

BCU Canoe Polo Yearbook

2004/05



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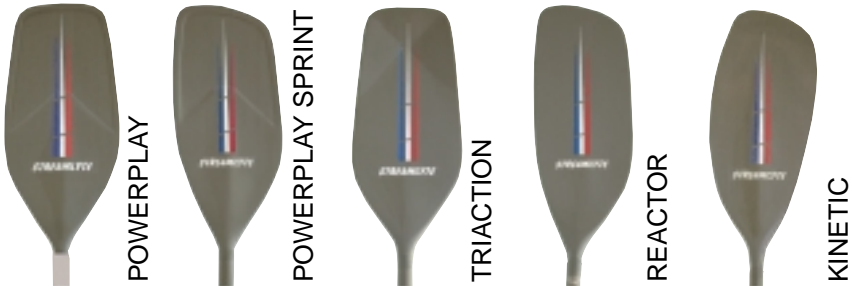
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Canoe Polo Yearbook

2004/05

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Front Cover pic (and others) courtesy of C. Turner & A. Webster.

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Open Div. 2 North Awaiting Appointment

Open Div 2 South Awaiting Appointment

Open Div. 3 North Awaiting Appointment

Open Div. 3 Central Awaiting Appointment

Open Div. 3 South Awaiting Appointment

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Players Representatives for Disciplinary Committee

Ivan Thorn and Perran Shreeve

Canoe Polo in Great Britain

The Chairman's view from Curly Barker

As many of you will be aware, after many years of relative stability there were a relatively large number of changes in the members of the Canoe Polo Committee. While this has obviously given us a good opportunity to review the practices of the running of our sport it has meant that a number of quite gritty problems have confronted us and the "learning curve" has at times seemed quite steep.

The dominant feature for the new committee during its first few months has been the communication and implementation of the new national league structure. Dave Sanders has had to make a large number of decisions, often to some extent "on the hoof". I hope we can all give him as much support as possible, by trying to understand the logic and rational behind some of the changes, rather than looking at the short term upheaval. Details of the changes can be found on the following pages.

From my personal point of view, I have already learnt a great deal about the workings of the committee, but still feel very much that I am not up to speed. I receive a large number of enquiries on a daily basis on a whole gamut of matters – some of which I know almost nothing about.

I already believe that we have been quite fortunate with our new committee, in that there are a number of new faces to the organising side of the sport - particularly Dave, Anne and Andrew. I am sure that at times the jobs that they have taken on appear very daunting, but am confident that they will manage to get on top of things.

I have already had some lengthy discussions with Paul Owen at BCU, and have spoken with the organisers of the NEC Canoe and Camping show and the London Boat Show where we hope to have a strong presence in the future.

There is a Cancer Charity event in Doncaster in May, and hope that some of you will also be able to go. A worthy cause and I am sure it will generate some very good publicity for our sport. This kind of activity can only be beneficial to both our own and others impression of canoe polo.

I intended the BUSA (Universities') champs in April this year (for the first time). I feel that we must integrate this event into our general calendar to ensure that we do not clash again, and I am sure that closer links with this event and others will strengthen our committee's position. There are a number of ways that we can help and enhance this fantastic event.

Mike Moffit and Friend's of Allonby are organising the European Club Championships of Polo in Liverpool in September. It is fair to say that this event will display some of the best polo players in the world, and most of the best teams. The standard of polo will be without doubt first class, and as a the polo playing public we should be seeking ways to both support FOA and to make people in the UK aware that this fantastic event is going to be on their relative doorstep.

At the time of writing this the Great Britain teams are on the verge of being selected for this summer's World Championships in Japan. I am planning to attend myself, and am sure that I take the support of us all for our teams. The British Men will be defending their title as World Champions for the second time. This Championship is particularly important, as seedings must be obtained for ranking in future championships.

Details of many of these items can be found on the official website for the BCU Polo Committee:

canoepolo.org.uk

It is fair to say that the site is undergoing major redevelopment at the hands of James Hosken, and that it has already proved a vital tool in aiding communications.

If we all make the most of the site, to check up to date information and to share views and stories I am sure that it will become more and more relied upon as a resource for our sport. News items and the content of this yearbook will all shortly be available on the site.

Finally the AGM will be held in Derby on the 5th of December 2004. Over recent years the meeting has been relatively poorly attended, but I must stress that as a consultative forum it is the best place for those with strong opinions about any aspect of our sport to voice them and have actions taken. I hope that any of you who feels that you have a contribution to make will be there.

Curly Barker
chairman@canoepolo.org.uk
May 04

International Canoe Federation

An insiders view from Greg Smale

I attended my first formal ICF Canoe Polo Committee meeting in Malaysia in January 2003. The last sixteen months have passed very quickly.

Having competed and coached for many years it is a great surprise to myself and probably many of you that I find myself involved in administration of the sport.

My knowledge of the sport has grown enormously and Great Britain should be aware that canoe polo continues to grow very quickly around the world and countries previously viewed as not so strong on the international scene are improving very quickly which bodes well for future world competitions.

Having volunteered to have a small part on the BCU CPC the restructuring of the leagues that has been undertaken with very hard work by Dave Sanders, Alan Vessey, Curly Barker and others should boost canoe polo at home once more with positive benefits to selectors and future composition of national teams.

Some of the ICF CPC activity includes:

- The Qualification Rules for future World Championships which will commence in Japan 2004. There will probably be teething troubles particularly as the U21 entries for Japan appear low, however with consequences for non-entry it is hoped that in future a more consistent and higher standard of competition will be held and that future Continental Championships will be even more competitive as a result.
- International Referees have been graded A-C in an attempt to make selection of so called 'good referees' easier in future and in general monitor all more closely. Great Britain traditionally have had good referees and this has been reflected in the grading. GB however do need more new ICF Referees to qualify.
- Canada have been formally awarded the World Championships 2008 and the venue/s and accommodation are very good. I have been appointed ICF Representative for this championship and together with Dragons knowledge from their trips over we should be a good position to plan for 2008.
- France have indicated an interest for the World's in 2010.

