



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”) pertains to Championships in the sport of water polo conducted by USA Water Polo, Inc. (“USA Water Polo”). The purpose of this Conduct of Championships is to provide uniform policies and procedures for all USA Water Polo Championships regardless of when or where they are held.

ARTICLE 1

CHAMPIONSHIPS, DATES, SITES, HOSTS, FACILITIES AND RULES

1.1 Championships

- (a) USA Water Polo shall conduct annually the following fifteen (15) USA Water Polo National Championships (“Zone Qualification Tournament” & “Championship Finals”) in the sport of water polo:

Championships	Gender	Age Limitations
Men’s National Championship	Men	None
Women’s National Championship	Women	None
Men’s 20 and under National Championship	Men	Age 20 and under
Women’s 20 and under National Championship	Women	Age 20 and under
National Junior Olympics	Boys	Age 18 and under
		Age 16 and under
		Age 14 and under
		Age 12 and under
	Girls	Age 18 and under
		Age 16 and under
		Age 14 and under
		Age 12 and under
	Co-Ed	Age 10 and under
Speedo Cup Nationals	Boys	Age 14 and under & 8th grade and lower
	Girls	Age 14 and under & 8th grade and lower

- (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 the first day of the Championship Finals.
- (c) The term “Championship(s)” refers to all competition that leads 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. “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. “Championship Finals” refers to the competition among the teams that have qualified based on the provisions in Article 6 of this Conduct of Championships.

- (d) Event title with gender reference specifically implies that males play in the boys and men’s tournaments and females play in the girls and women’s tournament. “Co-ed” means that both genders may play.

1.2 Dates, Hosts and Sites

The dates, sites and hosts for all Championship Finals shall be selected and approved by the USA Water Polo National Office, preferably at least two (2) years in advance. Within ninety (90) days after the approval of the Championship Finals by the USA Water Polo Staff, the USA Water Polo National Office shall commence negotiation of an USA Water Polo Events Contract with the host.

1.3 Facilities and Rules

- (a) Except as otherwise stated in this Article 1.3, the field of play for all Championships shall be of the measurements and markings as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
- (b) For all Championships, except for National Junior Olympics and Speedo Cup Nationals (see Article 6.1(b) of this Conduct of Championships), the field of play shall be the maximum length and width as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
- (c) For National Junior Olympics for age group 10 & under, the maximum length of the field of play between goal lines shall be twenty (20) meters. For National Junior Olympics and Speedo Cup Nationals for age groups 16 and under, 14 & under and 12 & under the maximum length of the field of play between goal lines shall be twenty-five (25) meters. For National Junior Olympics for age group 18 and under, the maximum dimensions of the field of play shall be the maximum length and width as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
- (d) For National Junior Olympics age group 10 & under Co-Ed the goals shall be maximum seven (7) feet wide.
- (e) For National Junior Olympics age group 10 & under Co-Ed the shot clock shall be set to thirty-five (35) seconds.
- (f) If a Championship Finals or Zone Qualification Tournament is played in two (2) or more pools, the dimensions of the field of play shall be the same in each pool.

- (g) For all Championships, the duration of a water polo game shall be as specified in USA Water Polo Playing Rules except:
- (i) There shall be no overtime for Championships except for Final Round water polo games in the Championship Finals. For National Championships, 20 and under National Championships, 20 and under Open Championships and Speedo Cup Nationals, Final Round games are defined in Article 6.5 of this Conduct of Championships. Exceptions are made for National Junior Olympics advancement and Final Round games, as shall be determined by the Championship Finals Management Committee (“CFMC”). When no overtime is permitted, teams shall advance from one group to another or receive final placement per Article 6.5(b), 6.5(c), or 6.5(d) of this Conduct of Championships.
 - (ii) Unless varied by the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer with respect to a particular Championship, the duration of each of the four periods of play shall be:

Championship	Length of Period
National Championships (Men’s or Women’s)	8 minutes
20 and under National Championships (Men’s or Women’s)	7 or 8 minutes
National Junior Olympics (all gender/age groups)	
- 10 and under	4 minutes
- 12 and under	5 minutes
- 14 and under	5 minutes
- 16 and under	5 minutes
- 18 and under	6 minutes
Speedo Cup Nationals (Boy’s or Girl’s)	5 minutes

- (h) The water polo ball used in each Championship shall conform to the current USA Playing Rules with size as specified in the following chart:

Championship	USA Water Polo W6000 standard size water polo ball	USA Water Polo W6009 standard size water polo ball	USA Water Polo Junior standard size water polo ball
Men’s National Championship	X		
Women’s National Championship		X	
Men’s 20 and under National Championship	X		
Women’s 20 and under National Championship		X	
Boy’s 18 and under National Junior Olympics	X		

Girl's 18 and under National Junior Olympics		X	
Boy's 16 and under National Junior Olympics	X		
Girl's 16 and under National Junior Olympics		X	
Boy's 14 and under National Junior Olympics		X	
Girl's 14 and under National Junior Olympics			X
Boy's 12 and under National Junior Olympics			X
Girl's 12 and under National Junior Olympics			X
Co-Ed 10 and under National Junior Olympics			X
Boy's Speedo Cup Nationals		X	
Girl's Speedo Cup Nationals			X

- (i) In the event a team forfeits 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. If a team does not have 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. See Article 3.2 of this Conduct of Championships with regard to “unfair advantage” concerning a forfeited game. See Article 5.1(d) of this Conduct of Championships for potential penalties associated with teams that miss games, do not show up for games at the scheduled start time, refuse to play games, and/or abandon a game once it has begun.
- (j) For all Championship Finals conducted in conjunction with another Championship Finals, including different age and gender groups, a participant receiving a red card shall not be eligible to participate in any games of a National Championship, regardless of Championship, age or gender group, until that participant has fulfilled their suspension from participation for the specific (age/gender group) Championship in which the red card was received and for the specific team.¹ Any participant in a Championship Finals that receives two (2) red cards during that Championship Finals shall be excluded for the remaining duration of the Championship Finals as well as all other Championship Finals that are

¹ For example:

If a head coach of a team in the Championship Finals of the 16 & under Boys National Junior Olympics receives a red card in a game, that individual may not participate as a coach, player, or other team official in any other age or gender group game until they have fulfilled their required suspension from a game in the 16 & under Boys National Junior Olympics;

A coach receiving a red card during a Girls Speedo Cup Championship Finals game shall not be permitted to participate as a coach or other team official in a Boys Speedo Cup Championship Finals game until that coach has fulfilled their suspension in the coach's team's next Girls Speedo Cup Championship Finals game

The head coach of a water polo club's "A" team receiving a red card during a 14 & under Girls National Junior Olympics may not participate as an assistant coach or other team official for that club's "B" team in the same (or any other) age/gender group of the Championship until that individual has served a suspension for that club's "A" team's next game in the Championship.

being conducted concurrently, including all age/gender groups of the National Junior Olympics and Speedo Cup Nationals.

