

RULES FOR THE WATER POLO LEAGUE.

1. PRINCIPLES

- a. The League shall be known as the Notts ASA Water Polo League.
- b. The object of the League shall be to promote and encourage the game of water polo at all levels under ASA Laws

2. MEMBERSHIP.

- a. The League shall be open to all clubs affiliated to the Nottinghamshire (Notts) ASA.
- b. Clubs from outside Nottinghamshire may affiliate to the League according to such rules of the Notts ASA as may apply.
- c. All clubs who entered a team in the League in the previous season shall be deemed to be entering the League in the following season unless;
 - i. They inform the Water Polo Secretary by 30th November of their intention to withdraw from the League.
 - ii. There is a resolution placed before the Water Polo League Annual Meeting that their membership should cease, such resolution to be circulated to all clubs in the notice of meeting and voted upon at the meeting.
- d. A new club wishing to join the League shall apply in writing to the Water Polo Secretary by 30th November prior to the year of competition, or later at the discretion of the Water Polo Committee, and all existing clubs shall be informed of any such application in the notice of the League Annual General Meeting at which any application shall be voted upon.
- e. Clubs wishing to continue in the League shall be represented at the Annual General Meeting or notify the Water Polo Secretary in writing before the meeting of their intention to enter a team.
- f. All teams entering the League (Junior and Senior) shall also enter any Cup competitions run by the League for their respective section(s).
- g. A club may enter more than one team in the League subject to any rules that follow herewith.
- h. The secretary of each competing club shall supply to the Water Polo Secretary **31st October** the name and addresses of their club officials, the starting times of matches, details of their venue(s) and any other relevant information as may be required.

3. MANAGEMENT

- a. The League shall be under the overall control and management of the Notts ASA and the Notts ASA Water Polo Committee.
- b. The Notts ASA Water Polo Secretary shall normally be the Secretary of the League unless other arrangements are approved by the Notts Water Polo Committee.
- c. A Water Polo League Management Committee (hereafter referred to as the WPLMC) shall be appointed to supervise the running of the League; it shall be a sub-Committee of the Notts Water Polo Committee.
- d. The WPLMC shall consist of such ex-officio officers of the Notts ASA as the rules prescribe, the Notts ASA Water Polo Secretary, two nominees of the Notts Water Polo Committee and four other persons elected at the Annual Water Polo League Meeting.
- e. The WPLMC may co-opt until the next Annual Meeting up to two additional members to serve specific and stated tasks. Such co-opted members shall have full voting rights.
- f. The WPLMC shall meet at least three times each year on dates as decided by the Water Polo Secretary. The Secretary shall also call a meeting when requested to in writing by three or more members of the WPLMC or by the Notts ASA Water Polo Committee.
- g. The Water Polo Secretary shall give at least 10 days notice in writing of a WPLMC meeting, including an agenda, to every person entitled to attend.
- h. The WPLMC's remit shall include but not be limited to;
 - i. Supervising and controlling the organisation and running of all League and Cup competitions and the keeping of the season's record of results,
 - ii. Monitoring the finances of the League in consultation with the Notts ASA Treasurer,
 - iii. Appointing from within the committee such officers as are deemed necessary for the running of the League(s).
 - iv. Arranging for referees from the list nominated by the Annual Meeting to take all League and Cup matches under the League's jurisdiction,
 - v. Considering referees reports and any apparent or alleged breaches of the rules and adjudicating on them,
 - vi. Imposing such disciplinary actions as the rules may permit,
 - vii. Making recommendations to the Notts Water Polo Committee with regard to the running of and development of the League and any related matter.
 - viii. Appointing such sub-committees as they may feel necessary for the running of the League(s) or as are required to consider any matter referred to it by the League General Meeting or the Notts ASA.
 - ix. Dealing with any matter as shall be referred to it by the Notts Water Polo Committee.
- g. The WPLMC shall keep minutes of all meetings which shall be put before the Notts Water Polo committee for approval.
- h. The WPLMC may exercise its discretion on any matter of concern which arises which is related to the management of the League but not covered within these rules.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FINANCIAL ARRANGMENTS.

