



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL LEAGUE

Handbook 2017-18



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Ontario Water Polo (OWP) has seen an increased demand for league play. Through the Ontario Provincial League (OPL) we hope to:

- Encourage overall club participation
- Create low barriers of entry for continued participation
- Offer regular meaningful games
- Establish a Provincial Championship as an event of importance
- Create a qualification event/ format to identify teams for National Championships

Ontario Water Polo would like to thank all the clubs involved in the planning process of the inaugural Ontario Provincial League season. Through all the hard work and effort of the clubs we have been able to establish a solid plan for the 2017-18 season.



1. Governance and Administration:

The League will be governed and administered by Ontario Water Polo. The Technical Coordinator will lead the organizational and strategic direction of OPLs, and will be supported by the Ontario Water Polo Board of Directors.

Ontario Water Polo will be supported by a Referee-In-Chief (RIC) and an Assistant Referee-In Chief (ARIC)

Doriel Terpenka (RIC)	FINA referee
Evan Andrews (ARIC)	UANA referee

A Resolution Committee has also been established to aide in any disputes, appeals or protests that may arise during the competition season. The appointed committee for the 2017-18 season is:

Evan Andrews	UANA Referee and OWP ARIC
Cyril Dorgigne	Executive Director of Water Polo Saskatchewan
Christi Bardecki	OWP Board Member, Toronto Triggerfish Head Coach
Neil Trousdale*	WPC Events and League Coordinator

*Neil Trousdale will only be used if there is a conflict of interest or as a substitute member

1.1 OWP responsibilities:

- The OWP RICs will aide in staffing all referees for the OPL tournaments.
- OWP will approve all OPL tournament schedules through the RIC
- OWP will record all results on the website, along with scoresheets from each game



1.2 Athlete and Team Eligibility:

- All athletes must be born between 2004 and 2006 to be eligible to play in the 14U League. Athletes born in 2007 must request permission to enter.
- Athletes must be registered with OWP and in good standing
- Athletes must be registered in the 'Competitive- Provincial' level
- Clubs must be in good standing to participate at events
- Teams must have a minimum of 7 players and a maximum of 15 players on a game roster (teams may rotate this roster)
- Teams must be gender specific

1.3 Event Registration

We have successfully selected five tournament weekends for the 14U Provincial League. This is in addition to Provincial Championships and Eastern National Championships.

- Host Clubs must register their events on the WPC online database. **Please be sure you know the maximum number of teams you can accommodate at your event.**
- OWP Clubs will have priority to register in Ontario events until **October 15th, 2017** using the Water Polo Canada database. All events are on a first come first serve basis.
- Once October 15th has passed, clubs are free to accept any other clubs outside the province

1.4 Competition Calendar

Below is an event calendar that lists the five league events in addition to Provincial Championships and National Championships. Each event is encouraged to include a 14U Boys and 14U Girls category.

Event	Dates	Location
Paul Taylor Memorial Tournament/ Mavericks Cup	Nov 17-19, 2017	Etobicoke
KW Classic	December 1-3, 2017	Kitchener-Waterloo
Capital Wave Invitational	January 26-28th, 2018	Ottawa
Thompson Cup (Hamilton)	February 10-11, 2018	Hamilton
March Madness	March 23-25th, 2018	Etobicoke
14U Provincial Championships	TBD	TBD
Eastern National Championships	May 11-13, 2017	Montreal, Quebec

2 General Rules:



All tournaments will be played with the following minimum standards:

- Teams will play with 6 field players per side, plus a goalie
- Each team must play a minimum of 4 games
- Every event must result in a final placement for each team
- Games must be a minimum of 4 x 6 minutes stop time, with a minimum of 1 timeout per game and a maximum of 1 timeout per quarter (as per Water Polo Canada rules)
- All games must be played in all deep water, with a minimum pool length of 20 metres from goal line to goal line

2.1 Host Responsibilities:

The host clubs are responsible for the following:

- Registering the event on the Water Polo Canada database and ensuring all participants are registered
- Booking and payment of permits
- Collection of entry fees from attending teams
- Compensation of referees
- Set up and take down of the pool space and score tables
- Staffing the minor officials table with a minimum of 3 bench officials
- Only using electronic scoresheets (Water Polo Canada scoresheets)
- Record results and submit results and scoresheets to OWP 48 hours after the event

Clubs have the freedom to build the tournament schedule, charge their own entry fee, and open the event to clubs outside of the province once the Ontario registration deadline has passed.

