



**USA Water Polo, Inc.
Conduct of Championships**

Revised: June 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Preamble	1
ARTICLE 1 CHAMPIONSHIPS, DATES, SITES, HOSTS, FACILITIES AND RULES	1
1.1 Championships	1
1.2 Dates, Hosts and Sites	1
1.3 Facilities and Rules	1
ARTICLE 2 CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE	4
2.1 Championship Finals Organizing Committee	4
2.2 Event Contract	4
2.3 Grants	5
ARTICLE 3 CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	5
3.1 Requirement	5
3.2 Composition of CFMC	5
3.3 Appointment of CFMC	5
3.4 Duties of CFMC	5
3.5 Protests	6
ARTICLE 4 REFEREES	6
4.1 Referee Qualification	6
4.2 Referee Selection	6
4.3 Goal Judges	6
4.4 Head Referee Responsibilities	6
4.5 Referees Fees	7
ARTICLE 5 ENTRY FEES, PENALTIES, ENTRY FORMS AND CLOSING DATES	7
5.1 Entry Fees and Penalties	7
5.2 Entry Forms and Closing Dates	7
5.3 Submission of Entry Forms Prior to Preliminary Closing Date	7
5.4 Final Closing Date and Team Rosters	8
5.5 Athlete and Coach Identification	8
ARTICLE 6 CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT	8
6.1 Zone Requirements	8
6.2 Eligibility	8
6.3 Participating Teams	11
6.4 Seeding and Placement of Teams into Groups	12
6.5 Group System of Play	13
6.6 Game Schedule and Start Times	14
6.7 Forfeits and Withdrawals From Competition	14
ARTICLE 7 SPECIAL RECOGNITION	14
7.1 All American Recognition	14
7.2 All-Tournament Teams	14
7.3 Selection Process	15
7.4 Sportsmanship Award	15
7.5 Awards Certificates	15
ARTICLE 8 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WATER POLO CLUBS	16
8.1 Men's, Women's and Overall Categories	16
8.2 Point System	16
8.3 Water Polo Team Eligibility	16
ARTICLE 9 COMPLIANCE	16
ARTICLE 10 AMENDMENTS	16
10.1 Proposed Amendments	16
10.2 Approvals	17

USA WATER POLO, INC. CONDUCT OF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Preamble

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

ARTICLE 1

CHAMPIONSHIPS, DATES, SITES, HOSTS, FACILITIES AND RULES

1.1 Championships

- (a) USA Water Polo shall conduct annually the following fifteen (15) USA Water Polo national championships in the sport of water polo:

Championships	Gender	Age Limitations
Men’s National Championship	Men	None
Women’s National Championship	Women	None
Men’s 21 and under National Championship	Men	Age 21 and under
Women’s 21 and under National Championship	Women	Age 21 and under
National Junior Olympics	Boys	Age 18 and under
		Age 16 and under
		Age 14 and under
		Age 12 and under
	Girls	Age 18 and under
		Age 16 and under
		Age 14 and under
		Age 12 and under
	Mixed	Age 10 and under
Champions Cup Nationals	Boys	Age 14 and under & 8th grade and lower
	Girls	Age 14 and under & 8th grade and lower

- (b) Where age limitations are specified in Article 1.1(a) of this Conduct of Championships, all water polo players are qualified on the basis of their age on August 1 of the year in which the championship tournament is to be held. For 14 & under Champions Cup Nationals, athletes must be 14 & 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.
- (c) The term “Championship(s)” refers to all competition that leads up to the conclusion of the final game in a competition, including those competitions at the USA Water Polo Zone level that relate to the selection or seeding of qualifying teams for the championship finals. 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. The term “Championship Finals” refers to the competition among the teams that have qualified in Zone Qualification Tournaments to compete for a national championship based on the provisions in Article 6 of this Conduct of Championships.
- (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 Dates, Hosts and Sites

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

1.3 Facilities and Rules.

- (a) **USA Water Polo Rules.** Except as otherwise noted in this Article 1.3, the water polo playing rules for all Championships shall be as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
- (b) **Field of Play**
 - (i) Except as otherwise stated in this Article 1.3, the field of play for all Championships shall be of the measurements and markings as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
 - (ii) For all Championships, except for National Junior Olympics and Champions Cup Nationals, the field of play shall be the maximum length and width as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
 - (iii) For age group 10 and under in the National Junior Olympics, the maximum length of the field of play between goal lines shall be twenty (20) meters.
 - (iv) For age groups 16 and under, 14 and under, and 12 and under in the National Junior Olympics and Champions Cup Nationals, the maximum length of the field of play between goal lines shall be twenty-five (25) meters.
 - (v) If a Championship Finals or Zone Qualification Tournament is played in two (2) or more pools, the dimensions of the field of play shall be the same in each pool.
- (c) **Goal Size**
 - (i) Except as otherwise stated in this Article 1.3, the size of all goals shall be as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
 - (ii) For age group 10 and under in the National Junior Olympics, the goals shall be a maximum of seven (7) feet wide.
- (d) **Shot Clock**
 - (i) Except as otherwise stated in this Article 1.3, the shot clock for all Championships shall be as specified in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules
 - (ii) For age groups 10 and under in the National Junior Olympics, the shot clock shall be set to thirty-five (35) seconds.
- (e) **Game Duration**
 - (i) Unless varied by the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer with respect to a particular Championship, each game shall consist of four periods of a minimum/maximum duration as follows :

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

- (ii) Other than with respect to the National Junior Olympics, in the event that a game is tied at the end of the fourth period, USA Water Polo Rule 11.3 shall apply. In the event that a game in the National Junior Olympics is tied at the end of the fourth period, the teams shall

immediately proceed to a penalty shoot out in accordance with the rules specified in Appendix B.

