



14U & 16U WPW BC Provincial Championships Handbook

Water Polo West Provincial Championships

April 10–12, 2026

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About Water Polo West

Water Polo West (WPW) is the official governing body for the sport of water polo in British Columbia. We are a member of Water Polo Canada (WPC), the National Sport Organization (NSO) for water polo in Canada, and as such represent and advocate for the needs of the water polo community at the national level. WPW is recognized by both Sport BC and the Government of BC as the voice for water polo in British Columbia.

Vision

To facilitate a world-class and collaborative water polo community in British Columbia.

Pre-Tournament Technical Meeting

A mandatory technical meeting for coaches and referees will take place with the Head Referee (HR) up to one prior to the competition; the exact date and time of this technical meeting is subject to change pending the availability of the RIC and other applicable WPW stakeholders. One coach representative from each participating club is required to attend. Failure to attend will result in a \$200 CAD fine to the club.

Preamble

The following Handbook will govern the Rules and Regulations for the following competition:

WPW Provincial Championships. April 10 to 12, 2026

Rules and Regulations

- 1) There are four (4) categories for this event, as listed below. There are no coed categories. This event follows the WPW Equity and Inclusion Policy.
 - a) 16U boys (born between 2010-2011)
 - b) 16U girls (born between 2010-2011)
 - c) 14U boys (born between 2012-2015)
 - d) 14U boys (born between 2012-2015)
- 2) Provincial Championships are open to Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada, and residents of another country who are living continuously in Canada under a travel, student, or work visa (including children) and who are registered with Water Polo Canada (WPC) in the correct registrant category and in good standing with their club and Water Polo West (WPW).
- 3) Participants shall be understood to include players, coaches, referees, managers, minor officials, and volunteers.
- 4) All participants must be registered in good standing with their club, WPW, and WPC.
- 5) Referees and coaches must be registered in WPC's National Registration System.
- 6) All other participants – chaperones, team managers, non-paid minor officials, or general volunteers – must be recorded in the “Volunteer” registration category and listed in the WPC's National Registration System
- 7) Entry Format
 - a) A team wishing to enter the Provincial Championships must be affiliated with a registered Club in good standing with WPW and WPC.
 - b) All clubs wishing to enter a team must register the team in the manner prescribed by WPW.
- 8) Tournament Format
 - a) The format of the tournament will be determined after tournament registration has finished, and the number of participating teams is known.

9) Competition Rules

- a) WPW will implement the most current version of the World Aquatics (WAQ) Competition Regulations for water polo (found [here](#)). Modifications will be made as described in this document, or at the technical meeting.
- b) There will be no Video Assistant Referee (VAR).
- c) The field of play will be 25-metres less the depth of the goals.
- d) Flying substitution area will be used if the 0.5m of minimum space is provided.
- e) Rosters may contain up to sixteen (16) athletes.
- f) In addition to the methodology allowed in WAQ Competition Regulations, this tournament will adopt the WPC modification for goaltender substitutions:
 - i. One goalie must be listed on the starting list in 6-8 and needs to start the game in the water.
 - ii. If a team has only one goalkeeper, they can make substitutions at any time in between any quarters (or at any time on the bench, if playing with seven field players); To prevent unnecessary delays, no substitution for switching goalie cap and field player cap is allowed during timeouts or after a goal in the field of play; Cap switching can occur for injuries at any time with permission of the referee, following new procedures
 - iii. If a team has two goalies, they can change any time as described in the rules. Substitutions between one of the goalie caps and a field player can take place as described above in 9.f.ii; The substitute goalie can change anytime on the bench with a field player.
 - iv. All substitutions need to be communicated to the referee clearly, since cap switches on the bench may be difficult to identify.
 - v. Any number can be worn by a goalie, provided it is red cap and meets all other requirements as described in the rules.
- g) WAQ tie breaking procedure will be applied and is transcribed below for reference only

- Each match must have a winner at its conclusion, being either:
 - (1) the team with the most Goals at the end of the fourth Period; or
 - (2) If the teams have an equal number of Goals at the end of the fourth Period, the match will proceed to a Penalty Shootout.
- If the format uses a ground stage format, points will be awarded for matches as follows:
 - (1) Match won at the end of the fourth Period = 3 points.
 - (2) Match won after a Penalty Shootout = 2 points.
 - (3) Match lost after a Penalty Shootout = 1 point.
 - (4) Match lost at the end of the fourth Period = 0 points.
- In any group stage, or other scenario where teams are ranked according to the outcome of matches, each team's placing will be determined by:
 - (1) the total number of points accumulated from the matches played within that group or relevant stage; and
- If one (1) or more team has an equal number of points, the positions of those teams will be determined in accordance with the tie-breaking rules.
- A 'tie' occurs where two (2) or more teams have an equal number of points at the conclusion of a group stage where the teams are ranked.
- If there is more than one tie, the highest placed tie will be determined first (and so on in descending order, until all
- ties have been determined.
- If two (2) teams are tied:
 - (1) first, their positions will be determined by the points accumulated only in the matches between those two (2) teams;
 - (2) second, if still tied, their positions will be determined by each team's Goal Difference only in the matches between those two (2) teams; and
 - (3) Third, if still tied, their positions will be decided by a coin-toss.
- If three (3) or more teams are tied, their positions will be determined:

