

USA Water Polo, Inc.
Conduct of Championships

Revised: January 27, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
ARTICLE 1	**CHAMPIONSHIPS, DATES, SITES, HOSTS, FACILITIES AND RULES**	**2**
1.1	Championships	2
1.2	Facilities and Rules	2
ARTICLE 2	**CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**	**7**
2.1	Championship Finals Organizing Committee	7
2.2	Event Contract	7
ARTICLE 3	**CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**	**8**
3.1	Requirement	8
3.2	Composition of CFMC	8
3.3	Appointment of CFMC	8
3.4	Duties of CFMC	8
3.5	Protests	9
ARTICLE 4	**REFEREES**	**9**
4.1	Referee Qualification	9
4.2	Referee Assignments	9
4.3	Head Referee Responsibilities	9
4.4	Referees Fees	9
ARTICLE 5	**ON LINE ENTRY, Entry fees AND entry deadlines**	**10**
5.1	On Line Entry	10
5.2	Entry Fees	11
5.3	Entry/Roster Deadlines	12
5.4	Qualifying Tournaments	13
5.5	Non-Roster Athletes and Coaches	13
5.6	Athlete and Coach Identification	13
5.7	Athlete, Coach and Team Eligibility	14
ARTICLE 6	**CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT**	**14**
6.1	Zone Requirements	14
6.2	Eligibility	14
6.3	Participating Teams	17
6.4	Seeding and Placement of Teams into Groups	18
6.5	Group System of Play	19
6.6	Game Schedule and Start Times	19
6.7	Forfeits and Withdrawals From Competition	19
ARTICLE 7	**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**	**20**
7.1	All American Recognition	20
7.2	Selection Process for All American Recognition	20
7.3	Sportsmanship Award	21
7.4	Awards Certificates	21
ARTICLE 8	**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WATER POLO CLUBS**	**21**
8.1	Male, Female and Overall Categories	21
8.2	Point System	21
8.3	Water Polo Team Eligibility	21
ARTICLE 9	**COMPLIANCE**	**22**
ARTICLE 10	**AMENDMENTS**	**22**
10.1	Proposed Amendments	22
10.2	Approvals	22

USA WATER POLO, INC.
CONDUCT OF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Preamble

This USA Water Polo Conduct of Championships ("Conduct of Championships") governs the following championship events in the sport of water polo conducted by USA Water Polo, Inc. ("USA Water Polo"): National Junior Olympics (Qualifying and Open Entry Divisions) and Champions Cup. As appliable, the entirety of the Conduct of Championships applies to the National Junior Olympics Qualifying Division and to the Champions Cup. As applicable, the entirety of the Conduct of Championships, other than the following Articles, applies to the National Junior Olympics Open Entry: 5.3(a)(3), 5.3(a)94), 5.3(a)(5), 5.4, 6.1, 6.3(a) and 7.1. The purpose of this Conduct of Championships is to provide uniform policies and procedures for the foregoing USA Water Polo Championships regardless of when or where they are held.

ARTICLE 1

CHAMPIONSHIPS, DATES, SITES, HOSTS, FACILITIES AND RULES

1.1 Championships

1.1(a) USA Water Polo shall conduct annually the following USA Water Polo national championships in the sport of water polo:

Championships	Gender	Age Limitations
National Junior Olympics (Qualifying and Open Entry Divisions)	Male	Age 18 and under
		Age 16 and under
		Age 14 and under
		Age 12 and under
		Age 10 and under
	Female	Age 18 and under
		Age 16 and under
		Age 14 and under
		Age 12 and under
		Age 10 and under
	Mixed	Age 10 and under
		Age 12 and under
Champions Cup	Male	Age 14 and under & 8th grade and lower
	Female	Age 14 and under & 8th grade and lower

1.1(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 August 1 of the year in which the Championship is to be held. For Champions Cup, athletes must be 14 and under and not in high school. An athlete in the 8th grade and lower at the time of the Championship Finals shall be considered not in high school. Athletes who are 19 years old and graduate from high school in the year in which the Championship takes place will be eligible to compete in the 18 & Under National Junior Olympics, if an official high school transcript is received in USA Water Polo's National Office not later than three (3) weeks prior to the Zone Qualification tournament, in the event that there is a Zone Qualification tournament in the Zone in which the Athlete's water polo club is located or, if there is no Zone Qualification tournament in the Zone in which the Athlete's water polo club is located, July 1.

1.1(c) The term "Championship(s)" refers to all competitions that lead 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. The term "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 in the Junior Olympics Qualifying Division and Champions Cup. The term "Championship Finals" refers to the competition among the teams that have qualified to compete for a national championship based on the provisions in Article 6 of this Conduct of Championships (for the avoidance of doubt, this includes both the Junior Olympics Qualifying and Open Divisions). For purposes of this Conduct of Championships, each age/gender division of a Championship shall be considered as a separate Championship.

1.1(d) Event titles with gender references mean that competition in those events is restricted to athletes of that gender. Event titles with the term "Mixed" mean that competition in those events is not restricted to athletes of a particular gender.

1.2 Facilities and Rules.

1.2(a) USA Water Polo Rules.

Except as otherwise noted in this Article 1.2, the water polo playing rules for all Championships shall be as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.

(1) For age group 10 and under in the National Junior Olympics:
   (A) Rosters shall consist of no more than 12 players as provided in Articles 6.2(b)(1)
   (B) At the beginning of each game, a team shall start the game with five players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper and who shall wear the goalkeeper's cap.

(2) For age group 12 and under in the National Junior Olympics:
   (A) Rosters shall consist of no more than 14 players as provided in Articles 6.2(b)(1)
   (B) At the beginning of each game, a team shall start the game with 6 players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper and who shall wear the goalkeeper's cap.

1.2(b) Field of Play

(1) Unless varied by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer with respect to a particular Championship, or except as otherwise stated in this Article 1.2, the field of play for all Championships shall be of the measurements and markings as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
(2) For age group 10 and under in the National Junior Olympics:
   (A) The length of the field of play shall be eighteen (18) meters or twenty (20) yards; and
   (B) The width of the field of play shall be 10 yards or, if the facility in which the Championship is being contested cannot accommodate a field of play of that width, the width of the field of play shall be as close to 10 yards as the facility can accommodate.
(3) Except as provided in Articles 1.2(b)(2) and (4), for all age/gender groups in the National Junior Olympics:
   (A) The length of the field of play shall be a minimum of 25 yards, measured from the rear of the goals (for this purpose, the rear of the goals shall be deemed to include any space between the rear of the goals and the wall or other structure to which the goals are affixed) and a maximum of 25 meters, measured from the faces of the goals; and
   (B) The minimum width of the field of plan shall be the greater of 15 yards or, if the facility in which the Championship is being contested cannot accommodate a field of play of that width, as close to 15 yards as the facility can accommodate.
(4) For age/gender groups of: (a) ages 16 and under male and female, (b) 18 and under male and female and (c) all semi-final and first through fourth place games in the 14 and under age groups of both genders in the National Junior Olympics:
   (A) For the Qualifying Division Championship Bracket (Platinum and Gold Divisions)
      i. The length of the field of play shall be 25 meters; and
      ii. The width of the field of play shall be 20 meters; provided that: (a) if the facility in which the Championship is being contested cannot

accommodate a field of play of that width, the width of the field of play shall be as close to 20 meters as the facility can accommodate and (b) in no event shall the width of the field of play be less than 15 meters.

(B) For the Qualifying Division Classic Bracket (Silver and Bronze Divisions) and Open Entry Division
   i. The length of the field of play shall be no less than 25 yards and no more than 25 meters; and
   ii. The width of the field of play shall be 20 meters; provided that: (a) if the facility in which the Championship is being contested cannot accommodate a field of play of that width, the width of the field of play shall be as close to 20 meters as the facility can accommodate and (b) in no event shall the width of the field of play be less than 15 meters.

(5) If a Championship Finals or Zone Qualification Tournament is played in two or more pools, the dimensions of the field of play for each age/gender group shall be the same in each pool; provided that, in the event that a pool in which a game is scheduled is not able to be utilized due to mechanical failure or other cause, the games scheduled in that pool, in the discretion of USA Water Polo, may be rescheduled in another pool such that the dimensions of the field of play for such rescheduled game may differ from those of other games for the same age/gender group.

