

DEVON COUNTY ASA

Water Polo General Conditions

Revised December 2019 - *To be used in conjunction with the Devon County ASA General Championship Conditions*

Words importing the Masculine Gender shall include the Feminine Gender and vice versa

1. The Competitions shall be open to all Clubs affiliated to Devon County ASA, and where approved by the Devon County ASA Water Polo Committee, Clubs from other Counties in the SE SWRegion for the development of Water Polo.
2. The Devon County ASA General Championship Conditions shall apply where applicable.
3. Where players have dual registration with competing Clubs, they may play for two Clubs, subject to the restrictions listed in Condition 4.
 - i. Any Club having two teams competing in the same League/KO Cup Competition shall submit a separate Registration Form for each team to the Hon. Water Polo Secretary.
 - ii No player may be nominated for both teams.
4. The Leagues and KO Cups are separate Competitions.

A player may only play for their SE ranked Club, unless that Club is not participating in a Competition that player is entitled by definition to take part in, in which case they they may play for a nominated non-ranked Club, providing they are current members of that Club, and conform to the current Devon County ASA General Championship Conditions.

Players resigning membership of their current SE ranked Club, must do so in accordance with their Club resignation policy, and joining another SE Club may compete for that Club if:

- i. Their resignation process is complete, and confirmed
- ii. They are a current SE registered member with their new Club .
- iii. Their resigning Club is owed no monies.
- iv. They may not play for their new Club in a Competition that they have already competed in for their resigning Club.

Competition shall mean any individual League or KO Cup.

In the case of a fixture clash, the ranked Club shall take preference.

5. The entry fee for Leagues and KO Cups for each season shall be decided upon by the Devon County ASA Water Polo Committee, in conjunction with the Devon County ASA Hon. Treasurer, and approved by the Devon County ASA Management Committee in a timely fashion, prior to the commencement of each season.
 - i. The entry fee and any fines due shall be paid to the Devon County ASA Hon. Treasurer not later than the date requested.
 - ii. Failure to pay by the due date may result in a fine not exceeding £25.00 per team entered, as determined by the Devon County ASA Water Polo Committee

6. The home Club must arrange that matches shall commence not later than 9pm.

- i. Matches involving Juniors (U15 + younger) shall commence not later than 8pm unless both Clubs agree a later start.

7. All matches shall be conducted in accordance with the FINA Rules of Water Polo, which are adopted by S England and the subject of conditions of play within England, except that all matches played in Devon County ASA Competitions, except U13, shall have four periods of Seven Minutes actual play, with a two minute break between periods.

8. Caps shall be of a contrasting colour, other than solid red, as approved by the referees, but also to contrast with the colour of the ball. Teams may be required to wear white or blue caps. Goalkeepers shall wear red caps.

- i. Teams shall provide their own Caps.
- ii. Teams wearing 'Club Caps' must have white/blue Caps available, as per 8 above.

9. All Clubs competing in matches where officials are appointed by Devon County ASA shall equally share the match officials' expenses in Competitions in which they compete. These costs shall be summarised by the League Administrator, shared equally, and under/overpayments shall be invoiced/refunded by the Devon County ASA Hon. Treasurer at the conclusion of each season.

10. Any Club playing an ineligible player shall be deemed to have lost that match in which that player played, and shall be subject to a fine not exceeding £25.00 per player per match.

- i. The S England minimum age for Water Polo competitors for events other than Regional and National Competitions is 10 years. The age specified shall be the age of the Water Polo player at midnight on the day of the match.
- ii. Juniors must be under the age of 19, 17, 15, 13 as at 31 December in the year of competition.

11. All protests and appeals, with a fee of £25, shall be lodged in writing with the Devon County ASA Water Polo Secretary within three days of the event, who shall then notify the Secretary of the opposing Club.

- i. Fees are non-refundable in the event of a non-successful protest or appeal.
- ii. The fee shall be forfeited if the Committee consider the protest frivolous.
- iii. If Clubs do not accept the ruling and wish to refer to the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) any fines imposed will be stayed until a decision is reached by that body.