- a. All clubs entering the League shall pay such annual subscription to the Notts ASA as is required by their rules and resolutions.
- b. Additionally each team shall pay an affiliation fee to the League as shall be decided by the Notts ASA each year following discussion with the Water Polo Committee.
- c. The affiliation fee required shall be put before the Water Polo League General meeting in January.
- d. All fees and subscriptions shall be paid by **31st January** in the year of competition.
- e. No fee or subscription shall be due from any team which withdraws from the League in writing by 20th March in the year of competition, the date mark on the envelope or email to act as proof of date of such communication if it is not with the Secretary by that date.
- f. All subscriptions and other monies levied or fined by the League shall be payable to the Treasurer of the Notts ASA within one month of demand, unless within that time an appeal is lodged with the Water Polo Secretary or the Notts ASA Secretary.
- g. Any team that does not pay within one month of demand any subscription, fee or fine levied upon it by the League **shall have the fine automatically doubled and any club which has not paid such monies after 8 weeks** may be suspended from the League or may be subject to an additional fee or fine as may be determined by the Committee.
- h. At the end of the season all referees expenses shall be totalled for each division of the League and calculated so that each team pays the same average amount in expenses by either making a contribution to or receiving a refund from the League.

5. GENERAL MEETINGS.

- a. There shall be a Water Polo League Annual Meeting held before the 25th January of the year of competition.
- b. A minimum of fourteen days notice of such Annual Meeting shall be given to all clubs affiliated to the League in the previous season, any clubs wishing to join and the representatives of the Notts ASA entitled to attend the meeting.
- c. The business of the meeting and all proposals to change the rules must be notified in full in the notice of meeting to all entitled to attend.
- d. All clubs affiliated to the League in the previous season may send two delegates to the AGM and each delegate shall have one vote.
- e. A Club entering three or more teams in the League shall be entitled to a third delegate who shall have one vote.
- f. The Chairman of the Notts ASA Management Board, General Secretary and Treasurer of the Notts ASA and the Notts ASA Water Polo Secretary shall be entitled to attend the Water Polo League Annual Meeting and they shall have one vote each.

- g. Any other member of the Notts ASA Management Board shall be entitled to attend the Water Polo League Annual Meeting but shall not have a vote.
- h. Clubs wishing to join the League shall be allowed to attend the Annual Meeting but may not have a vote until the point in the meeting where their membership is accepted.
- i. The Water Polo League Annual Meeting shall include but not be limited to;
 - i. Receiving a report from the Water Polo Secretary, ASA Treasurer, and any other officers who may wish to present a report on the running of the League in the previous season,
 - ii. Reporting on the level of League subscription for the forthcoming season as recommended by the Notts ASA,
 - iii. Presenting trophies and medals to the team who were League champions in the previous season and any other appropriate awards if they have not been presented previously,
 - iv. Electing four persons to serve on the WPLMC
 - v. Nominating such officers (other than League Secretary) as are deemed necessary for the running of the League(s),
 - vi. Adding to or changing any League and Cup rules and voting upon any proposals as are put to the meeting provided the correct notice has been given and the Notts ASA subsequently agrees,
 - vii. Deciding on how League and Cup matches are to be arranged for that season,
 - viii. Receiving nominations for inclusion on the list of League referees for the coming season and voting to approve such nominations.
- j. Proposals to change the rules must be sent to arrive with the Water Polo Secretary by 30th November prior to the AGM at which they are to be considered.
- k. Serving officers not wishing to continue in post should give notice of their intention to stand down by 30th November.
- l. Special General Meetings may be called during the year by the League Secretary, by resolution of the Notts Water Polo Committee, at the written request of three or more clubs or by order of the Notts ASA Management Board. Fourteen days notice shall be given to all clubs in the League of a Special General Meeting and the purpose of the meeting made clear in such notice.
- m. A quorum at any General Meeting shall be the representation of at least one delegate from two thirds (rounded down to the nearest whole number) of the clubs entitled to attend.
- n. All decisions shall be by simple majority of those present except changes to the rules which shall require a two thirds majority. The chair of the meeting shall have an additional casting vote in the event of the votes being equal.

6. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS AND TEAMS.

- a. All players shall be registered with the League and be affiliated to the ASA as defined by ASA law.
- b. All registrations shall initially be made to the Water Polo Secretary on the official form or added to later by letter from a club secretary and shall include the player's full name, ASA number, address and such information as the Secretary shall reasonably require.
- c. No player may compete in any competition until his or her registration has been received by the Water Polo Secretary or, if so agreed at the AGM, by the League Recorder.
- d. A player shall be eligible for registration by a club if:-
 - i. His normal place of residence is within the county of Nottinghamshire.
 - ii. His normal place of residence is in such a county as is represented by a team which has been accepted into the Notts. League.
 - iii. He is a student on a full time course of at least one term, or stationed in the armed forces for at least six months, in Notts. or a county which is represented by a team which has been accepted into the Notts. League.
 - iv. He has, through his club, applied to the water polo committee by letter to be registered for that season, being a bone fide member of his club but not qualifying under conditions i, ii, or iii, above. Such special permission must be granted before the player concerned is registered.
- e. No registrations will be accepted after 31st August except -
 - i. for players who are not more than 17 years of age as of 31st August that year,
 - ii. for players who are full time students who have enrolled that year at a college within 10 miles (in a direct line) of the club's main pool,
 - iii. when a team can provide evidence that it otherwise has 13 or fewer active players available for selection.
- f. A player may not be registered with more than one club in the League.
- g. If a player ceases to be a member of a club he may not play for another club until he has been re-registered by his new club and not for 28 days after he last played for his previous club.
- h. If a player changes clubs during the season a copy of his resignation from his previous club or a letter from the secretary stating that his services are no longer required, shall accompany a registration submitted by his new club.
- i. If a player is registered for a Junior competition he shall be 17 years of age or younger on the first day of the year of competition.
- j. A player registered to play in a Junior league must state on the registration form his ASA number and the Secretary may require to see his ASA registration card.
- k. A club may enter more than one team in either senior or junior sections of the League. They may either;

- i. Enter two or more separate squads on separate registration forms. In this case no player may move from one squad to another during the season unless application is made to the Committee and approved by them OR
 - ii. Two teams to be known as their "A" and "B" teams in the same league on separate registration forms under the following conditions; -
 - a. nine of their players who they rank as of greater ability and who may only play for the team which shall be termed the "A" team,
 - b. their remaining players who shall be termed their "B" team and who may play for either the "A" or the "B" team.
 - c. However a "B" team player who plays for the "A" team in six or more games (League and Cup) shall be deemed to have become an "A" team player and may not play further matches for the "B" team.
1. A club playing an ineligible player shall be reported to the League Committee who may impose a fine up to £25 and any expenses which have been incurred. Also the team shall forfeit any points gained in that match and any goals they have scored; their opponents shall be awarded the points and keep the goals they have scored.

7. ARRANGING AND RE-ARRANGING MATCHES.

- a. Matches in all competitions shall be played between 1st March and 31st October except the cup finals and matches previously sanctioned by the Committee.
- b. A provisional list of fixtures shall normally be issued at the League AGM as a matrix or in similar form.
- c. Clubs will have until **31st December** to make any alterations to these provisional fixtures, with the agreement of the other clubs affected, and then return a list of the agreed fixtures, on the form provided, to the League Secretary by 1st February.
- d. The Water Polo Secretary shall co-ordinate the fixtures submitted, allocate referees and publish a fixtures booklet by **1st February**; each team shall be entitled to receive 15 copies.
- e. A team altering a fixture after **1st January**, and at any time during the season, may do so with the agreement of the secretary of the opposing team.
- f. The team responsible for requesting an alteration shall be responsible for immediately notifying the referees and the League Recorder of any change.
- g. The team responsible for requesting an alteration shall also, within 14 days of the request, contact the other team concerned to re-arrange the date of the fixture and notify the referees and the League Recorder of the new date.
- h. A team responsible for an alteration or postponement of a fixture shall pay a re-arrangement fee of **£10** where a fixture is postponed or re-arranged more than 3 days (72 hours) before it was due to be played, or of **£20** where the fixture is re-arranged or postponed less than three days (72 hours) before it was due to be played.
- i. All re-arrangement fees shall be ratified at the Committee meeting following the re-arrangement of a game. The Committee shall have the power to cancel a re-arrangement

