
WATER POLO QUEENSLAND AGE ELIGIBILITY POLICY

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Date: 23rd August 2017

Revision: 2017/01



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REVIEW HISTORY

| Version | Revision No. | Date Reviewed | Date Endorsed | Content Reviewed/Purpose |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1 | 2017/1 | 24/07/2017 | 23/08/2017 | New Document Endorsed at Board Meeting 8/1617 |

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1. POLICY STATEMENT & COVERAGE

1.1 Policy Statement

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the age eligibility criteria for senior (open grade) and junior (age grade) competitions in Queensland.

The Board may vary this Policy at any time in accordance with the authority conferred by the current WPQ Constitution

1.2 Policy Coverage

This Policy applies at any WPQ sanctioned event. This includes but is not limited to:

- State Titles
- Queensland Country Championships
- 12&U Festival of Water Polo
- Brisbane Water Polo Competitions
- Gold Coast Water Polo Competitions
- Sunshine Coast Water Polo Competitions
- Toowoomba Water Polo Competitions
- Rockhampton Water Polo Competitions
- Mackay Water Polo Competitions
- Townsville Water Polo Competitions
- Cairns Water Polo Competitions

2. JUNIOR (AGE GRADE) ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Junior (Age Grade) Competition

A Junior (Age Grade) competition is defined as any water polo competition where participants are between the ages of 10 years of age and 18 years of age.

2.2 Junior (Age Grade) eligibility

Players must be born within the three-year period to be eligible to participate in any junior (age grade) competition.

The age eligibility is as follows:

| Age Group | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|-----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 18U | 2000, 2001, 2002 | 2001, 2002, 2003 | 2002, 2003, 2004 |
| 16U | 2002, 2003, 2004 | 2003, 2004, 2005 | 2004, 2005, 2006 |
| 14U | 2004, 2005, 2006 | 2005, 2006, 2007 | 2006, 2007, 2008 |
| 12U | 2006, 2007, 2008 | 2007, 2008, 2009 | 2008, 2009, 2010 |

2.3 Exemption

No exemption will be granted for a player to compete outside the three-year eligibility period however in exceptional circumstances, an exemption may be granted for an individual with a physical and/or intellectual disability to participate in a junior (age grade) competition immediately below their eligible age group.

2.4 Exemption Procedure

| Step | Action | Responsible |
|------|---|--|
| 1 | A player with a physical and/or intellectual disability wishes to play in a junior (age grade) competition immediately below their eligible age group | Player/Club or School/Parent or Guardian |
| 2 | The club provides the parent/guardian with the Schedule B – Verification & Consent Form | Club/School |
| 3 | The Schedule B – Verification & Consent Form is completed by parent/guardian and provided to club/school for assessment and submission | Parent/Guardian and Club/School |
| 4 | The assessing coach (minimum Developing Coach accreditation) completes the Schedule B – Verification & | Coach and Club/School |

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| | Consent Form and provides to the club/school for submission to Water Polo Queensland (WPQ) | |
| 5 | The Water Polo Queensland CEO or appointed delegate will review the submission and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept or decline the application; OR • Request an independent assessment before making any decision | WPQ |
| 6 | The exemption is approved or declined and the club/school and parent/guardian are notified | WPQ |

3. SENIOR (OPEN GRADE) ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Senior (Open Grade) Competition

A Senior (Open Grade) competition is defined as any water polo competition where participants are 18 years and over.

3.2 Senior (Open Grade) Eligibility

Players must have turned 18 years of age in the year of the competition to be eligible to participate in any senior (open grade) competition.

The age eligibility is as follows:

| Age | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|-----|---------|---------|---------|
| 18+ | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |

3.3 Exemption

A player turning 16 or 17 in the calendar year may seek exemption to compete in any senior (age grade) competition where they have the physical development in conjunction with the ability and /or experience to participate in a senior (open grade) competition.

The age eligibility for the 2017/18 season to seek an exemption is as follows:

| Age | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|-----|---------|---------|---------|
| 17 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| 16 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |

3.4 Exemption Procedure

| Step | Action | Responsible |
|------|---|--|
| 1 | A player turning 16 or 17 in the calendar year wishes to play in a senior (open grade) competition | Player/Club or School/Parent or Guardian |
| 2 | The club provides the parent/guardian with the Schedule A - Senior (Open Grade) Exemption Form | Club/School |
| 3 | The Schedule A - Senior (Open Grade) Exemption Form is completed by parent/guardian and provided to club/school for assessment and submission | Parent/Guardian and Club/School |

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| 4 | The assessing coach (minimum Developing Coach accreditation) completes Schedule A - Senior (Open Grade) Exemption Form and provides to the club/school for submission to Water Polo Queensland (WPQ) | Coach and Club/School |
| 5 | <p>The Water Polo Queensland CEO or appointed delegate will review the submission and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept or decline the application; OR • Request and independent assessment before making any decision | WPQ |
| 6 | The exemption is approved or declined and the club/school and parent/guardian are notified | WPQ |