12. The Management or Emergency Committee of the Devon County ASA shall have the power to decide any point not provided for in the foregoing regulations.

13. All Water Polo Trophies are the property of Devon County ASA, and are to be returned to the Devon County ASA Hon. Trophy Steward by the October Management Committee meeting, unless agreed otherwise. Failure to return a Trophy by this date could result in a fine of £50 per Trophy.

Video and Photography

14. Clubs must comply with the current guidelines as published by Swim England in its 'Wavepower' document. Clubs are responsible for the display and announcement of these guidelines at all matches. Failure to do so may result in fines, and or suspension from relevant Competitions.

- i. With reference to 14 above any person who wishes not to be photographed or videoed must contact the Devon County ASA Hon. Water Polo Secretary, in writing, at the earliest opportunity. Individuals may alter their preference at any time. The Devon County ASA Water Polo Secretary shall be responsible for notifying Clubs of individuals not wishing to be photographed or videoed.

Health and Safety

15. All matches to be played in water that meets the FINA Rules regarding water temperature.

16. To comply with Swim England Insurance requirements, all poolside staff and Club volunteer helpers must be S England registered members of an affiliated Club.

- i. All possible helpers must be registered with the Devon County ASA League Administrator prior to the commencement of the season, names and S England registration numbers.
- ii. Clubs may add additional names at any time.
- iii. In the event of a last minute replacement, previously unregistered names must be recorded on the match sheet, with their S England registration number.
- iv. Clubs using unregistered persons will void the match.

17. Neither Devon County ASA, the Promoter, nor the Pool Operator will be responsible for any loss or damage occurring during Competitions, and will not be liable if property is lost, stolen or damaged.

Unacceptable Behaviour

18. Behaviour becomes “unacceptable” when it is considered “offensive” to others; this includes, but is not limited to the following; theft, willful damage to property and/or equipment, acts of vandalism, abuse of alcohol and/or drugs, bullying, offensive language, aggressive/violent acts, threatening behaviour, all breaches of safety practices, failure to comply with instructions/directions, actions that bring the sport into disrepute. The S England Codes of Conduct shall govern the acts and behaviours of all present.

19. The health, safety and wellbeing of all players, officials, volunteers, spectators and visitors is paramount. All Health and Safety rules/regulations/requirements must be complied with at all times.

20. All competitors, officials, volunteers, spectators and visitors are required, at all times, to abide by the rules set out in the Pool Safety Operating Procedures and/or the Normal Operating Procedures and Emergency Action Plan for the facility hired for the event. As well as comply with the relevant S England Codes of Conduct and Practice.

Fixtures

21. The Hon. Water Polo Secretary, and League Administrator shall convene a meeting for all Clubs that have entered the forthcoming League Competitions, prior to the commencement of that season, for the purpose of arranging fixtures. All fixtures should be sent to the League Administrator by midnight on the day of the convened meeting. Clubs may arrange fixtures prior to the meeting.

- i. Any competing Club that fails to submit fixtures as detailed in 21 above, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £25.

22. Each Club shall only be allowed to postpone a fixture on one occasion, except in the circumstances listed in 22i. below, before the fixture is considered an “unplayed fixture”, the outcome will then be determined by the Devon County Water Polo Committee in accordance with the rules.

To remove doubt a maximum of two re-arrangements only may be made on any one fixture. That is one per Club.

- i. Once fixtures have been confirmed re-arrangement without possible penalty can only be made in the following circumstances.
 - Any S England Competition
 - Any S England SWRegion Competition
 - Any English School Swimming Association Competition
 - British Water Polo League Competition
 - Unforeseen Pool Closure
 - Unforeseen Club event
 - Other Special circumstances may be considered by the Water Polo Committee

23 Any re-arrangement to a fixture must be notified in writing by the Club seeking the re-arrangement to all involved; the opposing Club, the Devon County ASA Water Polo Secretary, the County League Administrator, the County Referee Coordinator, the appointed officials, at least seven days prior to the original date of the fixture.

