



# LONDON WATER POLO LEAGUE

## 2016 RULES

- 1 The Association shall be named The London Water Polo League and its objects shall be to promote the game of Water Polo and Swimming in accordance with ASA Laws.
- 2 All funds or other property of the Association shall not be paid or distributed among the members of the Association, but shall be applied towards the furtherance of the Associations objects, or for any charitable purpose. In the event of dissolution, the funds remaining will be devoted to objects similar to those of the Association and to the purposes approved by the Commissioners of the Customs and Excise.
- 3 Membership of the League shall be open to Clubs affiliated to ASA London Region, South East Region, or Eastern Region and to Associations of Clubs also affiliated within the area. Those desirous of affiliating to the League shall make application in writing to the Hon Secretary before 1st December, enclosing the appropriate subscription as provided in Rule 4. The acceptance or otherwise of any such application shall be at the discretion of the Annual General Meeting.
- 4
  - a) An affiliation fee of twenty pounds shall be payable by all clubs irrespective of membership.
  - b) Associations of Clubs: three pounds.
  - c) Patrons: twenty five pounds.
  - d) Individual members: five pounds.Clubs or Associations wishing to withdraw from the League must send written notification to the Hon Secretary on or before 1st December in each year. Failure to do so will result in liability for the current years subscription.
- 5 Affiliated organisations shall be entitled to delegates as follows:-One for each club or association, or one delegate for each playing team entered in League Championships if more than one team is entered by a club.
- 6
  - a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of January of each year. Notice of the meeting shall be given in writing to Hon Secretaries of all affiliated clubs and associations at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.
  - b) Any alteration of the Rules may be made only at an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting. The Agenda for such a meeting shall contain full notice of the proposed alteration. Such a proposition to be made at the Annual General Meeting must be in the hands of the Hon Secretary on or before 30th October immediately prior to the meeting.
  - c) Those with power to vote at the AGM or an EGM shall be the President, Past Presidents, Officers of the League and Delegates from affiliated clubs and associations.
  - d) Fourteen shall form a quorum.
  - e) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by:
    - (i) The Executive Committee.

(ii) The Executive Committee upon receipt by the Hon Secretary of a written requisition signed by not less than six delegates, each representing a different club or association. The requisition shall state the nature of the business to be transacted. No business other than that stated in the requisition shall be discussed or considered. A meeting shall be held no earlier than three weeks and no later than six weeks of receipt of the requisition, and fourteen clear days notice of such a meeting shall be given, in writing to Hon Secretaries of affiliated clubs and associations.

f) The financial year shall terminate on 30th November. A statement of account and a balance sheet shall be circulated with the notice convening the AGM.

g) All clubs and associations affiliated to the League shall receive one handbook free of charge. Those entering more than one team in League Competitions shall receive one handbook for each team entered.

7 The management of the League shall be vested in a committee consisting of:

- a) The President and the Past Presidents of the League.
- b) The Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, Hon Championship Secretary, Asst. Hon Secretaries, Minutes Hon Secretary.
- c) Ten delegates of affiliated clubs elected at the AGM. Not more than two delegates from any one club may be elected.
- d) One representative from each County Association affiliated to the League.

The Committee shall have the power to elect such Sub-Committees as they may deem necessary. Except in cases where special directions are given to the contrary no decision of a Sub-Committee shall be binding until it has been submitted to and approved of by the Committee.

Eight members shall form a quorum. Any member of the elected Committee who shall be absent from three consecutive meetings without prior permission shall vacate his seat. Any vacancy may be filled at the discretion of the Committee.

8 An Examiner shall be appointed at the AGM.

9 Nominations for Officials and Committee shall be sent to the Hon Secretary of the League at least seven days prior to the AGM on forms issued by the Hon Secretary with the notice convening the meeting. All nominations shall be made by duly accredited League delegates, Hon Officials or Past Presidents and be countersigned by the Nominee.

