

Schools' Team Water Polo Championships

Regulations (Effective from July 2010)

The Schools' Team Water Polo Championships of England shall take place annually under ASA Law, ASA Technical Rules and the following conditions:

1 Eligibility

(a) Only schools which are in affiliation with the English Schools' Swimming Association are eligible to compete.

(b) Competitors must be on the roll of the School entering the Championship and in full-time attendance there at the commencement of the academic year in which the Championship takes place.

2 Transfers

Any pupil who has already played in the current Championship, and who subsequently changes schools, may only play for his new school if the original school relinquishes their claim on him.

3 Age

Competitors may only swim in the appropriate age group. Age limits for these events shall be as at midnight August 31st/September 1st at the commencement of the academic year of Championships.

Events shall be organised in six groups:

- (a) Boys and/or girls aged 11 years and under 14 years (normally Y 7/8/9) – Junior
- (b) Boys and/or girls aged 12 years and under 16 years (normally Y 8/9/10/11) – Intermediate
- (c) Boys aged 14 years and under 18 years (normally Y 10/11/12/13) – Senior
- (d) Girls aged 11 years and under 14 years (normally Y 7/8/9) – Junior
- (e) Girls aged 11 years and under 16 years (normally Y 7/8/9/10/11) – Intermediate
- (f) Girls aged 12 years and under 18 years (normally Y 8/9/10/11/12/13) – Senior

The upper and lower age limits are applicable at every round of the Championships.

4 Control

The sole control and management of the Championships will be in the hands of the ESSA Council.

5 Entries

- (a) Entries will be limited to one team per school in each category listed in Rule 3 above.
- (b) There will be an entry fee per team, the level of which will be decided by ESSA Council.
- (c) All entries shall be made on the official entry form, which shall be returned to the Hon. Water Polo Organiser on or before the published date (normally in the Summer Term or early in the Autumn Term.)
- (d) All entry forms shall be countersigned by the Head Teacher of the school.

6 Team Lists

Before the start of each match, at every stage of the championships, a team list, showing the names and dates of birth of the players, shall be handed to the Referee by a representative of the school taking part in that match.

7 Conduct of the Championships

- (a) ESSA shall appoint tournament organisers for all tournaments.
- (b) ESSA shall appoint officials for all National Finals.
- (c) Intermediate Mixed and Senior Boys' Championships

i) At the beginning of the academic year all schools will take part in the same competition, after Round 1 this will split into The Championship, the Plate and the Bowl Competitions to run side by side. (If the number of entrants dictate, a Preliminary round will be played prior to October ½ term. The top two teams in each Preliminary round Group will move directly to the Championship, the third and fourth placed teams to the Plate and all other teams to the Bowl. Competition.

ii) Round 1 October ½ term to December – all teams entered play in geographical clusters. Based on place in Group games enter their level of competition -ie Championship, Plate or Bowl.

- iii) Round 2 By end of February
- iv) Round 3 Semi-Finals by end of March – National Championships 6 teams per group, Plate Competition 6 teams per group. Regional Bowl tournament as required.
- v) Round 4 Finals – National Championships - 6 teams, Plate Competition - 6, Bowl - 4.
- (d) **Junior Mixed Championships, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Championships for Girls**
 - i) Preliminary rounds will be played regionally in the first instance – by end of March.
 - ii) National Championships – 6 teams in each age group
- (e) **Competition Format** – all competitions will follow a 2 half format with 6 teams progressing to each of the finals. It is intended that the Intermediate and Senior Finals – 3 (b) (c) (e) (f) will take place in May and the Junior Finals – 3 (a) (d) in June.
- (f) In all tournaments, in the event of a tie on equal points, final positions will be determined by:
 - i) Result of the game between the teams concerned;
 - ii) Goal difference;
 - iii) Penalty shootout – in compliance with current ASA Technical Rules
- (g) Preliminary rounds will be 2 x ? minutes (to be determined depending on pool availability), 1 minute break, no time-outs.
- (h) Finals will be 2 x 5 minutes actual play. 1 minute break. 1 time out allowed.

8 Awards

- (a) When three or more teams participate in a National Final the schools attended by the teams placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd will be awarded a commemorative plaque to be held permanently, and each member of these teams, and the 4th placed team, will be awarded a Championship medal.
- (b) When only two teams participate in a National Final the schools attended by the teams placed 1st and 2nd will be awarded a commemorative plaque to be held permanently, and each member of these teams will be awarded a Championship medal.
- (c) The remaining schools represented in the National Finals will receive commemorative medals.
 - (i) Challenge trophies will be awarded to the winning school in each National Final.
 - (j) Council may issue awards at other levels of the Championships, at its discretion.

9 Expenses

In all games, each competing school shall be responsible for its own expenses.

10 Responsibility

A qualified school teacher, or a suitable adult as approved by the Head Teacher of the School, must accompany each team at all stages of the competition.