- (f) **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 specified in the following chart:

Championship	USA Water Polo Men's Size 5 water polo ball	USA Water Polo Women's/Compact Size 4 water polo ball	USA Water Polo Intermediate Size 3 water polo ball	USA Water Polo Junior Size 2 water polo ball
Men's National Championship	X			
Women's National Championship		X		
Men's 21 and under National Championship	X			
Women's 21 and under National Championship		X		
Boy's 18 and under National Junior Olympics	X			
Girl's 18 and under National Junior Olympics		X		
Boy's 16 and under National Junior Olympics	X			
Girl's 16 and under National Junior Olympics		X		
Boy's 14 and under National Junior Olympics			X	
Girl's 14 and under National Junior Olympics			X	
Boy's 12 and under National Junior Olympics				X
Girl's 12 and under National Junior Olympics				X
Mixed 10 and under National Junior Olympics				X
Boy's 14 & under Champions Cup		X		
Girl's 14 & under Champions Cup			X	

- (g) **Forfeits.** Subject to the provisions of Article 3.4(c) regarding unfair advantage, if a team does not have seven (7) eligible players in the field of play and ready to play at the scheduled game time, the game shall be declared forfeited to the opponent. 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 6.2(c) and 6.7 of this Conduct of Championships for potential penalties associated with teams that miss games, do not show up for games at the scheduled start time, refuse to play games, and/or abandon a game once it has begun.

- (h) **Suspensions.**

- (i) For all Championship Finals conducted in conjunction with another Championship Finals, including different age and gender groups, a participant receiving a red card shall not be eligible to participate in any games of a National Championship, regardless of Championship, age or gender group, until that participant has fulfilled their suspension from participation for the specific team and age/gender group in which the red card was received.¹ Any participant in a Championship Finals that receives two (2) red cards during

¹ For example:

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

that Championship Finals 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 Nationals.

- (ii) Red cards received during Zone Qualification Tournaments shall carry over into the Championship Finals. Thus: (a) a coach or athlete who received two red cards in a Zone Qualifying Tournament shall be disqualified from participating in the Championship Finals, (b) a coach or athlete who receives a red card during the final game of a Zone Qualifying Tournament shall be disqualified from participating in the first game in the Championship Finals of the team for which the coach or athlete competed in the Zone Qualifying Tournament when the coach or athlete received the red card and (c) a coach or athlete who receives one red card during the Zone Qualifying Tournament and a second red card during the Championship Finals shall be disqualified from the remainder of the Championship Finals in accordance with Article 1.3(h)(i).
- (iii) If a coach receives a red card and there is no other coach member present and on that team's roster, that team will forfeit that game and a score of 5-0 will be recorded in favor of the opposing team.
- (i) **Game Schedule.** All games shall be scheduled to allow each team to have a minimum of two (2) hours rest between games.
- (j) **Coaches' Meeting.** All Championship Finals shall conduct a mandatory Coaches Meeting for the Head Coaches, or the Head Coaches' designees, of all teams in the Championship Finals during the evening prior to the day upon which competition begins in the Championship Finals. Any team whose Head Coach, or Head Coaches' designee, fails to attend the mandatory Coaches Meeting shall be subject to a fine as determined by the CFMC (see Article 6.7(d) of this Conduct of Championships)
- (k) **Deviations from Code of Conduct.** USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer may approve deviations from this Conduct of Championships. Any deviation from this Conduct of Championships must receive the written approval of the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer prior to the distribution of the Entry Form per Article 5.2(a) of this Conduct of Championships. All approved deviations shall be clearly stated on the Entry Form.

ARTICLE 2 CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

2.1 Championship Finals Organizing Committee

The host as, selected, approved, and issued an Event Contract per Article 1.2 of this Conduct of Championships, shall appoint a Championship Finals Organizing Committee ("CFOC") consisting of one (1) or more persons of their choice (including a Chair, a Tournament Director, etc.) to organize the Championship Finals.

2.2 Event Contract

- (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 this Conduct of Championships and the Event Contract.
- (b) **USA Water Polo Rights and Duties.** In addition to such rights and duties as may be specified in the Event Contract, USA Water Polo shall provide:
 - (i) Verified athlete and Club registration

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

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

- (ii) Scheduling, travel, lodging, and compensation for tournament officials, referees, and other USA Water Polo representatives
- (iii) Event-specific web page(s) on the USA Water Polo web site,
- (iv) Event-specific logo and marketing materials,
- (v) Championship Program
- (vi) Advance marketing and public relations
- (vii) A results reporting system
- (viii) Event merchandise provider for USA Water Polo-licensed products
- (ix) Tournament game balls, score sheets for each game, and air horns
- (x) Awards and trophies:
 - (1) Trophies for the three (3) top placing teams in the Championship Finals
 - (2) Medals for the players for the three (3) top placing teams in the Championship Finals (up to 15 medals per team)
 - (3) Awards for special recognition as outlined in Article 7 of this Conduct of Championships
- (xi) USA Water Polo and National Sponsor signage

2.3 Grants.

In some cases, based on the scope of the event, USA Water Polo may provide a grant to the Host of a Championship Finals to help offset major cost elements required to conduct a Championship Finals.

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 at the location of the Championship Finals for the duration of the Championship Finals and shall attend a majority of the games played.