10 The Committee shall have the power to deal with any matter not provided for in the foregoing Rules.

FOUNDED 1889  
Affiliated to A.S.A.  
London Region

# ***RULES FOR CONDUCT OF THE MEN'S WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS***

- 1 The Championships shall be conducted annually between 1st April and 31st October.
  - 2 Clubs desiring to take part in the Water Polo Championships promoted by the League, shall notify the Hon Secretary in writing on or before 1st December of each year and such notification shall be accompanied by an entry fee of twenty pounds per team, together with a contribution towards referees expenses, based on the total referees expenses of the previous year, for each men's team entered. The amount to be decided by the League Committee.  
The cost of the Junior Tournaments to be bourn equally by the Senior ladies and mens clubs entered in the Championships to a maximum amount of £50 per club.
  - 3
    - a) The League shall consist of a maximum number of forty nine teams.
    - b) The League shall consist of one Premier Division and all other teams allocated to Divisions consisting of no more than seven teams per division. Only the first teams of competing clubs shall take part in the Premier Division. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to allocate teams to various divisions before the annual Fixture meeting.
    - c) Matches shall be played on a home and away basis. Three points shall be awarded for a win, two points for a draw and one point for a team fulfilling a fixture, but losing. No points will be awarded to a team who forfeits or concedes a match, or who attends a match with insufficient players to fulfil the fixture.
    - d) If in any division, two or more teams have equal points, the placings shall be decided by considering factors in order until precedence is established by :-
      - The team gaining most points in matches between those teams
      - The team with the greatest goal difference overall
      - The team scoring most goals overallIn the event of continuing equality the placings shall be decided by lot
    - e)i)At the end of the season, except as provided by rule 3b, the winning team in the first, second and third divisions etc shall be promoted to the next higher division and the bottom team in the Premier, first, second etc divisions shall be relegated to the next lower division. In the event of the number of teams in a division changing, promotion only shall be enforced. Relegation or play offs shall take place at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- Challenge matches
- ii) At the end of the season, except as provide by Rule 3b, the team placed second in a lower division shall have the option to challenge the team placed next to bottom in the next higher division. The challenge must be made in writing within 7 days of the publication of results and a copy sent to the Championship Secretary.
  - iii) Within 2 days of receiving a challenge, the higher division club or team must accept or decline the challenge in writing and a copy be sent to the Championship secretary. Failure to do so will be deemed a refusal to accept the challenge.
  - iv)The challenge match, which must take place in a pool appropriate to the higher division's status, shall be a neutral venue on a date as organized and directed by the Executive Committee.
  - v) The promotional expenses of each challenge match shall be borne equally by the 2 competing teams.
  - vi) The winner of the challenge shall be placed in the higher division for the following season, if the result is a draw the status quo shall apply.

vii) A team refusing a challenge shall be relegated to the next lower division and the challenger promoted to the next higher division.

viii) A team failing to fulfil the challenge fixture shall be deemed to have lost the challenge.

f) A team seeking re-election and any other team desiring to enter for the Championship League shall be voted for at the Annual General Meeting.

g) For the purpose of this election each team in the League only shall have one vote indicated by a specially prepared coloured card and ONLY these voting delegates shall have the power to vote on this issue.

h) In the event of a tie the President shall have a casting vote.

i) (i) Each club must nominate at least two persons of any grade, (including probationer but preferably ASA qualified Water Polo referee – probationers must hold an ASA registration) for each team entered in the League. (nb – the same person(s) may be nominated for more than one team but are then expected to undertake the required number of matches for each team that they represent). Each referee so nominated must be an active referee. Failure to nominate said referees shall result in the club being liable to a fine not exceeding £50 per referee.

i) (ii) Each appointed referee is expected to officiate at minimum number of matches, as determined by the committee and notified to each club prior to entry through the entry form. Failure to officiate in the minimum number of matches may result in a fine of not less than £25 and not more than £50.” If an appointed referee is unable to fulfil a fixture they may appoint a deputy in their place which will count towards the required quota.

j) Any team which through bad domestic administration causes concern to the League, shall be liable to suspension from the League but may seek re-election to the League in the following season.

k) In the event that any of the Championships or Competitions are played on a shared venue basis, the Executive Committee will arrange dates and venues and determine which teams will play at which venue. The costs and expenses of any such Tournament shall initially be borne by the league. Participating teams in any such Tournament will be required to share the costs and expenses equally in such amount as the Executive committee shall determine at the end of the season. The Executive Committee shall be entitled to make a levy on participating teams from time to time on account of the final liability of such teams in such sum as it thinks fair and reasonable.