- i. Failure to comply with the above will result in a fine of £25 to the offending Club who will also be liable for paying any expenses incurred by the Officials or Opposing team.
- ii. It shall be the responsibility of the offending Club to give at least seven days notice to all in 23 above of the re-arranged date, time and venue.

24. The cancellation of any fixture must be notified in writing immediately by the cancelling Club to the opposing Club, the Devon County ASA Water Polo Secretary, the County League Administrator, the County Referee Coordinator, the appointed officials.

- i. Failure to comply with the above will result in a fine of £25 to the Offending Club who will also be liable for paying any expenses incurred by the Officials or Opposing Team.
- ii. It shall be the responsibility of the offending Club to give at least seven days notice to all in 24 above of the re-arranged date, time and venue.

25. All re-arrangements/cancellations must be re-scheduled within fourteen days of the original date, and played within the League season.

26. In the event of a Club

- i. Cancelling on the day of the match
- ii. Failing to have seven players available to start the match within fifteen minutes of the agreed start time.

The match shall be cancelled by the non-offending team, and the match referee(s).

The Water Polo Secretaries of each Club shall, within three days, submit a written report to the Devon County Water Polo Secretary, and County League Administrator, who shall in turn, place a report to the Devon County Water Polo Committee, who shall have the power to make any of the following;

- i. Award the match to the non-offending team, or in cases of force majeure; alternatively order the match to be re-played.
- ii. Order the payment of a fine not exceeding £25 by the offending Club.
- iii. Order the payment of any expenses occurred to the non-offending Club and Officials

27. If a Club fails to fulfill any one of its' fixtures in any season, the points shall be awarded to the opposing Club(s).

- i. The offending Club(s) shall be deducted two points per match
- ii. The offending Club(s) shall be liable for any expenses incurred by the opposing Club(s) .
- iii. The offending Club(s) shall be liable for a fine not exceeding £25 per match, payable to Devon County ASA.
- iv. If a Club does not complete a match for any reason, the Water Polo Committee may, in addition to the above, set a score for the match.
- v. Claims for any expenses incurred in 27. must be made, in writing, within thirty days to the Devon County ASA Water Polo Secretary.

Match Officials and Duties

28. The Devon County ASA Referee Coordinator shall send to all Clubs entered in the relevant Competition, and post on the Devon County ASA website, a list of the appointed referees for each Match.

29. The Match Referees shall be appointed by the Devon County ASA Referee Coordinator from the Official list of SE SW Region. Any Referee unable to fulfil an appointment must inform the Referee Coordinator as early as possible.

30. Should one Referee fail to appear, the remaining Referee, the two Captains, Team Coaches, Team Managers or Senior Club representatives present shall agree the appointment of a qualified replacement, if this is not possible then the Match shall be played using one Referee.

- i. Should both appointed Referees fail to appear, one, or if possible, two qualified Referees shall be appointed from those present, with the agreement of the two Captains, Team Coaches, Team Managers or Senior Club representatives.
- ii. Should there be failure to reach agreement, and/or no qualified replacement Referee is present, a report in writing, of the circumstances must be sent to the Devon County ASA Water Polo Secretary within seven days, by each Club.

31. Immediately after the match, the Referee, or a home Club Official shall send to the County League Administrator the Match sheet, completed, and signed by the Referees. *Electronically by phone or scanned is the preferred method.*

32. It will be the duty of the promoting Club to provide;

- i. Competent Timekeepers and a Match Secretary, all of whom must be S England registered members of an affiliated Club
- ii. Equipment to the requirements of the Match, in good serviceable order.
- iii. Ensure the Referees report any deficiencies on the Match Sheet
- iv. Clubs that fail to provide adequate Officials, or equipment, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £25, and the Match shall be declared void.

