

Victorian Underwater Hockey Commission Inc.
BY-LAWS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This document supplements the model rules of the Victorian Underwater Hockey Commission Incorporated (**VUHC Inc.**) and further outlines matters concerning membership and club structure, the rules governing members and competitions, and the selection of state team players and officials within the VUHC Inc.

2. AIM

2.1. To foster the development of underwater hockey in Victoria. To run fair and safe games where players are encouraged to develop their skills.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1. All players at recognised club venues must be registered members of the VUHC Inc.

3.2. All players participating in a sanctioned VUHC Inc. competition or event must be registered members of the VUHC Inc., however, interstate players who are not registered members of the VUHC Inc. may participate in VUHC Inc. run National level competitions if they are registered members of the Australian Underwater Federation (**AUF**) and Underwater Hockey Australia (**UHA**).

3.3. There are three (3) levels of registration, these are:

- Senior Registration: Compulsory for all adult players.
- Junior Registration: Compulsory for all Junior players (under 18 years old as of the July 1 of the given year).
- Novice Registration: Compulsory for novice adult players.

3.4. The Committee may waive the VUHC Inc. membership fee (excluding the insurance component of that membership fee) in cases where players are transferring from an equivalent interstate branch and have already paid an equivalent fee for that year.

3.5. All registered members are to be bound by a Code of Behaviour as determined by the VUHC Inc (**the VUHC Code of Behaviour**). The VUHC Code of Behaviour is set out in Appendix 1.

3.6. Players holding Senior, Junior and Novice registration are registered members of the VUHC Inc. and hence have all membership rights as described in the model rules of the VUHC Inc

4. MEMBER CONDUCT

4.1. Registered members of the VUHC Inc. must abide by the Code of Behaviour at all times when representing the VUHC Inc. (i.e. during training sessions, game nights, national and international competitions, social functions etc.).

5. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

5.1. Breach, neglect or refusal to comply with the VUHC Inc. Code of Behaviour, by a registered member is grounds for disciplinary proceedings

5.2. Disciplinary Proceedings

- 5.2.1. The conduct of all members of VUHC and any of their guests shall be of a standard that does not detract from VUHC good reputation at any time they are representing VUHC (i.e. during training sessions, game nights, social functions etc.)
- 5.2.2. A player or official who unduly interferes with, assaults, strikes or uses abusive, threatening or insulting language or behaviour towards another player or official may be reported by any VUHC member to the Executive Committee.
- 5.2.3. A member of the Executive Committee upon receiving a report shall, in conjunction with another member of the Executive Committee, either take immediate action to have the offender(s) removed from the function or caution the offender(s).
- 5.2.4. Within two weeks of any report of misconduct a hearing shall follow with the following people present:
 - The Offender(s)
 - The Person making the Report
 - Any Witness
 - The Captain of the Offender's Team
 - The State Underwater Hockey Chief Referee
 - Two Members of the Executive Committee
 - The State Underwater Hockey Chief Referee and the two Executive Committee
- 5.2.5. Members upon hearing all relevant details shall decide upon what action, if any, shall be taken.

6. RECOGNISED CLUBS

- 6.1. The VUHC Inc. recognises the following underwater hockey clubs (and their home venues):
 - Geelong Underwater Hockey Club at Norlane Waterworld, Geelong;
 - Melbourne Underwater Hockey Club at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, Albert Park.
 - Monash University Underwater Hockey Club at Doug Ellis Pool, Monash University, Clayton Campus;
 - Warragul Underwater Hockey Club at Warragul Leisure Centre, Warragul;
 - Wonthaggi Underwater Hockey Club at Wonthaggi Aquatic & Leisure Centre, Wonthaggi & The Leongatha Splash Pool, Leongatha;
- 6.2. Each recognised club must nominate a registered member in their club to act as a VUHC Club Representative.
- 6.3. The VUHC Club Representative must report to the Committee on a regular basis and is responsible for forwarding membership applications and club details on to the Secretary.
- 6.4. The VUHC Club Representative is responsible for and must ensure that all players playing at the club are registered members or: On becoming recognised by the VUHC Inc Clubs agree to be wholly responsible for ensuring their players are paid members at all times.

7. STATE TEAMS

7.1. General

- 7.1.1. All players trialing for state team selection must be current financial members of the VUHC Inc.
- 7.1.2. All registered members intending to trial for state team selection must pay a deposit to the state team manager prior to entering the pool for trial.
- 7.1.3. Failure to pay a deposit as required or to make appropriate arrangements in writing with the state team manager, will result in the registered member's non-selection.
- 7.1.4. The state team manager will determine the deposit amount required to be paid. Registered members must be notified of the deposit amount 28 days prior to the date of the first state team trial(s).
- 7.1.5. If a registered member is unsuccessful in selection all deposits paid by that registered member shall be refunded to them in full.

7.2. State Team Selectors

- 7.2.1. A selection panel consisting of three people (**the state team selectors**), one of whom is the team coach shall be appointed by the Committee prior to the trials.
- 7.2.2. The Committee must send out a written request for nominations for state team selectors to be appointed prior to the trials at least four months prior to the scheduled date for the Australian Underwater Hockey Championships.
- 7.2.3. Nominees for state team selectors should provide a curriculum vitae to support their nomination.
- 7.2.4. State team selectors shall endeavour to watch as many games and training sessions prior to the trial(s) as possible.
- 7.2.5. A coach is not eligible to comment on the selection of a family member, partner or themselves.

