Constitution or these by laws.

3.2. All players participating in a sanctioned WAUWH competition or event must be a member of AUF/WAUWH, however interstate players who are not registered members of WAUWH may participate in WAUWH competitions/events if they are members of the AUF.

## 4. MEMBER CONDUCT

4.1. All members are bound by a Code of Behaviour as determined by WAUWH (“the WAUWH Code of Behaviour”) set out in Appendix 1.

4.2. Members of WAUWH must abide by the Code of Behaviour at all times when representing WAUWH (not limited to during training sessions, games, national and international competitions, social competitions, events, and functions).

## 5. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

5.1 WAUWH will take disciplinary action in accordance with the Constitution.

5.2 The Constitution stipulates that one of the grounds for disciplinary action is where a member has engaged in conduct 'prejudicial' to the Association. The following amounts to conduct that is prejudicial to WAUWH:

5.1.1. Breach of (neglect or refusal to comply with) the WAUWH Code of Behaviour;

5.1.2. Behaviour and/or conduct that detracts from WAUWH's good reputation at any time the member is representing WAUWH; and/or

5.1.3. Abusive, threatening, intimidating, harassing or insulting language, conduct or behaviour towards another member, player, supporter or official presiding at a club, local, state or national underwater hockey event, forum or function.

## **6. AFFILIATED CLUBS**

6.1. To be an affiliated Western Australian underwater hockey club, a club must meet the following criteria:

- a) Have at least 6 current members;
- b) Have paid the WAUWH affiliation fee of \$100; and
- c) All members to be AUF members (financial) for the period of the year that the club is active.

6.2. Each affiliated Western Australian underwater hockey club must nominate a member of their club to act at the club's representative.

6.3. Each club representative is to report to WAUWH the details of any incidents or injury in club events to the Secretary of WAUWH.

6.4. Each Club is to have in place a system to ensure that players who are not club members, who attend that club's games, competitions and/or training are AUF members (financial).

## **7. STATE TEAMS**

### **State Team Officials**

7.1. Nominations for State Team Manager(s) shall be called for 7 months prior to the scheduled date for the Australian Underwater Hockey Championships and the position shall be decided upon by the WAUWH Committee 28 days thereafter.

7.2. Nominations for State Team Coaches and Selectors shall be called for 6 months prior to the scheduled date for the Australian Underwater Hockey Championships and the positions shall be decided upon by the WAUWH Committee 28 days thereafter.

7.3. Those nominating for official positions shall submit to the WAUWH Committee a curriculum vitae, and/or application detailing their experience, in support of their nomination. Any positions not filled shall be re-advertised.

7.4. All state team members shall share the following costs:

- (a) Playing coaches 50% airfare and 50% accommodation.
- (b) Non playing coaches 100% airfare and 100% accommodation plus:

- Bathers;
- WA t-shirt; and
- entry into one event.

(c) Managers 100% airfare and 100% accommodation plus:

- WA t-shirt;
- entry into one event;
- hire car; and
- other incidentals they incur doing the job.

7.5 In addition to the costs at clause 7.4, junior state team members shall share the following chaperone costs:

- 100% airfare and 100% accommodation;
- WA t-shirt; and
- entry into junior social functions.

7.6. If any of the positions are shared, the cost equivalent of one position only will be covered by the state team(s). However, two State Team Manager positions will be funded where there are 6 or more Western Australian teams entered into the Australian Underwater Hockey Championships.

7.7 Airfare costs are set based on average cost of airfares 3 months prior to the commencement of the Australian Underwater Hockey Championships. Accommodation costs apply to the duration of the Australian Underwater Hockey Championships only.

### **State Team Selectors**

7.8. A selection panel consisting of three people (“the state team selectors), one of whom is the team coach shall be appointed by the WAUWH Committee prior to the trials.

7.9. The state team coach must set the selection criteria to be followed by the selectors when selecting players trialling for a position in the state team.

7.10. The state team coach will provide the selectors with all relevant information and instructions prior to the trial date.

