

RULES

for

THE DORSET WATER POLO LEAGUE & ASSOCIATED COMPETITIONS

PREAMBLE

The League shall be affiliated to Dorset County Amateur Swimming Association and shall adopt and conform to the constitution, rules and conditions of said association.

The League is committed to treat everyone equally within the context of his or her activity, regardless of gender, ethnic origin, religion, disability or political persuasion.

The League believes that the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and that all children and young people have a right to have fun, be safe and be protected from harm.

The business and affairs of the League shall at all times be conducted in accordance with the Laws and Technical Rules of the Amateur Swimming Association ("ASA Laws") and in particular:

All competing members shall be eligible competitors as defined in ASA Laws; and

The League shall in accordance with ASA Laws adopt the ASA Child Protection Procedures; and

Members of the League shall in accordance with ASA Laws comply with the ASA Child Protection Procedures.

The League shall implement the ASA Equity and Equal Opportunities policies.

By virtue of the affiliation of the League to the Dorset County ASA, the League and all members of the League acknowledge that they are subject to the laws and rules of:

ASA South West Region; and

The Amateur Swimming Association (to include the ASA/ISTC Code of Ethics); and

The Amateur Swimming Federation of Great Britain (to include in particular the ASFGB Doping Control Rules and Protocols and ASFGB Disciplinary Code); and

FINA, the world governing body for the sport of swimming in all its disciplines (together "the Governing Body Rules").

In the event that there shall be any conflict between any rule or by-law of the League and any of the Governing Body Rules then the relevant Governing Body Rule shall prevail.

1. PRINCIPLES

- a. The League shall be known as the Dorset Water Polo League.
- b. The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be known as the League AGM. Officers and post holders of the League may be different from equivalents in Dorset County ASA. These are defined in the individual terms of reference/job descriptions.
- c. The object of the League shall be to promote and encourage the game of water polo at all levels under ASA Laws.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- a. The League shall be open to clubs affiliated to the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) operating in the South West Region (ASASWR) or County of Hampshire.
- b. Clubs from outside Dorset may affiliate to the League according to such rules as laid down by the League and consistent with the respective County's eligibility conditions.
- c. All clubs that were accepted into in the League in the previous season shall be deemed to be accepted into the League in the following season unless:
 - i. The club informs the League Secretary, in writing, by 1st September of the intention to withdraw from the League;
 - ii. There is a resolution placed before the League's Annual General Meeting that a club's membership should cease, such resolution to be circulated to all clubs in the notice of meeting and voted upon at the meeting.
- d. A club wishing to join the League shall apply in writing, and accompanied by the appropriate fee, to be considered for acceptance to the League Secretary by 1st September prior to the League season, or later at the discretion of the League Committee, and all existing clubs shall be informed of any such application in the notice of the League AGM at which any application shall be voted upon.
- e. Clubs wishing to continue in the League shall be represented at the League Annual General Meeting or notify the League Water Polo Secretary in writing at least seven days prior to the meeting of their intention to enter a team.
- f. All teams entering the League (Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3, Junior, Ladies and Senior) may also enter any Cup competitions run by the League for their respective section(s).
- g. A club may enter more than one team in the League subject to the following rules and subject to player registration for each declared team in accordance with clause 6.
- h. The secretary of each competing club shall supply, in writing, to the League Secretary by 30th September, the name and addresses of its club officials, the starting times of matches, details of the venue(s) and any other relevant information as may be required.

3. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a. All clubs entering the League shall be affiliated to the ASA and respective Region and County ASA.
- b. Additionally each team shall pay an annual affiliation fee to the League as shall be decided at the League AGM each year following recommendation by the League Committee.
- c. The affiliation fee required shall be reported to the Water Polo League AGM.
- d. All ASA, Regional and County ASA affiliation fees and subscriptions shall be paid by 31st March and League fees and subscriptions by 1st September in the year of competition.
- e. No League fee or League subscription shall be due from any team that withdraws from the League in writing by 1st September in the year of competition, the date mark on the envelope or email to act as proof of date of such communication if it is not with the League Secretary by that date.
- f. All subscriptions and other monies levied or fined by the League shall be payable to the League Treasurer within one month of demand, unless there is a related unresolved issue lodged with the League.
- g. Any team that does not pay within one month of demand any subscription, fee or fine levied upon it by the League shall be liable for suspension from the League or subject to an additional fee or fine as may be determined by the League Committee.
- h. A club will not be permitted to affiliate for the following season if it has unpaid fines from a previous season in which fines were levied.

