

Competition By-laws

November 2011 Edition



Victorian Water Polo Incorporated

COMPETITION BY-LAWS

Preamble:

These By-laws apply to the conduct of Competitions run under the auspice of Victorian Water Polo Incorporated (VWPI). Except where specifically required to the contrary the definitions in the Rules of VWPI shall apply with the same meaning in these By-laws. VWPI's Competitions shall be classified as being of "Championship Length" or "Short Competitions" and these By-laws shall apply to both classifications of competition for inter-club matches. Any references in *italics* relate specifically to the "Short Competitions". The Board may from time to time determine that there be special competitions for registered players other than those involving inter-club matches.

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1. Competition Structure

- 1.1 VWPI competitions shall be conducted in grades.
- 1.2 The Senior Competition shall be held in two divisions. These shall be Division 1 and Division 2.
 - 1.2.1 The senior grade shall be known as State League One (SL1) and subsequent grades as State League Two (SL2), State League 3 (SL3) etc.
 - 1.2.2 The Board may also schedule a "Junior" competition for men or women within Division 1 where the age eligibility will be defined by AWPI.
 - 1.2.3 Only a Division 1 Club may compete in State League One (SL1).
 - 1.2.4 Division 2 shall consist of as many grades as required by team entries.
- 1.3 From time to time the Board may determine that there shall also be special Under-Age (younger than Junior) or school based competitions as part of its competitions. These competitions may be conducted separate from or in conjunction with the Senior Competition.
- 1.4 Division 1 competitions will be separate for men and women. A club may be a Division 1 Men's or Division 1 Women's Club (or both) providing it meets all of the following criteria:
 - 1.4.1 Fields a State League 1 Team
 - 1.4.2 Fields a State League 2 Team
 - 1.4.3 Fields a Junior Team
 - 1.4.4 For a single gender Division 1 Club field a minimum of two teams in the previous Under-Age Competition (currently Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 Girls or Under 16 Boys)
 - 1.4.5 For a Division 1 Club in both men and women, field a minimum of three teams in the previous Under-Age competition (currently Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 Girls or Under 16 Boys)
- 1.5 Any Club that does not meet all the criteria for a Division 1 Club will be deemed to be Division 2 Club (a Club may have different statuses for men and women)
- 1.6 A non-Division 1 Club may participate in either State League 2 or Junior grades or both, if, in the opinion of the Competitions Director, to do so will either strengthen the level of competition in that grade or will provide a pathway for a club to achieve a Division 1 status in the near future. The Board will consider the recommendation of the Competitions Director. The decision of the Competitions Director and the Board will be re-assessed prior to the start of each competition.
- 1.7 One or more clubs may form a partnership or "merge" to create a "club" to satisfy these conditions. Any proposal is to be submitted in writing to the Competitions Director for consideration by the Board at least seven days prior to the due date of Team Entries for a given competition.

1.8 The Competitions Director shall grade all teams. The Competitions Director may conduct qualifying matches or otherwise promote and/or relegate teams at his/her sole discretion.

1.8.1 The Competitions Director may conduct matches immediately following a season or immediately before a season to assist in determining which teams are to be promoted or relegated between the grades.

1.8.2 Players shall be eligible to play for a particular team in a qualifying match if they are properly registered at the time of the qualifying match.

1.8.3 Any club wanting to be promoted or relegated must request this of the Competitions Director within two weeks prior to the due date of Team Entries for a given competition.

1.9 The following rules will apply to Under-Age based competitions conducted separately from the Senior Competition:

1.9.1 Except where specifically required to the contrary, any Under-Age competition shall be treated as a separate competition. However the principles outlined in these By-laws shall automatically apply to the conduct of any Under-Age competitions.

1.9.2 The Board shall determine the age limit for players in any Under-Age competitions.

1.9.3 Referees for Under-Age competitions are encouraged to protect players in possession of the ball and encourage forward ball movement rather than applying strict application of the rules of water polo (ie. "lighter" fouls to be given to inexperienced players in possession of the ball).

1.9.4 The Board may establish specialist roles or sub-committees to assist with the planning or conduct of Under-Age competitions.

1.9.5 By Law 4.3.2 does not apply.

1.9.6 Eligibility for finals in Under Age competitions will be the same as By Law 4.3.3.

2. Team Entries

2.1 2.1 There shall be no restrictions on the number of teams entered by any Club into the Senior Competition.

