



GWPA GENERAL RULES 2017/18

Reviewed by Delegates 08-10-2017

1. Player Transfers

- 1.1 Players who have played for a club must be cleared by that club to play for a new club (except if rule 1.3 applies). Geraldton Water Polo Association (GWPA) transfer form must be completed and the online transfer must also be finalized by the transfer applicant and the club granting the transfer. It is the responsibility of the transfer applicant to ensure the completed transfer form due payment (for in season transfer \$10) is provided to (GWPA) prior to the applicant playing for his/her new club. Transfers will not be accepted without payment of the transfer fee. Junior Players are exempt of the obligation to pay transfer fee.
- 1.2 It is the responsibility of the club the player is transferring into to ensure the transfer is approved before playing with them.
- 1.3 Players who only played in Flippa ball/ club competition are not required to complete transfer form to register with new club.
- 1.4 Teams playing players who have not been transferred will incur a forfeit.
- 1.5 Players who join a new club but have not been registered members of GWPA for the preceding year or more are exempt from completing a transfer form, unless financial debts are outstanding to their previous club. 1.7
- 1.6 The playing week (round) for fixtures and competition commences Friday and ends Sunday.

2. Forfeiture/Withdrawal

- 2.1 If a club is not ready to field a team of at least 5 players (including the Goalie), that team shall receive a forfeit and be deemed to have lost five (5) goals to nil (0).
- 2.2 Clubs will be fined \$50 for every senior team which withdraws from the competition or accrues four successive forfeits. The forfeits referred to in this rule only relate to forfeits in which the game was not played. They do not relate to forfeits incurred due to illegal players unless without that illegal player the game would not take place.
- 2.3 A club playing a person other than in accordance with the constitution and rules of GWPA shall automatically forfeit the game in which such person had taken part.
- 2.4 Juniors who compete in a junior division can play for other clubs in senior grades only if their junior club does not have a team in that senior grade. Players cannot

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play in any junior grade for another club unless approved in writing by the Board of Directors.

- 2.5 Clubs must not play an unregistered or unqualified player, a player must not compete under a false or assumed name, a player must not compete when under disqualification. Penalty - a \$10 fine shall be imposed on the club regardless of whether they won or lost the game and rule **2.3** shall apply.

3. Registration System

- 3.1 All players must be registered with GWPA before they are eligible to play in any GWPA Competition.
- 3.2 If 2 or more teams are entered in the same grade from one club, a list of first seven players must be sent to the GWPA by the team nominations due date.
- 3.3 Club Registrars are responsible for updating the SportsTG player registration database details and payments to GWPA before due dates in each season.

4. Judiciary

Referees must report all exclusions for the remainder of the match on the Referee Report Form. This includes players and coaches or official's that have been red carded.

The referee shall advise the team/s of all reports. Referees should determine from the excluded player/red carded coach if they are to accept the penalty or if they wish to appeal (see Appeal section 4.1.2)

This information must be relayed to the President by midnight of the Sunday following the game.

Distribution of the Report Form is as follows:

Referee completes report and leaves with game sheets for recorder to advise President of report.

If the club whose player has been reported decides to appeal (see Appeal section 4.1.2) they can do so directly, in writing, to the President who then arranges a tribunal hearing.

The following judiciary policy will apply to all matches.

4.1 Players

Players ejected from a match have two options:



4.1.1 Accept the decision and the following suspensions

Suspensions are for senior fixture weeks in seniors and junior fixture weeks in juniors regardless of which grade the players was suspended from.

Note: Number of offences for players relates to the current season only and balances are re-set to zero at the start of every season in which the player participates except where the suspension cannot be served in the current season e.g. suspension resulting from charge in finals, these suspensions will be carried over to the new season

Charge	1 st Offence	2 nd Offence	3 rd Offence
Misconduct – disrespect/ Disobedience Grade 1 Grade 2	No penalty 1 match	2 matches	4 matches
Misconduct – violence Grade 1 Grade 2	No penalty 2 matches	4 matches	8 matches
Brutality No Grading	4 matches	8 matches	16 matches
Assault of Official (including Threat to assault) No Grading	1 Year - Life	Life	

Note 1: An Official is deemed as being:

- An elected member of the GWPA
- A referee
- A pool controller
- Game secretary
- Game timekeeper



4.1.2 Appeal the Suspension

- I. That the player is suspended until the Judiciary Committee has delivered its judgment.

The player may appeal the charge by lodging an appeal prior to midnight of the Sunday following the game with the GWPA President. On receipt of the appeal, the GWPA President will convene a Judiciary meeting to be held on the Tuesday following the lodgment of the appeal. The meeting shall consist of the President of the GWPA or his/her nominee and at least one member from the two clubs not involved in the dispute. The reporting referee and the player charged will also form part of the meeting proceedings.

