

‘B’ Section Rules
2012 Southern Hemisphere Championships
Gold Coast, Queensland

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Tournament Chief Referee shall be Mr. Simon Talbot of Australia.

The rules for this competition will be read in the following order:

- (i) The Southern Hemisphere Charter;
- (ii) These "B" Section rules; and
- (iii) The current CMAS rules for Underwater Hockey – v10.5

2. VENUE:

- a) The site for the Competition shall be the Miami Pool, Pacific Avenue, Miami 4220, QLD.
Should an alternative site be required, teams will be advised by the Convenor.
- b) All Competitors, Officials and Spectators will be subject to the Conditions of Hire imposed on the Host by the Pool Manager. These are available from the Convenors for viewing.
- c) All tournament games will be played in one court of 25m in length, 15m in width and 2m in depth.
- d) Competitors, Officials and others attending the competition shall not fix signage or similar devices to any parts of the pool complex without the written approval of the Convenor.
- e) Competition categories will be Open Elite, Women's Elite, Open U23 and Men's and Women's U19.

3. REFEREES:

'Pro' referees will perform all competition refereeing duties unless otherwise indicated.

4. TIMEKEEPERS/SCORERS:

The Australian teams, and the Barbarian and Amazon teams have been formally rostered for these roles at the moment, however volunteers and pro referees will do this wherever possible.

*Notwithstanding the above – the team that is rostered to provide the timekeeper and scorer for a game is responsible for **checking that at least two people are present to act in these roles for that game.***

The rostered team will lose competition points as follows, if any timekeepers/scorers they supply are late for a game, as determined by the Chief Referee according to the game clock:

- 0 to 2 minutes late - lose 1 game point;
- 2 to 5 minutes - lose 2 game points;
- > 5 minutes late - lose 3 game points;
- Don't show at all – lose 4 game points.

5. REFEREE'S MEETINGS:

There will be a Referee's meeting at the Burleigh Point Holiday Apartments on Sunday 8/7/12.

6. CAPTAINS MEETINGS:

A Captain's meeting will be held on Monday 9 July 2012. See official program for exact location. It is envisaged that the meeting will take approximately 1 hour.

7. TEAM COLOURS:

Team colours for each game shall be as indicated on the competition program.

8. PLAYING COURT MARKINGS:

The playing court is marked as per the CMAS rules for underwater hockey, including the 3 metre and 6 metre 'D's', the 2m sideline and 5m end-line. The 1m corner radii will be marked if possible.

9. PUCK:

During ALL activities comprising the Competition, the only pucks that may be used in the pool shall be ??????.

Due to potential for pool bottom damage, no other puck may be used unless approved by a Tournament Official before use in the pool. Any unapproved pucks found will be confiscated and not returned.

10. GLOVES:

As per *Section 11.3.3.1* of the CMAS Rules for UWH v3.5, ALL gloves worn by players at this tournament must be of a contrasting colour to that of their stick at the time, and must also contrast with the puck (i.e. no player may wear a glove that is close to the colour of the puck).

The Tournament Chief Referee shall decide on disputes regarding this issue, and their decision will be final.

11. THE SIDE BARRIER:

Where the side barrier of a court is not the actual pool wall, it will be an aluminium barrier bolted to the pool bottom. All such walls (except for the 'outside' wall in court B) are fitted with a floating canvas extension of approximately 450-500mm in height. This shall be deemed to be part of the wall, and although players may push off it, should an individual gain any advantage from holding the barrier, their team will have an advantage puck awarded against them. As per CMAS rules, a time penalty may be awarded for repeated infringements at the discretion of the Water Referees. Please add details of court wall construction as per above.

12. TOURNAMENT TRIBUNAL:

Abuse of any official by players, coaches, or any other member of an underwater hockey team will not be tolerated, at any time. Any instance of such behaviour during the tournament (whether during a game or not) may be reported to a tournament tribunal, and instances occurring during a game must be reported to the tribunal by the Match Referee (regardless of whether a penalty is given at the time of the incident or not).

The tournament tribunal shall be made up of the following individuals:

- The Tournament Chief Referee, Mr. Simon Talbot;
- A non-playing coach from one of the attending teams, to be selected by all individuals attending the pre-tournament Captains meeting; and
- A player's representative from one of the attending teams, to be selected by all Captains attending the pre-tournament Captains meeting.

Where the team (not the Country) of either the non-playing coach, or the player's representative is involved in a report, a replacement shall be selected by the Tournament Chief Referee, in consultation with as many coaches and players as can easily be located and spoken to.

The tournament tribunal shall have the power to determine the severity of any penalty for serious offences reported to them during the tournament, and depending on the nature of the incident such penalties may range from a suspended sentence, through suspension from one or more games, to expulsion from the tournament.

13. PROTESTS AND APPEALS:

Only the team captain in the water may voice a protest to a Water Referee or the Chief Referee, and such protest/s MUST at all times be made politely (as deemed by the Referee). Failure to observe this requirement will almost certainly result in a time penalty being given against the Team Captain by the Referee concerned.

Any other player (or coach) addressing any Referee may be given a time penalty without warning for a first offence.

If a team so wishes, a written protest regarding the game result (and detailing grounds for the protest) may be lodged with the Tournament Chief Referee after any game, but it shall not be considered unless received within 30 minutes from full time and accompanied by a A\$50.00 fee (which shall be refunded if the protest is upheld).