2.2 The Board may refuse to accept team entries from clubs that are in breach of, or have in the past regularly and frequently breached the By-laws.

2.2.1 The Board will not accept Team Entries from Clubs with any outstanding balance greater than 90 days unless the Board has accepted repayment arrangements.

2.3 The name, address and telephone number of a team manager, who must be a registered member of VWPI, must accompany each team entry.

2.4 The Board shall have the power to establish special State Squads to compete in its competitions.

2.4.1 State Squads shall not be eligible to participate in the final series.

2.4.2 A player's participation in State squad matches shall not affect the player's eligibility (see By-law 4) to play in other matches in the competition.

2.5 The Board may also conduct masters or veterans based competitions or designate any grade as either a masters or veterans grade. The age eligibility criteria for such grades will be determined by the Competitions Director and specified when requesting Team Entries.

2.6 Team Entry Fees

2.6.1 Team entry fees shall be as determined by the Board from time to time (see Schedule One). Payment shall be made at the time Team Entry Forms for that competition are lodged at the VWPI Office.

2.7 Game Fees

2.7.1 Game fees shall be as determined by the Board from time to time (see Schedule One).

2.7.2 Non-payment of game fees in accordance with Schedule One will result in the offending team's club being fined as per Schedule One. Failure to pay within four weeks of the instalment date shall result in suspension of the club.

2.8 Penalties for a Club Withdrawing a Team

2.8.1 A club withdrawing a team must advise the VWPI Office in writing.

2.8.2 A club may withdraw a team up to seven days after the close of Team Entries without penalty.

2.8.3 A club withdrawing a team more than seven days after the close of Team Entries will be considered to have forfeited all remaining matches.

3. Registration of Players

3.1 General

3.1.1 All applications for registrations, transfers, second claims and special permits shall be on VWPI approved form(s) and shall be lodged with the prescribed fee(s) with the VWPI Office two working days before the match in which a player wishes to participate. Notwithstanding the provisions of By-law 3.1.1 the provisions of By-law 2.1 continue.

3.1.2 If the form and payment are not lodged within the specified time, the player shall not be eligible to play in the match.

3.1.3 Players will not be eligible for transfers or second claim approvals in any competition after the first half of the rostered matches have been completed. Finals are not included for the purpose of this calculation.

3.2 Transfer of Players

3.2.1 A Transfer is a request by a player to permanently transfer Clubs.

3.2.2 The prescribed fee for a transfer within Victoria shall be as determined by the Board (see Schedule One). The responsibility for payment of this fee shall lie with the player seeking the transfer.

3.2.3 The prescribed fee for transfer outside Victoria shall be such amount as determined by the Board in consultation with Australian Water Polo Incorporated (AWPI) (see Schedule One). The responsibility for payment of this fee shall lie with the player seeking the transfer.

- 3.2.4 A Club may hold a transfer request for a maximum period of 14 days after which time the Board may approve the transfer at its discretion.
- 3.2.5 Only one transfer per person may be lodged in any one season except in special circumstances that may be approved by the Board.
- 3.2.6 No player will be granted a transfer from one Victorian club to another Victorian club whilst at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS).

3.3 Second Claim Players

- 3.3.1 A Second Claim is a request by a player to temporarily play for one or more seasons for a metropolitan club that they are not registered with. Examples:
 - a) A country registered player may wish to play for a metropolitan club
 - b) A metropolitan registered player may wish to play for another metropolitan club (eg. in a higher grade).
- 3.3.2 A member of any club may apply to play as a second claim player with another club.
- 3.3.3 The prescribed fee for a second claim approval by VWPI within Victoria shall be as determined by the Board (see Schedule One). The responsibility for payment of this fee shall lie with the player seeking the second claim approval.
- 3.3.4 If the member's club approves the application to play as a second claim player, the member shall be deemed to be a member of the club to which the second claim is granted for the competition being applied for.
- 3.3.5 Only one second claim per person may be lodged in any one season, except in special circumstances, which may be approved by the Board.
- 3.3.6 No player will be granted a second claim to another club whilst at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS).
- 3.3.7 Country registered players seeking a second claim to compete in the Victorian metropolitan competition must pay metropolitan registration fees.
- 3.3.8 With the exception of country registered players, once a request for Second Claim has been approved, the player may only play for the club for which the Second Claim was granted.