7.11. The state team coach(es) must brief all players trialling on the selection criteria for a position in the state team prior to the commencement of the trial(s).

7.12. A coach is not eligible to comment on the selection of a family member, partner or themselves.

7.13. The state team coach(es) shall inform WAUWH of the selectors’ decision on the state team(s) within one week of the conclusion of the selection trials.

### **General**

7.14. All players trialling for state team selection must be current members of WAUWH and comply with the residency requirements in the Underwater Hockey Australia (“UHA”) By-laws.

7.15. State team selections trials will only take place for teams that have an appointed State Team Coach.

7.16. State team selection trials shall include at least 2 in-water selection trials.

7.17. The dates of the 2 in-water selection trials shall be advertised 6 months prior to the scheduled date for the Australian Underwater Hockey Championships.

7.18. The 2 in-water selection trials are to take place between 4.5 months and 4 months prior to the scheduled date for the Australian Underwater Hockey Championships.

7.19. An optional 3<sup>rd</sup> in-water selection trial may be organised by the individual state team coach(es) in consultation with the WAUWH Committee and must be advertised at least 14 days prior to the date of the optional 3<sup>rd</sup> in-water trial.

7.20. Subject to (a) and (b) below, all WAUWH members intending to trial for state team selection must submit their nomination in writing no later than the date of the 1st in-water selection trial.

(a) A WAUWH member may lodge a late nomination prior to the state team being selected, subject to paying a late penalty; and

(b) The late penalty is to be determined by the WAUWH and is to be advertised at the same time that the 2 in-water selection trials are advertised.

7.21. All WAUWH members intending to trial for state team selection must pay a deposit to the state team manager no later than the date of the 1st in-water selection trial.

7.22. Failure to pay a deposit as required or to make appropriate arrangements in writing with the state team manager, may result in the registered members’ non-selection.

7.23. The state team manager will determine the deposit amount required to be paid and will notify members of the deposit amount at the same time that the WAUWH committee advertises the dates of the selection trials.

7.24. If a registered member is unsuccessful in selection, all deposits paid by that registered member shall be refunded to them in full.

7.25. A player who is unable to attend the predetermined trial dates must submit a written application to the WAUWH Committee as their nomination for selection on the state team. A player who is unable to attend the state team trials and has submitted a written application for nomination to the state team (“the nominee”), prior to the trials being held, may be provided with an opportunity to trial at a time mutually agreed upon by the WAUWH Committee, the state team selectors and the nominee.

7.26. If a player is successful in attaining a position in the State Team, has paid in part or in full the associated costs for the event but is unable to play, they must notify the State Team Manager as soon as possible to recover costs. Players should be aware that some costs may not be recoverable. These matters are for discussion between the player, State Team Manager and WAUWH Committee, with the WAUWH Committee being responsible for final decisions regarding costs that are/not recoverable.

7.27. The announcement of the state team(s) shall be made by WAUWH within one week of the conclusion of the state team trials.

7.28. After a state team has been announced, if it comprises of 10 players or less, selection trials for that team may be re-opened at the discretion of the coach and in consultation with the WAUWH Committee, provided that:

- a) the same selection criteria outlined prior to selection trials is applied;
- b) the players already selected remain in the team and do not need to re-apply;
- c) notice of the date of the re-opening of the selection trial is provided by WAUWH to WAUWH members 28 days prior to the date of the re-opened selection trial.

## **8. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **Aim and purpose of State Championships**

8.1 State Championships is a competition for WAUWH members that promotes participation, inclusion, and development of the sport at all levels. Its central aim is to be fun, competitive and fair for participants.

### **All participants to abide by WAUWH Code of Behaviour**

8.2 All WAUWH members, players, officials and supporters participating in State Championships overseen by the WAUWH Committee must abide by the WAUWH Code of Behaviour.

### **Teams and Grading**

8.3 No less than 30 days prior the State championships, WAUWH shall notify its members of the nature of the teams and grading to apply to State championships in that year.

8.4 Clubs must notify the WAUWH Committee of their intention to enter teams into the State championships one month prior to the event.