(6) For Champions Cup, the length of the field of play shall be a minimum of 25 yards as measured from the rear of the goals (for this purpose, the rear of the goals shall be deemed to include any space between the rear of the goals and the wall or other structure to which the goals are affixed).

1.2(c) Goal Size

(1) Except as otherwise stated in this Article 1.2, the size of all goals shall be as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.

(2) For age group 10 and under in the National Junior Olympics, the goals shall be approximately 2 meters by .75 meters.

(3) For age group 12 and under in the National Junior Olympics, the goal shall be approximately 2.5 meters by .80 meters.

1.2(d) Shot Clock

The shot clock for all Championships shall be as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.

1.2(e) Game Duration

(1) Unless varied by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer with respect to a particular Championship, or as otherwise provided in this Article 1.2, each game shall consist of four periods with the duration of each period as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.

(2) For the National Junior Olympics Championship Finals, the duration of each playing period shall be as follows:

A. Qualifying Division, Championship Bracket (Platinum and Gold Divisions):
   i. 10 and under mixed gender and 10 and under female: 5 minutes.
   ii. 12 and under male, female and mixed: 6 minutes.
   iii. 14 and under, male and female: 6 minutes.
   iv. 16 and under male and female: 7 minutes.
   v. 18 and under male and female: 7 minutes.

B. Qualifying Division Classic Bracket (Silver and Bronze Divisions) and Invitational Division (Nickel and Copper Divisions):
   i. 10 and under mixed gender and 10 and under female: 5 minutes.
   ii. 12 and under male, female and mixed: 6 minutes.
   iii. 14 and under, male and female: 6 minutes.
   iv. 16 and under male and female and 18 and under male and female: 7 minutes.

C. For the Champions Cup, the duration of each playing period shall be 6 minutes.

1.2(f) Period Breaks

(1) Unless varied by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer with respect to a particular Championship, or otherwise specified in this Section 1.2, the time between periods and at half-time shall be as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
(2) For the National Junior Olympics Qualifying Division Championship Finals, the duration of the breaks between each period and at half-time shall be 2:00 minutes.

1.2(g) Time Outs

Unless varied by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer with respect to a particular Championship, each team shall be entitled to call two time outs per game.

1.2(h) Tied Games

In the event that a game is tied at the end of the fourth period, teams shall proceed to a penalty shootout in accordance with the rules specified in Appendix A.

1.2(i) Ball Size

The water polo ball used in each Championship shall conform to the current USA Water Polo Playing Rules, with the ball size as follows:
(1) Men's size 5: National Junior Olympics male 18 and under and male 16 and under.
(2) Women's compact size 4: National Junior Olympics female 18 and under, female 16 and under, female 14 and under, and male 14 and under; and Champions Cup female 14 and under and male 14 and under.
(3) Intermediate size 3: National Junior Olympics male 12 and under, female 12 and under, and 12 and under mixed.
(4) Junior size 2: National Junior Olympics female 10 and under and mixed 10 and under.

1.2(j) Forfeits.

Subject to the provisions of Article 3.4(c) regarding unfair advantage, if a team does not have a rostered coach present and 7 eligible players for 14u, 16u, and 18u age groups; 6 eligible players for 12u age groups; and 5 eligible players for 10u age groups; in the field of play and ready to play at the scheduled game time, the game shall be declared forfeited to the opponent. In the event a team forfeits a game for any reason, abandons 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. See Article 6.7 of this Conduct of Championships for potential penalties associated with teams that miss games, do not appear for games at the scheduled start time, refuse to play games, and/or abandon a game once it has begun.

1.2(k) Suspensions.

(1) For purposes of this Article 1.2(k) only, each session of a Championship Final that is conducted in more than one session, such as the male and female sessions of the National Junior Olympics, shall be considered to be a separate Championship, but all Championships conducted during a single session shall be considered to be a single Championship.1
(2) Red cards, brutalities and the resulting suspensions received during Zone Qualification Tournaments shall carry over into the Championship Finals for the Championship (as defined in Section 1.2(k)(1)) in which the red card or brutality and resulting suspension were received.2
(3) Any participant in a Championship Finals who receives 2 red cards, 2 misconducts, 2 brutalities or any 2 of any combination of the foregoing during that Championship shall be

excluded for the remaining duration of the Championship Finals as well as all other Championship Finals that are being conducted concurrently, including all age/gender groups of the National Junior Olympics and Champions Cup being conducted during the same session of the National Junior Olympics or Champions Cup.

(4) If a coach receives a red card and there is no other coach member present who is on that team's verified roster, that team will forfeit that game and a score of 5-0 will be recorded in favor of the opposing team. If a coach receives a red card and there is no other coach member who is on that team's verified roster, in order to avoid a forfeit of that team's game following the game in which the red card was issued, that team may petition the CFMC to permit it to add a coach member affiliated with that team's club to that team's verified roster for the game following the game in which the red card was issued. The CFMC may grant or deny such a petition in its sole and absolute discretion.

1.2(l) Game Schedule.

All games shall be scheduled to allow each team to have a minimum of 2 hours rest between games. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that games at one or more pools do not conclude at or before their scheduled time, teams may not have at least 2 hours of rest between games.

1.2(m) Coaches' Meeting.

All Championship Finals shall conduct a Coaches Meeting for the Head Coaches, or the Head Coaches' designees, of all teams in the Championship Finals either by video, written, or 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 Coaches Meeting is required to obtain the information disseminated and will be responsible for knowing that information. In particular, the failure of such Head Coach, or Head Coach's designee, to know the information, shall not be considered as an excuse for such Head Coach to obtain a waiver or other relief from the rules applicable to the Championship. The Coaches Meeting can be virtual and/or pre-recorded and /or in written format, if pre-recorded/written format, will be posted and sent to all coaches rostered on a Championship Finals roster.

---

1 For example: (a) If the male 16 and under Junior Olympics and female 16 and under Junior Olympics are held in different sessions, each of them shall be considered to be separate Championships; and (b) if the female 16 and under Junior Olympics and the mixed 10 and under Junior Olympics are held in the same session, they shall be considered to be the same Championship.

2 Example 1: Assume: (a) the male 16 and under Junior Olympics Championship Finals and the female 16 and under Junior Olympics Championship Finals were conducted in separate sessions, with the male 16 and under Junior Olympic Championship Finals preceding the female 16 and under Junior Olympics Championship Finals, (b) a single coach coached a male 16 and under team and a female 16 and under team and (c) the coach received two red cards during the female 16 and under Zone Qualifying Tournament, the coach would be disqualified from coaching during the female 16 and under Championship Finals, but would not be disqualified from coaching during the male 16 and under Championship Finals (the male and female Zone Qualifying Tournaments being considered as separate Championships and the suspension arising from the red cards during the female Zone Qualifying Tournament would carry over into the female Championship Finals, but not the male Championship Finals).

Example 2: Assume the same facts as in Example 1, except in lieu of (c), the coach received a single red card in the last game of the female Zone Qualifying Tournament, the coach would be disqualified from coaching the first game of the female team's Championship Finals (the suspension carrying over into the female Championship Finals), but would not be disqualified from coaching in the male Championship Finals (the male Championship Finals being considered as a separate Championship).

Example 3: Assume the same facts as in Example 2, except that the coach received a second red card in the male Championship Finals, the coach would be considered as having received his/her first red card, the red card from the female Zone Qualification Tournament not carrying over to the male Championship Finals as they are considered to be a separate Championship.

Example 4: Assume the same facts as in Example 2, except that the coach received a second red card in the

female Championship Finals, the coach would be considered as having received his/her second red card, the red card from the female Zone Qualification Tournament would carry over to the female Championship Finals as they are considered to be the same Championship.

1.2(n) Deviations from Conduct of Championships.

USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer may approve deviations from the provisions of Article 1.2 of this Conduct of Championships. Any deviation from this Article 1.2 must receive the written approval of USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer prior to the distribution of the Entry Form per Article 5.1 of this Conduct of Championships.

ARTICLE 2

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

2.1 Championship Finals Organizing Committee

The host, as selected, approved, and issued an event contract 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.) who shall partner with USA Water Polo to organize the Championship Finals.