4. Eligibility to Participate in Competition Matches

4.1 The eligibility of a player in any competition match shall be as described more fully in By-laws 4.2 and 4.3. Special permit players are also governed by By-laws 4.2 and 4.3 except where specifically identified to the contrary in By-laws 4.4 and 4.5.

4.2 Eligibility – Rostered Matches

4.2.1 Only registered members of VWPI can play in competition matches. Teams/clubs in breach of this By-law may be disqualified/suspended and incur a Technical Fault (By-law 7.8).

4.2.2 With the exception of matches for State Squads (as outlined in By-law 2.5) and Special Permit players (see By-law 4.4), players shall only be eligible to play in one match per round.

4.2.3 Any player who has played more than one third of all "scheduled" matches in a particular grade will only be eligible to play in that grade or a higher grade (refer Special permit rules). Note: Any request for exemption to this By-law is to be submitted to the Competitions Director for consideration.

4.2.4 Any player who has been named in a National Senior squad/team (Australian or other country) or played in a National League match or has been an AIS scholarship holder within 12 months prior to the first scheduled game of a competition is restricted to competing in SL1 and, if eligible, Junior grades. Any request for exemption to this rule is to be submitted to the Competitions Director for consideration.

4.2.5 Where a club who has two or more teams competing in the same grade, a player once having played for one of those teams (eg team 1) shall only be eligible to play for that specific team (team 1) in that grade and cannot subsequently switch to another of the club's teams in that grade. Teams / clubs in breach of this by Law may be disqualified / suspended and incur a Technical Fault (by Law 7.8).

Any request for exemption to this By Law must be submitted not less than two (2) days in advance to the Competitions Director and VWPI Executive for consideration.

If such approval is granted, all games played by that player in team 1 will not count towards the total number of games played for the purpose of meeting the finals eligibility requirements of By Law 4.3.3. For the purpose of VWPI awards for that particular season, the player will also be stripped of any goals scored and votes accumulated from those games played in team 1.

Players will not be eligible for such team-switch approvals after the first half of the rostered matches in that competition have been completed. Finals are not included for the purpose of this calculation.

4.3 Eligibility – Finals Matches

- 4.3.1 Players shall only be eligible to play in one State League match in any round of the finals. Semi-finals (ie. major and minor) are the same round.
- 4.3.2 With the exception of specified Special Permit players (Junior and Division 2 category Special Permits), for finals matches, any player who has played more than one third of rostered or finals matches in higher grades shall be ineligible to play in any lower grade final.
- 4.3.3 A player must have played in one third of all “scheduled” matches (rounded down to nearest whole number) in that particular grade or a lower grade to be eligible to play in the finals of that grade or a higher grade.
Note: Scheduled byes are excluded from the count of number of “scheduled” matches.
- 4.3.4 An AIS / VIS scholarship holder or Australian representative who was interstate or overseas on official duties that prevented attendance at rostered games to meet finals eligibility under By-law 4.3.3 will be considered for exemption from this By-law with the provision of a written submission to the Competitions Director with the reason for exemption consideration.
- 4.3.5 A player who has played in any Under-Age competition held concurrently with the Senior Competition may include the games played in the Under Age Competition towards finals eligibility under By Law 4.3.3
- 4.3.6 Any special circumstance that may affect a player’s availability to play the required number of rostered games (eg. injury) is to be submitted to the Competitions Director for consideration.

4.4 Special Permits – Rostered Matches

Preamble: The intentions of Special Permits are to:

- Facilitate the development of Junior aged players or younger
- Facilitate the introduction of Junior players into Senior competition
- To enable Junior (or younger) players registered with a club to maintain a playing relationship with their Club or school while still developing their water polo in a higher grade.

