

WATER POLO CANADA · NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE

NCL Registration Information

Fees, deadlines, and competition categories for the 16U, 18U and Senior NCL season

DOCUMENT	CATEGORIES	PLATFORM	SEASON
NCL-REG-001	16U · 18U · Senior	RAMP Interactive®	2026-27

SECTION 1

Overview

This package sets out what it costs to enter a team in the National Championship League for the 2026-27 season, when each payment is due, and which athletes are eligible for each category. It is the companion document to the NCL Competition Handbook (NCL-HBK-001): the Handbook carries the rules, this document carries the season's numbers. Where a figure appears in both, this document governs.

Section 3 sets the fees for a full-season entry. A club that is not entering the full season may apply to enter the National Championships alone — that route, its fees and its separate deadline are in Section 4.

Registration is completed by the club, not by athletes or families. Clubs should read Section 6 before registering, because several participant requirements must be satisfied before an athlete, coach or volunteer is eligible to take part.

SECTION 2

Registration process

Registration for the NCL must be completed through Water Polo Canada's National Registration and Event Management database, RAMP Interactive®, using the Competitions menu. Club representatives register all teams through their club account.

Step by step

- Confirm the club is in good standing with its Provincial Sport Organization and with Water Polo Canada.
- Sign in to RAMP Interactive® and open the Competitions menu.

- Enter each team separately by category. A club entering more than one team in a category enters each one on the same submission(i.e., enter 16U Male and 16U Female teams on the same registration).
- Pay the deposit at the time of entry. Entry is not complete until the deposit is received.
- Pay the balance by the registration deadline in Section 3.
- Build the online roster in RAMP before the team's first game. Roster requirements are in Handbook clause 2.5.

Payment terms

- Credit card only. Water Polo Canada does not accept cheques.
- A 4.5% administration fee applies per team, under the WPC Administration Fee, Cancellation Fee and Refund Policy.
- Team deposits and payments are non-refundable.

SECTION 3

Fees and deadlines

Registration fee

CATEGORY	TEAM FEE	ADMIN FEE (4.5%)	TOTAL PAYABLE
16U	\$6,500.00	\$292.50	\$6,792.50
18U	\$7,500.00	\$337.50	\$7,837.50
Senior	\$6,500.00	\$292.50	\$6,792.50

Deposit — 25% of the team fee, due at entry

CATEGORY	DEPOSIT	ADMIN FEE	TOTAL DUE	DEPOSIT DEADLINE
16U	\$1,625.00	\$73.13	\$1,698.13	Friday 9 October 2026
18U	\$1,875.00	\$84.38	\$1,959.38	Friday 9 October 2026
Senior	\$1,625.00	\$73.13	\$1,698.13	Friday 9 October 2026

Balance

CATEGORY	REMAINING BALANCE	ADMIN FEE	TOTAL DUE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
16U	\$4,875.00	\$219.38	\$5,094.37	Friday 30 October 2026
18U	\$5,625.00	\$253.13	\$5,878.12	Friday 30 October 2026
Senior	\$4,875.00	\$219.38	\$5,094.37	Friday 30 October 2026

How each figure is derived

- Admin fee = team fee × 4.5%.
- Deposit = team fee × 25%, plus 4.5% admin on the deposit.
- Balance = team fee – deposit, plus 4.5% admin on the balance.
- Deposit total plus balance total equals the registration fee total.

Late fees

A team wishing to enter after the deposit deadline but before the registration deadline must send a formal request to the Education & Events Manager. Requests are assessed case by case. A team entering after the deposit deadline is charged an additional administration fee of \$100 per week, to a maximum of \$500.

A team who has not remitted full payment by the balance due deadline will be assessed a late fee of \$100 per week until the balance is paid in full.

SECTION 4**Individual event registration**

A club that is not entering a full NCL season may apply to enter a National Championship event. A club that has entered the NCL in full may apply to enter a regular season event in the opposite conference from their main registration. Individual event registration is a separate entry route with its own fee and its own deadline. It does not create a season entry and carries none of the entitlements of one; individual registrations are capacity dependent.