Match Sheets and Reports

33. All all matches, each team shall, before the match begins, give the Match Secretary a list, in writing, of all players, with cap numbers, taking part in that fixture. After the conclusion of the match, the Match Secretary shall ensure that the match Referees sign the completed match sheet, and send it to the League Administrator as in 31. above.

- i. If the match is not played, the match sheet should still be sent to the County League Administrator, outlining the reasons.
- ii. If a Club fails to send a match sheet as in 31. above, it shall be liable for a fine of £10

34 Where a Club wishes to report a “Deficient” evaluation of a Referee, that Club shall be required to submit a detailed report within 14 days of the Match to the Devon County ASA Water Polo Secretary, and the League Administrator..

League Competitions - Senior Male, Ladies, Under 19, Under 17, Under 15

35. The League Competitions shall be conducted annually on a home and away basis, the season shall run from 01 January to 30 September in any one year. The outcome of matches not completed by the League end date will be determined by the Devon County ASA Water Polo Committee

- i. The Devon County ASA Water Polo Committee may extend the season in exceptional circumstances.
- ii. Each Club shall be responsible for their own travel expenses.

36. League entries for the forthcoming season must reach the Devon County ASA Water Polo Secretary no later than midnight on the date specified on the entry form, accompanied by the appropriate entry fee, as determined by the Devon County ASA Water Polo Committee, and approved by the Devon County ASA Management Committee, prior to the acceptance of entries.

Where possible, entry fees should be made electronically to the Devon County ASA Bank Account .

37. Their shall be Leagues for:

- i. Senior Male - County Championship
- ii. Ladies - County Championship
- iii. Junior - Under 19 - Age Group Competition
- iv. Junior - Under 17 - Age Group Competition
- v. Junior - Under 15 - Age Group Competition

38. All Competitions for Competitors under 17, and under 15, as per S England rules, shall be open to mixed gender.

- i. In these Competitions, a Ladies' Competition Ball shall be used.
- ii. When a mixed gender team is playing, there shall be a minimum of one adult person of each sex present, and acting in the capacity of Coach, Team Manager or Chaperone. All such persons shall be S England registered, suitably qualified, and be members of an affiliated Club.
- iii. Juniors must be under the age of 19 years, 17 years, and 15 years respectively on 31 December, in the year of Competition.

39. The Devon County ASA Management Committee shall have the power to cancel a League if it considers that there are insufficient entries.

40. All fixtures must be made in accordance with 21 above.

41. Home Pool(s) must be stated when making fixtures.

- i. Home Pool is the pool that the host Club decides to play at and does not have any reference to the Club "normal" pool.

42. All players must be registered with the Devon County ASA League registration system, and sent electronically to the Devon County ASA Water Polo League Administrator by the date specified on the League entry form. Devon County ASA General Championship Conditions apply in all cases.

- i. Upon receipt, the Devon County ASA League Administrator will issue confirmation of Registration.
- ii. Additional players may be registered at any time.
- iii. No player may compete until notice of confirmation has been received.

43. The League Competitions shall be contested on a points basis.

- i. Two Points for a Win
- ii. One Point for a Draw

If Teams are level on Points at the end of the season, then the final positions shall be decided upon, as follows:

- i. The results of matches between those teams

or if that is identical:

- i. Goal difference
- ii. The team(s) with the largest number of fulfilled fixtures.

If still equal:

- i. A play-off must take place to decide the winners and runners-up

The venue and time to be decided by the Devon County ASA Water Polo Committee. Devon County ASA shall pay reasonable expenses for such a play-off.

44. The winning team and runners-up in the Senior Male Competition, and the Ladies Competition shall receive Devon County ASA Championship Medals. A maximum of 13 medals will be awarded for each team. Clubs may apply to purchase additional medals for squad players.

45. The winning team and runners-up in all Junior Competitions shall receive Devon County ASA Age Group Medals. A maximum of 13 medals will be awarded for each team. Clubs may apply to purchase additional medals for squad players.

Knock Out Cup Competitions - *Senior Male, Ladies, Under 19, Under 17, Under 15*

46. All Devon County ASA General Championship Conditions and League Competition Conditions apply to the Knock Out Cup Competition, any additional Conditions are listed below.