3.2 Composition of CFMC.

The CFMC shall be comprised of five (5) to seven (7) individuals, each of whom must be USA Water Polo Members. The CFMC shall include: (a) the Chair of the USA Water Polo National Referees Committee (or the Chair’s designee); (b) the USA Water Polo Zone Chair (or the Zone Chair’s designee) for the Zone in which the Championship Finals are being held and (c) 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 not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the Preliminary Closing Date of the Championship Finals (see Article 5.2 of this Conduct of Championships).

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

- (a) *Seeding of the Championship Finals.* Prior to the mandatory 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).

- (b) *Eligibility.* The CFMC shall rule on whether teams, players, and other participants have complied with the applicable entry and qualification requirements of this Conduct of Championships. The CFMC shall review Team Rosters and ensure that the Head Coach and the Assistant Coach of each participating team is identified and if sanctions are in effect for any of the teams' Coaches, Athletes, or other participants.
- (c) *Forfeit evaluation.* If a forfeit by one team gives another team an unfair advantage, the CFMC can take 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 of teams in a Zone Qualifying Tournament or Championship Finals. For purposes of this rule, a forfeit shall not include an instance in which one team intentionally exerts less than its best effort to avoid "running up" the score on the other team.
- (d) *Assignment of Technical Officials.* Except for Referees, the CFMC shall have the right to assign USA Water Polo Members to the position of Technical Officials for the Championship Finals; e.g., secretary, table staff and other positions required to operate the Championship Finals.
- (e) *Mandatory Coaches Meeting.* The Chair of the CFMC, or the Chair's designee, shall chair the mandatory Coaches Meeting held during the evening prior to the first day of competition in a Championship Finals (see Article 1.3(j) of this Conduct of Championships).
- (f) *Action on Protests.* The CFMC shall act upon any written protest concerning the Championship Finals.
- (g) *Suspension of Participants for Detrimental Conduct.* The CFMC shall have the authority to suspend any player, coach, Technical Official, Referee or any other person involved in the conduct of a Championship Finals for one or more game(s), or other appropriate penalty, for any behavior deemed detrimental to the conduct of the Championship Finals, or to the purposes and goals of USA Water Polo. The CFMC Chair must submit any actions taken by the CFMC during a Championship Finals to the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer, in writing, within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the Championship Finals.

3.5 Protests

- (a) Any protest or complaint pertaining to actions, decisions, or events during a Championship Finals shall be submitted in writing to the CFMC Chair along with a one hundred dollar (\$100) cash deposit within thirty (30) minutes after the conclusion of the game or incident pertaining to the protest or complaint. If an adverse condition or circumstance is known prior to the start of a game, a written protest with a one hundred dollar (\$100) cash deposit must be lodged with the Head Referee before the signal to start the game is given, at which point the Head Referee will notify the non-protesting coach that a protest has been lodged. Notwithstanding the lodging of a protest, teams will proceed with game at the scheduled time. All protests shall be considered by the CFMC and its decision shall be final, subject only to a written appeal to the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer or, should the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer determine to assign the appeal to the Judicial Committee of the USA Water Polo Board of Directors (the "Judicial Committee"), by the Judicial Committee. If the protest is rejected, the deposit will be forfeited to the USA Water Polo National Office. If the protest is accepted, the deposit will be returned.
- (b) All decisions of the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer, or the Judicial Committee, shall be final.

ARTICLE 4 REFEREES

4.1 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 the USA Water Polo to officiate at the Championship to which such referee is assigned. Referees selected for a Championship Finals shall attend the Championship Finals and be available to be assigned, starting with the first game of the Championship Finals through to the final game of the Championship Finals.

4.2 Referee Selection.

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

4.3 Goal Judges.

All goal judges at Championships shall be USA Water Polo referee members. Goal judges may, but are not required to be, compensated.

4.4 Head Referee Responsibilities.

The Head Referee for all Championship Finals shall:

- (a) Assign the referees to all games;
- (b) Assign goal judges for all games that determine 1st through 4th place at all Championships, except the National Junior Olympics Champions Cup Nationals;
- (c) Except for National Junior Olympics and Champions Cup Nationals, notify all Head Coaches the day prior to competition of the names of referees (by game number) who will be refereeing the games the following day;
- (d) Participate in the mandatory Coaches Meeting during the evening prior to the day upon which competition begins in the Championship Finals);
- (e) 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; and
- (f) For Championship Finals requiring additional administrative or technical referee support (e.g., large, multi-site events), assign qualified referees to serve in such roles.

4.5 Referees Fees.

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

ARTICLE 5

ENTRY FEES, PENALTIES, ENTRY FORMS AND CLOSING DATES

5.1 Entry Fees and Penalties

- (a) The entry fee per water polo team for Championship Finals shall be established by the USA Water Polo, shall be stated on the event registration form, and is non-refundable unless a team does not qualify for the championship in which it entered.
- (b) The entry fee per team for a Zone Qualification Tournament shall be as set by the organization hosting the Zone Qualification Tournament.
- (c) Teams submitting an incomplete entry form or roster after the preliminary closing date and prior to twenty four hours prior to the commencement of the first competition in which that team participates (the Championship Finals for those teams who automatically qualify and the Zone Qualification Tournament for those teams who must qualify for the Championship Finals in a Zone Qualification Tournament), whether or not the team is scheduled to play in the first competition of that tournament, must pay a penalty fee of \$100 to USA Water Polo prior to the commencement of the Championship Final to which the entry relates. No roster changes will be permitted after the completion of the Coaches' Meeting prior to the Championship Finals (Rule 1.3(j)).