2.2 Event Contract

2.2(a) Host Rights and Duties.

The Host's rights and duties, including the revenues that will be made available to the Host in relation to the Championship Finals, shall be as specified in the Event Contract.

2.2(b) USA Water Polo Rights and Duties.

Subject to such rights and duties as may be specified in the Event Contract, USA Water Polo shall provide:

(1) Online event registration
(2) Roster verification and athlete compliance with age, club and membership requirements
(3) Tournament referees, and other USA Water Polo representatives
(4) Event-specific web page(s) on the USA Water Polo web site,
(5) Event-specific logo and marketing materials,
(6) A Championship Program for the National Junior Olympics
(7) Advance marketing and public relations
(8) Results reporting
(9) Event merchandise provider for USA Water Polo licensed products
(10) Tournament game balls and score sheets for each game;
(11) Awards and trophies:
    A. Trophies for the three (3) top placing teams in the Championship Finals
    B. Medals for the players for the three (3) top placing teams in the Championship Finals (up to 18 medals per team). With respect to the National Junior Olympics, medals (up to 18 medals per team) shall be awarded to the three (3) top placing teams in each age/gender group.
    C. Awards for special recognition as outlined in Article 7 of this Conduct of Championships
    D. The cost of the foregoing awards and trophies shall be allocated between USA Water Polo and the Host as specified in the Event Contract.
(12) USA Water Polo and National Sponsor signage

ARTICLE 3

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

3.1 Requirement.

All Championship Finals shall have a Championship Finals Management Committee ("CFMC"). The members of the CFMC shall be available at all times during the conduct of the Championship Finals.

3.2 Composition of CFMC.

The CFMC shall be comprised of three (3) to five (5) individuals, each of whom must be a USA Water Polo Member. The CFMC shall include: (a) the National Director of Referees (or the Director's designee) and (b) additional USA Water Polo Members as needed to complete the CFMC to be appointed by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer. USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer (or his designee) shall serve as the Chair of the CFMC.

3.3 Appointment of CFMC.

All appointments to the CFMC shall be made on or before May 1 of the year in which the Championship is held.

3.4 Duties of CFMC.

The CFMC will oversee the conduct of the Championship Finals including the following:

3.4(a) Seeding of the Championship Finals. Prior to the Coaches Meeting on the day preceding the start of competition in a Championship Finals, the CFMC shall seed all teams (see Article 6.4 of this Conduct of Championships).

3.4(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.

3.4(c) Forfeit evaluation. If a forfeit by one team gives another team an unfair advantage, the CFMC can take such action as the CFMC deems appropriate to redress such advantage. 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 for the purpose of affecting the seeding or placement 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.

3.4(d) Assignment of Technical Officials. Except for Referees, the CFMC shall have the right to assign USA Water Polo Members to positions as Technical Officials for the Championship Finals; e.g., secretary, table staff and other positions required to operate the Championship Finals.

3.4(e) Coaches' Meeting. The Chair of the CFMC, or the Chair's designee, shall chair the Coaches' Meeting (see Article 1.2(m) of this Conduct of Championships).

3.4(f) Action on Protests. The CFMC shall act upon any written protest concerning the Championship Finals. The CFMC may act upon any written protest concerning Zone Qualification Tournaments, including any violation of the roster rules in effect in the Zone Qualification Tournaments. In the event that a protest is upheld, the CFMC shall determine the remedy for the successful protest in its sole and absolute discretion. Remedies may include, but are not limited to: (a) re-playing a game from its

inception, (b) replaying a game from the point at which the event giving rise to the protest occurred, (c) declaring the game to be forfeited, (d) declaring the game to be a draw or (e) taking no action on account of the protest.

3.4(g) Suspension of Participants for Detrimental Conduct. After notice to the offending party and an opportunity for the offending party to be heard, 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) during the Championship Finals for violation of USA Water Polo's Rules Governing Conduct, without regard to whether that violation occurs during or prior to the Championship Finals.. The CFMC Chair must provide USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer with a written report regarding any suspensions imposed by the CFMC within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the Championship Finals.

3.5 Protests

3.5(a) Any protest or complaint pertaining to actions, decisions, or events during a Championship Finals shall be submitted as follows:

(1) If the party filing the protest first becomes aware of the ground for the protest during a game, the party filing the protest must call a time out and notify the referees that the party wishes to file a protest and the ground for the protest;
(2) If the party filing the protest first becomes aware of the ground for the protest during a game, the party filing the protest must submit a written protest in the form attached hereto as Appendix B, to the Site Director at the site of the game to which the protest or complaint pertains, along with a one hundred dollar ($100) cash deposit.
(3) If the party filing the protest first becomes aware of the ground for the protest other than during a game, the party filing the protest must submit a written protest in the form attached hereto as Appendix B, to the CFMC within thirty (30) minutes of the party first leaning of the ground for the protest, along with a one hundred dollar ($100) cash deposit.
(4) The failure to timely notify game referees, to file a timely written protest or to pay the one hundred dollar ($100) cash deposit is a ground for denying the protest.

3.5(b) The final decisions of a referee during a competition regarding a field of play decision (a matter set forth in the rules of the competition to be within the discretion of the referee) shall not be reviewable unless the decision is: (i) outside the authority of the referee or (ii) the product of fraud, corruption, partiality or other misconduct of the referee. For purposes of this Article 3.5, the term "referee" shall include any individual with discretion to make field of play decisions.

3.5(c) All protests shall be considered by the CFMC, whose decision shall be final.

3.5(d) Nothing herein shall be construed as affecting the right of any party to file a grievance pursuant to Article 16 of USA Water Polo's Bylaws; the right to protest under this provision and the right to file a grievance being cumulative, and not in lieu, of one another.

ARTICLE 4

REFEREES

4.1 Referee Qualification.

All referees refereeing at a Championship shall be USA Water Polo referee members and have achieved the necessary qualifying standards as established by 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 the final game of the Championship Finals.

4.2 Referee Assignments.

Excluding the Referees serving as goal judges, there shall be two referees assigned to each game in a Championship. USA Water Polo's Director of Referees (or his designee) shall select all referees (including a Head Referee) for all Championship Finals.

4.3 Head Referee Responsibilities.

The Head Referee for all Championship Finals shall:

4.3(a) Assign the referees to all games;

4.3(b) Participate in the Coaches' Meeting, whether virtual, written, or held during the evening prior to the day upon which competition begins in the Championship Finals;.

4.3(c) Track all coach and athlete code of conduct violations and inform the supervising referee of the affected age/gender group of sanctions resulting from violations;

4.3(d) Inform participating referees of the identity of each team's Head Coach and Assistant Coach, and any sanctions that are in effect for any of the Coaches, Athletes, or team officials participating in the Championship Finals;

4.3(e) For Championship Finals requiring additional administrative or technical referee support, as determined by USA Water Polo (e.g., large, multi-site events), assign qualified referees to serve as supervising referees, as needed; and

4.3(f) Enter all referee game assignments into USA Water Polo's online assignment system and generate accurate invoices within 48 hours of the close of the Championship Finals.

4.4 Referees Fees

The game fees for all referees and administrative fees for the Head Referee for all Championship Finals shall be as determined by USA Water Polo.

ARTICLE 5

ON LINE ENTRY, ENTRY FEES AND ENTRY DEADLINES

5.1 On Line Entry

5.1(a) Preparation and Posting of Entry Forms

USA Water Polo shall prepare online entry forms for each Championship and shall post those entry forms on its website not later than 30 days prior to the Entry Deadline as set forth in Article 5.3.

5.1(b) Content of Online Entry Forms

Online entry forms shall include the entry deadline(s) and specify the entry fee for the Championship to which they pertain.

5.2 Entry Fees

5.2(a) The entry fee per water polo team for Championship Finals shall be established by USA Water Polo, shall be stated on the event registration form, and is non-refundable unless a team does not qualify for the Championship Finals in which it entered.

5.2(b) The entry fee per water polo team for a Zone Qualification Tournament shall be as set by the organization hosting the Zone Qualification Tournament.

5.3 Entry/Roster Deadlines

5.3(a) National Junior Olympics

(1) Entry Deadline

Any team wishing to enter the National Junior Olympics must submit its entry to USA Water Polo via the USA Water Polo web-based entry system before the earlier of: (a) June 1 of the year in which the Championship is being held or (b) 15 days before the commencement of the Zone Qualifying Tournament for the Zone in which the club with which that team is affiliated is located (the "Initial Entry Deadline").