- II. Should the referee/official who reported the player consider the matter should be referred to the Judiciary then he/she also has that right to do so. All charges of assaulting an official (or threat to assault an official) shall be referred to the Judiciary for a hearing. The levels of suspension that the Judiciary Committee will apply if the charge is upheld are
- III. Number of offences for players relates to the current and previous season only and balances (not suspensions which do carry over) are re-set to zero at the start of every season in which the player participates except where the suspension cannot be served in the current season e.g. suspension resulting from charge in grand-final.
- IV. If a player is suspended for a fourth offence in any two-season period as described above regardless of what the previous offences were then he/she shall be suspended for the higher of a minimum of 12 matches or whatever the offence would normally incur.

4.1.3 Grading of Offences:

For Referees and the Tribunal, the following guidelines may be used. However, each case must be individually considered when determining the grading of offences:

Grade 1 includes:

- Unacceptable language
- Equipment abuse
- Disobedience
- Disrespect



- Splashing

Grade 2 includes:

- All of Grade 1 (depending on the circumstances)
- Attempted contact that may have caused injury if contact had been made
- Minor Contact (no injury)
- Persistent foul or rough play
- Unwelcome and deliberate contact to sensitive body part (e.g. female breast, genitals)
- Continuous disrespect
- Threats of violence against official
- Violence against official
- Attempted kick, punching, elbowing or head butt with malicious intent
- Kicking, punching, elbowing or head butting with malicious intent

4.1.4 Bringing the game into disrepute must be given to coaches, officials and players if they are disobedient to the umpire after receiving a red card (refuse to leave the pool area or venue) If this occurs, the game shall be stopped and a forfeit must be given against the team whose member received the red card and brought the game into disrepute.

4.1.5 Provocation is not a defense but may be taken into consideration by the Referee and Tribunal when considering grading of offences and the sentence to apply.

4.1.6 A Referee, upon being advised that a player has appealed the automatic suspension, may advise the President that he/she does not want to defend the appeal or that he/she is prepared to lower the Grading of the offence.

The President, at his/her sole discretion may settle the Appeal without hearing if the Player accepts the downgrading or it appears reasonable that the Player's suspension be cancelled altogether.

4.2 Coaches and Team Officials

Referees will use a yellow and red card system for all coaches and officials.

Referees are encouraged to warn coaches before issuing a yellow card. A red card may only be used by a referee after using a yellow card first unless the incident is extreme and then a red card may be used without first issuing a yellow card.



A yellow card indicates a warning.

A red card indicates the coach or official must leave the pool deck area for the remainder of the match. A red card will result in an automatic one-match suspension for that coach or official effective immediately after the match in which the red card was received.

Red cards against players on the bench will be referred to the President, who organizes a Judiciary Committee for a decision based on the appropriate charge. As with players, these suspensions may be appealed as per the rules of appeal detailed in 4.1.2.

A second red card during a season will result in a two (2)-match suspension with a third red card resulting in a three (3)-match suspension. Should a coach/official receive a fourth red card in a season they will be referred automatically to the President to organize Judiciary Committee where a suspension of between four (4) and ten (10) matches may be imposed if found guilty. Should coaches be found guilty of the charges after appealing – that is the charges are upheld then the coach/official will receive twice the penalty that would have otherwise been imposed.

Note: Number of offences for players relates to the current season only and balances are re-set to zero at the start of every season in which the player participates except where the suspension cannot be served in the current season e.g. suspension resulting from charge in finals, these suspensions will be carried over to the new season.

4.3 Complaints against referee's/match officials

Official complaints by clubs against referees/officials must be in writing and delivered to the President within 48 hours of the completion of the match/event in which it occurred. The Committee will hear the charges at a convenient meeting time. Please note FINA rule WP 7.1 when considering appeals/complaints. The rule is "The referees shall be in absolute control of the game. Their authority over the players shall be effective during the whole time that they and the players are within the precincts of the pool. All decisions of the referees on questions of fact shall be final and their interpretation of the Rules shall be obeyed throughout the game. The referees shall not make any presumption as to the facts of any situation during the game but shall interpret what they observe to the best of their ability." The GWPA reserves the right to review any such decisions as they affect the competition.

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4.4 General

If a charge of bringing the game into disrepute or charges that relate to GWPA rules outside the charges of Misconduct or Brutality is made against any player, coach or club or league official, the Committee will determine the matter.

4.5 Tribunals

Judiciary tribunals, where required, must be held within a reasonable time after the match in which the offence occurred. Tribunal hearings generally occur Tuesdays 6pm at Aquarena following receipt of a report.

4.6 Notification of Penalties

The President will advise the player/coach and club of tribunal outcomes within 24 hours of tribunal hearing.

4.7 Appeals

All appeals against decisions made by the Judiciary Committee must be directed within 7 days of any decision to the President GWPA, email presidentgwpa@gmail.com accompanied by a fee of \$50. The President will present the appeal to the Committee for a hearing at a convenient meeting time.

4.8 Suspensions

All suspensions are recorded and shall be kept for a minimum period of 5 years