



## 2018 New Zealand Canoe Polo National League Championships

### Official Format A Grade

Updated – January 2018

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE FORMAT A-Grade

The 2017 National League Championships will be a series of three ranking tournaments culminating in a grand final play-off on the final day of the third tournament.

- The three tournaments shall be as follows: 10/11 March (Christchurch- Lake Roto Kohatu), 7/8 April (Palmerston North- Centennial Lagoon), and 12/13 May (Auckland - Quarry Lake).
- Entries will be capped at 25 teams combined across Open and Women's A grade. If entries are sufficient to need to turn teams away, places within the grade will be based upon the previous season's results and at the discretion of the competitions council.
- All new teams to the grade are required to gain permission from the Competitions Council.
- Player's may only compete for one club unless permission is granted for extenuating circumstances by the Competitions Committee and the Board.
- Teams are club based. All members of a team must be a member of the club they are playing for.
- If any club wishes to enter two or more teams in the same grade they must provide distinct team lists that will apply for the duration of National League. Players may not move between two teams in the same grade at any time.
- If a club enters teams in more than one grade, i.e., A grade and B grade, players may not move between these teams. The exception to this rule is for women who may play for a women's team in A grade or B grade and simultaneously represent the same club in an Open grade team in a different grade.
- All A Grade teams are required to supply one **Regional level referee unique to that team**. The nominated referee **must be fully qualified prior to the first tournament**. The nominated referee must attend and referee the appropriate games at each tournament which the team they are nominated for are competing. If a teams nominated referee cannot attend a tournament then the team must organize a replacement referee who is suitably qualified to attend in place of their nominated referee, notice of referee replacement must be given to the competitions director via email prior to the start of the competition round in question. If a team does not supply a suitably qualified referee for any tournament then they will be deemed to have missed their duties and fines will be imposed.
- An automatic \$50 fine shall apply for each duty missed. This shall be payable prior to the team's next game. Please note: supplying an appropriately qualified referee as detailed above is part of team duty.
- Any player red carded in a game automatically receives a one game ban for the next game that player is due to play for that team during National League.
- All games should be played on a court that meets the requirements of the International Canoe Federation Canoe Polo Competition Rules and have timing and scoring systems clearly visible to players and the public viewing areas.
- New Zealand Canoe Polo shall be responsible for: booking and meeting the costs of venues; providing competition quality balls; and organising referees, scorers, and timekeepers via the referees and duty team draws.
- All games shall be controlled by a minimum of one regionally qualified referee. Play off and medal games should be controlled by two regionally qualified referees.
- All games shall be played according to the International Canoe Federation Canoe Polo Competition Rules.
- The first round (Christchurch) will have a referee meeting prior to the first game that is compulsory for all nominated referees to attend.

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#### Team Uniformity:

- All teams should have uniform coloured/ patterned top decks on their kayaks.
- No team is allowed to have plain black top decks. Where teams wish to retain a black background a minimum of 20% must be covered in another colour/s.
- All teams must have uniform coloured helmets/ PFD's and rash tops.
- Carbon and Black are considered the same

#### Rule amendments for NZ National League

Our official NZCPA Canoe polo rules are the ICF rules (currently 2015), however for the purposes of National League please note the amendments (in red) below:

The purpose of this rule amendment is to allow our games to start on time without

- a. Causing undue delay to our draw
- b. Penalising the team that arrives on time and ready to start when their opposition does not (whether due to negligence, travel delays, injury etc).

If a team is able to field a full team, then this should still happen. This rule amendment is not to discourage the current 5 v 5 line-up and exciting spectacle start to the game. If teams are just being slow to line up though they have five prepared players on the water a start infringement still applies.

#### Applicable ICF Rules (with amendments in red)

45.1 Each team may consist of a maximum of eight (8) players for any one game. No more than five (5) players are permitted on the playing area at any one time. Any other players at that moment are to be considered as substitutes. A team ~~must~~ **should** begin each game with five (5) players, ready to start on their own goal line. **If a team is reduced to two (2) players at any time the referee shall end the game** and refer the matter to the competition committee who shall decide the appropriate action to be taken.

56.1 At the beginning of each period of play, five (5) players from each team line up ready to start, stationary and with some part of their kayaks on their own goal line. If the team deliberately causes an unnecessary delay a start infringement will be called. Signal 1, 15 and 17 (team warning) apply.

If one team is ready to start, the referee may start the game as soon as a minimum of three opposition players are lined up.

56.2 If a team has insufficient players to start the game ~~5~~ **2** minutes after the programmed start time the game will be declared a forfeit and referred to the competition committee. Signal 2 applies.

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#### Ranking Tournaments

- The Competitions Council shall determine the draw for the tournaments. The draw should be available two (2) weeks prior to each tournament.
- Teams will be put into pools ranking from highest to lowest based on previous year's results for the first tournament. New teams to the grade will be ranked at the competition council's discretion for the first tournament. Play-offs shall then take place to ensure all teams finish with a ranking; this will include a playoff between teams in adjacent pools.
- Subsequent tournaments will have pool groupings which will be based on previous National league round results. The number of pools and number of teams in each pool will be decided by the Competitions Council to suit the draw.
- Draw formats for all 3 tournaments will be circulated after entries have closed.

#### Grand Finals

- At the end of the three tournaments the ranking from each tournament will be compiled to determine a final ranking. Final championship results shall be determined with play-off games: 1st vs. 2nd, 3rd vs. 4<sup>th</sup> and so forth.
- Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded.

#### Points and placings:

Points shall be awarded from the ranking tournaments for final placings only and as follows:

- 1st 20 points
- 2nd 16 points
- 3rd 14 points
- 4th 12 points
- 5th 10 points
- 6th 9 points
- 7th 8 points
- 8th 7 points
- 9th 6 points
- 10th 5 points
- 11th 4 points
- 12th 3 points
- 13th 2 points
- 14th and below 1 point

**If a team defaults an entire round (eg. they do not attend) they will receive 0 points for that round.**

Rankings at the tournaments and placings at the end of round robin pool play shall be determined according to the 2015 ICF rules which state:

Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw, and zero points for a loss or if a team misses a game.

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Where two or more teams have gained the same number of points, they shall be ranked in order according to the following procedures: (a) Goal difference; (b) Total number of goals scored; (c) Results of game between the two teams within that group; (d) Play Off, if possible.

NOTE: Where the goal difference rule is applied results from play-off games will not be included.

Elimination games and games to determine final ranking places shall comprise of:

- Two periods of 10 minutes with a three minute half time.
- If the scores are equal at the end of play and a result is required there will be a one minute break followed by periods of five minutes of sudden death play (one minute between periods).

#### Entries:

- All entries close on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Strictly no late entries will be accepted. Entry forms to be completed online. Any correspondence to Competition Director: Jed Graham [nzcpacompetitions@gmail.com](mailto:nzcpacompetitions@gmail.com)
- Entries are to be completed online via the National League entry form
- Full team lists must be supplied via email to the Competitions Director 1 week prior to first tournament. Team lists can be updated during the season in writing to the Competitions Director.
- National League entry fee is **\$600** per A grade team. Full payment must be posted to New Zealand Canoe Polo at the address below no later than Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Teams that haven't paid by this date won't be eligible to play in the finals tournament.

#### Disputes

Any formal disputes during a tournament will be handled according to clause 6.0 of the Association Disputes Policy and section 79 of the International Canoe Federation Canoe Polo Competition Rules. If the competition has been concluded the case will be referred to the Board.

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