- (1) first, their positions will be determined by the points accumulated by each tied team in only the matches between those tied teams;
 - (2) second, if there is still a tie between two (2) or more teams, the remaining tied teams' positions will be determined by each team's Goal Difference in all matches;
 - (3) third, if there is still a tie between two (2) or more teams, the remaining tied teams' positions will be determined by the number of Goals scored by each team in all matches;
 - (4) fourth, if there is still a tie between two (2) or more teams, the remaining tied teams' positions will be determined considering matches played against the highest placed team that was originally tied, as follows:
 - first, by the points accumulated in matches against that highest placed team;
 - second, if any tie(s) remains, by considering each team's Goal Difference in matches against that highest place team;
 - third, if any tie(s) remains, by considering the number of Goals scored by each team against that highest placed team;
- fourth, if any tie(s) remains, by the points accumulated against the second highest placed team that was originally tied. If necessary, remaining ties will be determined by the points accumulated by the next (third) highest placed team that was originally tied (and then fourth, and so on in descending order until all ties have been resolved); and
- If any tie(s) remains, and there is no practical manner to determine the ranking, the remaining tied teams' positions will be decided by coin-toss.
- For the avoidance of doubt, when considering points, Goal Difference and Goals in this procedure:
 - (1) the higher the number of points or Goals/ Goal Difference, the higher the team will place;
 - (2) Goals scored in any Penalty Shootout will be excluded in Goal totals;
 - (3) Goal Difference is as defined in Appendix 10 and, accordingly, in each case excludes Goals scored in Shootouts; and

- (4) References to matches in the tie-breaking procedures of this section are to matches in the Penalty relevant group or other stage where the tie occurred.

10) Team Composition

- a) Three (3) staff members are permitted to sit on the bench during the game; all must appear on the team roster. This includes one (1) Head Coach and up to two (2) Assistant Coaches.
- b) Rosters will consist of a minimum of nine (9) and a maximum of sixteen (16) athletes.
- c) Teams that do not have the minimum number of players and one coach at the game start time will be considered to have forfeited. The resulting score will be 5-0, and the offending team will be issued a \$200 penalty.
- d) Players and coaches who are not present at the game start time are not eligible to play or coach, except with permission of the referee.

11) Player Eligibility

- a) Players are required to be in good standing with their club, WPW, and WPC.
- b) Players are required to be registered in WPC's National Registration System.
 - Players should be registered in one of the 1) Water Polo for Life or the 2) Perform in Water Polo membership categories.

12) Game Format

- a) 14U games shall consist of four (4) quarters of six (6) minute stop time.
 - Boys' games will be played with a size four (4) ball.
 - Girls' games will be played with a size four (4) ball.
- b) 16U games shall consist of four (4) quarters of seven (7) minutes stop time.
 - Boys' games will be played with a size five (5) ball.
 - Girls' games will be played with a size four (4) ball.
- c) There shall be a two-minute interval between the first and second periods and between the third and fourth periods and a three-minute interval between the second and third periods. The teams shall change ends before starting the third period.
- d) Stop time will be used throughout the game, unless a ten (10)-goal differential is reached. If the goal differential is ten (10) goals or greater, run time will be used for the rest of the game for all situations, except timeouts. If the time clock and possession

clock are not able to run asynchronously, then run time will be used after goals only.

13) All games will require a definite winner. The World Aquatics shootout procedure will be applied using five (5) shooters.

14) Discipline

- a) WPW shall form a tournament committee (the committee), to handle all disciplinary and technical matters for the event.
- b) The committee shall consist of three individuals:
 - the head referee,
 - the Executive Director of WPW, and
 - the President of WPW.
- c) The Executive Director and President may assign a replacement for their position on the committee, at their discretion.
- d) The committee has the power to issue suspensions to athletes and coaches up to the duration of the tournament.
- e) The committee can review video footage of any incident from the official live stream.
- f) The committee will review any red card, violent action, or misconduct occurring during a game.
- g) The committee may initiate a review of any suspected violent action that was missed or not appropriately sanctioned.
- h) Reviews of violent actions may be requested by participating teams by using the protest method as listed below. The money required will be returned if additional sanctions are issued as a result of the request.

15) Protests

- a) The Tournament Committee shall be responsible for the handling of protests.
- b) The decisions of the Tournament Committee are final and cannot be appealed.
- c) Teams may only protest a technical error. A technical error does not include a judgement call made by a referee regarding the interpretation of a rule.
- d) The technical error must have reasonably affected the outcome of the

game.

- e) All protests must be submitted in writing to executivedirector@waterpolowest.ca within thirty (30) minutes of the game end time. All protests must be accompanied by \$200 CAD cash, which will be returned to the applicant if the protest is successful.

16) Code of Conduct

- a) The [WPW Code of Conduct & Disciplinary Procedure](#) shall govern all matters pertaining to any conduct and/or discipline issues occurring related to the competition.

17) Appeals

- a) The [WPW Appeals Policy](#) shall govern all matters pertaining to any decision being appealed.

18) In the case that there is no acting permanent Executive Director of WPW, all Rules and Regulations which are herein directed to the Executive Director of WPW will instead be directed to the Interim Executive Director of WPW.

- a) If the Interim Executive Director of WPW is unavailable due to unforeseen or extraneous circumstances, all Rules and Regulations which are herein directed to the Executive Director of WPW will instead be directed to the President of the Board of Directors of WPW.