



2021 New Zealand Canoe Polo National League Championships

C & D Grade Format Regulations

Updated – November 2020

NATIONAL LEAGUE C & D Grade - Format Regulations

The National League Championships C & D Grade will be a series of two (2) ranking tournaments in each island culminating in separate Finals competitions where teams will be entered in ranked pools (i.e. 2 even numbered pools, ranked top half and bottom half) based on the previous ranking tournaments results.

- The ranking tournaments shall be held:
 - North Island : 10/11 April (Mitre 10 Park, Hastings), 24/25 April (Hokowhitu Lagoon, Palmerston North)
 - South Island: 13/14 March (Lake Roto-Kohatu, Christchurch), 17/18 April (Splash Palace, Invercargill)
- Grand Finals: 5-7 June (Wellington – WRAC Pool)
- South island teams wish to play C grade but do not wish to attend finals in Wellington they will be allowed to enter C grade and indicate upon entry that they will not be attending finals. There will be a reduced entry fee for teams who indicate upon entry they will not be attending finals (south island teams only).
- To encourage team and club participation in South Island C grade, both south island rounds of SI C grade will be opened to any “social” teams of the appropriate level to compete and support the SI C grade teams. “Social” teams will not be eligible for National League points and the exact nature of the format of the competition and entry fee for social teams will be organised with SI clubs once C grade entries have closed.
- Entries will be capped for Open and Women
 - Open D and Women’s C grade will only go ahead if entries are sufficient, otherwise all teams will be accommodated by Open C or Women’s B grade.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- All C-grade teams are required to supply one **District referee unique to their team**. The nominated referee must at least have qualified in theory prior to the first competition. That referee must achieve a practical qualification prior to the end of the Grand finals. Failure to comply will result in a \$50 per tournament fine.
- Games shall be played under the 2019 ICF rules, unless exceptions are made by the organising committee.
- Shot-clock is not in operation for C grade.
- Player’s may only compete for one club.
- Teams are club based, all members of a team must belong to 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 Womens (eg. **no player may play Open A and Open B in the same season**).
- Any player red carded in a game automatically receives a 1 game ban for the next game that player is due to play for that team during National League.

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.

Regional / Island based tournaments: C grade

- The draw for the C grade tournaments should be available at least two (2) weeks before each tournament and will be determined by the Competitions Council in partnership with team managers.
- The draw format will be flexible to meet the requirements of teams in each island.
- All games shall be played on a court that meets the requirements of the NZ Canoe Polo Rules and have timing and scoring systems clearly visible to players and the public viewing areas.
- NZ Canoe Polo shall be responsible for booking and meeting the expenses of venues, providing competition quality balls; organising referees, scorers and timekeepers.
- Draw formats for all 3 tournaments will be circulated after entries have closed.

Finals Tournament:

- The Competitions Council shall determine the tournament draws.
- NZ Canoe Polo shall be responsible for booking and meeting the expenses of venues, providing competition quality balls; organising referees, scorers and timekeepers.
- The Final Tournament will run on 30-minute turnarounds. I.e. 10 min halves and a 3 min half time. Some discretion will be allowed in consultation with team leaders.

Points and placing:

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 point
- 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 3 minute half time
- If the scores are equal at the end of play, a 1 minute break followed by periods of 3 minutes of sudden death play shall commence (1 minute between periods).
- If the scores are equal at the end of play in **Grand final matches**, a 1 minute break followed by periods of 5 minutes of sudden death play shall commence (1 minute between periods).

Entries:

- All entries close on Sunday January 10th 2021. Strictly no late entries will be accepted. Entry forms to be completed online. Any correspondence to Competition Manager: 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 February 16th 2020. Team lists can be updated during the season in writing to the Competitions Director.
- National League entry fee is \$1000 per C grade team (\$800 entry + \$200 cost subsidy for SI players). Full payment must be made to New Zealand Canoe Polo no later than Sunday April 25th 2020. 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.