fee where this is due to the application of Rule 7k below, a pool closure, or other reason which, on the basis of any submission made to them, they feel is justified.

- j. Re-arranging a game because of the non-availability of players due to holidays, work or domestic commitments shall not be considered an acceptable reason for waiving the re-arrangement fee.
- k. All re-arrangement fees shall be ratified at the next Committee meeting following the request to re-arrange a game. The Committee shall have the power to cancel a re-arrangement fee where they feel, on the basis of any submission made to them, that this is justified.
- l. The home club secretary shall be responsible for re-arranging a postponed game within fourteen days of its postponement and informing the Water Polo Secretary of the new date.
- m. Except on a Saturday or Sunday no fixture shall commence before 7.30pm unless; both teams agree and the Secretary is so informed or the Committee otherwise orders.
- n. Where a team enters more than one team in the League all matches between such teams shall be played before ~~end of February~~
- o. A team shall be entitled to have a match postponed without penalty to a new date to be agreed with the opposing club if on that day they have to play a game which arises from making progress in any water polo cup competition or they have two or more registered players selected to participate in a county representative or district match or official trial or training.

8. LEAGUE POINTS, POSITIONS AND AWARDS.

- a. All League matches shall count for points as follows;
 - i. A win - two points
 - ii. A draw - one point
 - iii. A loss - no points
- b. The championship of all divisions of the League shall be decided on points gained.
- c. No match shall count in two competitions or for two sets of points.
- d. Should two or more teams tie on points for first place in the championship it shall be decided as follows; -
 - i. Firstly to the team who gained most points in the League matches between only the teams who have tied. If this still results in a tie -
 - ii. Secondly to the team with the greatest goal difference in these same games between them. If this still results in a tie then -
 - iii. Thirdly the League shall organise and pay for a play-off between the teams concerned at such baths and on such a date as the committee shall decide. The winner of such a play-off shall be the League champions. If this match ends in a tie at full time extra time of two periods of three minutes shall be played and should this still not produce a winner the match shall be decided by a penalty shoot out according to such guidance on this as has been issued by the ASA.

- e. For other league positions, should teams tie on points then the team with the greater goal difference shall be awarded the higher place. If this still results in a tie then the teams shall be accorded equal placing.
- f. The trophies and awards for the League competition shall be awarded to the winning team at the Annual General Meeting which follows the League season if they have not been awarded previously at the request of the team concerned.
- g. The Champion team in each competition and in each division of the League shall awarded a maximum of thirteen suitable awards. A club may add to this number of awards at its own expense.
- h. The plinths or other appropriate part of all trophies shall be engraved with the year and name of the champion team. The Water Polo Secretary shall be responsible for arranging for the engraving in liaison with the Notts ASA trophies steward.
- i. All trophies are the property of the Notts ASA and are to be insured by them.
- j. It is the responsibility of a club to ensure the safety of trophies in their possession and that they are returned to the Water Polo Secretary in time for presentation at the following Annual General Meeting or other event as so decided by the Water Polo Committee.

9. BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A MATCH.

- a. The secretary of the home club must advise (by letter, phone, email or in person) the secretary of the visiting club, the referees and any other officials specially appointed, of the time at which the match is to commence, at least seven days beforehand.
- b. A team that does not comply with rule 9a may be liable to a fine not exceeding **£10** for each offence.
- c. The home club shall provide the necessary polo ball, flags, stop watch, whistles, horn and bell and scoreboard and any other appropriate equipment.
- d. The home club shall provide at least two suitable persons to act as match secretary and timekeeper. Where they do not, this should be noted on the match sheet by the referee(s) and it may render the club liable to a fine of **£10**
- e. The home team shall ensure free admission to the baths for the opposing team and at least two officials.
- f. Each team must provide its own caps which, unless otherwise agreed by both teams and the referee(s), shall be white for the home team and blue for the away team.
- g. Before a match starts the captains of each team must list, on the match sheet provided by the home club, the names and cap numbers of all players taking part and sign the sheet.
- h. No player's name may be added to the match sheet after the game has begun. If a player is likely to arrive late his team should make sure his name is on the sheet at the start of the game otherwise he may not take part.

- i. A team must have at least seven players present for a game to commence.
- j. Should a team not arrive, arrive too late for the match to be played or arrive with insufficient players the matter shall be reported to the League Secretary by the home team and by the referee within three days.
- k. Should the start of the game be delayed beyond ten minutes of the appointed time the referee(s) should report this on the match sheet and give the reason for such delay.
- l. If a game is delayed in starting more than 15 minutes the non-offending team may agree to play the game in the time remaining, claim the points or re-arrange the game for another day. The referee(s) should note details of this on the match sheet.
- m. If the full time cannot be played this should be reported to the League by the referee on the match sheet. The Committee may determine whether such a match should count as a completed fixture or be replayed in full.
- p. A team reported for a match being delayed beyond ten minutes may be liable to a fine and may be ordered to pay any additional expenses incurred by the opposing team.
- q. At the end of the game the completed match sheet shall be signed by the match secretary and both referees as confirmation that they believe the score and any other details on the sheet to be correct.
- r. The home team shall send the completed match sheet to the League Recorder to arrive with him within seven days of the match being played.
- s. Failure to return the match sheet within the stated time may result in the home team being fined £5.
- t. All matches must be played to the ASA Water Polo Laws unless application is made by the League to the ASA, and approval granted by them, for a dispensation for any particular law to be modified or held in abeyance.
NB. The ASA granted dispensation for all Notts League games from 2005 onwards to be of four periods of seven minutes playing time with intervals of two minutes.

10. UNFULFILLED MATCHES.

- a. When a re-arrangement is requested both teams shall make a reasonable endeavour to find an alternative date. Where no alternative date can be agreed the team who did not initially request the re-arrangement may apply to the League Recorder for the game to be awarded to them. They must inform the opposing team of this request. The League Recorder may make such an award where no objection is raised by the opposing team and he is satisfied that the procedures have been followed correctly. If any complications arise matter shall be referred to the committee.
- b. The Water Polo Committee may impose a fine, in addition to the re-arrangement fee, plus any expenses which have been incurred, where a club has requested the re-arrangement of a game less than four days prior to the date on which it was due to be played or where they have not followed the re-arrangement procedures correctly.

- c. Where a fixture has not been completed by the agreed date without prior agreement to re-arrange it the League Recorder shall be informed within seven days of that date.
- d. Any team deemed by the water polo committee to be responsible for the non-fulfilment of a match shall be liable to any or all of the following;
 - i. Forfeit the points of the match to the opposing club,
 - ii. A fine of at least £10, but not more than £30,
 - iii. Pay the opposing club any reasonable expenses,
 - iv. Pay the expenses of the referee(s).
- e. When a match has been played but is subsequently awarded against a team for failure to comply with the rules the offending team shall lose any points they gained from the game and also the goals they scored in it. The non-offending team may be awarded the points and shall keep the goals they scored.
- f. A team awarded the points for a game which has not been played they shall be accorded a default score of 5–0.
- g. The Committee may levy a fine (of up to £30 plus any expenses incurred) on any team that fails to turn up for a game without giving due notice. In deciding on the fine the committee shall give due consideration to any exceptional circumstances which arose, whether the referees were informed and avoided travelling and/or whether the offending team made any effort to get to the baths.
- h. The committee may delete a team's record from the League if it has not fulfilled at least two thirds of its League matches by the end of the season.