7.3. State Team Selection.

- 7.3.1. State team trial(s) shall be conducted at least three months prior to the scheduled date for the Australian Underwater Hockey Championships.
- 7.3.2. State team trials are to be organised by the state team coach(es) in consultation with the Committee and must be advertised at least 28 days prior to the trial date.
- 7.3.3. Players trialing must comply with the residency requirements in the UHA By-laws 9.1-9.4
- 7.3.4. The state team coach must set the selection criteria to be followed by the selectors when selecting players at trial for a position in the state team.
- 7.3.5. The state team coach(es) must brief all players trialing on the selection criteria for a position in the state team prior to the commencement of the trial(s).
- 7.3.6. A player who is unable to attend the predetermined trial(s) may submit a written application to the VUHC Inc as their nomination for selection on the state team. A player who is unable to attend the state team trial(s) and has submitted a written application for nomination to the state team (**the nominee**), prior to the trial(s) being held, may be provided with an opportunity to trial at a time mutually agreed upon by the Committee, the state team selectors and the nominee.

- 7.3.7. Except in instances where extended travel either interstate or overseas prevents participation, players may not be added to the team list without trial.
- 7.3.8. The announcement of the state team(s) shall be made by a spokesperson from the selectors within one week of the conclusion of the trial(s).
- 7.3.9. In the event that the number of people attending the trial(s) is insufficient to select a full squad of 12 then players may be added to the selected team at the discretion of the coach in consultation with the Committee provided they fulfil the original selection criteria outlined prior to the trial(s).
- 7.4. State Team Officials**
- 7.4.1. Nominations for the positions of State Team Coaches, Selectors, Manager and Referee shall be called for at least four months prior to scheduled date for the Australian Underwater Hockey Championships and positions shall be decided upon by the Committee 28 days thereafter. All nominees shall submit a curriculum vitae to support their nomination. Any positions not filled shall be re-advertised.
- 7.4.2. All state team members shall share the cost of airfares (economy) and accommodation (duration of competition only) for a State Team Manager. If the Manager is non-playing they will be required to perform the duties of Chaperone for the duration of the competition.
- 7.4.3. All state team members shall share the cost of airfares (economy) and accommodation (duration of competition only) for a non-playing referee to officiate at the nationals (when required).
- 7.4.4. Nominations for the positions of Chaperone (when required) shall be called for at least four months prior to the scheduled dates for the Australian Underwater Hockey Championships and the position shall be decided upon by the VUHC Inc. Executive Committee 28 days thereafter. All nominees shall submit a curriculum vitae to support their nomination. If not filled the position shall be re-advertised.
- 7.4.5. Playing Coaches will be eligible for a \$100 payment. The cost will be shared across the whole state team.
- 7.4.6. Team members shall share the cost of airfares (economy) and accommodation (duration of competition only) for non-playing coaches.
- 7.4.7. If the Junior Coach is non-playing they will be required to perform the duties of Chaperone for the duration of the Competition.
- 7.4.8. A Chaperone will only be appointed in a situation where the coach of the Junior team and the State Team Manager are playing. Team members shall share the cost of airfares (economy) and accommodation (duration of competition only) for the Chaperone.

SECTION "B" RULES

8. If during the play the puck gets caught behind the goal tray, the referees shall stop play, position the puck 5 metres directly out from the back wall where the puck was caught and resume play with an equal puck.
9. Once playing time for a game has commenced and there are a minimum of four players of either team in the water then the referees, at their discretion, will signal the start of play.
10. Teams playing the last game are responsible for removing and storing the goal trays and side walls after the game (i.e. one goal per team).

11. A minimum of four registered players are required to make up a team, otherwise the team will forfeit the match.
12. Players may play a total of five (5) games in teams they are not registered in.
13. Players are not permitted to play in a grade lower than their registered grade.
14. Players may not play for another team in their registered grade.
15. Players may play in a grade higher than their registered grade if the team requesting that person to play doesn't have a bare team of six (6) players, otherwise permission of the opposing team's Captain must be gained.
- 16.** Players must have played a minimum of six games for their registered team during the penant to be eligible to play in the finals. Players who have played at least one game in a higher graded team than their registered team may play for that team subject to 7.8.

APPENDIX 1

- **VUHC Code of Behaviour** Members shall abide by the spirit and positive values of the game of underwater hockey including those of fair play, respect, tolerance, equity, and the maintenance of a high standard of personal behaviour and integrity at any time they are representing VUHC (i.e. during training sessions, game nights, social functions etc.)
- Members must abide by the Australian sports drug code.
- Members will not use any form of profanity.
- Members must respect the rights, dignity, and worth of each and every person involved in the sport and will not intimidate, offend, insult or humiliate another player on the grounds of age, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability (sensory, mental or physical handicap), race, colour, marital or parental status, political ideology, economic disadvantage, and ancestry, national or ethnic origin.
- Members must accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
- Members will show respect and courtesy to the referee and match officials, and respond promptly to any rulings, decisions or requests they make whether before, during or after a match.
- Members will not engage in a physical attack, including but not limited to, the laying of a hand upon, pushing, shoving, striking, or kicking of any official, participant, coach, team representative, or spectator.
- Members will endeavour at all times to be mindful of safety concerns involving themselves and other members during the course of training, competition and non-competitive activities
- Members will not be guilty of damaging or defacing any VUHC sanctioned facilities.
- Members will not use deliberately rough tactics during a game against the body or person of an opposing participant.
- Members shall respect and play within the Laws and regulations that govern the sport of Underwater hockey as set out by the Confédération Mondiale Des Activités Subaquatique (CMAS) or as interpreted by Underwater Hockey Australia (UHA) or the VUHC.

If any party breaches this code of conduct, then such a breach may lead to either temporary or permanent expulsion from the VUHC, subject to review, to be decided by the VUHC committee.