2.2 Referees:

The RIC and ARIC will collaborate with the host club to staff each 14U OPL game. Only referees registered in the WPC database as referees will be eligible to referee OPL games.

Referees will be compensated based on the pay scale determined by the OPL. This pay scale can be revised by the OPL coordinator before the completion of an OPL season. The current pay scale is:

FINA, UANA and National Level: \$25.00 per game

Provincial Level: \$18.50 per game

Regional Level: \$12.00 per game



2.3 Event Point Allocation/ Seeding For Provincials:

Each event will have the same point allocation structure:

- 1st: 6 points
- 2nd: 5 points
- 3rd: 4 points
- 4th: 3 points
- 5th: 2 points
- 6th and below: 1 point

The top point total is based on the number of **Ontario teams** at your event. 6 teams or more allows for the first place finish to have 6 points. 5 teams would have the first place finish allocated 5 points, etc. For an event to qualify as a Provincial League weekend, there must either be a minimum of 4 boys teams and/or 3 girls teams from Ontario.

Clubs that attend 3 events during the season are eligible for Provincial Championships. There is no cap on the number of events a club can enter. However, teams will receive points for their **top 3 event finishes**.

*Given that the Capital Region only has one league event in their region, they will only be required to attend 2 events to be eligible for Provincial Championships. Their third point score will be determined by the average of the two placements from the events they attend.

2.4 Events With Out of Province Teams

Clubs will be encouraged to include teams from outside the province at their events. The results are still based on points from teams in Ontario. Example:

If the hypothetical results from an event were as follows:

1. Titans
2. CAMO
3. CW
4. KW
5. DDO
6. Shadow
7. Hamilton
8. CASO
9. London
10. Kingston

There are six teams from Ontario in the tournament, and the points total would break down as follows:



Titans- 6 points
CW- 5 points
KW- 4 points
Shadow- 3 points
Hamilton- 2 points
London- 1 point
Kingston- 1 point

2.5 Clubs with Multiple Teams

For clubs that have multiple teams entered, the placement of the top team will be the guiding team for their other teams' point totals. For example, if a club enters two teams, the best three finishes for the **club** will be considered, and the second team will receive the points based on their results from the same three events.

Clubs who have multiple teams entered at OPL events will have their top placed team receive the highest point total for seeding purposes, **unless they make no roster changes for events throughout the season.**

Example: if Team A wins the Titans Cup and Team B (from the same club) finishes 5th, while at the KW Classic Team B wins and Team A finishes 5th, CLUB team 1 will receive a first place finish for both events, CLUB team 2 will receive a 5th place finish for both events **unless there were no roster changes made between the two events.**

Clubs are permitted to change their rosters throughout the season, as well as for Provincial Championships/ National Qualifications. For Provincials, clubs must place their best team as their top seed.

The above rule is to give clubs freedom to rotate their rosters, but to keep the integrity of the results for seeding purposes.

New for 2017-18: The roster used at Provincial Championships must match the roster used at National Championships.

2.6 Tie Breaking

Tie breaking will be resolved using a coin toss performed by a neutral, non-OWP member, who is monitored. Ideally, it will be performed at the WPC head office.

2.7 National Qualification

The regular season results will determine the teams seeding for Provincial Championships. Only teams who have played in the required number of tournaments, with eligible teams, will be permitted to attend Provincial Championships. The Provincial Championship schedule will be made by OWP and approved by the RIC. Provincial Championships will serve as the



qualification tournament for Eastern National Championships, with the allocated number of teams qualifying for National Championships.

3 Judiciary

Ontario Water Polo will adopt portions of Section 5 of the NCL Handbook (Judiciary):

3.1.1. This section applies to clubs, teams, athletes, coaches, officials, chaperones and other team personnel and herein will be referred to as a “participant”.