11. REFEREES.

- a. A panel of referees shall be appointed at the AGM.
- b. All clubs entering the senior league must nominate at least one member of their own club to serve on the referees panel.
- c. No referee shall referee a match in which the club to which he/she belongs is involved unless both teams consent **and sign the match sheet to confirm this before the match is played.**
- d. The Committee shall be responsible for arranging the allocation of referees to all matches.
- e. Before a match begins the referee(s) shall ensure that each team has listed its' players on the match sheet.
- f. The referee(s) shall report any contravention of these rules to the Water Polo Secretary within three days of the occurrence.
- g. A referee shall supply a report on any match or any particular incident before during or after a match at the request of the Water Polo Secretary.

- h. A referee shall receive travelling expenses from the home club secretary at the scale provided for by ASA Laws and he/she shall be entitled to receive such expenses before the game begins.
- i. If a referee finds that he/she is unable to officiate at a game to which they have been appointed, he/she shall notify the Referees Co-ordinator and the home club's secretary.
- j. The Referees Co-ordinator shall be empowered to appoint a replacement referee for any game where he has been notified that the appointed referee is not available.
- k. Should only one referee be available for, or turn up at, a game it shall proceed if the referee agrees.
- l. Where it is clear beforehand that no referee(s) are available to take a game the Referees Co-ordinator or the League Secretary are empowered to postpone a match and ask both clubs to rearrange it for a future date.
- m. Should no referee arrive by the time the match is due to start, the captains of both teams may agree to play the game with such person(s) as are available to referee. Should the captains fail to agree the game will not be played and the League Secretary should be informed within seven days by the home team.

12. INFRINGEMENT OF THE RULES AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES.

- a. When a club or an official considers that an infringement of these rules has been made by another club, or its members, they shall notify the Water Polo Secretary in writing within seven days of the occurrence. A copy of this correspondence shall also be sent to the secretary of the opposing club.
- b. Whenever possible a club shall notify the opposing club and the referee that they consider an infringement of the rules has taken place at the time of the occurrence.
- c. Should a protest be lodged before an event the referee shall immediately inform all participants of such a protest and record the protest on the match sheet. The referee may order the match to take place and the result shall then be adjudicated upon by the Water Polo Committee.
- d. When a referee considers that there has been an infringement of these rules or that the conduct of a team or an individual has been unsatisfactory before, during or after a game, he/she shall notify the Water Polo Secretary in writing within seven days of the occurrence. *(NB Referees should, **always** report any incident of brutality or disrespect to the ASA to be dealt with by their system of sanctions).*
- e. On receipt of any notice of possible contravention of the rules or of a protest as detailed above, the Water Polo Secretary shall;
 - i. include the matter on the agenda of the next Committee meeting.
 - ii. ensure that the accused team or individual is aware of the accusation or protest.
 - iii. invite the accused team or individual to make a written or verbal submission in their defence to the Committee meeting where the matter is to be considered.

- f. The Water Polo Committee shall have the power to deal with infringements of these rules, or any unacceptable conduct by a club or an individual, by any one or a combination of the following as they shall deem appropriate;
 - i. Suspension from the League for a fixed period,
 - ii. Imposition of a fine,
 - iii. Ordering payment of reasonable expenses,
 - iv. Deduction of points from a team,
 - v. Awarding of a game against a team,
 - vi. Ordering that a game shall be replayed,
 - vii. Recording a warning to a player or a team as to their conduct in the future,
 - viii. Other sanctions as may be approved by the Notts ASA Management Board.

- g. When a match has been played but is subsequently awarded against a team for failure to comply with the rules the offending team shall lose any points they gained from the game and also the goals they scored. The non-offending team shall be awarded the points and keep the goals they scored.

- h. A Club or an individual may first appeal to the Notts Water Polo Committee against any judgement made against them by the WPMC for failing to comply with these rules or subsequently appeal to the Notts ASA Management Board.

- i. If an alleged offence is a breach of ASA Law it shall not be dealt with by the Committee but referred to the ASA to be dealt with by ASA Laws and regulations.