



Policy Title	Event Sanctioning Policy
Responsible Subcommittee	Risk Management
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This Policy has been prepared by Water Polo Canada and is applicable to Water Polo Canada, its members, affiliated organizations, and registrants. This document cannot be modified without consultation with and approval by Water Polo Canada.

1. Policy Statement

As the sport governing body for water polo in Canada, Water Polo Canada (WPC) is the sole official sanctioning authority for all Water Polo Events. In accordance with this Policy, WPC may, from time to time, delegate its authority to one or more Members for the purpose of sanctioning Water Polo Events held by a club within their Province.

The purpose of sanctioning is to communicate to Members, Registrants, players, athletes, coaches, officials, facility owners, event partners and the public that a Water Polo Event is being conducted in a fair, safe, and responsible manner, in accordance with the recognized and accepted rules and standards of the sport based on the nature of event being offered and applicable WPC policies as amended from time to time.

This policy defines the purpose, application, roles, and responsibilities for WPC events in Canada requiring a sanction and facilitates the consistent application of the policy and related processes for all Water Polo Events including the events sanctioned by a WPC Member.

2. Definitions

- a) **“AQUA”** means World Aquatics (previously FINA - Fédération Internationale de Natation), the International Sport Federation overseeing all aquatic sports.
- b) **“CEO”** means the Water Polo Canada Chief Executive Officer.
- c) **“CCES”** means Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport.
- d) **“CSSP”** means the Canadian Safe Sport Program which is a national program designed to address and prevent maltreatment in Canadian sport. The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) independently administers and enforces the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS) through the CSSP for national-level, federally funded sport organizations by receiving and responding to reports of prohibited behaviour, and by developing and carrying out education, prevention, and policy activities.
- e) **“including”** means including but not limited to.
- f) **“Intra-provincial Water Polo Event”** means a Water Polo Event that involves only Registrants who reside in the province hosting the Event.
- g) **“Member”** means those Provincial/Territorial Sections who are in Good Standing with WPC.
- h) **“Non-Affiliated Organization”** means an entity that is organizing or hosting a Water Polo Event and is not a Registrant nor a Member.
- i) **“Organizer”** means any individual, group of individuals, Member, or other entity intending to host or hosting any Water Polo Event in Canada.
- j) **“PAQ”** means PanAm Aquatics, the governing body of aquatic sports in North, Central and South America.

- k) **“Registrant”** has the meaning set out in the Bylaws of WPC as amended from time to time.
- l) **“Sanction”** means the approval by WPC or, if applicable, a Member permitting an Organizer to hold a Water Polo Event.
- m) **“Sanctioned Event”** means a Water Polo Event that has received a Sanction from WPC or a Member.
- n) **“Sanction Fee”** means the fee set by WPC or a Member, if any, from time to time for granting a Sanction to an Organizer to hold a Sanctioned Event.
- o) **“Sanctioning Body”** means WPC or a Member, the entities who possess the authority to grant a Sanction to an Organizer.
- p) **“Sanctioning Requirements”** means the application form, information, fee (if any) and any other requirements set by WPC or a Member from time to time necessary for an Organizer to obtain a Sanction.
- q) **“UCCMS”** means the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport.
- r) **“Water Polo Event”** means any any water polo related activity in Canada organized and hosted by WPC, a WPC Member (PSO) or WPC club that includes activities over and above regular training and conditioning (practices, dryland training, and scrimmages). Water Polo Events include but are not limited to summits, workshops, tournaments with one or more games of competitive water polo between opposing teams officiated by one or more referees, [other than an event that is organized or sanctioned by PAQ or AQUA]).
- s) **“WPC”** means Water Polo Canada.

3. Application

This Policy applies to all Water Polo Events and Sanctioned Water Polo Events in Canada. The roles and responsibilities of WPC, Members, Registrants, Officials and Organizers are set out herein.

All Water Polo Events must be run fairly and safely and comply with the rules of WPC and the UCCMS. Only WPC, and Members delegated the authority from WPC from time to time, may grant a Sanction for Water Polo Events. WPC holds the final approval and authority to sanction the events of Non-Affiliated Organizations including multisport events.

WPC may delegate the authority to one or more Members for the purpose of sanctioning Water Polo Events held by a club within their Province. Members shall not delegate authority for sanctioning events to any third-party organisation, unless authorized in writing by WPC, and Members shall comply with the WPC Policies that are in force.

Providing Organizers comply with all Sanctioning Requirements, the Sanctioning Body shall provide the Organizer with a decision on whether a Water Polo Event shall be Sanctioned in a

timely manner. WPC or the delegated authority reserves the right not to grant a sanction in the case of conflicting events within a season.

The following applies to Sanctioned Events only:

- Insurance policies from WPC (i.e., A sanction confirms that a given Water Polo Event is eligible for coverage under WPC's insurance policies).
- The sanctioned Event is subject to all rules governing conduct as outlined in the WPC policies , the UCCMS and the Code of Conduct;

When WPC or a Member issues a Sanction and an Organizer accepts a sanction:

- The Organizer will abide by all rules and regulations and policies implicitly or explicitly referenced within the Sanction;
- The Sanctioning Body will advertise the Event on its calendar of events and through WPC's National Registration and Event Management Database, as well as provide support to Organizers as specified by the Sanction;
- The Organizer will advertise the Event as a Sanctioned Event in accordance with the guidelines described within the Sanction and will (explicitly) recognize the sanctioning body;
- The Sanction requires that all Event management, including roster submission, must be conducted through WPC's National Registration and Event Management Database as described in the Operational Document.

4. Compliance with Event Sanctioning Policy

WPC, Members and Registrants shall comply with all aspects of the Event Sanctioning Policy. Members or Registrants may not organize or recognize events that are not sanctioned. Members or Registrants cannot represent WPC or a WPC affiliated organisation (Provincial Association or club) by playing in, coaching, or officiating at a Water Polo Event (or third-party organized water polo activity) that is not a Sanctioned Event within Canada. All Canadian participants in a Sanctioned Event shall be Members or Registrants of WPC. WPC reserves the right to request proof of participation at any sanctioned event. Any Member or Registrant that fails to comply with the Event Sanctioning Policy could be subject to Discipline in accordance with the WPC Discipline Policy.

5. Responsibilities

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

The CEO should ensure the maintenance, protection and archive of WPC's National Registration and Event Management Database for the purposes outlined in this Policy.

The CEO should develop and implement appropriate operational procedures, including Sanctioning Requirements to give effect to this Policy – this includes but is not limited to risk management when required.

Member

Members may, if delegated the authority to sanction Events, approve Sanctions only for Events meeting the Sanctioning Requirements and complying with the rules and policies published by WPC.

6. Limitations

AQUA and PAQ International Events hosted in Canada may be conducted in accordance with the rules and procedures of the international host body irrespective of the rules of WPC.

7. Languages

This Policy will be provided by WPC in both official languages of Canada.

In this Policy words denoting any gender include all genders and the rest of the sentence is to be construed as if the necessary grammatical changes have been made.

8. References

National Registration Policy
WPC's Operational Documents
Insurance Policies
UCCMS

9. Communication

WPC will ensure a current version of the Policy is publicized on its organization's website within a reasonable time following the Date of Approval.

WPC and its Members will use reasonable efforts to ensure that this Policy is communicated to those who will be responsible for upholding it as well as those who will be responsible for its implementation.

10. Review and Approval

This Policy will be effective as of the Date of Approval following approval by the WPC Board of Directors and will be reviewed by the Responsible Subcommittee as needed.

11. Version History

This version was updated from the previous version (approved May 2025) to reflect latest federal and provincial government funding requirements and legislations as well as the newly created Canadian Safe Sport Program.