3.1.2. An incident is referred to as an event in which a participant is ejected from the game or competition venue due to any behaviour deemed to be detrimental to the image of the league, OWP and the sport of water polo (brutality, red card and misconduct). All participants are expected to act in a manner in which reflects a positive image. Incidents may occur before, during or after a League match as well as any adverse comments made publicly about the league or any of its members. An incident also refers to withdrawals, forfeits or code of conduct violations.

3.1.3. Each discipline issue will remain on a participants’ record for a period of five (5) years. A physical assault of another participant outside of the field of play will remain on a participants’ record indefinitely.

3.1.6. Sanctions will apply to all OWP League events and may be carried over to other categories and seasons in which that participant is partaking.

3.2 Incidents

3.2.1. The NCL incident reporting form found in Appendix E: Incident Reporting Form must be completed by game officials (referees) and submitted to the Resolution Committee for all incidents defined in section 5.1.2 above within 24-hours after the conclusion of the match / incident.

3.2.4. The Resolution Committee will review all major incident reports and provide a written report to the interested parties within one (1) week after receiving the incident report.

3.2.5. A brutality will carry an automatic one (1) game suspension. A second brutality within the same season, will carry an automatic three (3) game suspension. A third (or more) brutality within the same season, regardless of the category, will be deemed to be a major incident and will be reviewed by the Resolution Committee to determine disciplinary issues.

The Resolution Committee will review the incident report from every brutality and may impose additional sanctions.

3.2.6. A red card for misconduct will carry an automatic one (1) game suspension. Red cards apply towards the category in which the red card was received. A second red card for misconduct within the same season, received in the same category, will carry an automatic two



(2) game suspension. A third red card for misconduct within the same season, received in the same category, will carry an automatic three (3) game suspension.

3.3 Protests

The Resolution Committee shall be responsible for the handling of all protests. While reviewing a protest, any member who is perceived to have a conflict of interest with the matter at hand, must be removed from the review and replaced by a neutral party selected by OWP. All decisions rendered by the Resolution Committee are final and cannot be appealed.

If an immediate decision is needed, and all members of the Resolution Committee cannot be contacted, a unanimous decision made by two (2) members of the Resolution Committee will be accepted. If a third member is needed, a neutral Ontario Water Polo or Water Polo Canada representative, agreed upon by both members of the Resolution Committee, will be contacted to break the tie.

3.3.2. Teams may only protest a technical error. A technical error does not include a judgement call made by a referee regarding the interpretation of a rule.

3.3.3. All protests must be submitted to the Resolution Committee and the RIC (or acting RIC), up to (30) minutes following the final game time indicated on the electronic scoresheet. A fee of \$CAD100, payable by cash, must accompany the protest (the fee shall be refunded if the protest is successful). Protests must be in writing using Appendix F: Protest Form.

3.4 Appeals

3.4.1. All incidents may be appealed with the exception of protests and referee rule interpretations.

3.4.3. Minor incidents may be appealed directly to the League Coordinator.

3.4.4. Major incidents may be appealed directly to the Resolution Committee

3.4.5. Appeals must be submitted within 24-hours after the interested parties receive the verdict and may only be submitted in electronic format accompanied by a \$200 administration fee payable by PayPal only. Clubs, represented by the President, may submit appeals on behalf of a club participant.

While under review, the rendered verdict will remain active and the participant must adhere to the imposed decisions.

Appeals will be reviewed and decided within 48-hours after receiving the official request and payment. The participant will be reimbursed the administration fee if the appeal is successful.





Appendix E: Incident Reporting Form

Date: _____ Location: _____ Event: _____

Game#: _____ Time/Quarter of Incident: _____

Officials

Delegate(s)			
Referees			

Game and Incident Participants Details

	White Team		Blue Team	
Team				
Coach				
Hat #	Name	Hat #	Name	

Incident Description by referee(s) or delegate(s)

Decisions / Recommendations by delegate(s)



Appendix F: Protest Form

Event:	Date:	Time/Quarter of incident:
Game#:	White Team:	Blue Team:
FINA or Handbook rule(s) in violation:		
What technical error occurred and who was at fault?		
How did the technical error affect the outcome of the game?		
Diagram (if applicable)		