4 a) A list of players, with full details as required on the Official Form, must be submitted by the last day of March each year. The consent of the Committee shall be required in the case of any player resident outside the ASA Regional Areas. Additional registrations for new players joining their club should be sent to the Hon Championship Secretary by post or email with full details. Players will not be deemed to be registered, unless the club Hon. Secretary has submitted the name and ASA ID number to the Hon. Championship secretary, and said Hon Championship secretary has confirmed such registration in writing by either post or email.

b) All players shall be registered with the ASA as an eligible competitor for the Club they represent. Should two or more Clubs register the same player, the player shall nominate in writing his/her preferred Club. NO player shall be registered for more than one club in either the Senior or Junior Championship in any one season.

The Committee shall have power to make exception to the above rule in the following cases:

i) If any club has entered only the Junior Championships. In such case a player wishing to play in any Senior Championship may apply to the Committee in order that he may be considered by another club.

ii) If the club has entered only a Senior Championship. In such case a player wishing to play in any Junior Championship may apply to the Committee in order that he may be considered by another club.

c) NO player shall be registered for more than one club in either the Senior or Junior Championship in any one season.

d) If a Club enters more than one team in the Championship League, that Club's first team must play two matches before their second team's fixtures commence. Where a Club enters a third team, that Club's second team must play two matches before the third team's fixtures commence. This principle will continue in respect of every additional team entered by an individual club.

e)i) A Club who registers a second team in the Championship League, must register seven players to their first team. Such players will be eligible for first team matches only.

ii) All other players shall be eligible to play in any Championship League game, until any such player has taken part in two games for the first team. Then such a player will be immediately registered as a first team player and will be ineligible for any further second team matches

iii) Where a Club enters a third team in the Championship League, that Club, in addition to registering seven first team players (see (i) above) must register a further seven players to their second team. Such players will be eligible for first and second team matches only.

iv) All other registered players shall be eligible to play in any Championship League game, until any such player has taken part in two games for the second team. Then such a player will be immediately registered as a second team player and will be ineligible for any further third team matches. Note : the rule in (ii) above will also apply to any such player who plays in two first team matches.

v) In exceptional circumstances the Executive Committee may exempt a player from the requirements of rule 4(e)

f)i) Junior players and players over the age of 40 who are not registered as one of any nominated seven players (as described in 4 (e) (i) and (iii) above) are exempted from the provisions of rule 4 (e). Note : The effect of this rule will be to allow junior players to gain experience at higher levels, and over 40 year old players to continue playing, without restriction providing they are not included in a list of seven nominated players.

ii) A junior player is defined as a player who is under nineteen years of age on 31st December in the year of the competition, An over 40 year old player is defined as a player who is 40 years old or over on 31st December in the year of the competition.

g) Any club playing an unregistered or unqualified player in a League match shall forfeit any points gained in that match to their opponents and be liable to a fine of not less than two pounds and not exceeding fifteen pounds. The said player shall be liable to suspension for a period of time as defined by the Committee.

5 As soon as possible after 1st January of each year the Hon Secretary shall convene a meeting of club representatives to arrange fixtures, venues and times of starting for all games, all to be included in the fixture list in the handbook. No further confirmation of games will be necessary to visiting clubs. Competing clubs failing to be represented at the meeting, at the discretion of the Committee shall be fined a sum not exceeding twenty five pounds.

6 a) No club shall be permitted to alter the date of any match after the fixture list has been published, except in the following circumstances.

i) The closure of the home club's bath for any reason on the time and date of the match.

ii) If two or more members of the TEAM (not the club) are required to compete in a County, District, ASA or International match on the same day.

iii) When prior permission has been given by the League Executive (or by a representative on their behalf) for exceptional circumstances not covered by i) and ii).