(2) Payment of Initial Fee

On or prior to the Initial Entry Deadline, all teams entering the National Junior Olympics shall pay at least 50% of the entry fee, and may pay the entire entry fee, for the Championship Finals to USA Water Polo (the "Initial Fee"). In the event that a team pays the Initial Fee and does not qualify for the Championship Finals, USA Water Polo will refund the entirety of Initial Fee (whether the team elected to pay all, or a portion, of the entry fee) to that team. No team that fails to pay its entry fees as provided in this paragraph will be eligible to compete in that team's Zone Qualifying Tournament or the Championship Finals.

(3) Submission of Zone Qualifying Team Rosters

On or before 8 days prior to the commencement of each team's Zone Qualifying Tournament (the "Zone Roster Deadline"), each team competing in the National Junior Olympics shall submit its roster for the Zone Qualifying Tournament to USA Water Polo through the Regional Roster Verification System. Each roster shall include no more than 18 athletes and contain the following information:

(A) The names, verified birth dates, gender and USA Water Polo membership numbers of the athletes on the roster, listed by the cap numbers they will wear in the Zone Qualifying Tournament (number 1 for the goalkeeper, numbers 2 to 18 for all other members of the team roster including any alternate goalkeeper, who shall wear a red cap, numbered 13); and

(B) The names and USA Water Polo member numbers of the Head Coach, Assistant Coach and Alternate Coaches. A team roster may contain up to five coaches; however, each team will be issued no more than three credentials entitling team coaches to enter the game venues and no more than three coaches may sit on the team bench during games.

(4) Roster Changes After Submission of Zone Qualifying Team Rosters

Teams may make changes to their rosters following the Zone Roster Deadline applicable to that team provided that: (a) all such changes must be made not later than 4 days prior to the commencement of each team's Zone Qualifying Tournament (the "Zone Roster Lockdown Date") and (b) each time that a team makes a change to its roster, it pays a $100.00 change fee to USA Water Polo (multiple changes to a single roster at the same time incur a single $100.00 change fee; any changes to the roster at different times incur a fee each time there is a change to the roster). No rosters may be changed after the Zone Roster Lockdown Date.

(5) Submission of Qualifying Division Championship Final Rosters and Payment of Final Fees

Not later than 15 days prior to the commencement of the Qualifying Championship Finals for Session 1, teams participating in Session 1 shall submit to USA Water Polo their rosters for the Championship Finals and pay to USA Water Polo any balance of the entry fee for the Championship Finals that was not paid with the Initial Fee (the "Session 1 Roster Deadline"). Not later than 15 days prior to the commencement of the Qualifying Championship Finals for Session 2, teams participating in Session 2 shall submit to USA Water Polo their rosters for the Championship Finals and pay to USA Water Polo any balance of the entry fee for the Championship Finals that was not paid with the Initial Fee (the "Session 2 Roster Deadline" and, together with the Session 1 Roster Deadline, the "Championship Roster Deadlines"). Each such roster shall include the following information:

(A) The names, verified birth dates, gender and USA Water Polo membership numbers of the athletes on the roster, listed by the cap numbers they will wear in the Championship Finals (number 1 for the goalkeeper, numbers 2 to 18 for all other members of the team roster including any alternate goalkeeper, who shall wear a red cap, numbered 13); and

(B) The names and USA Water Polo member numbers of the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Alternate Coaches.

(6) Submission of Open Division Championship Final Rosters and Payment of Fees

Not later than eight (8) days prior to the commencement Open Division Championship Finals, teams participating in the Open Division Championship Finals shall submit to USA Water Polo their rosters for the Championship Finals and pay to USA Water Polo the entry fee for the Open Division Championship Finals. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that a team plays in a Zone Qualifying Tournament for entry into the Qualifying Division Championship Finals and fails to qualify for the Qualifying Division Championship Finals, not later than July 1, 2022, that team may enter the Open Division Championship Finals by submitting its roster to USA Water Polo and paying to USA Water Polo the entry fee for the Open Division Championship Finals(the "Open Division Roster Deadlines")..

(7) Roster Changes After Submission of Championship Final Rosters

Teams may make changes to their rosters following the Session 1 Roster Deadline, the Session 2 Roster Deadline or the Open Division Roster Deadline, whichever is applicable to that team, provided that: (a) all such changes must be made not later than 7 days after the roster deadline applicable to that team (the "Championship Roster Lockdown Date") and (b) each time that a team makes a change to its roster, it pays a $100.00 change fee to USA Water Polo (multiple changes to a single roster at the same time incur a single $100.00 change fee; any changes to the roster at different times incur a fee each time there is a change to the roster). Note that any roster changes made after the applicable roster deadline will not be reflected in the Championship Finals program. No rosters may be changed after the Championship Roster Lockdown Date.

5.3(b) Champions Cup

(1) Entry Deadline

Any team wishing to enter the Champions Cup must submit its entry form and pay at least 50% of the entry fee, and may pay the entire entry fee, for the Championship Finals to USA Water Polo (the "Initial Fee") no later than 30 days prior to the commencement of the Championship Finals or 14 days prior to the tournament qualifier to which that entry pertains. USA Water Polo will refund the entry fee to any water polo team that submits an entry to Champions Cup, but does not qualify for the Championship Finals.

(2) Submission of Zone Qualifying Team Rosters

On or before 7 days prior to the commencement of each team's Zone Qualifying Tournament, each team competing in the Champions Cup shall submit its roster for the Zone Qualifying Tournament to USA Water Polo (the "Zone Roster Deadline"). Each roster shall include no more than 15 athletes and include the following information:

(A) The names, verified birth dates, gender and USA Water Polo membership numbers of the athletes on the roster, listed by the cap numbers they will wear in the Zone Qualifying Tournament (number 1 for the goalkeeper, numbers 2 to 15 for all other members of the team roster including any alternate goalkeeper, who shall wear a red cap, numbered 13); and

(B) The names and USA Water Polo member numbers of the Head Coach, Assistant Coach and Alternate Coaches. A team roster may contain up to four coaches; however, each team will be issued no more than three credentials entitling team coaches to enter the game venues and no more than three coaches may sit on the team bench during games.

(3) Roster Changes After Submission of Zone Qualifying Team Rosters

Teams may make changes to their rosters following the Roster Deadline applicable to that team provided that: (a) all such changes must be made not later than 11 days after the Roster Deadline applicable to that team (the "Zone Roster Lockdown Date") and (b) each time that a team makes a change to its roster, it pays a $100.00 change fee to USA Water Polo (multiple changes to a single roster at the same time incur a single $100.00 change fee; any changes to the roster at different times incur a fee each time there is a change to the roster. No rosters may be changed after the Zone Roster Lockdown Date.

(4) Submission of Championship Finals Team Rosters

On or before 15 days prior to the commencement of each team's Championship Finals, each team competing in the Champions Cup shall submit its roster for the Championship Finals to USA Water Polo. Each roster shall include no more than 15 athletes and include the following information:

(A) The names, verified birth dates, gender and USA Water Polo membership numbers of the athletes on the roster, listed by the 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 goalkeeper, who shall wear a red cap, numbered 13); and

(B) The names and USA Water Polo member numbers of the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Alternate Coaches and up to one other team official responsible for the team (the "Team Manager").

(5) Roster Changes After Submission of Championship Final Rosters

Teams may make changes to their rosters following the deadline for the submission of rosters provided for in Article 5.3(b)(4) provided that: (a) all such changes must be made not later than 7 days after the deadline applicable to that team (b) each time that a team makes a change to its roster, it pays a $100.00 change fee to USA Water Polo (multiple changes to a single roster at the same time incur a single $100.00 change fee; any changes to the roster at different times incur a fee each time there is a change to the roster). Note that any roster changes made after the applicable initial deadline for the submission of rosters will not be reflected in the Championship Finals program. No rosters may be changed later than 7 days prior after the deadline for the submission of that roster.

5.4(a) National Junior Olympics.