5.2 Entry Forms and Closing Dates

- (a) The USA Water Polo National Office, in consultation with the CFOC, shall prepare entry forms for each Championship Finals. Entry forms shall set forth the "Preliminary Closing Date" and "Final Closing Date" for the submission of entries for each Championship Finals and shall be made available

by USA Water Polo at least sixty (60) days prior to the Preliminary Closing Date for the Championship Finals to which the entry form pertains.

- (b) All completed entry forms, along with the entry fees, shall be submitted to USA Water Polo through USA Water Polo's on-line system.
- (c) The Preliminary Closing Date for Entry Forms for all Championship Finals shall be no more than forty-five (45) days prior to the Final Closing Date.

5.3 Submission of Entry Forms Prior to Preliminary Closing Date

- (a) All entries for a Championship must be submitted to the USA Water Polo national office, via USA Water Polo's on line system, prior to the Preliminary Closing Date. In order for an entry to be deemed submitted, the entry must include: (i) a completed entry form, (ii) a team roster containing sufficient information so as to enable USA Water Polo to determine whether or not the team being entered automatically qualifies to participate in the Championship Finals pursuant to Section 6.2(c)(vi) and (iii) payment of the entry fee for that Championship.
- (b) Within seven days following the preliminary closing date, the USA Water Polo national office shall inform the Zone Chair of each Zone in which entries were submitted and each team entering a Championship: (a) whether or not a Zone Qualifying Tournament will be required to select teams from that Zone to participate in the Championship Finals and (b) if a Zone Qualifying Tournament is required, the number of teams from that Zone that will be eligible to participate in the Championship Finals.
- (c) In order for more than one team from a Zone to participate in a Championship Finals (without regard to teams automatically qualifying pursuant to Section 6.2(c)), a Zone must hold a Zone Qualifying Tournament.
- (d) At least one team from each Zone shall be entitled to participate in the Championship Finals. In the event that no teams from a Zone submits an entry to the USA Water Polo national office prior to the Preliminary Closing Date, the entry in the Championship Finals allocated to that Zone shall be re-allocated to another Zone as provided in Section 6.3 of this Conduct of Championships.

5.4 Final Closing Date and Team Rosters.

- (a) The final closing date for Championship Finals shall be no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the first day of competition in the Championship Finals.
- (b) Each team participating in a Championship Finals must submit its final roster to USA Water Polo through USA Water Polo's on-line system prior to the Final Closing Date. Each team's final roster must include:
 - (i) The names, birthdays and USA Water Polo membership numbers of up to fifteen (15) water polo players 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 goalkeepers, who shall wear a red cap, numbered 13);
 - (ii) The names and USA Water Polo member numbers of the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, and up to one other team official responsible for the team; and
 - (iii) The nature of any current sanction to which any person listed on the roster is subject.
- (c) Any entry that is not timely submitted and/or does not include the information specified in Section 5.4(b) above will be subject to the penalty provided for in Article 5.1(c) of this Conduct of Championships. Only athletes and coaches listed on the team roster with their current USA Water Polo registration number shall be allowed to participate in the Championship Finals.

5.5 Athlete and Coach Identification

- (a) Prior to their first game at all Championship Finals, all athletes must present an acceptable photo identification card. Acceptable photo identification cards include, but are not necessarily limited to, USA Water Polo membership cards, driver's licenses, passports or other immigration documentation and school identification cards. Athletes 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.

- (b) Except for Men's National Championships and Women's National Championship's, all athletes must present acceptable documentation as to their age prior to their first game. Acceptable proof of age documentation includes, but is not limited to, government issued identification cards, such as passports or driver's licenses that include the athlete's birth date, and copies of birth certificates.
- (c) Athletes who fail to present an acceptable photo identification card or, where required, acceptable documentation as to their age will not be allowed to compete.

ARTICLE 6 CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

6.1 Zone Requirements

- (a) All Zone Qualification Tournaments shall be conducted in accordance with Section 6.1(b) of this Conduct of Championships.
- (b) On or before the Preliminary Closing Date of each Championship, each Zone Chair schedule a Zone Qualification Tournament and provide written notification of the site and date of that Zone Qualification Tournament to the applicable water polo clubs in the Zone Chair's USA Water Polo Zone and to the USA Water Polo National Office.
- (c) 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 Section 6.2(e)(vi) 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.
- (d) All Zone Qualification Tournaments must be completed prior to the Final Closing Date for the Championship in which the Zone Qualification Tournament is being held.
- (e) Each Zone Chair shall forward the results of that Zone Chair's Zone Qualification Tournament to the USA Water Polo national office prior to the Final Closing Date for the Championship Finals.
- (f) Referee fees for Zone Qualification Tournaments shall be set by the Zone Chair, Zone Head Referee and National Director of Referees..

6.2 Eligibility

- (a) Athlete Eligibility.
 - (i) All athletes competing in a Zone Qualification Tournament and Championship Finals must be currently registered USA Water Polo Gold level members, except for players on teams whose clubs are based outside of the United States.
 - (ii) Other than as provided in Article 6.2(a)(v), for Championships other than the Champions Cup and 21 & Under Men's and Women's Championships, 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) one week prior to the commencement of the Zone Qualification Tournament in which that athlete is to participate or (b) June 1st of the year in which the Championship Finals are held.
 - (iii) 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 earlier of: (a) one week prior to the commencement of the Zone Qualification Tournament in which that athlete is to participate or (b) September 12 of the year in which the Championship Finals are held.
 - (iv) Other than as provided in Article 6.2(a)(v), for the 21 & Under Men's and Women's Championships, 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) one week prior to the commencement of the

Zone Qualification Tournament in which that athlete is to participate or (b) June 15 of the year in which the Championship Finals are held.