SCHEDULE A - SENIOR (OPEN GRADE) EXEMPTION FORM

| PLAYER DETAILS | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|---------------|
| Name: | Member No. | | |
| Club: | Competition: | | |
| Date of Birth: | Actual Age Grade: | (e.g. 17U) | |
| Senior Grade seeking exemption for: | | (e.g. A-League) | |
| Mobile Phone: | E-mail: | | |
| PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT | | | |
| Height (cm) | Weight (kg) | | |
| LEVEL OF EXPERIENCE | | | |
| Number of years played: | | | |
| Was exemption granted in the previous season: | | YES / NO | |
| Number of years' representative experience: | State | Regional | School |
| Outline the representative level of experience below: (i.e. teams and year(s) played) | | | |
| | | | |
| ASSESSING COACH | | | |
| Name: | Member No: | | |
| Mobile Phone: | E-mail: | | |
| Coaching Level [Community] [Developing] [Advanced] [Elite] | | Expiry: | |
| Qualification: | | | |
| <i>Coach to assess the player against the following considerations. If the answer is NO to any of these considerations, then the player shall NOT be considered capable of competing safely with players in the proposed competition.</i> | | | |
| Physical Development: | Does the player's level of physical development allow the player to compete with players in the proposed senior (open grade) competition? | yes | no |
| Skill Level: | Is the player's skill level comparable with other players in the proposed senior (open grade) competition? | yes | no |
| Level of Experience: | Does the player have the experience to compete with other players at a comparable standard of competition? | yes | no |
| Standard of Competition: | Is the standard of competition in the proposed senior (open grade) competition suitable to allow the player to compete safely? | yes | no |
| <p>In my opinion, the player's physical development, skill level and experience is sufficiently high that the player is capable of competing safely with players in the proposed senior (open grade) competition.</p> <p>I have explained to the player and his/her parent or guardian that the player will be competing against older players and this may involve an increased level of injury risk.</p> | | | |
| Name: | Signature: | Date: | |

PARENT / GUARDIAN

I confirm that:

- a) I am a parent or legal guardian of the abovementioned player;
- b) I have been provided with a copy of Water Polo Queensland's Age Eligibility Policy;
- c) The coach has explained to me that, in his/her opinion, the player's physical development, skill level and experience is sufficiently high that he/she is capable of competing safely with players in senior (open grade) competition;
- d) It has been explained to me that the risk of injury may be increased by the player playing in the proposed senior (open grade) competition; and
- e) I understand that water polo is a contact sport and, like all contact sports, players are exposed to risk of injury. I also understand that the level of risk may be heightened where a player participates in a senior (open grade) competition in circumstances where the player's physical development, skill level and experience are inferior to that of the players he or she will play against. In addition to understanding these risks, I also agree, to the extent permitted by law, to waive all claims for liability against any participant (including players, coaches, volunteers and administrators) and release every such participant from all liability that may be incurred in connection with the player's participation in the proposed senior (open grade) competition.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

SCHEDULE B – VERIFICATION & CONSENT FORM

| PLAYER DETAILS | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Name: | | Member No. | |
| Club: | | Competition: | |
| Date of Birth: | | Actual Age Grade: (e.g. 16U) | |
| Age Grade seeking exemption for: | | (e.g. 14U) | |
| Mobile Phone: | | E-mail: | |
| ASSESSING COACH | | | |
| Name: | | Member No. | |
| Mobile Phone: | | E-mail: | |
| Coaching Level [Community] [Developing] [Advanced] [Elite] | | Expiry: | |
| Qualification: | | | |
| <i>Coach to assess the player against the following considerations. If the answer is NO to any of these considerations, then the player shall NOT be considered capable of competing safely with players in the proposed competition.</i> | | | |
| Physical Development: | Does the player's level of physical and intellectual development allow the player to safely compete with players on an equal basis in the proposed age group? | yes | no |
| Skill Level: | Is the player's skill level comparable with other players in the proposed competition? | yes | no |
| Standard of Competition: | Is the standard of competition in the proposed competition suitable to allow the player to compete safely? | yes | no |
| In my opinion, the player's physical and intellectual development, skill level and experience is sufficient that the player is capable of competing safely and on an equal basis with players in the proposed age group. | | | |
| Name: | | Signature: | Date: |
| PARENT / GUARDIAN | | | |
| I confirm that: | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) I am a parent or legal guardian of the abovementioned player; b) I have been provided with a copy of Water Polo Queensland's Age Eligibility Policy; c) The coach has explained to me that, in his/her opinion, the player's physical development, skill level and experience is sufficient that he/she is capable of competing safely and on an equal basis with players in the proposed competition; d) I understand that water polo is a contact sport and, like all contact sports, players are exposed to risk of injury. I also agree, to the extent permitted by law, to waive all claims for liability against any participant (including players, coaches, volunteers and administrators) and release every such participant from all liability that may be incurred in connection with the player's participation in the proposed competition. | | | |
| Name: | | Signature: | Date: |