- (k) Except as otherwise noted in this Article 1.3, the water polo playing rules for all Championships shall be as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
- (l) All games shall be scheduled to allow each team to have a minimum of two (2) hours rest between games.
- (m) All Championship Finals shall conduct a mandatory 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 mandatory Coaches Meeting shall be subject to a fine as determined by the CFMC (see Article 5.1(e) of this Conduct of Championships).
- (n) Any deviation from this Conduct of Championships must receive the written approval of the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer prior to the distribution of the Entry Form per Article 5.2(a) of this Conduct of Championships. All approved deviations shall be clearly stated on the Entry Form.

ARTICLE 2

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

2.1 Definition

The host as selected, approved, and issued an Event Contract per Article 1.2(a) of this Conduct of Championships, 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.) to organize the Championship Finals.

2.2 Responsibilities

The CFOC, at its expense, shall be responsible for providing the facilities and equipment per Article 1.3 of this Conduct of Championships, staff, local marketing activities, a rights fee to USA Water Polo (minimum guidelines are available from the USA Water Polo National Office), and other requirements necessary to operate the Championship Finals. Specific responsibilities shall be included in the Event Contract (see Article 1.2(a) of this Conduct of Championships). Appendix A outlines elements that may be included in these responsibilities for the Championship Finals of the National Championships, and 20 and under National Championships. CFOC responsibilities for the National Junior Olympics and Speedo Cup Nationals shall be as defined in the specific Event Contract (responsibilities will include many items noted in Appendix A, scaled to the event). The responsibilities for National Junior

Olympics shall include providing free admission to all Boys and Girls games for all National Junior Olympics participants throughout the event.

2.3 USA Water Polo Responsibilities

USA Water Polo will negotiate, and enter into a contract, with the CFOC for each of the Championship Finals governed by this Conduct of Championships regarding USA Water Polo's responsibilities in relation to the conduct of Championship Finals including, but not limited to the following:

- (a) USA Water Polo Event Management working with the CFOC
- (b) Verified athlete and Club registration
- (c) Scheduling, travel, lodging, and compensation for tournament officials, referees, and other USA Water Polo representatives
- (d) All team entries and roster verification
- (e) Event-specific web page(s) on the USA Water Polo web site,
- (f) Event-specific logo and marketing materials,
- (g) Championship Program
- (h) Advance marketing and public relations
- (i) A results reporting system
- (j) Event merchandise provider for USA Water Polo-licensed products
- (k) Tournament game balls, score sheets for each game, and air horns
- (l) One (1) set of water polo caps to include white caps numbered 2 to 15 plus an appropriate goalkeeper's cap numbered 1 and dark caps numbered 2 to 15 plus an appropriate goalkeeper's cap numbered 1. Two additional red caps (one for each competing team), numbered 13, shall also be provided for use during the Championships Finals (32 caps in total).
- (m) Awards and trophies:
 - (i) Trophies for the three (3) top placing teams in the Championship
 - (ii) Medals for the players for the three (3) top placing teams in the Championship (up to 15 medals per team)
 - (iii) Awards for special recognition as outlined in Article 7 of this Conduct of Championships

- (n) USA Water Polo and National Sponsor signage
- (o) In some cases, a grant based on the scope of the event may be provided to help offset major cost elements required to conduct a Championship Finals.

2.4 Host Revenue Sources

The Host will retain the following sources of revenue for all Championship Finals, unless otherwise agreed upon in the Event Contract:

- (a) Tournament Attendance fees (Gate).
- (b) Concessions/food and beverage receipts.
- (c) Local sponsorship sales (provided that the sponsors do not conflict with USA Water Polo national sponsors).
- (d) A percentage of USA Water Polo merchandise sold at the tournament through the USA Water Polo Licensed Product Merchandiser(s).

ARTICLE 3

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

3.1 Definition

- (a) All Championship Finals shall have a Championship Finals Management Committee (“CFMC”). The CFMC shall be in attendance for the duration of the Championship Finals and available to observe a majority of the games played.
- (b) For National Championships, the CFMC shall be comprised of five (5) to seven (7) USA Water Polo Members appointed by the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Executive Officer’s designee. These appointments shall be made a minimum of fifteen (15) days in advance of the Preliminary Closing Date of the Championship Finals (see Article 5.2(b) of this Conduct of Championships). The Chair of the CFMC shall be the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Executive Officer’s designee. In addition to the Chair, the CFMC shall include the Chair of the USA Water Polo National Referees Committee (or the Chair’s designee); the USA Water Polo Zone Chair of the site of the Championship Finals (or the Zone Chair’s designee); and additional USA Water Polo Members as needed to complete the CFMC from among USA Water Polo Members knowledgeable in water polo competitions.
- (c) For all other Championship Finals, except National Junior Olympics, the CFMC shall be comprised of three (3) to five (5) USA Water Polo Members appointed by the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Executive Officer’s designee. For National Junior Olympics, the size of the CFMC will be determined based upon the number of teams entered and the number of pools utilized for the Championship Finals.

3.2 Responsibilities

The CFMC shall be responsible for the overall conduct of the Championship Finals competition, including, but not limited to:

- (a) *Seeding of the Championship Finals.* Prior to the mandatory Coaches Meeting on the evening preceding the start of competition in a Championship Finals, the CFMC shall seed all teams (see Article 6.4 of this Conduct of Championships). Once the championship is seeded, should the tournament require reseeding due to dropping of a team, that team is require to pay a fine equal to hundred percent (100%) 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.

