

Alberta Water Competition Review –Modifications for 2013-2014

History – All AWPA clubs were invited to have one member participate in the initial review and planning of the programs that are being provided by the province. At the first meeting the group looked at all the work that WPC Competition Review Working Group has done and felt that it is important to become in-line with their calendar/age groups/gender. The focus for the group in this meeting/document is programing for athletes aged 10 and under, 12 and under, 14 and under and 15-18 years old who are not in the National Championship League

Current state – As we looked at the programs there was a need to have a consistent league format. Looking at the age groups and the LTAD the modified rules, size of the team and field of play was important for the development of the athletes and to change the focus of FINA rules at the highest level to modifications for development. Currently there is too much travel for children and a lack of structured leagues for 10U /12U age groups as well gender specific. No structured leagues make it difficult for the parents to register for a sport as they do not understand the structure, cost and dates of the start/end of the season.

There is a need to recruit more children at the age of 5-6-7-8 years old to play water polo. Convince aquatic facilities and Canadians that fundamental water polo skills through children's water polo will help develop aquatic skills and create stronger leisure swimmers and lifeguards. In order to have younger children in the sport there needs to be appropriate competition opportunities for them.

Clubs need to have their practices/programs in 'age appropriate' pools. Not all practices should be at the 'Talisman or Kinsman' when you are working with 14 and under athletes. If each club could have their own home pools using their dive tank or deep/shallow pool, think of all the public that will start to see the sport and the influence that you would have not to mention the potential to recruit.

We will also be offering a 17U league for athletes that are not registered to play in National leagues such as men's NDPL and women's new league. There needs to be an avenue for those athletes to play. Details/rules will be coming out with a smaller sized team, gender specific and the focus will be for athletes 15-18.

Future State – There will be 3 distinct seasons, Winter, Spring and Summer giving athletes the ability for athletes to develop their physical literacy skills through appropriate training and competition and to participate in different sports. Clubs will have the opportunity to register athletes throughout the year because of the seasons and attract athletes from different sports. The city leagues now will allow structured competition at the appropriate level and addresses the gap for children. Within each season there will be training phase and competition phase. Each community identified will have a league with at least 3 teams per league before they can participate in the inter-city league in that age group and gender.

With long term planning, we want there to be as many community and inter-city leagues at a 10U, 12U and 14U level with links to the provincial league in Alberta. In the future there will also be modifications to the rules that once an athlete is in one of the leagues, they will not be able to 'move down' and play in another league in that age group or playing in an older age group because of their skill level. This gives an athlete the opportunity to play more to their skill level vs. the age, this also benefits the developing athletes to be able to reach their full potential. With this upcoming season, starting at the 12U Community and Inter-City Leagues the teams will be gender specific, after looking at all the data that has been collected with LTAD, as a group we fell that this will help with not only the development of the sport with both genders but also increase the population.

10U league will start during the Spring League in the 3 different communities; modified rules will be coming out during the Winter Season. This league will be co-ed, focusing on the athletes touching the ball and moving it around.

2013-2014 Implementation:

Regular Season:

	Community League Born in 2002 & later	Inter-City League Born in 2002 & later	14U Provincial League Born in 2000 & later
FALL SEASON	September to December Calgary FINALS Dec TBA Edmonton FINALS Dec TBA	September to December Provincials Calgary Dec 21-22	September to December Provincials Calgary Dec 21-22
WINTER SEASON	January to March 2014 Provincials Edmonton March TBA	January to March 2014 Provincials/Finals at Alberta Open Mar 13-16 2014	April to May 31, 2014 Provincial/ FINALS -June 7-8 th 2014
SPRING SEASON	April to May 31, 2014 Calgary FINALS May 31-June 1 Edmonton FINALS May 24-25	April to May 31, 2014 Provincial/ FINALS June 7-8	

The AWPA leagues will consist of an ongoing regular season and playoff weekend. The structure of the regular season and playoff weekend shall be as follows:

