



## 2021 New Zealand Canoe Polo National League Championships

# A Grade Format Regulations

Updated – November 2020

### NATIONAL LEAGUE A Grade - Format Regulations

The National League Championships A Grade will be a series of three (3) ranking tournaments culminating in a grand final play-off on the final day of the third tournament.

- The three tournaments shall be: 16/17 January (Quarry Lake, Auckland), 20/21 February (Lake Roto-Kohatu, Christchurch), and 26-28 March (Mitre 10 Park, Hastings).
- Entries will be capped to 12 teams for Open and 8 teams for Women
  - Any team who wishes to play in a particular grade is encouraged to enter, places in these grades will be based on the previous seasons results and at the discretion of the competition's council.
  - New teams wishing to enter either grade, could be asked to play in at least one qualifying match before the season begins if entries demand it. Full team lists for any team required to play a qualifying match must be supplied 24hrs prior to the qualifying match.
  - Teams who miss out on places in their preferred grade will be encouraged to play in the grade below.
  - The intention of capping grades is to have better consistency of games for all teams and less disparity between top and bottom teams within a grade and that the teams best suited to a particular grade will be the ones which qualify. The process and decision for teams to qualify is to be done within the spirit of the rules intention.
- Player's may only compete for one club.
- 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 team in a different grade. Players may not play in two different grades for Open or Women (eg. **no player may play Open A and Open B in the same season**).
- 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 team's 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 have a nominated referee for any tournament then there will be an automatic fine of \$100 for that tournament.
  - All teams must ensure all their duties are refereed by at least one suitably qualified referee, if they do not then they will be deemed to have missed their duty and have to pay the \$50 fine per game in addition to any other fines.
- An automatic \$50 fine shall apply for each duty missed or if the duty team (including referees) is not ready to start the match within 2 minutes of the scheduled start time. This shall be payable prior to the following competition round or if the fine occurs during the final round then no later than 1 month after the final round.
- 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.

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- 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 **Regional** qualified referee. Play off and medal games should be controlled by two **Regional** qualified referees.
- All games shall be played according to the International Canoe Federation Canoe Polo Competition Rules.
- The first round will have a referee meeting on Friday evening that is compulsory for all nominated referees to attend.
- Scrutineering will take place before the first round on Friday evening from 6pm which is compulsory for all teams to attend.

### 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.
- **Helmet numbers are required and must match PFD.**
- Carbon and Black are considered the same



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### Rule amendments for NZ National League

Our official NZCPA Canoe polo rules are the ICF rules (currently 2019), 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 and the referees are ready to start the game, the game will be declared a forfeit and referred to the competition committee. Signal 2 applies.

### 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.

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### **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 current 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.

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 from non play-off groups that included both teams;
- (b) Total number of goals scored in non play-off groups that included both teams;
- (c) Results of all games between the two teams;
- (d) Honourable Play (lowest number of cards received by each team across all tournaments excluding greens; red card 10 points, yellow card 5 points);
- (e) Play Off, if possible;
- (f) The most recent result

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).



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### Entries:

- All entries close on Sunday November 15th 2020. Strictly no late entries will be accepted. Entry forms to be completed online. Any correspondence to Competition Manager: [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 online form by Sunday January 10th 2020. Team lists can be updated during the season in writing to the Competitions Director.
- National League entry fee is \$800 per A grade team (\$600 entry + \$200 cost subsidy for SI players). Full payment must be made to New Zealand Canoe Polo no later than Sunday February 28th 2021. 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.