If i), ii) or iii) be accepted by the Committee the alternative date must be notified when the claim is made.

iv) By mutual agreement of both teams.

v) By a club giving fourteen days notice to their opponent's Secretary and Championship League Secretary of its inability to fulfil a fixture. In such cases a new date for the fixture must be agreed within one month of the cancellation. If it is not possible to reasonably rearrange the fixture, the club canceling shall forfeit the match.

vi) A club who cancels a game in accordance with (i) to (v) above, must notify the Leagues Hon Secretary of the General Purposes Committee of the cancellation, within three days. A club failing to notify the aforementioned person, shall be fined £10.

vii) Misbehavior by a player or coach during a match shall be dealt with by the referee under the Judicial Laws and Regulations of the ASA. A team causing a game to be abandoned by the referee shall be liable to any or all of the following:-

- Forfeit the match to their opponents
- Award the points to the non offending team (no points to offending team)
- The award of a score of 0-0 or the score at the time
- The payment of a fine by the offending club of up to £100
- Deduction of 3 points from the total of the offending team
- Expulsion of club from the League

b) A club canceling a fixture in accordance with v) above shall not be liable to any financial penalty. A club canceling a fixture with less than fourteen, but more than seven days notice shall forfeit the fixture to their opponents. Such a club shall not be liable to any separate financial penalty.

c)i) A Club canceling a fixture with less than seven days notice shall forfeit the match to their opponents and be liable to a fine of £10.00. In the event of a second such fixture cancellation by the same club, in the same season, the penalty will increase to £20.00. A third such cancellation will attract a penalty of £30.00 and so on. A club canceling a fixture on the day of the match shall be liable to an additional fine equal to the fine levied for cancellation with less than seven days notice.

ii) A club canceling a fixture with less than seven days notice and not notifying the Referees of the cancellation will be liable to a further £10.00 penalty for each Referee who attends the cancelled fixture. A club canceling a fixture on the day of the match shall be liable to an additional fine equal to the fine levied for cancellation with less than seven days notice.

iii) A visiting club canceling a fixture with less than seven days notice may also be liable to a contribution toward the cost of bath hire, to a maximum of £100.00. Such costs may only be awarded upon application by the home club. The Committee prior to awarding any such costs must be satisfied that the home club claiming the same was unable to reasonably use the pool time in question. The Committee however should give favourable consideration to any such claim where the visiting club has cancelled the match on the day the fixture was due to be played.

iv) A home club canceling a fixture on the day of the game may also be liable to a contribution toward the cost of any travelling expenses incurred by the visiting club, to a maximum of £100.00. Such costs may only be awarded upon application by the visiting club.

v) A club attending a fixture and being short of the required number of players (seven) shall forfeit the match to their opponents and be liable to a fine of £5.00. Increasing to £10.00 for a second offence and so on.

N.B. A club short of the required number of players, ten minutes after the time scheduled for the game to start, shall have deemed to have breached this rule.

vi) In the circumstances described in v) above, the defaulting club shall not be liable to pay Referees' expenses (as at ii), pool hire costs (as at iii), or travelling expenses (as at iv) or a fine (as at v) providing they at least five players present to permit a non League match to be played, thereby ensuring that all present have a game and the facilities and officials are used.

d) In a final tie, a club which is unable to put a team of qualified players into the water at the prearranged time shall be liable to pay a fine of £25.00 maximum, the expenses of their opponents, all officials and pool hire for the match and the game shall be awarded to their opponents.

All claims shall be made to the League Hon Secretary of the General Purposes Committee. Notification to clubs of fines incurred shall be made by the Hon Secretary of the General Purposes Committee and their collection shall be the responsibility of the League Hon Treasurer.

Any club not having paid fines incurred within one month of being notified of such fines being due shall be deemed to be in fault and fined a further two pounds for each subsequent month said fines remain unpaid, unless said fines are the subject of appeal.

7 a) It shall be the duty of the Committee at an early date in each year to arrange for referees from the panel of the Water Polo Referees Association.

b) The home team shall be responsible for all officials other than referees(s). The home club shall be responsible for advising the referee(s) of the time and venue of the match at least ten days before the match. Clubs are required to provide at least one table official and a minimum standard of equipment consisting of flags, clock/stop-watch, last-minute bell and match sheet. If the pool is not adequately marked, then poolside markers are also required. Any deficiency shall be reported by the referee(s) on the back of the match sheet. Clubs failing to provide adequate officials or equipment, or failing to give proper notice to the referees shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds.

c) Should the appointed referees not be present at the appointed starting time of the match, the teams may by agreement appoint a substitute. If the match is not played due to the failure of any referee to attend, both clubs, MUST, within one calendar month agree to a date of rearrangement. If the match is not rearranged the Executive Committee may declare it void. Should it be that the referees do not attend because they have not been duly notified in accordance with Rule 7b, by the home team, the Executive Committee may award the match to the away team and the home club shall be liable to a fine of fifteen pounds maximum.