The Tournament Tribunal shall review the protest details and make a decision as soon as possible after the incident.

14. TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANT'S CODE OF CONDUCT:

- a) The conduct of all participants in the 2012 Southern Hemisphere Competition must be of a standard that does not detract from the good reputation of Underwater Hockey Australia or the country of the participant.
- b) Any player or official who unduly interferes with, assaults, strikes or uses abusive, threatening or insulting language or behaviour towards another player or official may be reported by any individual to a member of the 2012 Southern Hemisphere Competition organising committee, or a tournament Referee;
- c) Upon receiving a report, the receiving individual shall either: take immediate action to have the offender(s) removed from the area, or caution the offender(s);
- d) Within twenty four hours of any formal report of misconduct, a meeting of the tournament tribunal shall be convened with the following people present:
 - i. The Offender(s)
 - ii. The Person making the Report
 - iii. Any Witness/es
 - iv. The Captain of the Offender's Team (if applicable)
 - v. All members of the tournament tribunal (or their replacements if necessary).
- e) Upon hearing all relevant details, the tribunal shall decide upon what action, if any, should be taken.

15. OTHER RULES:

(i) *Sideline Substitution*

In-water sideline substitution will be used during this tournament in all games, and the following rules will apply to this procedure.

- a) The substitution areas will be marked by a floating box on the surface of the water, marked with ropes and floats.
- b) Substitutes must enter and exit the water from the front portion of their substitution box (i.e. that area of the substitution box that borders onto the playing court);
- b) Players exiting the game are deemed to have left play as soon as they have their ***head clearly out of the water*** in the substitution area (as determined by the Chief Referee or their appointed delegate), and may be replaced at this time;
- c) Whilst the puck is 'in play', substitutes may directly enter play, subject to (b) above;
- d) Substitutes entering the water during a natural break in play (goal, foul, time-out etc) must either move behind the 'advantage line' before participating in play (NB. this would involve touching their end of the pool if a goal had been scored), or wait until the puck is in play after any restart before entering the water;
- e) To facilitate a quick restart of play after a goal has been scored, any substitute may enter the water immediately after the Chief Referee has been signalled the goal by (i.e. BEFORE the player they are intending to replace has left the water). It must be noted however that if there are more than six players in the water when play restarts, it will be deemed an infringement.
Other than this, a substitute entering the water during a natural break in play (goal, foul, time-out etc) must either move behind the 'advantage line' before participating in play (as detailed above).

(ii) *Use of Three Water Referees*

Three Water Referees will be used to officiate for all games.

(iii) *Use of Two Deck Referees*

Two Deck Referees may be used where sufficient personnel are available, and will be used for all finals.

One of these will be designated as the Chief Referee, and will be tasked with all 'normal' Chief Referee duties and responsibilities, and the other will be specifically responsible for watching team substitutions, and looking for surface infringements (to be reported to the Chief Referee if seen).

Where this is done, both individuals must be qualified and current as (at least) L1 Referees, or be otherwise approved by the Tournament Referee.

(iv) Time Penalties

- a) Penalties as outlined in the CMAS Rules for UWH (v10.5) will apply. All players are advised to familiarise themselves with these rules.
- b) In any time penalty situation where the game clock has been stopped, the time penalty timer/s shall also be stopped (or not started) until play is restarted;
- c) Time penalised players entering play must SLIDE into the water on release from the penalty area at all times.

(v) Time-outs

The CMAS rules for time outs, shall apply.

(vi) Penalty Goals

Rule 17.9.1 of the CMAS Rules states that: *“For a severe rule infringement committed anywhere in the playing area (especially in the goal area) and where in a Referee’s opinion an almost certain goal would have been scored, once play has been stopped the Referee may award a penalty goal to the infringed team and waive playing the penalty shot”.*

- a). Please note that in such a case Referees are instructed to give the benefit of the doubt to the ‘infringed’ player.
- b). Where a Referee deems that an infringement has stopped what would otherwise have been a certain goal, a penalty goal shall be awarded (after consultation with the other Referees).

(vii) Player Numbering

Section 11.2 - Team Identification of the CMAS Rules shall apply:

11.2.2 *All ten (10) players of each team shall wear identification headgear or caps, either black (or dark blue) or white, to match the colour of the sticks the team is using. The headgear or caps must have a unique numbers(s) for each player of the squad.*

11.2.3 *To assist in player identification, players are required to mark their headgear/cap number on both upper arms. Numbers must have a minimum height of 75mm (~3 inches) and be of a contrasting colour to that of the skin.*

11.2.4 *The Captain of each team must wear the letter “C” on each arm above their number. The size of this letter must be identical to the size of the number. In the same manner, the Vice-Captain must wear the letters “VC”.*

(viii) Mouthguards

CMAS Rules for UWH (v10.5 – 11.3.1) states that ‘an approved mouth protector must be worn’ by players.

To that end, all athletes participating at the 2012 Southern Hemisphere Competition **must** wear some form of mouthguard that will provide their teeth with adequate impact protection should they be hit by a foot, and elbow, a puck, or any of the other ‘items’ that occasionally contact individuals playing underwater hockey.

It is strongly recommended that players consult a dentist for expert advice regarding the most suitable form of mouth protector/mouthguard, prior to choosing one.