4. GENERAL MEETINGS

- a. The League shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) between 1st May and 31st July in the current year of competition.

- b. The League Secretary shall provide a written agenda giving a minimum of twenty-one days notice of the date, time and venue of the AGM to all clubs affiliated to the League in the previous season and entitled to vote and any clubs wishing to join.
- c. The business of the meeting and all proposals to change the rules must be notified in full in the notice of meeting to all entitled to attend.
- d. All clubs affiliated to the League in the previous season may send one delegate to the AGM and each delegate shall have one vote.
- e. A club entering two or more teams in the League shall be entitled to a second delegate who shall have one vote.
- f. A club wishing to join the League may be invited to attend the AGM but may not have a vote until the point in the meeting at which its membership is accepted and affiliation paid.
- g. The AGM shall include but not be limited to:
 - i. Receiving the Chairman's report of activities of the League in the previous year;
 - ii. Receiving a report from the League Secretary;
 - iii. Receiving and considering the accounts of the League for the previous year, the report on the accounts of the independent examiner and the Treasurer's report as to the financial position of the League, and voting on their acceptance;
 - iv. Removing and electing the independent examiner (who must not be a member of the Committee or a member of the family of a member of the Committee) or confirm that he/she remains in office;
 - v. Reporting on the level of subscription for the forthcoming season as recommended by the League Committee;
 - vi. Receiving a report from any other League Officers who may wish to present a report on the running of the League in the previous season;
 - vii. Presenting trophies and medals to the teams who were League champions in their respective leagues in the previous season and any other appropriate awards if they have not been presented previously;
 - viii. Elect the Executive Officers of the League and other members of the Committee;
 - ix. Nominating a person to recommend to the County ASA to be the Dorset County ASA Water Polo Secretary;
 - x. Consider and endorse the nominated representative from each club to serve on the League Committee and as club contact for specific league and cup competitions and decide if any such representatives should be given specific role;
 - xi. Adding to or changing of rules, subject to endorsement by DCASA. The voting upon any proposals put to the meeting provided the correct notice has been given and does not infringe or impact upon the DCASA constitution, conditions and rules;
 - xii. Deciding on how League and Cup matches are to be arranged for that season;
 - xiii. Receiving nominations for inclusion on the list of League referees for the coming season and voting to approve such nominations;
- h. Proposals to change the rules must be sent to arrive with the League Secretary by 1st April prior to the AGM at which they are to be considered.
- i. Serving officers not wishing to continue in post should give notice of their intention to stand down by 1st April prior to the AGM.
- j. Special General Meetings may be called during the year by the League Secretary, by resolution of the League Committee, at the written request of three or more clubs or by order of the County ASA. At least fourteen days notice shall be given to all clubs in the League of a Special General Meeting and the purpose of the meeting made clear in such notice. At which meeting only the published agenda topics shall be discussed.
- k. A quorum at any General Meeting shall be the representation of at least one delegate from not less than fifty per cent of member clubs (rounded down to the nearest whole number) entitled to attend.
- l. All decisions shall be by simple majority of those present except changes to the rules that shall require a two-thirds majority. The chair of the meeting shall have a casting or additional vote in the event of the votes being equal.
- m. The Chairman shall, at all General and Special Meetings, have unlimited authority upon questions of order and shall be, for the purposes of such meeting, the sole interpreter of the Rules of the League.
- n. Meetings will be conducted using the ASA Council Rules of Debate as a guide.