- (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.
- (c) *Forfeit evaluation.* If a forfeit by one team gives another team an unfair advantage, the CFMC can take any action as determined by the CFMC in regard to teams advancing to the next round or any other action decided by the CFMC. 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 in for the purpose of affecting the seeding 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.
- (d) *Assignment of Technical Officials.* Except for Referees, the CFMC shall have the right to assign USA Water Polo Members to the position of Technical Officials for the Championship Finals; e.g., secretary, table staff and other positions required to operate the Championship Finals.
- (e) *Mandatory Coaches Meeting.* The Chair of the CFMC, or the Chair's designee, shall chair the mandatory Coaches Meeting held during the evening prior to the first day of competition in a Championship Finals (see Article 1.3(j) of this Conduct of Championships).
- (f) *Action on Protests.* The CFMC shall act upon any written protest concerning the Championship Finals.
- (g) *Suspension of Participants for Detrimental Conduct.* 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), or other appropriate penalty, for any behavior deemed detrimental to the conduct of the Championship Finals, or to the purposes and goals of USA Water Polo. The CFMC Chair must submit any actions taken by the CFMC during a Championship Finals to the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer, in writing, within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the Championship Finals.

3.3 Protests

- (a) Any protest or complaint pertaining to actions, decisions, or events during a Championship Finals shall be submitted in writing to the CFMC Chair along with a **one hundred dollar (\$100) for** 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 Head Referee before the signal to start the game is given, at which point the Head Referee will notify the non-protesting coach. Teams will proceed with game at scheduled time. All protests shall be considered by the CFMC and its decision shall be final, subject only to a written appeal to the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer or, should the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer determine to assign the appeal to the Judicial Committee of the USA Water Polo Board of Directors (the “Judicial Committee”), by the Judicial Committee. If the protest is rejected, the deposit will be forfeited to the USA Water Polo National Office. If the protest is accepted, the deposit will be returned.

- (b) All decisions of the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer, or the Judicial Committee, shall be final.

ARTICLE 4

REFEREES

4.1 Requirements

- (a) *Referee Qualification.* All Referees refereeing at a Championship shall be USA Water Polo members and have achieved the necessary qualifying standards as established by the 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 to the final game of the Championship Finals.
- (b) *Referee Selection.* Excluding the Referees serving as goal judges, there shall be two Referees assigned to each game in a Championship. For all Championship Finals, USA Water Polo shall select all the Referees (including a Head Referee, but excluding the Referees serving as goal judges) a minimum of one hundred twenty (120) days (sixty (60) days for National Junior Olympics) prior to the starting date of the Championship Finals. If USA Water Polo has chartered a National Referees Committee (or other group with such responsibilities), the Chair of that committee shall make these selections.
- (c) *Head Referee Responsibilities.* For all Championship Finals, the Head Referee shall:
 - (i) Assign the Referees to all games in the Championship Finals.
 - (ii) For all Final Round games that determine 1st through 4th place at all Championships, except the National Junior

Olympics and Speedo Cup Nationals, the Head Referee shall assign Referees to serve as goal judges either from the Referees assigned to the tournament or from Referees in the local area of the Championship Finals (no fees shall be required to be paid to Referees serving as goal judges).

- (iii) Except for National Junior Olympics and Speedo Cup Nationals, notify all Head Coaches the day prior to competition of the names of Referees (by game number) who will be refereeing the games the following day. For all Final Round games that determine 1st through 4th place, the Head Coach of each team playing in such games shall have the right to express a preference to the Head Referee as to the identity of the Referees scheduled to referee such Head Coach's games. Such preferences shall be expressed to the Head Referee at the pre-Final Round Coaches meeting or in its absence by a deadline as announced by the Head Referee. The Head Referee may or may not assign Referees in accord with any preferences expressed by Head Coaches, in the Head Referee's discretion
- (iv) Participate in the mandatory Coaches Meeting during the evening prior to the day upon which competition begins in the Championship Finals (see Article 1.3(j) of this Conduct of Championships).
- (v) Inform participating Referees of the identity of each team's Head Coach and the Assistant Coach and any sanctions that are in effect for any of the Coaches, Athletes, or team officials participating in the Championship Finals.
- (vi) For Championship Finals requiring additional administrative or technical referee support (e.g., large, multi-site events), assign qualified referees to serve in such roles.
- (vii) Except for National Junior Olympics, all Championship Finals shall only have one Head Referee. For the Championship Finals of the Boys National Junior Olympics, there shall be a maximum of two Head Referees. For the Championship Finals of the Girls National Junior Olympics, there shall be a maximum of two Head Referees.
- (viii) *Referees Fees.* The Game Fees and Administrative Fees for the Head Referee for all Championship Finals shall be as determined by the USA Water Polo National Office.

ARTICLE 5

ENTRY FEES, PENALTIES, ENTRY FORMS AND CLOSING DATES

5.1 Entry Fees and Penalties

- (a) The Entry Fee per water polo team for Championship Finals shall be established by the USA Water Polo National Office and shall be stated on the event registration form and is non-refundable unless a team does not qualify for the championship in which they entered.
- (b) All Zone Qualification Tournaments shall follow the Conduct of Championships and USA Water Polo playing rules. The Entry Fee per team for a Zone Qualification Tournament shall be as set by the organization hosting the Zone Qualification Tournament.
- (c) For all National Championships, 20 and under National Championships, National Junior Olympics and Speedo Cup, teams are required to pay a penalty of fifty percent (50%) of the Entry Fee for late or incomplete Final Entry Fee or the submission of late or incomplete rosters. For all other Championship Finals, penalties for a late or an incomplete Final Entry Fee or rosters shall be as set by the USA Water Polo National Office; however, the penalty shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the applicable Entry Fee. Any Entry Fee penalties assessed under this Article 5.1(c) shall be collected and retained by USA Water Polo and must be paid prior to the commencement of the Championship Final or the team against which the fine has been assessed shall not be allowed to compete.
- (d) During a Championship Finals, teams shall be penalized for missing games or not showing up for 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 3.2(c), and/or abandoning a game once it has begun. The USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer shall assess penalties for teams committing these actions according to the level of severity:
 - (i) *Level 1* – A fine equal to a pro-rata portion of the Entry Fee based on the number of games that a team plays in the Championship Finals. This fine shall be distributed to the opposing team.
 - (ii) *Level 2* – A fine equal to a pro-rata portion of the Entry Fee based on the number of games a team plays in the Championship Finals, which shall be distributed to the opposing team and an additional fine equal to the Entry Fee, which shall be distributed to the CFOC;. In addition, the Club shall be placed on probation for one year.