8 In all games, at home, away or in a neutral bath, each club shall wear their own caps. The home club should wear white caps and the away club blue caps or caps of a contrasting colour, on approval of the referee(s). If, as a result of a club failing to comply with this rule, a game cannot be played, the offending club shall forfeit the game and be liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.

In a neutral bath the first named club shall be considered to be the home club.

NOTE: Full ASA times to be played in all matches if possible and the thirty second rule to apply. The referee to be the final arbiter.

9 At all matches each captain before entering the water shall give to the referee, in writing on the match form, the names of his players and sign the match form. The referee shall complete the form at the end of the match. The home club Hon Secretary shall send it to the Hon Championship Secretary within three days. Should the referee take the match form away with him after the match, the home club Hon Secretary shall inform the Hon Championship Secretary of this fact within three days. Failure to comply with this rule may incur a fine of fifteen pounds maximum. Failure to return the match form within twenty eight days will incur a further fine of fifteen pounds maximum.

In the event that appointed referees do not appear, provided they have been duly notified in accordance with Rule 7b, the home club secretary should include this on the match form when sending to the Hon Championship Secretary.

Clubs competing in Championship League Premier Division MUST complete a referees evaluation report (either on the match form or on cards provided for this purpose) and forward the completed report to the Hon Championship Secretary within three days of the match being played. Failure to do so will result in a fine not exceeding one pound.

- 10 a) The winner of the Division shall be entitled to hold League Trophies as follows:-
- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE TROPHY |                        |
| Premier Division           | The R F B Cross Cup    |
| Division One               | The Ken Fennell Trophy |
| Division Two               | The J H R Haswell Cup  |
| Division Three             | The Treasurers Cup     |
| Division Four              | The Florence Cup       |
| Division Five              | The Mermaid Cup        |

The trophies shall be handed to the winning clubs on receipt of an appropriate guarantee.

- b) In each division, members of the winning team and the runners up shall receive medals or certificates at the discretion of the Committee.
- c) Any club not returning any League Trophy in its possession for presentation at the League's AGM may be fined £50.00 (fifty pounds) maximum per trophy.
- d) In the event of any trophy being returned not polished and in good repair the club responsible shall pay the cost of having the trophy professionally cleaned and/or repaired or five pounds whichever is the greater.
- e) Exception to this rule shall be those trophies presented at the conclusion of the event, namely Referees Cup, Ladies Knockout Cup, Senior, Junior and Ladies Team Swimming Championships, when failure to return any of these trophies at the time of the event may result in the clubs responsible being fined £50.00 (fifty pounds) maximum.
- f) Any club, not collecting at the AGM a trophy they have won, may be fined £5.00 (five pounds) maximum.

11 All fines accumulated by each club shall be paid at the end of the season on demand.

12 The Executive Committee at their first meeting of the year shall decide on the mileage allowance to be paid for travel. All claims for travel must include the mileage otherwise the claim may not be played.

13 The Committee shall have power to deal with any matter not provided for in the foregoing rules.

## ***RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE LADIES WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS***

### ***For the LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP CUP.***

1 The Championships shall be open to Ladies' Clubs directly affiliated and Ladies sections of affiliated clubs. Entry fee to be set by Executive Committee.

2 The Championship shall be governed by the Rules for the Conduct of Men's Water Polo Championships in so far as they apply. The size of the Ladies Water Polo ball shall be size 4.