(1) On or before April 1st of each year, each Zone shall provide USA Water Polo with proposed dates upon which the Zone will hold its Zone Qualifying Tournament, which dates must be no earlier than May 1 and no later than June 30. Zones can petition the National Office in writing if they wish to hold their Zone Qualifying Tournament before May 1st. A list of teams with contact information along with supporting evidence must be emailed to events@usawaterpolo.org before March 15th. The dates selected by each Zone for its qualifying tournament shall be subject to the approval of USA Water Polo's national office, which shall, promptly following its receipt of each Zone's proposed dates, notify each Zone as to whether or not that Zone's proposed dates for its Zone Qualifying Tournament have been approved. In the event that USA Water Polo's national office does not approve a Zone's proposed dates for its Zone Qualifying Tournament, that Zone shall promptly submit alternative proposed dates for approval until the USA Water Polo national office has approved proposed dates.

(2) All Zone Qualifying Tournaments must be scheduled so as to commence no later than May 1 and be completed no later than June 30; provided that no Zone Qualifying Tournament shall be scheduled to commence less than 30 days following the date upon which the Zone receives its approval of the proposed dates for that Zone Qualifying Tournament from the USA Water Polo national office.

(3) The USA Water Polo national office shall provide notice to each club within a Zone as to the dates scheduled for that Zone's Qualifying Tournament at least 30 days prior to the date upon which the tournament is scheduled to commence.

(4) Within 7 days following the Initial Entry Deadline, USA Water Polo will notify the Zone Chair of each Zone from which entries were submitted and each team that submitted an entry: (a) whether or not a Zone Qualifying Tournament will be required to select teams from that Zone to participate in the Championship Finals or to seed such teams and (b) if a Zone Qualifying Tournament is required to select teams, the number of teams from that Zone that are anticipated to be eligible to participate in the Championship Finals. The number of teams from a Zone that are eligible to participate in the Championship Finals may be increased following the giving of the notice provided for in this Article as provided in Article 6.3.

(5) In the event that a Zone Qualifying Tournament is not required to select teams to participate in the Championship Finals, but is required to seed the teams entered in the Championship, if each of the teams entered agrees in writing upon their relative seeding, the Zone may elect not to conduct a Zone Qualifying Tournament, in which event the teams shall be seeded in the Championship Finals in accordance with their agreement.

5.4(b) Champion's Cup.

(1) Not later than 30 days prior to the last day for submitting entries to the Champions Cup, USA Water Polo will notify the Zone Chair of each Zone from which entries were submitted and each team that submitted an entry: (a) whether or not a Zone Qualifying Tournament will be required to select teams from that Zone to participate in the Championship Finals or to seed such teams, and (b) if a Zone Qualifying Tournament is required to select teams, the number of teams from that Zone that are anticipated to be eligible to participate in the Championship Finals. The number of teams from a Zone that are eligible to participate in the Championship Finals may be increased following the giving of the notice provided for in this Article as provided in Article 6.3.

(2) If a Zone is required to conduct a Zone Qualifying Tournament to select or seed teams, that Zone shall conduct its qualifying tournament on dates to be selected by the Zone, subject to the approval of such dates by the USA Water Polo national office.

5.5 Non-Roster Athletes and Coaches

5.5(a) Other than as provided in Section 1.2(k)(4), athletes or coaches who are not timely listed on a team's roster, or who are incorrectly identified, will not be permitted to participate in the Zone Qualifying Tournament or Championship Finals for which that roster was required. Alleged violations

of this provision may be addressed by the filing of a protest with the CFMC.

5.6 Athlete and Coach Identification

5.6(a) Prior to the deadline for the submission of rosters for all Zone Qualifying Tournaments and Championship Finals, all athletes who have not previously done so must verify their age using USA Water Polo's online birth date verification system. Athletes who have previously verified their age using USA Water Polo's online birth date verification system and who have not changed their USA Water Polo membership number need not do so in subsequent years as birth date verifications continue to be valid for the duration of an athlete's participation in USA Water Polo events while that athlete is using the same USA Water Polo membership number.

5.6(b) Prior to their first game at all Championship Finals, all athletes, coaches and staff must present an acceptable identification card that includes a current photograph of the individual. Acceptable identification cards include, but are not necessarily limited to, USA Water Polo membership cards (temporary or permanent), driver's licenses, passports or other immigration documentation and school identification cards; provided that the identification card includes a current photograph of the individual. Identification cards without current photographs are not deemed to be acceptable. Individuals wishing to present some other type of identification should check with the USA Water Polo national office prior to their competition to verify that the type of identification that they wish to present is acceptable.

5.6(c) Athletes who fail to present an acceptable photo identification card or, where required, have not completed their online birth date verification process will not be allowed to compete.

5.7 Athlete, Coach and Team Eligibility

The provisions of this Article 5 are limited to prescribing the procedures for submitting entries and rosters, and are subject to the provisions of Section 6.2, which govern athlete, coach and team eligibility.

ARTICLE 6

CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

6.1 Zone Requirements

6.1(a) All Zone Qualification Tournaments shall be conducted in accordance with Section 6.1(b) of this Conduct of Championships.

6.1(b) In the event that only one team from an age/gender group in a Zone (excluding teams that automatically qualify to participate in the Championship Finals pursuant to Article 6.2(e)(5)) enters a Championship, that team shall automatically qualify to participate in the Championship Finals and no Zone Qualification Tournament need be held with respect to that age/gender group.

6.1(c) All Zone Qualification Tournaments must be completed prior to the deadline for submitting rosters for the Championship Finals for which the Zone Qualification Tournament is being held.

6.1(d) Each Zone Chair shall forward the results of that Zone's Zone Qualification Tournament to the USA Water Polo national office within 48 hours of the completion of the Zone Qualification Tournament.

6.1(e) Referee fees for Zone Qualification Tournaments shall be set by the Zone Chair, the Zone Head Referee (or the Zone Head Referee's designee) and USA Water Polo's Director of Referees.

6.2 Eligibility

6.2(a) Athlete Eligibility.

(1) All athletes competing in a Zone Qualification Tournament or a Championship Finals must

be currently registered USA Water Polo Gold level members.

(2) Other than as provided in Article 6.2(a)(5) for National Junior Olympics, an athlete must compete in a Zone Qualification Tournament and Championship Finals for the club with which that athlete is affiliated as set forth on the USA Water Polo website as of the earlier of: (a) 9:00 p.m. prevailing Pacific Time 4 days prior to the commencement of the Zone Qualification Tournament in which that athlete is to participate or (b) July 1st of the year in which the Championship Finals are held. Following the commencement of the Zone Qualification Tournament, an athlete that has been rostered for a Zone Qualification Tournament for National Junior Olympics may only compete for the club on which that athlete was rostered, without regard to whether or not the athlete actually competes for that club in the Zone Qualification Tournament for which the roster was submitted.

(3) For the Champions Cup, an athlete must compete in a Zone Qualification Tournament and Championship Finals for the club with which that athlete is affiliated as set forth on the USA Water Polo website as of the date that the athlete is added to a club's roster.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 6.2(a)(2) and (3), an athlete may affiliate with a new club after the dates permitted in those sections if: (a) (i) the athlete obtains the prior written consent of USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer, or his/her designee, (ii) the request to affiliate with a new club is due to the relocation of the athlete's family's principal place of residence after the deadline for affiliation with a new club as set forth in those Articles and (iii) the athlete has not competed for another club in a Zone Qualifying Tournament or Championship Final for the Championship in which the waiver is being sought or (b) the athlete was not a registered member of USA Water Polo during the membership year in which the Championship is being held and the entire previous membership year.

(5) An athlete may compete for only one team in a Championship in a particular age/gender group. Subject to the provisions of Section 6.2(a)(2) and (3), an athlete may compete for more than one team in a Championship provided that: (a) the teams are affiliated with the same club, (b) the teams are playing in different age/gender groups and (c) the athlete is otherwise eligible to compete in each Championship in which the athlete seeks to compete

(6) An athlete who competes in the 12 and under mixed division of the National Junior Olympics may not compete in either the 12 and under male or 12 and under female division of the National Junior Olympics, in either the Zone Qualifying Tournament or the Championship Finals. Subject to the provisions of Section 6.2(a)(5), an athlete who competes in the 12 and under mixed division of the National Junior Olympics may compete in an age group other than the 12 and under male and 12 and under female division of the National Junior Olympics.