Fees

ENTRY TYPE	ENTRY FEE	ADMIN FEE (4.5%)	TOTAL PAYABLE
Regular season — one event	\$1,250.00	\$56.25	\$1,306.25
National Championship — one event	\$1,750.00	\$78.75	\$1,828.75

- Fees are per team, per event, and are payable in full at the time of entry. The deposit and balance split in Section 3 does not apply to individual event entry.
- A club entering more than one event registers and pays for each event separately.
- Entry fees are non-refundable once a place has been confirmed. Where Water Polo Canada declines an entry on capacity grounds, any amount paid is refunded in full.

National Championship — Tier 2 and lower only

Individual event entry to the National Championship is available for Tier 2 and lower only. There is no individual event route into Tier 1. A Tier 1 place is earned through the full NCL season.

What an individual event entry includes

INDIVIDUAL EVENT ENTRY	
Participant requirements (Section 6)	Apply in full. Identical to a full-season team — no requirement is reduced or waived.
Rosters and transfers	Apply in full. Handbook clause 2.5, and the 30 October 2026 transfer deadline.
Handbook, Safe Sport and conduct obligations	Apply in full for the duration of the event.
Standings at the event entered	A team will be listed in the event standings order but will not be attributed a place.
Qualification and seeding	An individual event does not apply for qualification or seeding.
Minimum games guarantee	An individual event for a regular season event falls within the overall aim of providing approximately 5 games per event. This is dependent on number of teams and game format.

SECTION 5

Competition categories and age chart

Categories are set by the age an athlete reaches in the calendar year in which the season's National Championship is held. For 2026-27 the National Championship is held in 2027, which gives the birth years below.

CATEGORY	AGE REACHED IN 2027	ELIGIBLE BIRTH YEARS
16U	13 to 16	2011 · 2012 · 2013 · 2014
18U	15 to 18	2009 · 2010 · 2011 · 2012
Senior	17 and older	2010 or earlier

IMPORTANT — SENIOR EXCEPTION

A Senior team may carry a maximum of four (4) athletes born in 2011 on each Men's and Women's roster.

Age chart

BIRTH YEAR	16U	18U	SENIOR
2008 or earlier	—	—	Yes
2009	—	Yes	Yes
2010	—	Yes	Yes
2011	Yes	Yes	Maximum four per roster
2012	Yes	Yes	—
2013	Yes	—	—
2014	Yes	—	—

Multi-category play and age exemptions

Age brackets run by calendar year, 1 January to 31 December. An athlete's birth year alone determines the bracket; the date within that year has no effect.

Multi-category play

- Athletes may play in more than one category. Because the brackets overlap, many athletes are eligible for two categories without needing any exemption — for 2026-27, athletes born 2011 or 2012 are eligible for both 16U and 18U.
- There is no cap on the number of categories an athlete may enter, but an athlete may appear on only one roster per division, and the 2.5-hour rest rule applies.

Playing up — exemptions

- Water Polo Canada may, on application, permit an athlete born one (1) year younger than the youngest birth year in a category to compete in that category. For 2026-27 this means an athlete born 2015 may be considered for 16U, and an athlete born 2013 may be considered for 18U.
- An exemption is granted for one named category and does not create eligibility for any other. It does not compound: an athlete granted 16U on exemption is not thereby eligible for 18U.
- A **maximum of 4** athletes competing under an exemption may appear on a roster. An exemption does not alter roster size limits.
- An exemption granted for the regular season does carry into the National Championship, unless there are conditions placed during the application review which are not met.
- There are no exemptions to play down. An athlete may not compete in a category younger than their own.
- The Senior allowance for four (4) athletes born in 2011 is a separate provision and is not extended by this clause. No athlete born after 2011 is eligible for Senior.

How to apply

- Applications are made by the club to the Education & Events Manager, who decides on behalf of Water Polo Canada. Forms are available online under Events – NCL.
- Applications must be approved before the transfer deadline. An approval granted afterwards does not validate participation that has already taken place.
- Approval is decided case by case, [having regard to the athlete's demonstrated ability to compete safely at that level, the availability of an appropriate team in the athlete's own bracket, and the recommendation of the club and the Provincial Sport Organization].