4.4.1 Two categories of Special Permit may be granted.

- i) Division 1
- ii) Division 2

- 4.4.2 A Special Permit enables a player to play a maximum of two matches, including an age or school based match in a round (plus a State squad game if eligible – refer 2.5.2)
- 4.4.3 A aged based player who plays for a club with a team entered in their eligible age division, may play in their eligible age division within their club and one other grade with their club within a round.
- 4.4.4 An aged based aged player who plays for a club without a team entered in their eligible age division, may play one game with their club and one other match per round in either a higher grade or eligible age division with one other club.
- 4.4.5 A Special Permit is automatically granted to eligible players seeking to play within their Club. Players seeking a Special Permit to play with another club must lodge an appropriate and completed form with the VWPI Office in accordance with By-law 3.1. Consent must be authorised by the original club's President, Secretary, Treasurer or Registrar before a player can play using a Special Permit. The original club's consent shall not be unreasonably withheld and shall be endorsed within seven days of receipt. The Board may deem consent has been given after the expiration of the seven days and shall have absolute discretion in determining whether the original Club has reasonable grounds for denying consent.
- 4.4.6 Division 1 and Division 2 Special Permit players are exempt from By-Law 4.2.3 and 4.2.4.
- 4.4.7 Clubs shall not be restricted in the number of players who play for them using Special Permits in any competition.

4.5 Special Permits – Finals

- 4.5.1 Subject to the requirements of By-law 4.5.2 a Special Permit player shall be eligible to play only one State League match in the same round of the finals. Where a player with a Division 2 Special Permit is eligible for two teams his/her Club shall be entitled to claim the player for its final.
- 4.5.2 A Special Permit player must play a minimum of two thirds of all "scheduled" games in a particular grade to be eligible to play in the finals of that grade or a higher grade whilst using a Special Permit to their own Club or another Club.
- 4.5.3 For finals matches, any Junior Special Permit player who has played in two thirds of State League rostered or finals matches in higher grades shall be ineligible to play in any lower State League grade finals. Similarly for Junior Special Permit players, finals matches shall be taken into consideration for the purposes of By-law 4.4.7.

4.6 Special Permits – National Club Championships

- 4.6.1 Preamble: The spirit of this By Law is to enhance the opportunity for players and clubs to participate in National Club Championships. This By Law recognises that not all VWPI-affiliated Clubs will enter teams in the National Junior Club Championships. Players from Clubs that do not enter a team may wish – on a temporary basis – to play for a Club which is able to enter a team in the National Junior Club Championships. However, the goal of the VWPI is to encourage all Clubs to develop sufficient number and quality of players to enter teams in the National Junior Club Championships.
- 4.6.2 Eligible junior players registered to play with a Club not entering the National Junior Club Championships may apply to the Executive Officer of VWPI for a Special Permit to another Club that is entering a team in the National Junior Club Championships.
- 4.6.3 This Special Permit applies only for National Junior Club Championships, and only for the period of the National Junior Club Championships.
- 4.6.4 For approval, the player and the Club the Special Permit is sought for must provide evidence of the ability of the player to contribute to the Club as a team member and socially.
- 4.6.5 The team entered by the Club to which the Special Permit is provided may accept a maximum of four players from other Clubs.

4.7 Masters & Veterans

- 4.7.1 The Competitions Director will determine and publish criteria for participation in VWPI arranged masters or veterans competitions.

4.8 Penalties

- 4.8.1 Teams infringing By-law 4 will be disqualified for the match where the infringement occurred resulting in loss of points and the opposing team being credited with a win of eight (8) goals to nil (0). Where a player plays in more matches in a round than they are eligible to play, the higher graded team will be disqualified.
- 4.8.2 Teams infringing By Law 3 or By-Law 5.3.2 will be disqualified for the match where the infringement occurred and shall also incur a technical fault for each breach of the By-laws.

The following table illustrates the application of By-Law 4 as applied to the Senior Competition assuming a 15 week competition with no byes and no forfeits/walkovers. Minimum number of games to be eligible for finals (one third) is 5 games.

	Number of Matches Played (examples)						
Grade	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6	Ex. 7
SL1					6		
SL2			1	6	5		
SL3	1	1	1	8	3		
SL4	5	4	3				5
Junior				5	4		3
Under-Age						5	3
Eligible Finals Grades	SL1-SL4	SL1-SL3	SL1-SL2	SL1-SL2 Junior	SL1	SL1-SL4 Junior	SL4 Junior
By-Laws	4.3.3	4.3.3	4.3.3	4.3.2	4.3.3 4.2.3	4.3.5	4.3.3 4.3.5

5. Presentation of Matches

5.1 Fixtures

5.1.1 A list of matches for each competition shall be drawn up and a time and venue allotted for each match by the Competitions Director.