- (iii) *Level 3* - A fine equal to a pro-rata portion of the Entry Fee based on the number of games a team plays in the Championship Finals, which shall be distributed to the opposing team; an additional fine equal to the Entry Fee, which shall be distributed to the CFOC; the Club shall be placed on probation for one year; the players on the team shall not be eligible for All-Tournament/All-America selection for the Championship; and the team's Head Coach shall be suspended with the length of suspension determined by the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer.

The USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer may modify penalties if he/she determines that valid health or safety issues related to the game created circumstances that caused a team miss, refuse to play, forfeit or abandon such game.

- (e) For all Championship Finals, a team whose Head Coach or Head Coach's designee fails to attend the mandatory Coaches Meeting on the evening prior to the first day of competition shall be subject to a fine equal to fifty percent (50%) of that Championship Finals' Entry Fee; such fine shall be retained by the USA Water Polo National Office.
- (f) Entry Fees, penalties and fines shall be paid to the USA Water Polo National Office and are non-refundable.

5.2 Entry Forms and Closing Dates

- (a) The USA Water Polo National Office shall distribute Entry Forms sixty (60) days prior to the Preliminary Closing Date of each Championship Finals (see Article 5.2(c) of this Conduct of Championships). Entry Forms shall be prepared by the USA Water Polo National Office in consultation with the CFOC.
- (b) All completed Entry Forms, along with the Entry Fees, shall be submitted to the USA Water Polo National Office through the on-line system.
- (c) *Preliminary Closing Date.* The Preliminary Closing Date for Entry Forms for all Championship Finals shall be forty-five (45) days prior to the Final Closing Date.
 - (i) For National Championships, each of the four (4) top placing teams from the respective current year's Championship Finals that wishes to participate in the following year's Championship Finals must submit a completed Entry Form with enough Team Roster information to enable verification of team eligibility per Article 6.2(c) of this Conduct of Championships along with the Entry Fee by the Preliminary Closing Date.

- (ii) After the Preliminary Closing Date, the Zone Chair for each Zone shall confirm that all teams entered from their Zone are in good standing and may participate in the Championship. Within seven (7) days after the Preliminary Closing Date, the USA Water Polo Manager of Events shall provide each Zone Chair of each Zone in which a team has entered a Championship with a written notice of whether a Zone Qualification Tournament must be held and the number of places in the Championship Finals allocated to each Zone. To have more than one team in the Championship Finals, a Zone must hold a Zone Qualification Tournament with a minimum of two teams from different clubs, subject to teams that qualify under provisions in Article 6 of this Conduct of Championships.
 - (iii) Each Zone is entitled to at least one team in the Championship Finals. For each Zone that fails to submit an Entry Form along with the Entry Fee by the Preliminary Closing Date, that place in the Championship Finals will be allocated to another Zone in conformance with Article 6.3(b) of this Conduct of Championships.
- (d) Final Closing Date and Team Roster.
- (i) The Final Closing Date for Championship Finals shall be fourteen (14) days prior to the first day of competition in the Championship Finals.
 - (ii) By the Final Closing Date, a verified roster must be submitted by the team through the on-line verified system, which shall include:
 - (1) The names of up to fifteen (15) water polo players listed by 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 goalkeepers, who shall wear a red cap, numbered 13)
 - (2) The names of the Head Coach, the Assistant Coach, and up to one other team official, each of whom must be affiliated with the club as per their USA Water Polo membership by the deadline of May 31st or September 14th (see 6.2 Eligibility).
 - (3) The nature of any current sanction to which any person listed on the roster is subject
 - (4) The USA Water Polo Membership number of each person listed.

- (iii) Any entry that does not include the information specified in Article 5.2(d)(ii) above will be subject to the penalty in Article 5.1(c) of this Conduct of Championships. Only individuals listed on the Team Roster with their current USA Water Polo registration number shall be allowed to participate in the Championship Finals.

ARTICLE 6

CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

6.1 Zone Requirements

- (a) *Zone Qualification Tournaments.* For all National Championships, 20 and under National Championships, National Junior Olympics and Speedo Cup Nationals, Zone Qualification Tournaments shall be conducted in accordance with Article 6.1(b) of this Conduct of Championships.
- (b) Zone Chair Responsibilities.
 - (i) By the Preliminary Closing Date for the Championship Finals, each Zone Chair shall schedule a Zone Qualification Tournament and provide written notification of the site and date of that Zone Qualification Tournament to the applicable water polo clubs in the Zone Chair's USA Water Polo Zone, the CFOC, the CFMC, and the USA Water Polo National Office.
 - (ii) Zone Chairs are responsible for conducting Zone Qualification Tournaments when required.
 - (1) Zone Chairs are encouraged to conduct Zone Qualification Tournaments for all National Championships, 20 and under National Championships, National Junior Olympics and Speedo Cup Nationals.
 - (2) At a minimum, Zone Chairs shall conduct Zone Qualification Tournaments for National Championships (Men's and Women's).

If no less than ten (10) days before the Preliminary Closing Date only one team in a USA Water Polo Zone (excluding teams with an automatic qualification in Championship Finals per Article 6.2(j) of this Conduct of Championships) has submitted in writing to the Zone Chair that team's intention to compete in the Championship Finals, such team shall be allowed to compete in the Championship Finals. Each Zone Qualification Tournament shall have an entry of at least two teams from different water polo clubs. Zone Qualification Tournaments must be completed 30 days preceding the first day of the Championship Finals.

- (iii) The Zone Chair must forward in writing the results of the Zone Qualification Tournament to the USA Water Polo National Office so that the results are received prior to the Final Closing Date for the Championship Finals.
- (iv) Zone Chairs shall utilize Team Entry Forms and Entry Fees filed to the National Office through online entry system for teams wishing to compete in a Championship Finals,

except for those teams qualifying for a Championship Finals per Article 6.2(c) or Article 6.3(b)(vi) of this Conduct of Championships. Filing requirements (e.g., use of online process) shall be as specified on the Entry Form. No team shall be allowed to compete in Championship Finals, other than teams qualified for the Championship Finals per Article 6.2(c) or Article 6.3(b)(vi) of this Conduct of Championships, unless its Club has filed the required Entry Form and Entry Fee with the USA Water Polo National Office by the Preliminary Closing Date. No team automatically qualified for the Championship Finals per Article 6.2(c) of this Conduct of Championships shall be allowed to compete in Championship Finals if its Entry Form and Entry Fee are not received by the Preliminary Closing Date.