- (v) If an athlete has competed for a club other than the club for which that athlete wishes to compete in the Men's National Championships, the Women's National Championships, and/or the 21 & Under Men's and Women's Championships, that athlete may compete for such club in those Championships without regard to the club registration deadlines prescribed in Articles 6.2(a)(ii)-(iv).
- (vi) Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 6.2(a)(ii), (iii) and (iv), an athlete may register with a new club after the dates permitted in those sections if: (a) the player obtains the prior written consent of USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer, or his/her designee, (b) the request to register with a new club is due to the relocation of the athlete's family's principal place of residence after the deadline for registering with a new club as set forth in those sections and (c) the athlete has not competed for another club in a Zone Qualifying Tournament of Championship Final for the Championship in which the waiver is being sought.
- (vii) An athlete may compete for only one team in a Championship in a particular age group. Subject to the provisions of Section 6.2(____), 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 groups and (c) the athlete is otherwise eligible to compete in each Championship in which the athlete seeks to compete.
- (viii) .In the event that a water polo club qualifies only one team for a Championship Finals, any player eligible to play for that water polo club in that Championship may compete for that water polo club in that Championship Finals, whether or not such player was on the roster of the team that qualified for that Championship Finals in the Zone Qualifying Tournament.
- (ix) In the event that a water polo club qualifies more than one team for a Championship Finals, any player who was on the roster of a team that qualified for that Championship Finals during the Zone Qualifying Tournament may compete in the Championship Finals only for the team on whose roster that player was listed during the Zone Qualifying Tournament.
- (x) In the event that a water polo club qualifies more than one team for a Championship Finals, any player eligible to play for that water polo club in that Championship, other than a player who was on the roster of a team that qualified for that Championship Finals during the Zone Qualifying Tournament, may compete for any team entered by that water polo club in the Championship Finals, whether or not such player was on the roster of the team that qualified for that Championship Finals in the Zone Qualifying Tournament.²
- (xi) In the event that a water polo club enters more than one team in a Zone Qualification Tournament, a player may be on the roster of only one team in that Zone Qualification Tournament. In the event that a water polo club qualifies more than one team for a Championship Finals, a player may be on the roster of only one team during that Championship Finals.³

(b) Rosters

- (i) A maximum of fifteen (15) athletes listed on the team roster shall be allowed to compete in each game in the Championship Finals.
- (ii) Only those listed on the team roster (players, coaches, assistant coaches and team officials) may sit on the bench or be in the bench area at any time.

² For example, if a water polo club entered three teams in a Zone Qualifying Tournament (teams A, B and C) and teams A and B qualified for the Championship Finals, but team C did not qualify for the Championship Finals, the players on the roster of team A in the Zone Qualifying Tournament could only compete on team A in the Championship Finals, the players on the roster of team B in the Zone Qualifying Tournament could only compete on team B in the Championship Finals and the players on team C could compete on either team A or team B in the Championship Finals, assuming that all of the players on the rosters of teams A, B and C for the Zone Qualifying Tournament continued to be otherwise eligible to compete for that water polo club at the time of the Championship Finals. In addition, either of team A or team B could add players to its roster for the Championship Finals who were otherwise eligible to compete for the club, but who did not compete in the Zone Qualifying Tournament.

³ 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.

- (iii) 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 cap).
 - (iv) For National Junior Olympics age group 10 & under Mixed, teams may submit rosters including athletes of both genders. For that division, there is no minimum number of either gender required on the team roster, the team bench, or in play at any one time.
- (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 Coaches Code of Conduct and may become subject to further sanction including termination or suspension of their coach membership in USA Water Polo.
- (d) Coach Eligibility
 - (i) Each team in a Championship shall have a Head Coach who is currently registered with USA Water Polo as a Coach Member (or other membership type that includes USA Water Polo Coach Membership).⁴
 - (ii) 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 water polo club in the same Championship.
 - (iii) A coach may only coach a team affiliated with the same club as that coach and may only coach teams from a single club in each of the Championships listed in Article 1.1(a).
 - (iv) An athlete on a team in a Championship who is also a Coach Member of USA Water Polo may act as a Head Coach (or an assistant coach) only on the team on which the athlete is competing.
- (e) Water Polo Team Eligibility
 - (i) All teams competing in a Championship must represent a currently registered USA Water Polo Club, except for teams representing water polo clubs based outside of the United States.
 - (ii) Except as permitted by USA Water Polo's Chief Executive Officer and as explicitly set forth in Section 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.
 - (iii) Teams from the United States, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico shall be allowed to compete in Champions Cup Nationals.
 - (iv) Teams from the United States and Puerto Rico shall be allowed to compete in the 21 and under National Championships. Teams from Puerto Rico shall qualify for the 21 and under National Championships as if they were located within USA Water Polo's Southeast Zone.
 - (v) 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
 - (vi) A team competing for the same club as a team that placed in the top four (4) teams from the preceding year's National Championships, except National Junior Olympics and Champions Cup Nationals, shall automatically qualify for the current year's Championship Finals; provided that a minimum of seven (7) players who were on the Championship Finals team roster of a team that competed for the club whose team placed in the top four in the

⁴ 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.

preceding year's National Championships are also on the roster of a team competing for that club in the current year.⁵

- (vii) Any team with an automatic qualification in a Championship Finals shall have the right to participate in a Zone Qualification Tournament; however, any such participation in a Zone Qualification Tournament shall void the team's automatic qualification for the Championship Finals.