5.2 Match Times

5.2.1 The Board shall determine the duration of competition matches.

5.2.2 The rules of water polo shall apply as regards to 30-second possession limit provided there are sufficient competent officials to administer it.

5.2.3 If a Competition grade is deemed to be “straight time”, a referee may use their discretion to “stop the clock” (eg. injured player or unsafe game area).

5.2.4 When a match is conducted using a “straight time” format, the last minute of the game will be “actual time” to prevent time wasting by the team leading the game.

- 5.2.5 With the exception of finals matches all matches will finish at the completion of the scheduled playing time.
- 5.2.6 SL1 and age based finals matches for the Victorian Championship season will be played to a conclusion in accordance with AWPI Competition By-laws 4.3 (including timeouts).
- 5.2.7 In all other finals matches, if the scores are level at the completion of full-time:
- there will be a five minute break during which time the teams will change ends
 - the teams will play two halves of three minutes straight time with a one minute break between each half where the referees will swap ends
 - If scores still remain tied, there will be a one minute break and the game will restart with the first team to score a goal (ie. golden goal) will be the winner.

5.3 Presentation of Matches

- 5.3.1 All teams shall enter the playing area and pool concourse in an orderly manner and observe all directions given by the referees.
- 5.3.2 Prior to a match commencing, a team sheet shall be filled in legibly by the team's manager or deputy listing each player to participate in that game and signed by each player next to his or her own name. No player may sign on after the half-time interval and join the match. Only players on that list who have been inspected by the referees may play and only those players shall be deemed to have played.
- 5.3.3 Each team, consisting of at least six players, must be dressed in full match gear ready to be checked by the referees ten minutes before the listed starting time of their match.
- 5.3.4 In the event of a team of at least six players, one of whom must be the goalkeeper, has not signed the Team Sheet by the scheduled start time of a match, the team shall be deemed to have given a walkover.
- 5.3.5 All teams must have a full set of caps numbered in accordance with international rules.
- 5.3.6 The first named team in a competition match will wear white/light hats and the second named team will wear blue/dark hats.
- 5.3.7 If during the course of a game a team has less than six players eligible to compete in the game (eg. through injury or personal fouls after the start of the game), the game will continue.

5.4 Team Managers

- 5.4.1 The team manager is responsible for:
- The legible completion of the team sheet in all detail

- The attendance of all players 10 minutes before the designated starting time of the match
- The supply of a duty table official
- The completion of all registration formalities, including that all players listed sign the team sheet
- To ascertain from the referees if any players were reported.

5.4.2 If a team manager is unavailable for any match, the team must ensure a suitable deputy manager is available.

5.4.3 If a team provides no table official by the scheduled start time of a match, the referee may direct a player who has signed the Team Sheet for the game to perform the role of Team Manager. Once performing the Team Manager role, the player may only be substituted by another player or club nominated table official during the end of a period of play (ie. at quarter time, half time or three quarter time).

5.5 Balls

5.5.1 The balls used in competition matches shall be in accordance with the rules of water polo.

5.5.2 Each team shall provide a match ball of a standard deemed suitable by the referees for their matches.

5.6 Signing Team Sheets to Protest

- 5.6.1 A team's captain or manager must sign the team sheet at the completion of a match for their club to be able to lodge a protest on any aspect of that match.
- 5.6.2 The protest must be lodged in writing with the VWPI Office within 48 hours of the completion of the match.
- 5.6.3 No protest may be lodged against a decision of the referee.

5.7 Table Duty

- 5.7.1 Each team is required to provide one competent person for table duty for every match in which their team is playing and this person shall be responsible to the Referee for keeping the time and scoring.

5.8 Pool Set Up and Pack Up

- 5.8.1 Both competing teams are responsible for:
 - Setting up the pool and equipment to the referees' and Pool Controller's satisfaction, before the first match commences
 - Storing away equipment markers etc., at the conclusion of the last match
 - Replacing swimming equipment and restoring the pool to the Pool Controller's satisfaction, at the conclusion of the last match.
 - Any other duties delegated by the referees or Pool Controller.