- (c) *Zone Qualification Tournament Referees Fees.* Referee Fees for Zone Qualification Tournaments for National Championships, 20 and under National Championships shall be:
- (i) Preliminary Round water polo games: twenty dollars (\$20);
 - (ii) Final Round water polo games: thirty dollars (\$30).

Referee Fees for Zone Qualification Tournaments for National Junior Olympics and Speedo Cup Nationals shall be as determined by the Zone Chair.

6.2 Eligibility

- (a) Water Polo Player Eligibility.
- (i) All players competing in a Zone² Qualification Tournament and Championship Finals must be currently registered USA Water Polo Gold level members, except for players on teams whose clubs are based outside of the United States.
 - (ii) A player must compete in a Zone Qualification Tournament and Championship Finals for the club as listed on the USA Water Polo website with which they are affiliated with through their USA Water Polo membership registration as of June 1st of the year in which the Championship Finals are held. Affiliation changes will be allowed from August 15th until September 14th for Speedo Cup Nationals and from November 1st to May 31st of the following year. All member's club affiliations will be frozen as of June 1st, September 15th or one (1) week prior to the respective Zone Qualification Tournament, whichever ever comes first, unless:

² Each club's location through the USAWP registration depicts which Zone Qualification Tournament the club is to compete within.

- (1) The player obtains the prior written consent of the Chief Executive Officer, or CEO's designee, of USA Water Polo to register with another club on or after June 1st or September 15th of that year due to the player's family's relocation of their principal place of residence on or after June 1st or September 15th of that year and has not competed for another club in a Zone Qualifier.
- (iii) Any player on the roster of a team competing for a water polo club in a Championship in a particular age group shall only play for that water polo club in that age group in that Championship.
- (iv) In the event that a water polo club qualifies only one team for a Championship Finals, any player eligible to play for that water polo club in that Championship may compete for that water polo 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. In the event that a water polo club qualifies more than one team for a Championship Finals, any player 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 player was listed during the Zone Qualifying Tournament. In the event that a water polo club qualifies more than one team for a Championship Finals, any player eligible to play for that water polo club in that Championship, other than a player who was on the roster of a 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
- (v) In the event that a water polo 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 water polo club qualifies more than one team for a Championship Finals, a player

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 players on the roster of team A in the Zone Qualifying Tournament could only compete on team A in the Championship Finals, the players on the roster of team B in the Zone Qualifying Tournament could only compete on team B in the Championship Finals and the players on team C could compete on either team A or team B in the Championship Finals, assuming that all of the players on the rosters of teams A, B and C for the Zone Qualifying Tournament continued to be otherwise eligible to compete for that water polo 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: (a) were eligible to play for that water polo club at the time of the Championship Finals, i.e., players who satisfy the requirements of each of Articles 6.2(a)(i)-(iii) and (b) were not disqualified from playing on those teams by reason of Article 6.2(a)(iv).

may be on the roster of only one team during that Championship Finals.⁴

- (vi) Game Participation.
 - (1) *National Championships and 20 and Under National Championships (including Qualification Tournaments).* A maximum of fifteen (15) of the water polo players listed on the Team Roster shall be eligible to compete in each game in the Championship Finals. Only those listed on the Team Roster (players and team officials) may sit on the bench/be in the bench area during a game and breaks therein.
 - (2) *National Junior Olympics and Speedo Cup Nationals.* A maximum of fifteen (15) water polo players listed on the Team Roster shall be allowed to compete in each game in the Championship Finals. Only those listed on the Team Roster (players and team officials) may sit on the bench/be in the bench area during a game and breaks therein.
 - (3) Throughout the Championship Finals, all players participating in water polo games shall wear the cap numbers exactly as listed in the Team Roster (except as otherwise authorized after informing appropriate game referees and other officials).
 - (4) For National Junior Olympics age group 10 & under Co-Ed teams shall submit rosters that include at least 3 athletes of each gender.
 - (5) For Speedo Cup Nationals, athletes must be 14 & under and not in high school. An athlete in the 8th grade and lower shall be considered not in high school.

(b) Coach Eligibility

- (i) 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 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

⁴ Each age group/gender division of the National Junior Olympics is a different Championship.

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.

Assistant Coach for another team from the same water polo club in the same Championship.

- (ii) A player on a team in a Championship is allowed to be a Head Coach (or an assistant coach) only on the team on which the player is competing.

(c) Water Polo Team Eligibility

- (i) All teams competing in a Championship must represent a currently registered USA Water Polo Club, except for teams representing water polo clubs based outside of the United States.
- (ii) For National Championships and 20 and under National Championships, only, teams from USA Water Polo clubs based in USA Water Polo Zones shall be eligible to compete in Championships.
- (iii) For Speedo Cup Nationals, teams from the United States, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico shall be allowed to compete.
- (iv) For the 20 and under National Championships and National Junior Olympics, teams from the United States and Puerto Rico shall be allowed to compete. Teams from Puerto Rico shall qualify for the 20 and under National Championships by participating in the USA Water Polo Southeast Zone Qualification tournament unless otherwise qualified by Article 6.3(b) of this Conduct of Championships.
- (v) All non-United States water polo teams shall have a written letter from their water polo federation (with the names of all players, 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.
- (vi) More than one team from a water polo club shall be permitted to compete in a Championship; however, each team must have its own Head Coach who is not a Head Coach on another team in the same Championship.
- (vii) The top four (4) placing teams from the preceding year's National Championships, except National Junior Olympics and Speedo Cup, shall automatically qualify for the current year's Championship Finals, if the team is eligible. For a team to be eligible, the current year's team must include a minimum of seven (7) players who were on the

Championship Finals team roster of a team from the same water polo club that qualified for the Championship Finals in the prior year.⁶

- (viii) In the event that any of the top four (4) placing water polo clubs in the preceding year's National Championships, except National Junior Olympics and Speedo Cup, do not have a team that is eligible for the current year's Championships within the meaning of Article 6.2(c)(vii), that club may appeal in writing to the CFMC to waive the foregoing eligibility rule and allow that water polo club's team to maintain its automatic qualification in the Championship Finals. The Chair of the CFMC must receive an appeal fourteen (14) days prior to the closing date for the Zone Qualification Tournament for that Championship for the USA Water Polo Zone in which the appealing water polo club is registered. The CFMC shall rule before the closing date for entries for the subject Zone Qualification Tournament.
- (ix) Any team with an automatic qualification in a Championship Finals pursuant to Article 6.2(c)(vii) or (viii) 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.
- (x) No team (other than those qualifying pursuant to Article 6.2(c)(vii) or (viii)) shall be allowed to compete in a Championship Finals if its Zone Chair has not filed an Entry Form and Entry Fee by the Preliminary Closing Date.