	Community League Born in 2002 & later	Inter-City League Born in 2002 & later	14U Provincial League Born in 2000 & later
EACH of the 3 SEASONS (winter/spring/summer)	Athletes will not travel outside of their community areas. (Ratio 2 practices to 1 game)	Game every 2 nd week/ weekend. 3 games in 2 days (Ratio 4 practices to 1 game)	Game every 2 nd week/ weekend. 3 games in 2 days (Ratio 4 practices to 1 game)
Registration	Athletes can only be on rosters of their primary club Teams are now gender specific	Athletes can be on a roster with their secondary membership –short term Teams are now gender specific	Athletes can only be on rosters of their primary club, exceptions maybe considered with age of the club/area/#
Schedule	One or more clubs will provide a volunteer coordinator in each area, to help AWPA with scheduling and posting results	League schedule to be released once all teams are registered.	League schedule to be released once all teams are registered.
Club Responsibilities	Games to be played during practice time, clubs coordinate and pay for the regular play.	Clubs book the pool time for the league play with coordination with the LC	Clubs book the pool time for the league play with coordination with the LC
AWPA Responsibilities	Will purchase participation ribbons for the last event for all the athletes.	Will book and run the championships, will pay for approved pool time for games.	Will book and run the championships, will pay for approved pool time for games.

Modified rules of play

	Community League Born in 2002 & later	Inter-City League Born in 2002 & later	14U Provincial League Born in 2000 & later
Duration of the Game	4 quarters X 6 minutes running time	4 quarters X 7 minutes running time	4 quarters X 7 minutes stop time
Pool Specification & Setup	-15m X 10m pool -2m X 0.9m net size -Pool half shallow switch ends every quarter	-20m X 15m -2m X 0.9m net size	-23-25m X 15-20m -regular sized net
Ball Size	Mikasa size 2	Mikasa size 2	Mikasa size 6009W (women)
Team Size	4on4 +goalie (min 7 on roster)	5on5 +goalie (min 10 on roster)	6 X 6+goalie (11 on roster)
Modified Rules of Play	-Technical timeout for substitution & coaching -Sub. may occur at any time -Goalie changes every quarter -Touch and go exclusions -No scoresheet, 1 referee, 1 time/score keeper	-Technical timeout -Substitution at quarter & tech timeout, ex for injury & other extenuating circumstances -Touch and go exclusions, excluded player must	-Technical time out -Substitution at quarter and tech timeout, exceptions for injury and other extenuation circumstances -Press (man to man) within 6m

	-No zone -No shot clock -No free throw -Goalie cannot shoot until appropriate sized nets are in	substitute -No player is allowed to play more than 2 quarters in net -No zone -30 40 shot clock -No active coaching modified positive coaching only directed to the athletes -No corner throws -No free throw -Goalie cannot shoot at net until appropriate sized nets are in	-No active coaching
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Clubs will have to register to enter these leagues. All clubs can enter and create a community league (Calgary area, Edmonton area, Medicine Hat/Lethbridge) but to be able to be in the inter-city league there has to be a minimum of 3 teams registered and active in your community league. This insures that water polo is being played at all levels, athletes at this point can enter and play on both rosters but in the future this will not be the case. This year we will also be capping that a club can only enter one inter-city team into the league.

Committee Members

Bowness Water Polo Club	Noah Miller
Calgary Mako Water Polo Club	Maria Needham
Calgary Seawolves WP Club	Glenna Bagley
Calgary Wild WP Club	Irene Demchuk
Dolphins WP Club	Tanya Jones
Edmonton WP Club	Vlado Radosavljevic
Innisfail Hurricanes WP Club	Noble-Lee Valentine
Medicine Hat WP Club	Jason Williams
Renegades WP Club	John Csikos
Spruce Grove WP Club	Shirley Finnson
Thunderbirds WP Club	Tim Floyd
Torpedoes WP Club	Cameron Henning