5. THE LEAGUE COMMITTEE

- a. The League Committee (hereafter referred to as the Committee) shall comprise:
 - i. League Officers - League Chairman, League Secretary and League Treasurer; and Dorset County ASA Water Polo Secretary; and
 - ii. a representative of each competing club elected at the League AGM; and
 - iii. playing representative/s elected at the AGM; and
 - iv. a County ASA Water Polo Coach, if appointed;
 - v. all of whom must be members of the League and not less than eighteen years of age.
- b. The League Committee shall meet at least two times each year on dates as deemed appropriate by the League Secretary. The League Secretary shall also call a meeting when requested to in writing by three or more members of the League Committee or by the County ASA. A quorum of such meeting shall be not less than six Committee members (to include not less than two League Officers).
- c. The League Secretary shall give at least seven days notice in writing of a League Committee meeting, including an agenda, to each and every person entitled to attend. The Secretary, or in his/her absence a member of the Committee, shall take Minutes of all Committee meetings.
- d. The League Committee shall be responsible for the management of the League and shall have the sole right of appointing and determining the terms and conditions of service of employees of the League. The Committee shall have the power to enter into contracts for the purposes of the League on behalf of all the members of the League.
- e. The League Committee's remit shall include but not be limited to;
 - i. Supervising and controlling the organisation and running of all League and Cup competitions and the keeping of the season's record of results;
 - ii. Monitoring the finances of the League in concert with the League Treasurer;
 - iii. Arranging for referees from the list nominated by the AGM to take all League and Cup matches under the League's jurisdiction;
 - iv. Considering referees reports and any apparent or alleged breaches of the rules and adjudicating on them;
 - v. Imposing such disciplinary actions as the rules may permit;
 - vi. Making recommendations to the County ASA Executive Committee especially with regard to the administration and development of water polo in general and the League in particular;
 - vii. Appointing a member of the League as Welfare Officer, or identifying a suitably qualified person to act in this capacity, who must not be less than eighteen years of age and who shall not be or relation of any League Officer, coach, teacher or team manager;
 - viii. Appointing such sub-committees as they may feel necessary or as are required to consider any matter referred to it by the League AGM or the County ASA;
 - ix. Appointing a sub-committee to oversee any representative teams, whether for the League or if requested to do so on behalf of Dorset County ASA and electing person(s) to serve as League Team Manager(s); such appointments to be subject to ratification by the League Committee and Dorset County ASA Executive Committee where required;
 - x. Dealing with any matter as shall be referred to it by Dorset County ASA Executive Committee;
 - xi. Retain all financial records relating to the League and copies of Minutes of all meetings for a minimum period of six years;
 - xii. Maintaining an Accident Book in which all accidents to League members at water polo related activities shall be recorded, and to make an annual return to the ASA Membership department.
- f. The League Committee may exercise its discretion on any matter of concern that arises which is not specifically covered by the rules of the League.
- g. Members of the League Committee shall be entitled to an indemnity out of the assets of the League for all expenses and other liabilities properly incurred by them in the management of the affairs of the League.

6. FINANCE

- a. All moneys payable to the League shall be received by the Treasurer and deposited in a bank account in the name of the League. No sum shall be drawn from that account except by cheque signed by two of the three signatories who shall be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Any monies not required for immediate use may be invested as the Committee in its discretion think fit.
- b. The income and property of the League shall be applied only in furtherance of the object of the League and no part thereof shall be paid by way of bonus, dividend or profit to any members of the League, save as set out in Rule 5(g).

- c. The Committee shall have power to authorise the payment of remuneration and expenses to any Officer, member or employee of the League and to any other person or person for services rendered to the League.
- d. The financial transactions of the League shall be recorded by the Treasurer in such manner as the Committee thinks fit.
- e. The financial year of the League shall be the period commencing 1st April and ending on 31st March. Any change in the financial year shall require the approval of the members in a General Meeting.

7. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS AND TEAMS

- a. All players shall be registered with the League and be affiliated to the ASA as defined by ASA Laws.
- b. All registrations shall initially be made to the League Secretary on the official form or added to later by letter from a club secretary and shall include the player's full name, ASA number, address, medical and other such information as the League Secretary shall reasonably require.
- c. No player may compete in any competition until his or her registration has been received by the League Secretary or, if so agreed at the League AGM, by the League Recorder.
- d. A player shall be eligible for registration by a club if:-
 - i. His normal place of residence is within the county of Dorset;
 - ii. His normal place of residence is in the county in which his club is based and that club has been accepted into the League;
 - iii. He is a student on a full time course of at least one term, or stationed in the armed forces for at least six months in Dorset or a county in which his club is based and that club has been accepted into the League;
 - iv. He has, through his club, applied to the League Committee by letter to the League Secretary to be registered for that season, being a bona fide member of his club but not qualifying under conditions i, ii, or iii above. Such special permission must be granted by the League Committee before the player concerned is registered;
 - v. Registration under category iv will not normally be accepted if submitted after the start of the league season.
- e. A player may not compete for more than one team of a club in a specific division of the League.
- f. If a player ceases to be a member of a club he may not play for another club until he has been re-registered by his new club and not for 60 days after he last played for his previous club unless proof of ASA registration has been supplied in the current year of competition.
- g. If a player changes clubs during the season a copy of his resignation from his previous club, or a letter from the secretary stating that his services are no longer required, shall accompany a registration submitted by his new club.
- h. If a player is registered for the Junior competition he/she shall be 17 years of age or younger on the first day of the year of competition, for the Key Stage 3 competition 14 years of age or younger, and for the Key Stage 2 competition 11 years of age or younger.
- i. A player registered to play in a Senior Intermediate, Ladies, Junior, Key Stage (KS) 3 and Key Stage (KS) 2 league must state on the registration form his ASA number and the League Secretary may require to see his ASA registration card.
- j. A club may enter more than one team in any of the Senior Intermediate, Ladies, Junior, KS3 and KS2 divisions of the League.
- k. A club playing an ineligible player shall be reported to the League Committee who may impose a fine not exceeding £25 and any expenses which have been incurred. Also the team shall forfeit any points gained in that match and any goals they have scored; the opponents shall be awarded the points and keep the goals they have scored.

8. ARRANGING AND RE-ARRANGING MATCHES

- a. Matches in all competitions shall be played between 1st September and 30th June except cup finals and matches previously sanctioned by the League Committee.
- b. A provisional list of fixtures shall be completed and normally be issued by a date specified by the League Secretary.

- c. Clubs will have until 30th September to make any alterations to these provisional fixtures, with the agreement of the other clubs affected.
- d. The League Secretary shall co-ordinate the fixtures submitted, referees will be provided by the competing clubs.
- e. A team wishing to alter a fixture during the season may do so with the agreement of the secretary of the opposing team.
- f. The team responsible for requesting an alteration shall be responsible for immediately notifying the referees and the League Recorder of any change.
- g. The team responsible for requesting an alteration shall also, within 14 days of the request, contact the other team concerned to re-arrange the date of the fixture and notify the referees and the League Recorder of the new date.
- h. The home club secretary shall be responsible for re-arranging a postponed game within fourteen days of its postponement and informing the League Secretary of the new date.
- i. Where a team enters more than one team in the League all matches between such teams shall be played before 31st March.
- j. A team shall be entitled to have a match postponed without penalty to a new date to be agreed with the opposing club if on that day they have to play a game which arises from making progress in any water polo cup competition, or they have two or more registered players selected to participate in a county representative or district match or official trial or training.

9. LEAGUE POINTS, POSITIONS AND AWARDS

- a. All League matches shall count for points as follows:
 - i. Senior Intermediate League, Ladies and Junior League:
 - A win – three points
 - A draw – one point
 - A loss – no points
 - ii Key Stage 3 & Key Stage 2 League
 - A win – three points
 - A draw – two points
 - A loss – one point
- b. The competitions of all of the Leagues shall be decided on points gained.
- c. No match shall count in two competitions or for two sets of points.
- d. Should two or more teams tie on points for first place in the championship it shall be decided as follows:
 - i. Firstly, to the team who gained most points in the League matches between only the teams who have tied. If this still results in a tie -
 - ii. Secondly, to the team with the greatest goal difference in these same games between them. If this still results in a tie then -
 - iii. Thirdly, the League shall organise a play-off between the teams concerned at such a venue and on such a date as the League Committee shall decide. The winner of such a play-off shall be the League champion. If this match ends in a tie at full time, extra time of two periods of three minutes shall be played and should this still not produce a winner, a penalty shoot out according to such guidance as has been issued by the ASA shall decide the match.
- e. For other league positions, should teams tie on points then the team with the greater goal difference shall be awarded the higher place. If this still results in a tie then the teams shall be accorded equal placing.
- f. The trophies and awards for the League competition shall be awarded to the winning team at the League AGM which follows the League season if they have not been awarded previously at the request of the team concerned.
- g. The winning team in each competition and in each division of the League shall be award a maximum of thirteen suitable awards. A club may add to this number of awards at its' own expense.
- h. The plinths or other appropriate part of all trophies shall be engraved with the year and name of the champion team. The clubs shall be responsible for arranging engraving and the expense thereof in liaison with the League trophies steward.