5.9 Penalties

- 5.9.1 In accordance with By-law 6.6, referees are required to begin a game at the designated start time even if teams are not ready. If a team is not ready at the scheduled game start time, the offending team will be penalised one goal for every two minutes that they are not ready. If a team is not ready to compete by the end of the scheduled first period, the team will be deemed to have given a walkover. (Note: The referees will determine when each team is ready).
- 5.9.2 Any club failing to comply with the requirements of By-laws 5.7 to 5.8 will be guilty of a Technical Fault (see By-law 7). The referees will inform the Competitions Director of such non-compliance.

6. Referees

- 6.1 The Referee's Director shall appoint two referees for each match.
- 6.2 Referees shall wear their uniforms at all matches in which they officiate.
- 6.3 Qualified referees shall be paid as determined by the Board as set out in Schedule One.
- 6.4 Referees must be ready ten (10 minutes) before the scheduled commencement of a match to:
 - check the pool is properly set-up
 - check players
 - inspect that the team sheet is completed legibly for player names and registration numbers
 - commence the match on time
 - check adherence to by-laws 5.3 to 5.8.
- 6.5 The referees have the discretion to shorten a match if it cannot be completed by the allotted time.
- 6.6 Referees are responsible for starting the match on time and its conduct, including that of all players and officials, the awarding of votes for the best players, and advising team managers of reports.
- 6.7 The referees must return completed Team Sheets and Report Sheets to the VWPI Office within 48 hours of the match's completion.
- 6.8 Referees failing to complete these duties may be fined an amount equal to their match payment.
- 6.9 Clubs to provide minimum numbers of Referees
 - 6.9.1 Between August 2009 – March 2010 all clubs to provide one graded referee for every two teams entered.
 - 6.9.2 Between March 2010 and August 2010 all clubs to provide one graded referee for every team entered
 - 6.9.1 For competitions commencing August 2010 and ongoing, all clubs to provide two referees per team

7. Forfeits, Walkovers, Disqualifications, Suspensions & Technical Faults

- 7.1 A forfeit occurs when a team notifies in advance that they will be unable to compete in a scheduled match and therefore forfeit the result of the game to the opposition team.
- 7.2 A walkover occurs if a team does not have the required number of players in accordance with the rules of water polo at the scheduled start time of a match. The referee will make the determination on whether a team has provided a walkover.
- 7.3 In the event of a forfeit, walkover, or disqualification, the team receiving the match shall for the purposes of By-law 8 receive three (3) points and be awarded eight (8) goals to nil (0). While the team giving the forfeit, walkover, or disqualification for the purposes of By-law 8 will receive no points and be awarded nil (0) goals to eight (8).
- 7.4 In the event of a walkover, the team receiving the walkover must prove to the referees' satisfaction that their team is present and able to take to the water
- 7.5 The team receiving the walkover must also fill in the required team sheet and each player sign the team sheet. For the purposes of By-law 4, these players shall be regarded as having taken part in the match.
- 7.6 A team giving a forfeit or walkover shall pay the game fees for both teams (credit given by VWPI to the account of team receiving the walkover) and a Fine as determined by the Board to cover VWPI administration (see Schedule One).
- 7.7 In the event of a forfeit, the club awarded the match shall forward a list of its players who would have taken part in that particular match to the VWPI Office within two working days of the date the match would have been played. For the purposes of By-law 4, these players shall be regarded as having taken part in the match.
- 7.8 A suspended club/team is not permitted to compete while under suspension and will not be awarded points. The Board will set the terms of suspension on a case by case basis.
- 7.9 A Technical Fault is defined as a breach of the By-laws. The penalty for a Technical Fault shall be as set out in Schedule One or as otherwise specifically set out in these By-laws.
- 7.10 Should circumstances beyond the control of the VWPI or either Club prevent a result in any game (eg, game abandoned due to weather or equipment malfunction), the Competitions Director at her / his discretion will make a decision regarding that game. The rules will permit the Competitions Director to decide if a re-match, draw or result is declared.

If a draw is declared, then each team will be allocated two (2) points and the score will be determined by the Competitions Directors using the following guidelines:

- If the game had not commenced, then a score of eight (8) goals will be allocated to each team

- If the game had commenced, then the score will be the goals scored by each team if the score is equal at the time the game is abandoned, or if one team is leading, then the highest goals scored by either team will be allocated to both teams.