6.3 Participating Teams

- (a) All Championship Finals shall have the following maximum number of teams in the respective Championship Finals (National Junior Olympics Platinum and Gold Divisions):

Championships	Gender	Age Limitations	Maximum Number of Teams in the Championship Finals
Men's National Championship	Men	None	16
Women's National Championship	Women	None	16
Men's 21 and under National Championship	Men	Age 21 and under	16
Women's 21 and under National Championship	Women	Age 21 and under	24
National Junior Olympics (Platinum and Gold Divisions):	Boys	Age 18 and under	48
		Age 16 and under	48
		Age 14 and under	48
		Age 12 and under	36
	Mixed	Age 10 and under	24
	Girls	Age 18 and under	48
		Age 16 and under	48
		Age 14 and under	48
Age 12 and under		36	
Champions Cup Nationals	Boys	Age 14 and under & 8 th grade and lower	12
	Girls	Age 14 and under & 8 th grade and lower	12

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

- (b) Water polo teams shall qualify for the Championship Finals as follows:
- (i) *National Championships (Men's)*. A maximum of sixteen (16) teams may compete in the Men's National Championship Finals. These teams shall include the top four (4) placing teams (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place) from the preceding year's Championships, if available and if eligible pursuant to Article 6.2(e)(vi) of this Conduct of Championships, the eleven (11) teams winning their respective Zone Qualification Tournaments and one host team selected by the CFOC. If the foregoing does not provide for sixteen teams, Article 6.3(c)(v) of this Conduct of Championships shall apply.
- (ii) *National Championships (Women's)*. A maximum of sixteen (16) teams may compete in the Women's National Championship Finals. These teams shall include the top four (4) placing teams (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place) from the preceding year's Championships, if available and if eligible pursuant to Article 6.2(e)(vi) of this Conduct of Championships, the eleven (11) teams winning their respective Zone Qualification Tournaments and one host team selected by the CFOC. If the foregoing does not provide for sixteen teams, Article 6.3(b)(vii) shall apply.
- (iii) *21 and under National Championships (Men's)*. A maximum of sixteen (16) teams may compete in the 21 and under Men's National Championship Finals. These teams shall include the top four (4) placing teams (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place) from the preceding year's Championships, if available and if eligible pursuant to Article 6.2(e)(vi) of this Conduct of Championships, the eleven (11) teams winning their respective Zone Qualification

⁵ For example, if a water polo club has two teams that qualified for the Championship Finals in the prior year, one of those teams placed in the top four (4) teams in the prior year's Championship Finals and any seven (7) players who were on the team roster of one or the other of those teams in the prior year's Championship Finals are on the team roster of the team entered in the current year's Championships, the team entered in the current year's Championships shall automatically qualify for the current year's Championship Finals.

Tournaments and one host team selected by the CFOC. If the foregoing does not provide for sixteen teams, Article 6.3(b)(vii) of this Conduct of Championships shall apply.

- (iv) *21 and under National Championships (Women's).* A maximum of twenty four (24) teams may compete in the 21 and under Women's National Championship Finals. These teams shall include the top four (4) placing teams (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place) from the preceding year's Championships if available and if eligible pursuant to Article 6.2(e)(vi) of this Conduct of Championships, the eleven (11) teams winning their respective Zone Qualification Tournaments and one host team selected by the CFOC. . The USA Water Polo National Office will allocate the remaining team entries to the appropriate zones per Article 6.3(b)(vii) of this Conduct of Championships.
- (v) *National Junior Olympics.* The maximum number of teams in each age group and gender division (each age group and gender 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 prior to the Championship; provided, however, that each Zone shall have at least one entry allocated to it for each age/gender group. The teams eligible to compete in the National Junior Olympic Championship Finals shall be determined in Zone Qualifying Tournaments as set forth in this Conduct of Championships..
- (vi) *Champions Cup Nationals.* A maximum of twelve (12) teams may compete in the Champions Cup Championship Finals. These teams shall include the eleven (11) teams winning their respective Zone Qualification Tournaments and one (1) team selected by USA Water Polo National Office. If the foregoing does not provide for twelve teams, the CFMC shall allocate the remaining entries to the Zones based upon Zone membership size as of December 31 of the previous year for the age group and gender for which the entry is being selected, beginning with the largest Zone, allocating one entry per round. If the foregoing still does not provide for twelve teams, the CFMC shall invite teams from Canada, Mexico, or Puerto Rico and thereafter the CFMC shall select team(s) of their choice.
- (vii) 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 USA Water Polo Zone membership size as of December 31 of the previous year for the age group and gender group of the Championship Finals for which additional teams are required, beginning with the largest Zone (based on membership for the respective age group and gender as of December 31 of the prior year), with one entry allocated to a Zone per round with additional rounds held until the field is complete (once a Zone fails to select a team to fill an entry slot in a round, that Zone shall be excluded from any subsequent rounds).(See Article 6.3(b)(vii) of this Conduct of Championships.

6.4 Seeding and Placement of Teams into Groups

- (a) The CFMC shall seed all teams participating in a Championship Finals after the Final Closing Date and prior to the mandatory Coaches Meeting.
- (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.
- (c) Subject to Section 6.4(b), and except the National Junior Olympics and Champions Cup, teams shall be seeded in the Championship Finals as follows:
 - (i) First, the CFMC shall select teams to be seeded 1st to 4th and place them into the First Round Groups by either seeding them as the CFMC shall agree with the 1st seed as A1 in Group A, the 2nd seed as B1 in Group B, the 3rd seed as C1 in Group C, and the 4th seed as D1 in Group D, or seeding them using the Random Draw Method specified in Article 6.4(e) of this Conduct of Championships ("Random Draw Method").