- i. All trophies are the property of the League or Dorset County ASA as applicable.
- j. It is the responsibility of a club to ensure the safety/good condition of trophies in their possession and that they are returned to the League trophies steward in time for presentation at the following League AGM or other event as so decided by the League Committee.

10. BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A MATCH

- a. The secretary of the home club must advise (by letter, telephone, email or in person) the secretary of the visiting club, the referees and any other officials specially appointed, of the time at which the match is to commence, at least seven days beforehand.
- b. The home club shall provide the necessary equipment for the game to be played.
- c. The home club shall provide at least two suitable officials, and support the development of officials.
- d. The home team shall ensure free admission to the baths for the opposing team and at least two officials.
- e. Each team must provide its own caps which, unless otherwise agreed by both teams and the referee(s), shall be white for the home team and blue for the away team.
- f. Before a match starts the captains of each team must list, on the match sheet provided by the home club, the names and cap numbers of all players taking part and sign the sheet.
- g. No player's name may be added to the match sheet after the game has begun. If a player is likely to arrive late his team should make sure his name is on the sheet at the start of the game otherwise he may not take part.
- h. A team must have at least seven players present for a game to commence.
- i. Should a team not arrive, arrive too late for the match to be played or arrive with insufficient players the matter shall be reported to the League Secretary by the home team and by the referee within three days.
- j. Should the start of the game be delayed beyond ten minutes of the appointed time the referee(s) should report this on the match sheet and give the reason for such delay.
- k. If a game is delayed in starting more than 15 minutes the non-offending team may agree to play the game in the time remaining, claim the points or re-arrange the game for another day. The referee(s) should note details of this on the match sheet.
- l. If the full time cannot be played this should be reported to the League by the referee on the match sheet. The League Committee may determine whether such a match should count as a completed fixture or be replayed in full.
- p. A team reported for a match being delayed beyond ten minutes may be liable to a fine and may be ordered to pay any additional expenses incurred by the opposing team.
- q. At the end of the game the completed match sheet shall be signed by the match secretary and referee as confirmation that they believe the score and any other details on the sheet to be correct.
- r. All matches must be played to the ASA Water Polo Laws unless the League makes application to the ASA, and approval granted by them, for a dispensation for any particular law to be modified or held in abeyance. Under Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 2 mini polo leagues local rules and conditions may apply

11. UNFULFILLED MATCHES

- a. When a re-arrangement is requested both teams shall make a reasonable endeavour to find an alternative date. Where no alternative date can be agreed the team that did not initially request the re-arrangement may apply to the League Recorder for the game to be awarded to them and must inform the opposing team of this request. The League Recorder may make such an award where no objection is raised by the opposing team and he is satisfied that the procedures have been followed correctly. If any complications arise the matter shall be referred to the committee.

- b. The League Committee may impose a fine, in addition to the re-arrangement fee, plus any expenses which have been incurred, where a club has requested the re-arrangement of a game less than four days prior to the date on which it was due to be played or where they have not followed the re-arrangement procedures correctly.
- c. Where a fixture has not been completed by the agreed date without prior agreement to re-arrange it, the League Recorder shall be informed within seven days of that date.
- d. Any team deemed by the League Committee to be responsible for the non-fulfilment of a match shall be liable to any or all of the following:
 - i. Forfeit the points of the match to the opposing club;
 - ii. Pay the opposing club any reasonable expenses;
 - iii. Pay the expenses of the referee(s).
- e. When a match has been played but is subsequently awarded against a team for failure to comply with the rules the offending team shall lose any points they gained from the game and also the goals they scored in it. The non-offending team may be awarded the points and shall keep the goals they scored.
- f. A team awarded the points for a game which has not been played shall be accorded a default score of 5–0.
- g. The League Committee may levy a fine (of up to £30 plus any expenses incurred) on any team that fails to turn up for a game without giving due notice. In deciding on the fine the League Committee shall give due consideration to any exceptional circumstances which arose, whether the referees were informed and avoided travelling and/or whether the offending team made any effort to get to the pool.
- h. The League Committee may delete a team's record from the League if it has not fulfilled at least two thirds of its League matches by the end of the season.