The Competitions Director may also award the match to one of the Clubs should it be considered the non-finish of the match was caused deliberately by either Club or if the score line was such that the result could not be changed under any circumstances – eg a team leading by ten goals with thirty seconds to play.

Decisions on votes towards VWPI awards such as “Most Valuable Player” and “Highest Goal Scorer” will be at the discretion of the Competitions Director.

In the event of an abandoned game(s), the participating clubs shall forward a list of its players who would have taken part in that particular match to the VWPI Office within two working days of the date the match would have been played. For the purposes of By-law 4, these players shall be regarded as having taken part in the match.

8. Competition Ladders & Finals Structure

8.1 The method of determining the participants in the Finals for each grade shall be as follows:

- Each team shall play each other in rostered matches at least twice (*once*).
- Teams shall be awarded points depending on the results of their matches and they shall be ranked according to the number of points they have been awarded.
- Three (3) points shall be awarded for a win or a bye.
- Two (2) points shall be awarded for a drawn match to each team.
- One (1) point shall be awarded for a loss.
- No points shall be awarded to a team which gives a walkover, forfeit, or which is disqualified.
- Where a team is rostered to play a suspended team the match shall be deemed a bye.

8.2 In the event of teams scoring the same number of points, the position of the teams on the ladder shall be calculated as follows:

- The number of goals awarded against the team shall be deducted from the number of goals awarded to the team and the result shall be called the team Goal Difference.
- The team with the larger Goal Difference shall finish higher on the ladder.
- If the teams have an equal Goal Difference, the team that was awarded the most wins in matches between the two sides during the competition shall take the higher place on the ladder.

- In the event that the teams are still equal, the team that was awarded the most goals in their matches against each other shall finish higher on the ladder.
- In the event that the teams are still equal, the scores of the teams concerned in their matches against each other shall be added together and the team with the higher percentage in these games shall take the higher position on the ladder.
- In the event that the teams are still equal, the team that has been awarded the most goals over the entire competition shall take the higher position on the ladder.
- In the event that the teams are still equal, the Competitions Director shall arrange a play-off match with the winner taking the higher position on the ladder.

8.3 The method of determining the Premier team in each grade for each competition shall be as follows:

- *In a Short Competition, the teams that finish first and second on the ladder shall play in the Grand Final.*
- In the Victorian Championship Competition, the teams placed third and fourth on the ladder shall play in the Minor Semi-Final. The loser shall be eliminated and take fourth place in the grade. The winner shall proceed to the Preliminary Final.
- The teams placed first and second on the ladder shall play in the Major Semi-Final. The winner shall proceed to the Grand Final and the loser shall proceed to the Preliminary Final.
- The winner of the Preliminary Final shall proceed to the Grand Final. The loser shall be eliminated and take third place in the grade.
- The winner of the Grand Final shall be declared the premier team in the grade and the loser shall take second place in the grade.

9. Best Players

- 9.1 There shall be a best player award for each grade in the Victorian Championships Competition only.
- 9.2 The referees shall award votes for rostered matches on the basis of three (3) votes for the best player in the match, two (2) votes for the second best player, and one (1) vote for the third best player.
- 9.3 Votes shall not be awarded for any matches in which a special State Squad team (see By-law 2.3) is participating.
- 9.4 VWPI shall keep a total of such votes in confidence and the winners of each grade shall be announced on the day of the Grand Finals for that Competition.

10 Infringement Penalties

10.1 In addition to the penalties prescribed in the Rules of Water Polo WP21.11, competing players who show disrespect to an officiating referee (or official) will be warned on a first offence through the display of a yellow card. A subsequent offence of disrespect in the same game will be identified through the showing of a red card with the offending player being noted as 'on report' for disrespect on the Team Sheet and be automatically suspended from all VWPI domestic competition for 1 week.

11 Changes to By-laws

11.1 The Board may vary these By-Laws at any time in accordance with the authority conferred by rule 13.2 of the VWPI Constitution

11.2 Before the close of team entries for a competition, monetary amounts listed in Schedule One may be raised or lowered at the discretion of the Board.

SCHEDULE ONE (to be issued each Financial Year)

Schedule is maintained in a separate document based on the Financial Year