8.5 Clubs must have their team lists approved by the WAUWH Committee at least two weeks prior to State Championships, unless exceptional circumstances apply whereby the WAUWH Committee may approve additions to a team no later than one week prior to the competition commencing.

8.6 Players can contact the WAUWH Committee to be placed in a team when there is not a place for them to play with their preferred club team.

8.7 In the event that the State championships grading is to comprise of A-grade and B-grade divisions:

- a. A-grade players are those that have played at an elite level in a representative state or national team) within the past 3 years;
- b. B-grade level players can play in an A-grade team, however, A-grade level players cannot play in the B-grade division unless exceptional circumstances apply ; and

- c. Approval must be granted by the WAUWH committee before an A-grade player is allowed to play in B-grade on the basis of exceptional circumstances. Even with the application of exceptional circumstances, no more than two A-Grade players are allowed to play in any B-Grade side.

8.8 Players at State Championships must be WAUWH members, be members of an affiliated club who they are playing for at State Championships and must either be a current or former resident of WA. Former residents must have resided in WA for 12 consecutive months or more.

8.9 Affiliated clubs may include international or interstate players (non-resident individuals) in accordance with the UHA By-laws, as follows:

8.9.1 The WAUWH Committee will grant permission for non-resident individuals to play for an affiliated club at State Championships in the following circumstances:

8.9.1.1 Where a club team has **less than ten** players that team will be permitted to include a maximum of two non-resident players; and

8.9.1.2 Where the WAUWH committee considers that inclusion of non-resident player(s) in a club team would:

- a) benefit the competition as a whole; and
- b) encourage development of players; and
- c) maintain the integrity of the sport; and
- d) ensure fairness and equity within the competition and the promotion of the sport in WA.

8.10 A composite (e.g. Barbarians) team that does not meet the player eligibility requirements may participate in State Championships but will not be eligible for finals or medals unless the Captains of all teams in the relevant division agree that the composite/Barbarian team is eligible for finals and/or medals.

### **B-Section Rules for State Championships**

8.11 A player or official who breaches the UWHWA Code of Behaviour during the State championships may be reported by any player or official to the President, Secretary, Treasurer or Games Commissioner of UWHWA during the event.

8.12 On receipt of a report, the President, Secretary, Treasurer or Games Commissioner shall, in conjunction with another member whose role is the President, Secretary, Treasurer or Games Commissioner:

- a) Notify the offending individual(s) that they have been reported and the nature of the report;
- b) Take immediate action to have the offender(s) removed from the facility; or
- c) Caution the offender(s).

8.13 Within 60 minutes of receipt of the report, the UWHWA Chief Referee (or the Games Commissioner in the absence the Chief Referee) shall convene a tribunal for the purpose of dealing with the report, with the following people present:

- a) The Offender;
- b) The Captain of the Offender's Team;
- c) The Person making the Report;
- d) Any Witnesses;
- e) The UWHWA Chief Referee (or the Games Commissioner in the absence the Chief Referee); and
- f) Two of the following members: President, Secretary, Treasurer or Games Commissioner.

8.14 The Chief Referee (or the Games Commissioner in the absence the Chief Referee) and two members of the President, Secretary, Treasurer or Games Commissioner shall constitute the tribunal, and upon hearing all relevant details, shall decide upon an appropriate course of action to deal with the reported misconduct. Where any individual is found guilty of one of the infractions listed below, the minimum penalties below apply to the tribunal's decision:

Misconduct Action	Minimum Penalty
Verbal abuse of a Referee	1 game point
Physically 'handling' a Referee or an UWHWA official	2 game points and referred to UWHWA for further disciplinary action
Striking any member	3 game points and referred to UWHWA for further disciplinary action
Striking any member of the public	5 game points and referred to UWHWA for further disciplinary action

8.15 The CMAS International Rules for Underwater Hockey (latest edition) otherwise applies to the State Championships.

## 9. UWHWA POLICIES

There are various WAUWH policy documents, which sit under the WAUWH Rules, these By-Laws and the WAUWH Code of Behaviour, and provide further guidance to members, officials, players and supporters regarding:

- appropriate and proper conduct
- regulation of the sport
- expectations and responsibilities of participants and
- processes and procedures for raising issues with the WAUWH.