12. REFEREES

- a. A panel of referees shall be appointed at the League AGM.
- b. All clubs entering the League must nominate at least one member of their own club to serve on the referees' panel.
- c. No referee shall referee a match in which the club to which he/she belongs is involved unless both teams consent.
- d. The League Committee shall be responsible for arranging the allocation of referees to all matches.
- e. Before a match begins the referee(s) shall ensure that each team has listed its' players on the match sheet.
- f. The referee(s) shall report any contravention of these rules to the League Secretary within three days of the occurrence.
- g. A referee shall supply a report on any match or any particular incident before, during or after a match at the request of the League Secretary.
- h. If a referee finds that he/she is unable to officiate at a game to which he/she has been appointed, he/she shall notify the League Referees Co-ordinator and the home club's secretary at the earliest opportunity.
- i. The League Referees Co-ordinator shall be empowered to appoint a replacement referee for any game where he has been notified that the appointed referee is not available.
- j. Where it is clear beforehand that no referee(s) are available to take a game, the League Referees Co-ordinator or the League Secretary are empowered to postpone a match and ask both clubs to rearrange it for a future date.
- k. Should no referee arrive by the time the match is due to start, the captains of both teams may agree to play the game with such person(s) as are available to referee. Should the captains fail to agree the game will not be played and the League Secretary should be informed within seven days by the home team.

13. INFRINGEMENT OF THE RULES AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- a. When a club or an official considers that an infringement of these rules has been made by another club, or its members, they shall notify the League Secretary in writing within seven days of the occurrence. A copy of this correspondence shall also be sent to the secretary of the opposing club.
- b. Whenever possible a club shall notify the opposing club and the referee that it considers an infringement of the rules has taken place at the time of the occurrence.
- c. Should a protest be lodged before an event the referee shall immediately inform all participants of such a protest and record the protest on the match sheet. The referee may order the match to take place and the result shall then be adjudicated upon by the League Committee.
- d. When a referee considers that there has been an infringement of these rules or that the conduct of a team or an individual has been unsatisfactory before, during or after a game, he/she shall notify the League Secretary in writing within seven days of the occurrence. *(NB Referees should, whenever they deem it appropriate, report any incident of brutality or disrespect to the ASA to be dealt with by its system of sanctions).*
- e. On receipt of any notice of possible contravention of the rules or of a protest as detailed above, the League Secretary shall:
 - i. include the matter on the agenda of the next League Committee meeting;
 - ii. ensure that the accused team or individual is aware of the accusation or protest;
 - iii. invite the accused team or individual to make a written or verbal submission in their defence to the League Committee meeting where the matter is to be considered.
- f. The League Committee shall have the power to deal with infringements of these rules or any unacceptable conduct by a club or an individual in a timely manner, by any one or a combination of the following as they shall deem appropriate:
 - i. Suspension from the League for a fixed period.
 - ii. Imposition of a fine.
 - iii. Ordering payment of reasonable expenses.
 - iv. Deduction of points from a team.
 - v. Awarding of a game against a team.
 - vi. Ordering of a game to be replayed.
 - vii. Recording a warning to a player or a team as to their conduct in the future.
- g. The League Committee shall deal with infringements of rules or unacceptable conduct in accordance with the ASA's Regulations for Disciplinary Actions in Water Polo Events conducted under ASA Laws and the relevant Judicial Rules for Handling Internal Disputes as set out in the ASA Judicial Laws.
- h. When a match has been played but is subsequently awarded against a team for failure to comply with the rules the offending team shall lose any points they gained from the game and also the goals they scored. The non-offending team shall be awarded the points and keep the goals they scored.
- i. A club or an individual may appeal to the Judicial Commissioner against any judgement made against them by the League Committee for failing to comply with these rules.
- j. If an alleged offence is a breach of ASA Law it shall not be dealt with by the League Committee but referred to the ASA to be dealt with by ASA Laws and Regulations.