- (ii) Second, the CFMC shall select teams to be seeded 5th to 8th and place them into the First Round Groups by either seeding them as the CFMC shall agree with the 5th seed as D2 in Group D, the 6th seed as C2 in Group C, the 7th seed as B2 in Group B, and the 8th seed as A2 in Group A, or seeding them using the Random Draw Method; however, if the Random Draw Method was used to seed the 1st to 4th seeds, the Random Draw Method shall be used to seed the 5th to 8th seeds.
 - (iii) Third, the CFMC shall select the teams to be seeded 9th to 12th and place them into First Round Groups by either seeding them as the CFMC shall agree with the 9th seed as A3 in Group A, the 10th seed as B3 in Group B, the 11th seed as C3 in Group C, and the 12th seed as D3 in group D or seeding them using the Random Draw Method; however if the Random Draw Method was used to seed the 5th to 8th seeds, the Random Draw Method shall be used to seed the 9th to 12th seeds.
 - (iv) Fourth, for Championship Finals with a sixteen (16) team field, the CFMC shall select the teams to be seeded 13th to 16th and place them into First Round Groups by either seeding them as the CFMC shall agree with the 13th seed as D4 in Group D, the 14th seed as C4 in Group C, the 15th seed as B4 in Group B, and the 16th seed as A4 in group A, or seeding them using the Random Draw Method; however if the Random Draw Method was used to seed the 9th to 12th seeds, the Random Draw Method shall be used to seed the 13th to 16th seeds.
 - (v) Notwithstanding anything else written herein, if two or more teams from the same water polo club are participating in a Championship Finals, each of those teams shall be placed into a different First Round Group.
- (d) The Championship Finals for National Junior Olympics and the Champions Cup shall be seeded based upon the results of the prior year's National Junior Olympics and Champions Cup, respectively, in each age/gender bracket as follows:
- (i) Each Zone shall submit the final standings of its Zone Qualifying Tournament to USA Water Polo. The team placing first in the Zone Qualifying Tournament from the Zone of the team that placed first in the prior year's Championship 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 have been seeded, the CFMC shall seed any remaining teams.
- (e) Placement of teams into First Round Groups of the Championship Finals by the Random Draw Method shall be done as follows:
- (i) First, slips of paper labeled with the First Round Group designation shall be placed in one container and slips of paper labeled with the names of the teams shall be placed in another container.
 - (ii) Second, a Group designation shall be drawn and then a team designation shall be drawn. The team drawn shall be seeded in accordance with the Group designation drawn. The process of drawing Group designations and teams shall be continued until all teams to be seeded in accordance with the Random Draw Method have been seeded.
 - (iii) In the event that less than all teams that are to be seeded are seeded by the Random Draw Method, the CFMC may select more teams for a Random Draw than the number of teams required to be seeded in that Random Draw, with any team not seeded by that Random Draw being placed into the next group of teams to be seeded.
 - (iv) In the event that a Random Draw results in a team being designated for a group in which a team from the same water polo club is already assigned, the team shall be substituted for either the previous draw or the subsequent draw, as determined by the CFMC, to prevent two teams from the same club being seeded into the same group.

6.5 Group System of Play

- (a) For the Championship the Group System of Play shall be as determined by the USA Water Polo National Office based on the number of teams in each gender/age group. All entered teams shall play off to a final placing.
- (b) For all National Championships, except the National Junior Olympics, the first and second place teams in each Group in the First Round shall be selected to advance to the Second Round on the basis of two (2) points for each win, one (1) point for each tie, and zero (0) points for each loss for each game played by each team in the first round. Teams entering the second round shall carry forward to the second round only the point(s) and the game score the team earned in the first round against the team that also advanced from their Group to the second round. Teams in the second round advance to the final round on the basis of points and the game scores earned in the second round (two (2) points for each win, one (1) point for each tie, and zero (0) points for each loss for each game played in the second round) plus point(s) and the game scores carried forward from the first round.
- (c) In the event that two or more teams are tied in points after the completion of play in the second round, the FINA tie break system currently in effect and published in the USA Water Polo Playing Rules shall be used.

6.6 Game Schedule and Start Times

- (a) The USA Water Polo national office shall provide the game schedules and start times for all Championship Finals.
- (b) When the field of play is outdoors and sufficient artificial lighting is unavailable, the CFMC may approve shifting the game start times, depending upon the daylight conditions on the dates on which the Championship Finals are held.

6.7 Forfeits and Withdrawals From Competition

- (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
- (b) During a Championship Finals, in addition to the provisions of Article 1.3(g), 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 Section 1.3(g) and/or abandoning a game once it has begun. Such penalties may include, but are not limited to: fines, disqualification from the Championship in which the rule violation 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/All-American selections, and suspension of one or more of the team's coaches as coach members of USA Water Polo. Sanctions imposed pursuant to this Article may be appealed under the grievance procedures established by USA Water Polo's Bylaws.
- (c) The USA Water Polo 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 miss, refuse to play, forfeit or abandon such game.
- (d) For all Championship Finals, a team whose Head Coach or Head Coach's designee fails to attend the mandatory Coaches Meeting on the day prior to the first day of competition shall be subject to a fine.
- (e) Entry Fees, penalties and fines shall be paid to the USA Water Polo National Office and are non-refundable.