6.3 Participating Teams

- (a) All Championship Finals shall have the following maximum number of teams in the respective Championship Finals:

Championships	Gender	Age Limitations	Maximum Number of Teams in the Championship Finals
Men's National Championship	Men	None	16
Women's National Championship	Women	None	16
Men's 20 and under National Championship	Men	Age 20 and under	16
Women's 20 and under National Championship	Women	Age 20 and under	16
National Junior Olympics	Boys	Age 18 and under	48

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) players 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.

		Age 16 and under	48
		Age 14 and under	48
		Age 12 and under	36
	Co-Ed	Age 10 and under	24
	Girls	Age 18 and under	48
		Age 16 and under	48
		Age 14 and under	48
		Age 12 and under	36
Speedo Cup Nationals	Boys	Age 14 and under & 8 th grade and lower	12
	Girls	Age 14 and under & 8 th grade and lower	12

The USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer may reduce the number of teams in any National Championship, in his discretion.

- (b) Water polo teams shall qualify for the Championship Finals according to the following:
- (i) *National Championships (Men's or Women's)*. A maximum of sixteen (16) teams may compete in the Championship Finals. These teams shall include the top four (4) placing teams (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place) from the preceding year's Championships, if available and if eligible pursuant to Article 6.2(c)(vii) or (viii) 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(b)(v) of this Conduct of Championships shall apply.
 - (ii) *20 and under National Championships (Men's or Women's)*. A maximum of sixteen (16) teams may compete in the Championship Finals. These teams shall include the top four (4) placing teams (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place) from the preceding year's Championships, if available and if eligible pursuant to Article 6.2(c)(vii) or (viii) 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(b)(v) of this Conduct of Championships shall apply.
 - (iii) *National Junior Olympics*. The maximum number of teams in each age group and gender division (each division is a distinct Championship) 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 members in each age group and gender in each Zone as of December 31 of the year prior to the Championship; provided, however, that each Zone shall have at least one entry allocated to it for each age/gender group. The teams eligible to compete in the National Junior Olympic Championship Finals shall be determined in Zone Qualifying Tournaments in each Zone.

- (iv) *Speedo Cup Nationals*. A maximum of twelve (12) teams may compete in the Championship Finals. These teams shall include the eleven (11) teams winning their respective Zone Qualification Tournaments and one (1) team selected by 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 previous year for the age group and gender for which the entry is being selected, beginning with the largest Zone, allocating one entry per round. 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.
- (v) If application of the rules set forth in Articles 6.3(b)(i) or (ii) fails 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), with one entry allocated to a Zone per round with additional rounds held until the field is complete (once a Zone fails to select a team to fill an entry slot in a round, that Zone shall be excluded from any subsequent rounds).
- (c) The team representing a Zone as its champion in a Championship Finals shall reimburse the Zone for its Entry Fee, if the Zone posted the Entry Fee on the team's behalf. Any other team must submit its Entry Form and pay the Entry Fee to the USA Water Polo National Office before the Final Closing Date. Each Zone may guarantee the entry fees for all teams from their Zone entering the Championship Finals.

6.4 Seeding and Placement of Teams into Groups

- (a) For all Championship Finals, after the Final Closing Date and prior to the mandatory Coaches Meeting, the CFMC shall seed all teams.
- (b) For the Championship Finals for the National Championships (Men's or Women's) where teams that qualified based on their performance in the previous year's Championship pursuant to Article 6.2(c)(vii) or (viii) of this Conduct of Championships are competing the CFMC may either seed those teams as the top seeds in the order in which they placed at the previous year's Championship or seed them pursuant to Article 6.4(c) of this Conduct of Championships.
- (c) For all Championship Finals except the National Junior Olympics, subject to Article 6.4(b) above, seeding of teams shall be as follows:
 - (i) First, the CFMC shall select teams to be seeded 1st to 4th and place them into the First Round Groups by either seeding them as the CFMC shall agree with the 1st seed as A1 in Group A, the 2nd seed as B1 in Group B, the 3rd seed as C1 in Group C, and the 4th seed as D1 in Group D, or seeding them using the Random Draw Method specified in Article 6.4(d) of this Conduct of Championships ("Random Draw Method").
 - (ii) Second, the CFMC shall select teams to be seeded 5th to 8th and place them into the First Round Groups by either seeding them as the CFMC shall agree with the 5th seed as D2 in Group D, the 6th seed as C2 in Group C, the 7th seed as B2 in Group B, and the 8th 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 1st to 4th seeds, the Random Draw Method shall be used to seed the 5th to 8th seeds.
 - (iii) Third, the CFMC shall select the teams to be seeded 9th to 12th and place them into First Round Groups by either seeding them as the CFMC shall agree with the 9th seed as A3 in Group A, the 10th seed as B3 in Group B, the 11th seed as C3 in Group C, and the 12th 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 5th to 8th seeds, the Random Draw Method shall be used to seed the 9th to 12th seeds.
 - (iv) Fourth, for Championship Finals with a sixteen (16) team field, the CFMC shall select the teams to be seeded 13th to 16th and place them into First Round Groups by either seeding them as the CFMC shall agree with the 13th seed

as D4 in Group D, the 14th seed as C4 in Group C, the 15th seed as B4 in Group B, and the 16th 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 9th to 12th seeds, the Random Draw Method shall be used to seed the 13th to 16th seeds.

- (v) Notwithstanding anything else written herein, if two or more teams from the same water polo club are participating in a Championship Finals, each of those teams shall be placed into a different First Round Group.
 - (vi) For National Junior Olympics Zones shall hold the seeds 1-24, -36, -48 based on the previous year's National Junior Olympic final standings. Teams shall be slotted based on Zone Championships final standings submitted to USA Water Polo Event Manager. Open slots will be filled with remaining teams.
 - (vii) For Speedo Cup Zones shall hold the seeds 1-12 based on the previous year's Speedo Cup final standings. Teams shall be slotted based on Zone Championship final standings submitted to USA Water Polo Event Manager. Open slots will be filled with remaining teams.
- (d) Placement of teams into First Round Groups of the Championship Finals by the Random Draw Method shall be done as follows:
- (i) 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.
 - (ii) 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.
 - (iii) 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.
 - (iv) In the event that a Random Draw results in a team being designated for a group in which a team from the same

water polo 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 the same group assignment.