(7) An athlete who competes in the 10 and under mixed division of the National Junior Olympics may not compete in either the 10 and under male or 10 and under female division of the National Junior Olympics, in either the Zone Qualifying Tournament or the Championship Finals. Subject to the provisions of Section 6.2(a)(5), an athlete who competes in the 10 and under mixed division of the National Junior Olympics may compete in an age group other than the 10 and under male and 10 and under female division of the National Junior Olympics

(8) In the event that a club qualifies only one team for a Championship Finals, any athlete eligible to play for that club in that Championship may compete for that 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.

(9) In the event that a club qualifies more than one team for a Championship Finals, any athlete 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 athlete was listed during the Zone Qualifying Tournament

(10) In the event that a club qualifies more than one team for a Championship Finals, any athlete eligible to play for that water polo club in that Championship, other than an athlete who was on the roster of another 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

(11) In the event that a 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 club qualifies more than one team for a Championship Finals, an athlete may be on the roster of only one team during that Championship Finals.4

(12) International Athlete Eligibility

(A) International Athletes are defined as athletes who do not attend a school district located within the United States within the semester immediately preceding a Championship Finals or athletes who do not possess a valid US Passport.

(B) In the 16 & Under and 18 & Under divisions a maximum of two (2) international athletes are permitted to be rostered for the Zone Qualification Tournament and Championship Finals per age group/gender per club.

(C) International Athletes are not permitted to compete in the Zone Qualification Tournament or Championship Finals in the 14 & Under, 12 & Under, or 10 & Under age groups.

(D) The CFMC has the right to request passports, transcripts, class schedules or other documentation from teams with International Athletes competing in the Zone Qualification or Championship Finals. Teams violating this provision will forfeit all games on which more than two (2) International Athletes were rostered or played and be disqualified from further competition in the Championships in which the violation occurred.

(13) Athletes wishing to compete in a gender other than the gender that they were assigned at birth must elect to compete in that gender category as set forth in USA Water Polo's Transgender Policy on or before March 1 of the year in which the Championship is held.

6.2(b) Rosters

(1) A maximum of 18 athletes listed on the team roster shall be allowed to compete in each game in which each team fields seven athletes in the Championship Finals. A maximum of 14 athletes listed on the team roster shall be allowed to compete in each game in which each team fields six athletes in the Championship Finals. A maximum of 12 athletes listed on a team roster shall be allowed to compete in each game in which each team fields 5 athletes in the Championship Finals.

(2) Subject to Section 1.2(k)(4), only those listed on the team roster (players, coaches, assistant coach and alternate coaches) may sit on the bench or be in the bench area at any time; provided that the maximum number of persons in the bench area (including any athletes in the water) shall not exceed 21, no more than three (3) of whom may be coaches, assistant coaches or alternate coaches.

(3) All athletes participating in water polo games shall wear the cap numbers exactly as listed in the team roster (except as otherwise authorized by the referees officiating a game, for example, due to an equipment malfunction, such as a torn or lost cap). In the event that an athlete wears a cap number other than that listed on the team roster, the referees shall verify that the substitute cap number is noted in the score sheet for the game in which the athlete wears a cap number other than that listed on the roster

(4) For National Junior Olympics age group 10 & Under Mixed and 12 & under mixed, teams must submit rosters including athletes of both genders. For the 10 & Under Mixed and 12 & under mixed division, athletes of both genders must be in the water to start each game and be present and eligible to play for the duration of the game except if: (a) an athlete suffers an injury that precludes the athlete from continuing to participate or (b) an athlete is rendered ineligible to participate due to a referee decision, such as an athlete receiving a

third exclusion foul or a red card.

(5) Subject to Article 1.2(k)(4), a rostered coach must be present and eligible to participate at the commencement of a game and for the duration of the game.

---

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 athletes on the roster of team A in the Zone Qualifying Tournament could only compete on team A in the Championship Finals, the athletes on the roster of team B in the Zone Qualifying Tournament could only compete on team B in the Championship Finals and the athletes on the roster of team C could compete on either team A or team B in the Championship Finals, assuming that all of the athletes on the rosters of teams A, B and C for the Zone Qualifying Tournament continued to be otherwise eligible to compete for that 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 were otherwise eligible to compete for the club, but who did not compete in the Zone Qualifying Tournament.

4 Each age group/gender division of the National Junior Olympics is a different Championship. Therefore, this Section would not preclude an athlete from being listed on the rosters of two teams entered in the Junior Olympics, provided that the two teams were in different age groups.

6.2(c) Violations.

Participants and/or teams found to be in violation of the athlete eligibility rules of this Conduct of Championships are subject to disqualification and to forfeiture of games. In addition, coaches who knowingly violate the athlete eligibility rules of this Conduct of Championships may be held to have violated USA Water Polo's Rules Governing Conduct and may become subject to further sanction, including termination or suspension of their coach membership in USA Water Polo.

6.2(d) Coach Eligibility

(1) 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

(2) 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 Assistant Coach for another team from the same club in the same Championship.

(3) A coach may only coach teams from a single club in any Championship (each age/gender group being considered a separate Championship). A coach need not be affiliated with the club of the team to be coached by that coach and may participate as an athlete for a club other than the club represented by the team to be coached by that coach; provided that: (a) the coach is otherwise eligible to compete as an athlete for that team and (b) if the coach wishes to participate as an athlete on a team other than the team to be coached by the coach, such participation must be in an age/gender group other than the age/gender group of the team to be coached by that coach.

6.2(e) Water Polo Team Eligibility

(1) All teams competing in a Championship must represent a currently registered USA Water Polo Club.
(2) Except as permitted by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer and as explicitly set forth in this Article 6.2(e) of this Conduct of Championships, only teams from USA Water Polo clubs based in USA Water Polo Zones shall be eligible to compete in Championships. For the purposes of this rule a club must have its principal administrative office within the United States and must regularly conduct its practices within the United States in order to be considered as being "based" within the United States.
(3) Teams from the United States, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico shall be allowed to compete in Champions Cup.
(4) All non-United States water polo teams wishing to participate in a Championship must submit, together with their entry form, a written letter from their water polo federation (with the names of all athletes, 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

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.

6.3 Participating Teams

Water polo teams shall qualify for the Championship Finals as follows:

6.3(a) National Junior Olympics Qualifying Division.

(1) The maximum number of teams in each age group, gender and competition division (each age group, gender and competition division is a distinct Championship) of the National Junior Olympics 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 athlete members in each age group and gender in each Zone as of December 31 of the year in which the last Championship was held; provided, however, that each Zone shall have at least one entry allocated to it for each age/gender/competition division. The teams eligible to compete in the National Junior Olympic Championship Finals shall be determined in Zone Qualifying Tournaments as set forth in this Conduct of Championships.

(2) In the event that a Zone that is allocated one or more entries in a higher competition division wishes to forfeit that entry in favor of an entry in a lower competition division, that Zone may notify the USA Water Polo national office of its election to do so within 10 days following the conclusion of that Zone's Zone Qualifying Tournament. The USA Water Polo national office will then forward the notice of election to the CFMC. Upon its receipt of the notice of election, the CFMC will notify teams entered in the lower competition division in the order determined by application of Section 6.3(c) that an entry in available in the higher competition division. In the event that a team entered in the lower competition division wishes to compete in the higher competition division, the CFMC may, in its sole and absolute discretion, allow the team originally entered in the higher competition division and the team originally entered in the lower competition division to switch competition divisions. The CFMC will notify the affected teams and the Zone Chairs of the Zones in which the clubs represented by those teams of its determination regarding the requested substitution no later than 4 days prior to the commencement of the Championship Finals. Any decision by a Zone to request that one or more of its teams entered in a Championship Finals be permitted to switch divisions must be made by action of the Zone Board acting in accordance with USA Water Polo's Zone Policies and Procedures.

6.3(b) Champions Cup. A maximum of twelve (12) teams may compete in the Champions Cup Championship Finals. These teams shall include the eleven (12) teams winning their respective Zone Qualification Tournaments. If the foregoing does not provide for twelve teams, the CFMC shall allocate the remaining entries to the Zones based upon the number of athlete members in each Zone as of December 31 of the year prior to the year in which the Championship is being held. 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.