**ARTICLE 7
SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

7.1 All American Recognition

- (a) Athletes for All American water polo teams shall be selected from among athletes competing in the National Championships, and each age/gender divisions of the National Junior Olympic Championships

- (b) The All-American teams shall include: (a) a first team, which shall be comprised of the Most Valuable Player in the National Championships and each age/gender division of the National Junior Olympics Championships, and seven first team athletes and seven second team athletes from each of the National Championships and each age/gender division of the National Junior Olympics and (b) with respect to each age/gender division of the National Junior Olympics, an Honorable Mention team which shall be composed of one athlete from each team in the platinum division and one athlete from each team placing in the top three teams of the gold division not selected to the first team All-American team.
- (c) All American teams shall not be selected as a result of competition in the Champions Cup Nationals.

7.2 All-Tournament Teams

- (a) Athletes for an All-Tournament team shall be selected from among athletes competing in the 21 and under National Championships.
- (b) The All-Tournament team shall be comprised of the Most Valuable Player and seven first team athletes and seven second team athletes competing in the 21 and under National Championships.
- (c) An All-Tournament Team shall not be selected as a result of competition in the Champions Cup Nationals.

7.3 Selection Process.

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

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

- (b) If a Championship Finals has fewer than fifteen (15) teams, the Honorable Mention designations shall be reduced (e.g., a field with twelve (12) teams would have only eleven (11) Honorable Mention selections; a field with eight (8) teams would have only seven (7) Honorable Mention Selections).
- (c) If a team in a sixteen (16) team Championship Finals field or smaller is penalized according to Article 6.7(b) of this Conduct of Championships with sanctions that include removing athlete eligibility for All America/All Tournament selection, all other teams with eligible players will move one allocation place higher and the penalized team shall receive no allocation. For a Championship Finals with a field larger than sixteen (16) teams, if a team placing sixteenth (16th) or higher in the Championship Finals is penalized according to Article 6.7 of this Conduct of Championships with sanctions that include removing athlete eligibility for All America/All Tournament selection, the next highest place team shall receive that team's allotment for All American/All Tournament athlete recognition.

- (d) The CFMC shall ratify the submitted selections after the final day of competition in the Championship Finals and following completion of any appeals arising from penalties affecting athlete eligibility for All America/All Tournament recognition pursuant to Section 6.7(b) of this Conduct of Championships.
- (e) The following MVP Awards have been designated for the respective Championships:
 - (i) Men's National Championships: The Chuck Metz Award
 - (ii) Women's National Championships: The John Felix Award

7.4 Sportsmanship Award.

For Sportsmanship Awards (designated as the Jody Campbell Awards for boys and the Maureen O'Toole Awards for girls) shall be awarded to one player on each team 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.

7.5 Awards Certificates.

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

ARTICLE 8

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WATER POLO CLUBS

8.1 Men's, Women's and Overall Categories

The USA Water Polo Chairman's Cup for Men's Championships (including Boys' divisions of the National Junior Olympics and 14 & under Champions Cup Nationals), for Women's Championships (including Girls' divisions of the National Junior Olympics and 14 & under Champions Cup Nationals), and for Overall Championships (Men's, Women's, Boy's and Girl's) shall be awarded each calendar year determined by points earned by water polo clubs in Championships during that calendar year; however, if a Championship is played twice in the same calendar year (e.g., January and December) the points earned in the Championship played the latest in the year shall be used to determine the USA Water Polo National Championship Water Polo Clubs in the following year. In cases where water polo clubs are tied, co-champions shall be declared.

8.2 Point System

At each Championship, water polo clubs shall earn points for each water polo team from their water polo club that places in the top twelve (12) places in the Championship as follows:

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

8.3 Water Polo Team Eligibility

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

⁶ For example:

- (a) If a water polo club brings three Girl's teams to the Championship Finals of the National Junior Olympics (one in each of the age groups) and four Boy's teams to the Championship Finals of the National Junior Olympics (two in one age group and one each in two age groups), the water polo club could earn a maximum of one hundred three (103) points (six first places and one second place).
- (b) If a water polo club enters two teams in the Championship Finals of the Men's 20 and under National Championships, the water polo club could earn a maximum of twenty-eight (28) points (one first place and one second place).

**ARTICLE 9
COMPLIANCE**

The USA Water Polo National Office shall monitor and administer compliance of all Championship Finals in accordance with the terms of the USA Water Polo Events Contract. A designated member of the USA Water Polo National Office or a USA Water Polo Member designated by the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer, shall prepare an event summary each Championship Finals for issuance to the Chief Executive Officer within thirty (30) days after 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 the USA Water Polo National Office, attention Chief Executive Officer:

- (a) A copy of the entire section, as amended
- (b) A “redline” of the proposed amendment reflecting the text of the proposed amendment with any new language underlined and any deleted language lined through and
- (c) A brief explanation of the purpose and impact of the proposed amendment.

10.2 Approvals

Any proposed amendment to the Conduct of Championships shall be submitted to the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer for consideration. Any amendment approved by the Chief Executive Officer shall be effective on the date specified by the USA Water Polo Chief Executive Officer.

APPENDIX B: NATIONAL JUNIOR OLYMPIC 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 shoot out. 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 shoot out.
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 shoot out 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 shoot out, 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 shoot out with the goal keeper's privileges.
5. In the event that a field player is excluded during the shoot out, 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 shoot out 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 shoot out take place at the goal to the left of the scorekeeper's table.
8. The team having its bench to the left of the scorekeeper's table, as viewed from the scorekeeper's table, may move to the middle of the pool during the shoot out.
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.