47. The Competition shall be conducted annually on a “home” and “away” basis, first team drawn. in each Category shall be deemed to be the “home” team.

48. The Competition shall run from 01 September until 31 December in the year of Competition. The draw shall be made by the Devon County ASA Water Polo Committee.

- i. Preliminary rounds and quarter finals to be held in October
- ii. Semi-finals to be played in November.
- iii. Finals to be played in December, in the year of Competition.

49. In all rounds, the “home” Club must give at least 14 days notice to their opponents of an impending fixture,

50. The Devon County ASA Water Polo Committee shall set “play by” dates for Preliminary Rounds, Quarter Finals, and Semi-Finals.

51. The date for the finals shall be set by the Devon County ASA Water Polo Committee, and shall be set prior to entries being accepted.

52. Knock Out Cup entries must reach the Devon County ASA Water Polo Committee Secretary, no later than midnight on the date specified on the entry form, accompanied by the appropriate entry fee, as determined by the Devon County ASA Water Polo Committee, and approved by the Devon County ASA Management Committee, prior to the acceptance of entries.

Where possible, entry fees should be made electronically to the Devon County ASA Bank Account.

53. The Competition shall be decided upon by a Knock Out principle..

- i. All matches shall be played to a finish.
- ii. In the event of the score being level at the expiration of normal time, the match will go to penalties, in accordance with the Rules of Water Polo, until a decision is reached.

54. If a Club withdraws from the Competition after the draw has been made , it shall be liable for a fine not exceeding £25. Their will be no refund of entry fee.

55. All players must be registered in accordance with Water Polo Condition 42.

56. Referees shall not be appointed until after the draw has been made, and then neutral Referees, where practical, shall be appointed by the Devon County ASA Referee Coordinator, from the Official list of the S England SWRegion

57. Knock Out Cup Competitions shall consist of:

- i. Senior Men - County Championship
- ii. Ladies - County Championship
- iii. Junior - Under 19 - Age Group Competition
- iv. Junior - Under 17 - Age Group Competition
- v. Junior - under 15 - Age Group Competition

58. The winning teams and runners-up in the Senior Male and Ladies Competition shall receive Devon County ASA Championship medals. A maximum of 13 medals shall be awarded for each team. A Club may apply to purchase additional medals for squad players.

59. The winning teams and runners-up in all Junior Competitions shall receive Devon County ASA Age Group medals. A maximum of 13 medals shall be awarded for each team. A Club may apply to purchase additional medals for squad players.

Under 13 Competition

60. All Devon County ASA General Championship Conditions, and League Competition Conditions apply to the Under 13 Competition, any additional Conditions are listed below.

61. Entries must reach the Devon County ASA Water Polo Secretary, no later than midnight on the date specified on the entry form, accompanied by the appropriate entry fee, as determined by the Devon County ASA Water Polo Committee, and approved by the Devon County ASA Management Committee, prior to the acceptance of entries.

62. The Competition shall run from 01 January until 30 November in the year of Competition.

63. Players shall be aged 12 years and younger as at 31 December in the year of Competition, and registered on the Devon County ASA Water Polo registration system, as outlined in 42. above.

Clubs are reminded of the S England minimum age for Water Polo as outlined in 10i. above.

64. This Competition shall be arranged as a series of Tournaments. The structure of these Tournaments shall be decided upon by the Devon County ASA Water Polo Committee upon receipt of entries.

65. Host Clubs of each Tournament shall be responsible for the initial Pool Hire and Officials expenses. At the conclusion of the Tournaments all expenses shall be equalised between participating Clubs.

66. Size 4 Ladies' Competition Balls shall be used, with full size goals.

67. The winning teams and runners-up shall each receive Devon County ASA Age Group medals. A maximum of 13 medals shall be awarded for each team. A Club may purchase additional medals for squad players.

68. The Presentations shall be made following the last match of the final arranged Tournament.