6.3(c) If application of the rules set forth above fail 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 the number of athlete members in each Zone as of December 31 of the year in which the last Championship was held for the age group and gender group of the Championship Finals for which additional teams are required, beginning with the largest Zone (based on athlete membership for the respective age group and gender as of December 31 of the prior year) in accordance with the following: (a) each Zone will be allocated entries equal to a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of athlete members in that Zone (as specified above) and the denominator of which is the total number of USA Water Polo athlete members (as specified above) times the number of teams needed to complete the field for the Championship Finals, (b) in the event that the entries allocated to a Zone in accordance with the foregoing provision do not equal a whole number, the number of entries shall be rounded to the nearest whole number, (c) in the event that the foregoing rounding produces a result allocating more entries

than are available, entries shall be allocated to Zones based upon the size of the unrounded fraction as determined above, and (d) in the event that a Zone is allocated entries pursuant to this provision that exceed the number of teams entered in the Championships (or a team entered in the Championships decline to participate in the Championship Finals), the additional vacant entries so created shall be reallocated to other Zones as provided herein.

6.4 Seeding and Placement of Teams into Groups

6.4(a) USA Water Polo shall seed all teams participating in a Championship Finals prior to the Coaches Meeting.

6.4(b) At the option of the CFMC, in instances in which teams have qualified for a current year's Championship Finals based upon their performance in the prior year's Championship Finals, the CFMC may either seed those teams in the order in which they placed in the prior year's Championship Finals (omitting any teams that placed in the top four of the prior year's Championship Finals that are not competing in the current year's Championship Finals) or seed those teams in accordance with Section 6.4(c) of this Conduct of Championships.

6.4(c) The Championship Finals for National Junior Olympics Qualifying Division will be seeded based upon the results of the 2019 Junior Olympics and the Championship Finals for Champions Cup shall be seeded based upon the results of the 2121 Champions Cup in each age/gender bracket as follows:

(1) Each Zone shall submit the final standings for all teams participating in its Zone Qualifying Tournament to USA Water Polo within 48 hours of the completion of the tournament.

(2) The team placing first in the Zone Qualifying Tournament from the Zone of the team that placed first in the prior year's Championship (2019 in the case of the Junior Olympics and 2021 in the case of Champions Cup) in each age/gender group shall be the first seeded team in the current year's Championship Finals. The highest unseeded team from the Zone of the team that placed second in the prior year's Championship in each age/gender group shall be the second seeded team in the current year's Championship Finals, and so forth until all teams from Zones having teams that participated in the prior year's Championship Finals have been seeded. After each of the foregoing teams has been seeded, the CFMC shall seed any remaining teams using the Random Draw Method.

6.4(d) The Championship Finals for the National Junior Olympics Open Division shall be seeded using the Random Draw Method.

6.4(e) Placement of teams into First Round Groups of the Championship Finals by the Random Draw Method shall be done as follows:

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) In the event that a Random Draw results in a team being designated for a Group to which a team from the same 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 two teams from the same club being seeded into the same Group.

6.4(f) In the event that a team withdraws from the Championship Finals after the Championship Finals have been seeded and within 7 days prior to the start of the Championship Finals, any team that replaces the seeded team that withdrew shall succeed to the withdrawn team's seeding.

6.4(g) In the event that a team withdraws from the Championship Finals after the Championship Finals have been seeded and 7 days or more prior to the start of the Championship Finals and there are other teams from the Zone of the withdrawn team that elect to participate in the Championship Finals, each of the teams from the Zone of the withdrawn team that were seeded below the withdrawn team, including the team replacing the withdrawn team in the Championship Finals, shall be elevated in the seeding of the Championship Finals such that the next highest seed from the Zone of the withdrawn team shall receive the seeding previously accorded to the withdrawn team, the next highest team from that Zone shall succeed to the seeding previously accorded to the team succeeding to the withdrawn team's seeding, and etc. until all Zone teams from the Zone of the withdrawn team have been seeded.

6.4(h) In the event that a team withdraws from the Championship Finals after the Championship Finals have been seeded and 7 days or more prior to the start of the Championship Finals and there are no other teams from the Zone of the withdrawn team that elect to participate in the Championship Finals, each of the teams from the Zone of the withdrawn team that were seeded below the withdrawn team, including the team replacing the withdrawn team in the Championship Finals, shall be elevated in the seeding of the Championship Finals such that the next highest seed to the withdrawn team shall receive the seeding previously accorded to the withdrawn team, the next highest team from that Zone shall succeed to the seeding previously accorded to the team succeeding to the withdrawn team's seeding, and etc. until all Zone teams from the Zone of the withdrawn team have been seeded and the seeding previously accorded to the lowest seeded team from the Zone of the withdrawn team shall be awarded to the team selected to replace the withdrawn team in the Championship Finals.

6.5 Group System of Play

6.5(a) For each 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.

6.5(b) For all Championships, teams shall be selected to advance on the basis of: (i) four (4) points for a win (including a win by forfeit), other than as a result of a shootout, (ii) three (3) points for a win in a shootout, (iii) two (2) points for a loss in a shootout, (iv) 1 point for a loss, other than in a shootout or as a result of a forfeit and (v) no points for a loss as a result of a forfeit.

6.5(c) In the event that two or more teams are tied in points after the completion of play in a round, the World Aquatics 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

6.6(a) The USA Water Polo national office shall provide the game schedules and start times for all Championship Finals.

6.6(b) When the field of play is outdoors and sufficient artificial lighting is unavailable, the CFMC may shift game start times, depending upon the daylight conditions on the dates on which the Championship Finals are held.

6.6(c) The CFMC may alter the scheduled time and/or location for games in the event the location for a scheduled game becomes unavailable as, for example, due to an equipment malfunction.

6.7 Forfeits and Withdrawals From Competition

6.7(a) Once the championship is seeded, should the tournament require reseeding due to a team withdrawing from the Championship Final, that team shall pay a fine equal to hundred percent (100%) of 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. In the event that a team withdraws, the USA Water Polo National Office shall endeavor to replace the withdrawn team, however, in the event that it cannot do so, scheduled games against the withdrawn team shall be deemed to be forfeited and forfeit fines (See Section 6.7(b)) shall apply for each scheduled game that is deemed forfeited, in addition to the withdrawal fine provided for in the first sentence of this provision. Forfeit fines payable under this provision shall be applied to pay officials scheduled to referee deemed forfeited games, with the balance of the forfeit fine paid to the non-forfeiting club whose team was otherwise scheduled to play the deemed forfeited game.

6.7(b) During a Championship Finals, teams shall be subject to penalties in the discretion of USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer for missing games, not being ready to commence 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 1.2(j) and/or abandoning a game once it has begun. Such penalties include a mandatory $250.00 fine and may include additional penalties including, but not limited to: additional fines, disqualification from the Championship in which the conduct occurs, the team and/or club being placed on probation or being disqualified from Championships in subsequent years, athletes being rendered ineligible for All-Tournament selections, and suspension of one or more of the team's coaches as coach members of USA Water Polo; provided that any athlete or coach whose ability to participate in a competition is affected must be afforded with notice and an opportunity for a hearing prior to the coach or athlete's ability to participate being affected. Sanctions imposed pursuant to this Article may be appealed under the grievance procedures established by USA Water Polo's Bylaws.

6.7(c) USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer may modify any penalties imposed under this Section, if he/she determines that valid health or safety issues related to the game created circumstances that caused a team to miss, refuse to play, forfeit or abandon a game.

6.7(d) Entry Fees, penalties and fines shall be paid by clubs to the USA Water Polo National Office and are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

ARTICLE 7

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

7.1 All Tournament Recognition

7.1(a) Athletes for All Tournament water polo teams shall be selected from among athletes competing in the 12 and under male and female and mixed, 14 and under male and female, 16 and under male and female and 18 and under male and female divisions of the national junior Olympics. All tournament teams shall not be selected as a result of competition in Champions Cup.

7.1 (b) The all-tournament teams shall include: (a) a first team, which shall be comprised of the Most Valuable Player in each age slash gender division of the National Junior Olympics, seven first team athletes, (b) a second team which shall be comprised of seven second team athletes from each age/gender division of the national junior Olympics, and (c) an honorable mention team, which shall be composed of athletes from teams placing 5th through 15th in the platinum division of the National Junior Olympics as outlined in the chart below.