## 10. SECTION "B" RULES (for inter-club penant competitions)

9.1 If during the play the puck gets caught behind the goal tray, the referees shall stop play, position the puck 5 metres directly out from the back wall where the puck was caught and resume play with an equal puck.

9.2 Once playing time for a game has commenced and there are a minimum of four players of either team in the water then the referees, at their discretion, will signal the start of play.

9.3 Teams playing the last game are responsible for removing and storing the goal trays and side walls after the game i.e. one goal per team).

9.4 A minimum of four registered players are required to make up a team, otherwise the team will forfeit the match.

9.5 Players may play a total of five (5) games in teams they are not registered in.

9.6 Players are not permitted to play in a grade lower than their registered grade.

9.7 Players may not play for another team in their registered grade.

9.8 Players may play in a grade higher than their registered grade if the team requesting that person to play doesn't have a team of six (6) players, otherwise permission of the opposing team's Captain must be gained.

9.9 Players must have played a minimum of six games for their registered team during the penant to be eligible to play in the finals. Players who have played at least one game in a higher graded team than their registered team may play for that team subject to 9.8.



**APPENDIX 1**  
**UWHWA Code of Behaviour**

1. This Code of Behaviour specifically applies to and binds all WAUWH members.
2. This Code of Behaviour also provides guidance in relation to the expected behaviour and proper conduct of players, officials and supporters.
3. WAUWH members, players, officials and supporters shall abide by the spirit and positive values of the game of underwater hockey including those of fair play, respect, tolerance, equity, and the maintenance of a high standard of personal behaviour and integrity at any time they are representing the WAUWH (i.e. during training sessions, game nights, social functions, attendance at interstate or national competitions etc) and/or attending WAUWH sanctioned events or competitions, or any events or competitions run by recognised clubs in WA.
4. WAUWH members must abide by the Australian sports drug code.
5. WAUWH members, players, officials and supporters will not use any form of profanity.
6. WAUWH members, players, officials and supporters must respect the rights, dignity, and worth of each and every person involved in the sport and will not intimidate, offend, insult or humiliate another player on the grounds of age, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability (sensory, mental or physical handicap), race, colour, marital or parental status, political ideology, economic disadvantage, and ancestry, national or ethnic origin.
7. WAUWH members, players, officials and supporters must accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
8. WAUWH members, players, officials and supporters will show respect and courtesy to the referee and match officials, and respond promptly to any rulings, decisions or requests they make whether before, during or after a match.
9. WAUWH members, players, officials and supporters must not engage in a physical attack or assault, including but not limited to, the laying of a hand upon, pushing, shoving, striking, or kicking of any official, participant, coach, team representative, or spectator.
10. WAUWH members, players, officials and supporters will endeavour at all times to be mindful of safety concerns involving themselves and other members during the course of training, competition and non-competitive activities.
11. WAUWH members, players, officials and supporters will not damage or deface any WAUWH sanctioned facilities.
12. WAUWH members will not use deliberately rough tactics during a game against the body or person of an opposing participant.
13. WAUWH members, players, officials and supporters must not use abusive, threatening, intimidating, harassing or insulting language, conduct or behaviour towards another person.
14. Members shall respect and play within the laws and regulations that govern the sport of Underwater hockey as set out by the Confédération Mondiale Des Activités Subaquatiques (CMAS) or as interpreted by UHA or the WAUWH Committee.
15. If any party breaches this code of conduct, the WAUWH Committee may:

- a) Provide a written warning to the alleged offender; and/or
- b) Inform UHA of the alleged conduct and any concerns regarding the conduct and/or behaviour of WAUWH members, players, officials and/or supporters; and/or
- c) Where the alleged offending conduct concerns a WAUWH member, take disciplinary action in accordance with the Constitution.