14. DISSOLUTION

- a. A resolution to dissolve the League shall only be proposed at a General Meeting and shall be carried by a majority of at least three-quarters of the members present and entitled to vote. A specific date for the dissolution shall be included in the resolution.
- b. The dissolution shall take effect from the date specified in the resolution and the members of the Committee shall be responsible for the winding-up of the assets and liabilities of the League.
- c. Any property remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the League shall be divided equally among the current Dorset member clubs of the League at the date of dissolution or donated to other non-profit making organisations having objectives similar to those of the League for furtherance of such objects and nominated by the last Committee.

15. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Members acknowledge that these Rules constitute a legally binding contract to regulate the relationship of the members with each other and the League.

RULES FOR THE KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

1. All Dorset club teams entering the Senior Intermediate Water Polo League are automatically entitled to enter the Dorset Championship Shield Knockout competition provided such teams comply with the DCASA competition eligibility criteria.
2. All games shall be held under ASA Laws and such of the League rules as are appropriate, unless otherwise indicated below.
3. All Cup games shall be played in club time except the Final, which shall be the responsibility of the League Committee.
4. The draw for all rounds of the competition shall take place at the League AGM and shall be published in the fixtures list on email. The draw will be seeded and the first team drawn for each game shall be the home team.
5. The League Committee shall make recommendations for the League AGM to vote upon as to the exact format the competition shall take within the structure outlined below.
6. The first round of the competition shall be held so as to reduce the number of teams to two. This means that –
 - a. Where there are more than 4 teams an appropriate number of teams will be drawn to take part in a preliminary round.
 - b. The first round proper will be followed by the final.
7. Unless otherwise agreed at the League AGM each year the winning team in each game shall proceed into the next round.
8. In all rounds of the competition except the Final the designated home team shall be responsible for making match arrangements (including contact with the away team to fix dates and confirming match arrangements with referees). The home team shall also provide all equipment for the game except each team shall provide its own hats.
9. Arrangement for the final shall be made by the League Secretary in consultation with the League Committee. The final shall take place in the most appropriate available pool unless the League Committee and each team agree otherwise.
10. If a game has not been completed by the date given for that round the away team shall be awarded the match unless the home team secretary has contacted the League Secretary before that date to explain any difficulties being encountered. The League Secretary shall then attempt to deal with the matter to the satisfaction of both teams but in the event of further difficulties the matters shall be referred to the League Committee whose decision shall be final.
11. If any game ends in a tie at the end of normal time it shall be decided by the taking of a “penalty shoot-out” under such guidance on this as has been circulated by the ASA and/or FINA. *(NB. A summary of the most recent guidance received is included as an appendix at the end of these rules).*
12. The League shall appoint one referee to officiate at all games.
13. A trophy shall be awarded to the winning team at the end of the Final.
14. Thirteen medals shall be awarded to the winning team and thirteen medals to the losing team (as runners up) at the end of the final.

Appendix 1

PENALTY SHOOT-OUTS

The following is a summary of the FINA Guidance circulated by the ASA in January 2002 and adopted as part of the rules of the Knockout competition. It applies to any game where a definite result is required.

1. Five penalties shall be taken by each team.
2. Penalties shall be taken in alternate succession at each end of the pool or at one end only if it is deeper.
3. Each team shall nominate five players to take the penalties and the order in which they shall shoot.
4. Any player who has been excluded for the remainder of a game may not take part.
5. The nominated goalkeeper may be changed by an eligible substitute at any appropriate time.
6. If penalties are taken at alternate ends both goalkeepers may stay in the water but only the defending goalkeeper may be in the water if only one end is used.
7. All other players except the one taking the penalty must be seated on their bench or on the side well away from the goal.
8. All eligible players must continue to wear their caps until a result is declared.
9. The captains shall toss a coin to decide which team shall take the first throw.
10. The referees shall ensure that an accurate record of throws is kept.
11. If before all throws have been completed one team has scored more than the other team could score no more throws need be taken.
12. If after both teams have taken five throws, both have scored the same (or not scored at all) throws continue to be taken in the same order by the same players until one team has scored a goal more than the other team from the same number of throws.