Transfers

- Transfers between clubs must be submitted via the *sending PSO's* office by 30 October 2026.
- All transfers must be registered and coordinated by a team's Provincial Sport Organization. Each PSO may set eligibility requirements which Water Polo Canada and the NCL may not override.
- This applies to every athlete, including where there is no NCL age-group team in an athlete's home city. The athlete contacts their PSO, and the PSO works with Water Polo Canada's Education & Events Manager and other PSOs to coordinate a playing opportunity.
- There is no transfer route after October 30th 2026.

SECTION 6

Before you register — participant requirements

The NCL is governed by Water Polo Canada's Safe Sport Policies and the Safe Sport Compliance Program. Requirements differ by role and must be complete before the participant takes part. Verification is against the portal.

ROLE	REQUIREMENTS
Athletes under 16	RAMP registration, including: • WPC Acknowledgement and Consent forms and the Concussion Code of Conduct.
Athletes 16 and over	As above, plus: • Making Head Way in Sport.
Coaches	As above, plus: • Enhanced Criminal Record Check (E-PIC), • WPC Screening Disclosure Form (every 3 years) or Annual Screening Renewal, • Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders or Safe Sport Training, • Inclusion and Diversity in Aquatic Sports, and • the SIC True Sport Clean quiz. Further requirements are found in the Competition Handbook clause 2.3. Safe Sport Requirements are further detailed on Water Polo Canada's Website under Safe Sport or in the Competition Handbook Appendix 2.
Team managers and chaperones	RAMP registration, plus: • E-PIC, • WPC Screening Disclosure Form (every 3 years) or Annual Screening Renewal, • Respect in Sport or Safe Sport Training, • Rule of Two, and • Making Head Way in Sport. A team travelling with minors must bring a chaperone who is not a rostered coach.
Minor officials	RAMP registration, including the Acknowledgement and Consent forms and the Concussion Code of Conduct.

CAUTION — THIS IS THE MOST COMMON REASON A TEAM IS NOT READY

A requirement that is incomplete in the new Event Management Portal makes the participant ineligible, whatever the club believes. Check status in the portal rather than assuming a submitted form has been processed.

SECTION 7**Key dates**

DATE	WHAT HAPPENS
Friday 9 October 2026	Deposit deadline. Entry is not complete until the deposit is received.
Friday 30 October 2026	Registration deadline. Balance due in full.
30 October 2026	Transfer deadline.
Two weeks before the event	Rosters finalised for the first event.

SECTION 8**Contact**

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Questions about a specific athlete's eligibility go to the club first, then to the EEM. Transfers between provinces are decided by the two Provincial Sport Organizations, not by Water Polo Canada.

REFERENCE

Where these rules come from

Each item below is governed by a Handbook clause. Rule IDs are permanent and survive renumbering between editions — cite the Rule ID, not the clause number.

TOPIC	RULE ID	HANDBOOK CLAUSE
Document hierarchy — where the season's numbers live	NCL-R-0002	0.1.2
Competition categories and age standards	NCL-R-0021	1.2.1 – 1.2.4
Multi-category play	NCL-R-0022	1.2.6
Entry format and late entry	NCL-R-0025	1.3
Deposit, balance and late fees	NCL-R-0026	1.4
Participant definition and registration categories	NCL-R-0027	1.5
Online roster and game roster	NCL-R-0029	2.5.7
Transfers and the transfer deadline	NCL-R-0023	2.13.1
Coach eligibility and NCCP requirements	NCL-R-0024	2.3

Version history

DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
September 2026	Starting draft. Fees and deadlines to be updated after budget confirmation. Added Section 4, individual event registration for the regular season and the National Championship. Replaced the age-exemption bullet with a play-up exemption clause.

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Water Polo Canada · Education & Events

NCL-REG-001 · v1.0 · September 2026 · cconroy@waterpolo.ca