6.5 Group System of Play

- (a) For the 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. Should the scores be level at full time in any game for which a definite result is required, the game shall proceed directly to a penalty shoot out to determine the result.⁷ Appendix B details the National Junior Olympic Penalty Shootout Procedure which differs slightly from the USA Water Polo Playing Rules for the penalty shoot out process.
- (b) The first and second place teams in each Group in the First Round shall be selected to advance to the Second Round on the basis of two (2) points for each win, one (1) point for each tie, and zero (0) points for each loss for each game played by each team in the first round. Teams entering the second round shall carry forward to the second round only the point(s) and the game score the team earned in the first round against the team that also advanced from their Group to the second round. Teams in the second round advance to the final round on the basis of points and the game scores earned in the second round (two (2) points for each win, one (1) point for each tie, and zero (0) points for each loss for each game played in the second round) plus point(s) and the game scores carried forward from the first round.
- (c) In the event that two or more teams are tied in points after the completion of play in the second 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

- (a) The USA Water Polo Office shall provide the Game Schedules and Start Times for all Championship Finals.
- (b) When the field of play is outdoors and sufficient artificial lighting is unavailable, the CFMC may approve shifting the game start times listed above, depending upon the daylight conditions of the dates on which the Championship Finals is held, provided that the Preliminary and Final Entry Forms specify the different start times. When a host is conducting two Championship Finals concurrently, the CFMC may approve the CFOC shifting the games and/or award ceremonies start times provided that the Preliminary and Final Entry Forms specify the different times.

⁷ See the USA Water Polo Playing Rules for the penalty shoot out process.

ARTICLE 7**SPECIAL RECOGNITION****7.1 All American/All Tournament Team and Most Valuable Player**

- (a) Players for All American water polo teams shall be selected for National Championships, 20 and under National Championships, and National Junior Olympic Championships. Players for All Tournament teams shall be selected for the 20 and under Open Championships. The All American/All Tournament teams for each of these Championships shall consist of a Most Valuable Player, a First Team (the MVP, 7 first team athletes, and 7 first team spare athletes) and an Honorable Mention Team (15 athletes). All American Teams and All Tournament Teams shall not be selected for the Speedo Cup Nationals.
- (b) Selection Process.

The Head Coach of each team placing sixteenth or higher, or for National Junior Olympics, twelfth or higher in the Platinum division and third or higher in the Gold division, of Championship Finals shall submit a list of players from their team for All American/All Tournament designation to the Chair of the CFMC after conclusion of their play in the Championship Finals according to the following allotment schedule:

Team Placing	Allotment			
	First Team			Honorable Mention
	MVP	First	Spare	
1 st (in Platinum)	1	2	2	
2 nd		2	2	
3 rd		2	1	
4 th		1	1	
5 th			1	2
6 th				2
7 th				2
8 th				1
9 th				1
10 th				1
11 th				1
12 th				1
13 th (1 st in Gold)	(1)			1
14 th (2 nd in Gold)				1
15 th (3 rd in Gold)				1
16 th				1

- (i) If a Championship Finals has fewer than sixteen (16) teams, the Honorable Mention designations shall be reduced (e.g., a field with twelve (12) teams would have only eleven (11) Honorable Mention selections; a field with eight (8) teams would have only seven (7) Honorable Mention Selections).
- (ii) If a team in a sixteen (16) team Championship Finals field or smaller is penalized according to Article 5.1(d) of this Conduct of Championships with sanctions that include removing athlete eligibility for All America/All Tournament selection, all other teams with eligible players will move one allocation place higher and the penalized team shall receive no allocation. For a Championship Finals with a field larger than sixteen (16) teams, if a team placing sixteenth (16th) or higher in the Championship Finals is penalized according to Article 5.1(d) of this Conduct of Championships with sanctions that include removing athlete eligibility for All America/All Tournament selection, the next highest place team shall receive that team's allotment for All American/All Tournament athlete recognition.
- (iii) The CFMC shall ratify the submitted selections after the final day of competition in the Championship Finals and following completion of any appeals arising from penalties affecting athlete eligibility for All America/All Tournament

recognition pursuant to Section 5.1(d) of this Conduct of Championships.

- (c) The following MVP Awards have been designated for the respective Championships:
 - (i) Men's National Championships: The Chuck Metz Award
 - (ii) Women's National Championships: The John Felix Award

7.2 Sportsmanship Award

For Speedo Cup Nationals, Sportsmanship Awards (designated as the Jody Campbell Awards for boys and the Maureen O'Toole Awards for girls) shall be awarded to one player on each team. Players shall be selected for the Sportsmanship Awards based on criteria and with a selection process as determined by the Chair of the CFMC.

7.3 Awards Certificates

The CFMC shall forward the results of all Special Recognitions awarded under this Article 7 of this Conduct of Championships to the USA Water Polo National Office within ten (10) days of the later of the conclusion of the Championship or the final appeal decisions affecting athlete eligibility for such recognition. The USA Water Polo National Office shall prepare proper certificates and distribute them to the recipients within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the information from the CFMC.

ARTICLE 8

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WATER POLO CLUBS

8.1 Men's, Women's and Overall Categories

The USA Water Polo Chairman's Cup for Men's Championships (including Boys' divisions of the National Junior Olympics and Speedo Cup Nationals), for Women's Championships (including Girls' divisions of the National Junior Olympics and Speedo Cup Nationals), and for Overall Championships (Men's, Women's, Boy's and Girl's) shall be awarded each calendar year determined by points earned by water polo clubs in Championships during that calendar year; however, if a Championship is played twice in the same calendar year (e.g., January and December) the points earned in the Championship played the latest in the year shall be used to determine the USA Water Polo National Championship Water Polo Clubs 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 per the following system:

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

8.3 Recognition

The USA Water Polo Club that earns the most Overall points shall be recognized by USA Water Polo Chairman's Cup.