7.2 Selection Process for All Tournament Recognition

7.2(a) The Head Coach of each team placing fifteenth or higher in the Championship Finals of each age/gender division in the National Junior Olympics shall submit a list of athletes from their team for Most Valuable Player and All Tournament designation to the Chair of the CFMC after the conclusion of their play in the Championship Finals according to the following allotment schedule:

Overall Team Placing	Allotment			
	MVP	First Team	Second Team	Hon. Mention
1st	1	2	2	
2nd		2	2	
3rd		2	1	
4th		1	1	
5th			1	1
6th				2
7th				2
8th				1
9th				1
10th				1
11th				1
12th				1
13th				1
14th				1
15th				1

7.2(b) If a team otherwise eligible to nominate an athlete for All Tournament honors is penalized pursuant to Section 6.7(b) of this Conduct of Championships with sanctions that include removing athlete eligibility for All Tournament selection, all other teams with eligible players who placed lower than the penalized team will move one allocation place higher and the penalized team shall receive no allocation.

7.3 Sportsmanship Award.

Sportsmanship Awards (designated as the Jody Campbell Awards for males and the Maureen O'Toole Awards for females) shall be awarded to one player on each team competing in the Champions Cup Championship Finals. Players shall be selected for the Sportsmanship Awards based on criteria and with a selection process as determined by the Chair of the CFMC.

7.4 Awards Certificates.

Coaches of teams eligible for All-Tournament recognition shall submit their nominations for all Special Recognitions awarded under this Article 7 of this Conduct of Championships by deadlines set forth by the USA Water Polo national office. In the event that a Coach fails to timely submit his/her nominations, the Coach shall be deemed to have failed to nominate anyone and the award otherwise available under this Article shall be deemed to have been forfeited. The USA Water Polo national office shall prepare proper certificates and distribute them to the recipients of the Special Recognition Awards within 30 days of the receipt of the nomination.

ARTICLE 8

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WATER POLO CLUBS

8.1 Male, Female and Overall Categories

The USA Water Polo Chairman's Cup for Male Championships, for Female Championships and for Overall Championships shall be awarded each calendar year determined by points earned by clubs in the National Junior Olympics Qualifying Division, platinum division and Champions Cup during that calendar year; provided that: (a) no points shall be awarded for placements in following age/gender divisions of the National Junior Olympics Qualifying Division's: (i) Female 10 and under and (ii) mixed gender 10 and under, (b) no points shall be awarded for placements in the National Junior Olympics Open Division and (c) if a Championship is played twice in the same calendar year (e.g., January and December), the points earned in the Championship played the earliest in the year shall be used to determine the USA Water Polo Chairman's Cup awards in that year and the points earned in the

Championship latest in the year shall be used to determine the USA Water Polo Chairman's Cup awards in the following year. In cases where water polo clubs are tied, co-champions shall be declared. Points are only awarded through Championships that are seeded and filled via Qualification events.

8.2 Point System

At each Championship at which points are awarded, 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 as follows:

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

8.3 Water Polo Team Eligibility

If a club enters more than one team in a Championship, the water polo club is eligible to earn points based upon the placement of all of its teams entered into the Championship.6

6 For example: If a water polo club enters three female teams in the Championship Finals of the National Junior Olympics (one in each of the age groups) and four male teams in the Championship Finals of the National Junior Olympics (two in one age group and one each of two age groups), the water polo club could earn a maximum of one hundred three (103) points (six first places and one second place).

ARTICLE 9

COMPLIANCE

The USA Water Polo national office shall monitor and administer compliance with this Conduct of Championships in relation to 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 USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer, shall prepare an event summary for each Championship Finals for USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer within 30 days after the conclusion of each Championship Finals.

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 USA Water Polo's national office, attention Chief Executive Officer:

10.1(a) A copy of the entire section, as amended,

10.1(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

10.1(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 USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer for consideration. Any amendment approved by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer shall be effective on the date specified by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer.

APPENDIX A

PENALTY SHOOTOUT PROCEDURE

1. The shootout will commence immediately following the conclusion of the game, with the same referees as those who officiated the game.

2. Each team shall select five field players and a goal keeper to participate in the shootout. Players who have been excluded from the game are not eligible to participate in the shootout. The five field players shall be placed on the scorekeeper's desk side of the pool, apart from the other members of the team participating in the shootout.

3. The teams need not declare the order in which their five field players will shoot in advance, but the desk shall maintain a record of the order in which the five field players shoot. In the event that the shootout is tied after the first round, the field players must shoot in the same order in the second and subsequent rounds.

4. In the event that the goalkeeper is excluded during the shootout, a field player may substitute for the goal keeper with respect to the penalty shot being taken at the time of the exclusion, but such field player shall not have the privileges of the goal keeper. Following the taking of the penalty shot being taken at the time of the goal keeper's exclusion, the team may select a substitute goal keeper, who shall thereafter participate in the shootout with the goal keeper's privileges.

5. In the event that a field player is excluded during the shootout, the team may substitute another field player for the excluded field player.

6. The referees shall toss a coin to determine the shooting order, with the visiting team calling the coin toss.

7. All shots shall be taken at the goal to the right of the scorekeeper's table, as viewed from the scorekeeper's table, with the teams alternating shots until each team has taken five shots. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event, in the referees' judgment, it would further the competition to conduct the shootout at the other goal, as, for example, if the sun were obscuring the goal keeper's vision at the goal to the right of the scorekeeper's table, the referees may direct that the shootout take place at the goal to the left of the scorekeeper's table.

8. The team having its bench at the opposite end of the pool from which the shootout is occurring may move to the middle of the pool during the shootout.

9. In the event that the teams are tied after each team has taken five shots, the teams shall continue taking shots, with players taking shots in the same order that they shot in the first round until one team misses its shot and the other team scores on its shot, i.e., sudden death.

APPENDIX B

PROTEST FORM

Protestor Name _____ Game Date: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____ Opponent Team Name, Age & Gender: _____ Official #1: _____ Signature of receipt: _____

Protesting Team Name, Age & Gender: _____ Game Start Time: _____ Game Site: _____ Opponent Coach: _____ Official #2: _____ Date/Time Received: _____

PROTEST PROCEDURE

The referee shall record the ending time for each game on the official score sheet. The following procedures must be followed in order to protest a misapplication of the rules in a game:

1. The head coach of the team wishing to file a protest must: (a) call a time out and notify the game referees that the coach wishes to file a protest and the grounds therefore immediately following the incident upon which the protest is based and (b) file the protest within ten (10) minutes following the conclusion of the game. . If the protest is based upon a condition or circumstance known prior to the start of a game, the protest must be filed before the signal to start the game is given, at which point the individual receiving the protest shall notify the non-protesting coach and the game referees that the game is being played under protest. Notwithstanding the lodging of a protest prior to the start of a game, the game will proceed at the scheduled time.

2. The team filing the protest must pay a one hundred dollar ($100.00) cash protest fee concurrently with the filing of the protest. Upon the filing of the protest and payment of the protest fee, the individual receiving the protest and protest fee shall note that a protest was filed on the backside of the original score sheet.

3. All protests and protest filing fees must be delivered to the Site Director, if available. If the Site Director is not available, the protest may be filed with, and the protest fee paid to, the Lead Referee of the game in question.

3. The party filing the protest must describe the circumstances upon which the protest is based and why the party filing the protest believes that those circumstances involved a misapplication of the rules. All protests must be in writing and must utilize this Protest Form.

4. Following the filing of the protest and the payment of the protest fee, the party receiving the protest shall notify each of the following (if not the party receiving the protest) of the filing of the protest: (a) the Site Director, (b) the Lead Referee at the game site, or in his/her absence, the event's Head Referee(s) and (c) the Tournament Director.

5. The Lead Referee shall notify the opposing team's coach of the protest.

6. All protests shall be considered by the Championship Finals Management Committee (CFMC) and its decision shall be final.

7. If the protest is rejected, the protest fee shall be forfeited to the USA Water Polo National Office. If the protest is accepted, the protest fee shall be refunded.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT AND BASIS OF THE PROTEST
(Use back of page if necessary)

Protestor's Signature: