



Event Sanctioning Operational Document 2025-2026

This document will serve as a guide on how Water Polo Canada's (WPC) Event Sanctioning Policy will be applied operationally.

ACRONYMS

AQUA	World Aquatics
CCES	Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport
CSSP	Canadian Safe Sport Program
INSQ	Institut National du Sport du Québec
LTAD	Long-Term Athlete Development
LTDSPA	Long-Term Development in Sport and Physical Activity
NCAA	National Collegiate Athletic Association
NCL	National Championship League
NPC	National Provincial Championship
NSO	National Sport Organization
PAQ	PanAm Aquatics
PNTC	Provincial National Training Centre
PSO	Provincial Sport Organization
RDC	Regional Development Centre
WPC	Water Polo Canada

EVENT SANCTIONING

Definitions

As per the Event Sanction Policy, a Water Polo Event is any water polo related activity in Canada organized and hosted by WPC, a Member (PSO) or affiliated 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, (not including an event that is organized or sanctioned by PAQ or AQUA).

For a Water Polo Event to be recognized, it must receive sanction approval from Water Polo Canada and/or a Member (PSO) depending on the requirements listed below. Only sanctioned events are open to Registrants of WPC.



Table 1: Types of Sanctioned Events 2025-2026

Type of Event	No Sanction Required	Provincial Sport Organization Sanction Required	Water Polo Canada Sanction Required
National Level Competitions			✓
National Level Training Camps			✓
Events attended by international athletes / teams			✓
Interprovincial Tournaments and Leagues		✓	✓
Intra Provincial Tournaments and Leagues		✓	
Provincial Team Training Camps	✓		
Practices	✓		
Scrimmages	✓		
Fundraising Event	✓		



Sanctions required from Water Polo Canada for interprovincial tournaments and leagues have an application fee of \$100 per sanction. Sanctions required from Water Polo Canada for events attended by international teams or athletes, will have an application fee of \$250 per sanction. Each province may set its own fee for its own sanction process. Additionally, each PSO may also add to WPC's requirements by writing its own sanctioning definitions, regulations and policy, which may differ from PSO to PSO.

Event Sanction Process

Once a sanctioned event is approved, the host organization (PSO or club) will be responsible for creating their event in WPC's database. The registration for all sanctioned events must be completed through WPC's database and all teams attending an event will be required to register by entering their complete roster through WPC's database for the specified event.

Event Sanction Requirements

The minimum requirements for a sanctioned event are as follows:

- The host organization must be a Member (PSO) or Registrant (club) in good standing with their PSO and WPC;
- The host organization must possess a certificate of insurance, obtained from WPC, that includes the event's host facility;
- All event participants (players/athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers) must:
 - Be registered in WPC's database at the minimum registration category required by the host organizer.
 - Be Safe Sport Compliant as per WPC's Safe Sport Compliance Program (as designated by WPC).

The sanction will be revoked if there are participants who are not Registrants in good standing with the PSO and WPC, signed all necessary acknowledgements, consent forms, codes of conduct, and waivers and/or paid their membership fees.

Additional requirements for WPC sanctioned events include:

- The host organization must appoint a head referee for the event who is responsible to oversee and provide guidance and feedback to all event referees on site. The head referee will also be responsible for scheduling requested referee evaluations.
- The event's Field of Play meets the appropriate requirements and dimensions as laid out in the Event Operations Manual.
- The event's schedule design has been informed by the LTDSFA Framework and adheres to the recommendations outlined in WPC's Athlete Development Matrix.
- Event has an appropriate amount of trained minor officials and referees
- Referees selected for the event have adequate levels of training and supervision



WPC's Education and Events Manager will collaborate with event organizers to assess event suitability and, where needed, assist the host organization in meeting the minimum requirements of the Event Operations Manual.

International Athlete/Team Requirements:

In addition to the requirements listed above, any international athletes/teams attending a sanctioned event must prove they are in good standing with their national federation to the Water Polo Canada office **a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the start of the competition.**

They will be required to provide:

- A certificate of insurance from their national federation naming Water Polo Canada as the additional insured.
- A letter of good standing from their national federation that lists all participants (player/athletes, coaches, officials, etc.) attending the event.
- Proof of travel (out-of-country) emergency medical insurance.

Each PSO can add additional sanction requirements, and these may vary from province to province. In addition, each PSO may add its own reporting requirements, which may differ from province to province.