## ***LADIES JUNIOR (UNDER 21) CHAMPIONSHIPS***

Rules to be as for Ladies Water Polo Championships with all participants under 21 years of age on the 31st December in the year of the competition

## ***JUNIOR (UNDER 19) CHAMPIONSHIP***

### ***For the GEORGE COHEN CUP.***

- 1 The Championship shall be open to all Men's clubs and Men's sections of mixed clubs affiliated to the League. Entry fee to be set by Executive Committee.
- 2 All participants shall be under 19 years of age on 31st December in the year of the competition.
- 3 The Championship shall be governed by the rules of the Men's Championships in so far as those rules apply. A list of first claim players showing name, address and date of birth duly certified by the Hon Secretary of the club shall be forwarded to the Hon Secretary not later than the last day of January in each year.
- 4 The Committee shall have the power to divide the Junior Championship into two or more divisions.

## ***MENS (UNDER 23) CHAMPIONSHIPS***

Rules to be as for Junior under 19 Championships with all participants under twenty three years of age on the 31st December in the year of the competition

## ***UNDER 15 CHAMPIONSHIPS***

Rules to be as for Ladies Championships with all participants under 15 years of age on the 31st December in the year of the competition

## ***UNDER 13 CHAMPIONSHIPS***

Rules to be as for Ladies Championships with all participants under 13 years of age on the 31st December in the year of the competition

## ***THE REFEREES' CUP COMPETITION***

Cup presented by E J Scott, Esq.

The Competition shall be conducted annually in accordance with the Water Polo Laws of the ASA and under the following conditions:-

- 1 The Competition shall be open to all Men's clubs and Men's sections of mixed clubs affiliated to the League and shall be conducted on the knockout principle, on a handicap basis.

2 Clubs may enter as many teams as they desire. Entries, which shall be made on the official form of the League, shall close on 1st December in each year and must be accompanied by the entry fee of ten pounds per team entered.

3 The Committee shall fix dates by which various rounds are to be completed and the provisions contained in League Championship Rules 6 and 8 will apply. If the clubs concerned in any match are unable to reach an agreement as to the date, the home team shall report the matter to the Hon Secretary of the League not later than ten days prior to the date by which the round is due to be played. Any team failing to fulfil its arrangements by the due date shall be eliminated from the competition and the match awarded to its opponents.

4 a) Each club must submit to the League Hon Secretary not later than the last day of January in each year, a list of members from whom their team or teams will be selected. Applications for subsequent registration will be considered. The eligibility of players shall be decided according to the principles set out in Championship Rule 4.

b) A player may only compete for one team in the competition

c) A player who has competed for a team in this competition and who subsequently becomes ineligible for that team, under the provisions of championship rule 4, will be permitted to continue to play for that team for any remaining matches in this competition.

5 The complete draw shall be made by the Committee and the referees appointed by the referees selection sub-committee. The first team drawn of each pair shall be the home team and shall:-

a) Notify the League Divisional Secretary of the date fixed for the match.

b) Notify the referee appointed of the venue and time of the match at least ten clear days before the date thereof. Should the referee be unable to keep his appointment, he shall arrange for a suitable substitute who shall be a referee duly registered on the WPRA panel.

c) Arrange for the officials other than the referee.

6 In the event of the score being level at the expiration of time, extra time shall be played in accordance with ASA Water Polo Rules. If ASA Law cannot be complied with, the match shall be awarded to the away team.

7 The Committee shall select the venue for the final and shall be responsible for its management.

8 The team successful in the final shall be entitled to hold the Cup for one year and the members of teams competing in the final shall receive medals or certificates at the discretion of the Committee.

9 The handicap shall be ascertained on the previous years championship league results proportionately to a maximum of twenty four goals start. All matches shall be played as Rule 8 of the Championship Conditions.

NOTE: Full ASA times to be played in all matches if possible and the thirty second rule to apply provided both captains and the referee agree. The referee to be the final arbiter.

The Executive shall have the power to set the Handicap for all teams not entered in the League in the previous season.

10 The Committee shall have power to deal with any matter not provided for in the foregoing conditions.

## ***THE LADIES CUP COMPETITION***

Cup presented by Miss E Frederick

The Competition shall be in accordance with the rules of the Referees Cup Competition in so far as they apply. Duration of matches shall be as for the Men's Competition. The size of the Ladies Water Polo ball shall be size 4.

Entry fee to be five pounds per team. This is not a handicap competition.