8.4 Water Polo Team Eligibility

If a water polo clubs enters more than one team in a Championship, the water polo club is eligible to earn points based upon the placement of all of their teams entered into the Championship.⁸

ARTICLE 9

COMPLIANCE

The USA Water Polo National Office shall monitor and administer compliance of 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 the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer, shall prepare a competition report on each Championship Finals for issuance to the Chief Executive Officer within thirty (30) days after each Championship Finals.

⁸ For example:

(a) If a water polo club brings three Girl's teams to the Championship Finals of the National Junior Olympics (one in each of the age groups) and four Boy's teams to the Championship Finals of the National Junior Olympics (two in one age group and one each in 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 Men's 20 and under National Championships, the water polo club could earn a maximum of twenty-eight (28) points (one first place and one second place).

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 the USA Water Polo National Office, attention Chief Executive Officer:

- (a) A copy of the entire section, as amended
- (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
- (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 the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer for consideration by the closing date for receipt of proposals. All proposed amendments will be transmitted by the Chief Executive Officer to the appropriate USA Water Polo staff for review and comment prior to action by the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer. Any amendment approved by the Chief Executive Officer shall be effective on the date specified by the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer.

APPENDIX A: CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE - ILLUSTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

For National Championships, 20 and Under National Championships and 20 and Under Open Championships, the CFOC's responsibilities may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (i) *Rights Fee.* Pay a Rights Fee for the Championship (minimum guidelines are available from the USA Water Polo National Office).
- (ii) *Facilities.* Provide the facilities per Article 1.3 of this Conduct of Championships and, for each field of play, a minimum of two (2) shot clocks separate from the scoreboard and placed in proper locations (four (4) shot clocks are preferable). For the Championship Finals of National Championships, backup shot clocks and a backup scoreboard should be available.
- (iii) *Marketing.* Local marketing, sponsorship and ticket sales activities.
- (iv) *Balls and Caps.* Provide a minimum of twelve (12) warm-up water polo balls.⁹ Teams may use their own caps provided they are numbered numbers 1 to 15 and comply with the USA Water Polo Playing Rules. (For all other Championships, each team shall provide its own warm-up water polo balls and its own caps with ear guards that comply with the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.)
- (v) *Volunteer Staff.* Provide volunteer staff required for venue and competition operation.
- (vi) *Table Staff.* Provide qualified table staff for all games.
- (vii) *USA Water Polo Visibility.* Display a USA Water Polo banner (supplied by the USA Water Polo National Office under terms specified in the Event Contract) in a prominent position at each pool site throughout the duration of the Championships.
- (viii) *Sponsor Visibility.* Display the "official" USA Water Polo sponsors' banners, logos and/or identifications (as provided by the sponsors or the USA Water Polo National Office) in prominent positions at each pool site throughout the duration of the Championship.
- (ix) *USA Water Polo Booth.* Provide a booth (or table space) to be stocked with USA Water Polo information, membership forms, publications and "official" or authorized USA Water Polo products for distribution and sale.
- (x) *Sponsor Space.* Provide complimentary floor space for each "official" USA Water Polo sponsor, at such sponsor's option and cost, for a booth stocked with their products for sale, distribution and/or information.
- (xi) *Officials Hospitality.* Provide refreshments, a rest area and a changing area, separate from the water polo teams, for use by Referees, Technical Officials (see Article 3.3 of this Conduct of Championships), the Championship Finals Management Committee (see Article 3 of this Conduct of Championships) and other USA Water Polo Members involved in the administration of the Championship Finals.

⁹ Warm-up balls must be consistent with current USA Water Polo national sponsors, if any.

- (xii) *Public Address System.* Provide a public address system throughout the duration of the Championship for announcements, games results, introductions of teams and Referees, the goals scored and personal fouls assessed.
- (xiii) *Other Venue Requirements.* For each field of play used in a Championship:
 - (1) Provide onsite emergency personnel
 - (2) Provide one set of water polo game secretary flags (as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules)
 - (3) Supply USA Water Polo game score sheets (provided to the CFOC by the USA Water Polo National Office)
 - (4) Provide all other accessory items (pens, pencils, whiteout, etc.) that are necessary to operate the officials' table throughout the duration of the Championship Finals
 - (5) Provide a bulletin board that is updated after each game that shows game results and advancement of teams in the Championship
 - (6) Provide access to a telephone line (suitable for a modem connection or other means to connect to the internet) and electric power at each pool site.

APPENDIX B: NATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPIC PENALTY SHOOTOUT PROCEDURE**Summary:**

1. There will be an immediate coin toss to determine the shooting order.
2. All shots must be taken at goal to the right of the scorer's table, unless otherwise determined by the referees.
3. Each team places its 5 players on scorekeeper's desk side of pool.
4. No declaration of shooting order required.
5. Shots are taken alternately.
6. The desk must record the shooting order for use if it goes to second round.
7. After the first round it is sudden death.
8. The bench at end opposite shooting end can move to half tank.

Expanded Version [FINA Rules (edited) governing National Junior Olympic Shoot-Outs]:

- (a) if it involves the two teams having just completed a game, the shoot out will begin immediately and the same referees will be used
- (b) otherwise, the shoot out will occur 30 minutes following the completion of the final game of that round, or at the first practical opportunity. The referees involved in the most recent game of that round will be used, provided they are neutral
- (c) if two teams are involved five players and goalkeeper will participate in the penalty shoot out; the goalkeeper may be changed at any time provided the substitute was listed amongst the team listin that game. The five players from each team will stay on the wall on the desk side of the pool.
- (d) shooting order need not be written in advance of shoot out. However, the order of the five shooters will be recorded by the secretary and may not be changed in the event of a tie following the five shots.
- (e) no players excluded for the game are eligible to be listed amongst those players to shoot or substitute as goalkeeper
- (f) if the goalkeeper is excluded during the penalty shoot out, a player from the five participating shoot out players may substitute for the goalkeeper but without the privileges of the goalkeeper; following the taking of the penalty shot, the player may be substituted by another player or alternate goalkeeper
- (g) shots will be taken alternately at the goal to the right of the scorer's table (as determined if one were looking at the pool from the scorer's table)
- (h) the team to shoot first will be determined by coin toss
- (i) should teams still be tied following the completion of the initial five penalty shots, the same five players shall then take alternate shots until one team misses and the other(s) score
- (j) if three or more teams are involved, each team will shoot five penalty shots against each of the other teams, alternating at each shot. The order of the first shot will be determined by draw.