- A World Championship manual is almost complete to assist future organisers.
- The boat design rules coupled with trademarks and advertising are currently under review using a very good 'rules paper' produced by Paul Hammond GB and Duncan Cochrane AUS and in consultation with some manufacturers proposed changes are due to be presented to ICF CPC in Japan.
- The ICF website has been upgraded and in the near future the ICF CPC understand it will have access to update. Photos from GB would be appreciated.

Part of my remit is to support the development of canoe polo coaching around the world.

Formal open attendance coaching courses have now been held in:

- Malaysia for 39 potential coaches from countries as diverse as Mongolia and Burma attended and thanks to Chew Chow Luan – Malaysia, Dave Sanders – GB and Dominique Le Bellour – France.
- Sweden for 15 potential coaches including Canada with only the Baltic states not attending and thanks to Caroline Beijersten – Sweden and Erwin Roos – Netherlands. This course in particular appears to had generated positive results particularly in Scandinavia where it appears there is far more canoe polo activity between countries.

It is hoped that the ICF CPC will hold two courses in separate continents between each World Championships.

The World Championships in Japan are imminent and I wish all GB Teams and coaches the very best in automatic qualification for Netherlands 2006 and next years World Games in Duisburg, Germany.

With support from the BCU and BCU CPC I hope to have some influence on the continued development of canoe polo around the world and wish all canoe polo players best wishes at whatever level you choose to compete.

Greg Smale
ICF CPC
2/5/04

CALENDAR FOR 2004/05 NATIONAL LEAGUES SEASON

Please note that whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this calendar, it is published 9 months before some of the Tournaments and is potentially subject to change. Teams are urged to confirm dates with their League Secretary at the start of the season. For some Divisions it may be necessary to add dates, if the entries to the league demand it.

Division 1 Open

8th January 2005	Coventry
19th February 2005	Coventry
12th March 2005	Leeds
7th/8th May	Liverpool

Division 2 Open North

16th October 2004	Leeds
13th November 2004	Leeds
18th December 2004	Leeds
29th January 2005	Leeds
5th April 2005	Leeds
23rd April 2005	Leeds

Division 2 Open South

2nd October 2004	Coventry
30th October 2004	Coventry
18th December 2004	Coventry
12th February 2005	Coventry
19th March 2005	Coventry
16th April 2005	Coventry

Division 3 Open North

11th September 2004	York
23rd October 2004	Irlam
18th December 2004	York
8th January 2005	Irlam
12th February 2005	York
19th March 2004	Irlam

Division 3 Open Central

25th September 2004	Derby
23rd October 2004	Stratford
18th December 2004	Derby
8th January 2005	Stratford
12th February 2005	Derby
19th March 2004	Stratford

Division 3 Open South

25th September 2004	Luton
23rd October 2004	Bristol
18th December 2004	Luton
8th January 2005	Erith
12th February 2005	Luton
19th March 2004	Erith

Division 4 Open North

18th September 2004	York
16th October 2004	York
6th November 2004	York
15th January 2005	Irlam
5th March 2005	Irlam

Division 4 Open Central

18th September 2004	Derby
16th October 2004	Stratford
13th November 2004	Derby
15th January 2005	Stratford
5th March 2004	Derby

Division 4 Open South West

18th September 2004	Bristol
16th October 2004	Bristol
20th November 2004	Bristol
15th January 2005	Bristol
5th March 2004	Bristol

Division 4 Open South East

11th September 2004	Luton
16th October 2004	Erith
20th November 2004	Luton
15th January 2005	Erith
5th March 2004	Luton

Women's Division 1

15th January 2005	Leeds
19th February 2005	Coventry
2nd April 2005	Coventry
7th/8th May	Liverpool

Women's Division 2 North

30th October 2004	Irlam
29th January 2005	York
2nd April 2005	York

Women's Division 2 South

2nd October 2004	Erith
23rd October 2004	Luton
29th January 2005	Luton
19th February 2005	Erith
2nd April 2005	Luton

Youth Division 1

9th October 2004	Derby
4th December 2004	Luton
29th January 2005	Irlam
12th March 2005	Liverpool

Youth Division 2

30th October 2004	Luton
19th February 2005	Derby
16th April 2005	Luton

Play Offs - 21 May 2005

POOL DATES	COVENTRY	LEEDS	LIVERPOOL	YORK	LUTON	DERBY	ERITH	BRISTOL	IRLAM	S UPON AVON
2004	5pm - 10pm	2pm -6.30pm	9.30am - 6pm	5 - 9.30 PM	5 - 9.30 PM	5 - 9.30 PM	5 - 9.30 PM	6 - 10.30 PM	5.30 - 10PM	5.30 - 10PM
04 SEPT.				DIV 3 NTH	DIV 4 SE					
18 SEPT.				DIV 4 NTH		DIV 4 CEN		DIV 4 SW		
25 SEPT.					DIV 3 STH	DIV 3 CEN	DIV 2 STH L			
2 OCT.	DIV 2 STH					DIV 1 YTH				
9 OCT.										
16 OCT.		DIV 2 NTH		DIV 4 NTH			DIV 4 SE	DIV 4 SW		DIV 4 CEN
23 OCT.					DIV 2 STH L			DIV 3 STH	DIV 3 NTH	DIV 3 CEN
30 OCT.	DIV 2 STH				DIV 2 YTH				DIV 2 NTH L	
06 NOV.	GB			DIV 4 NTH	GB					
13 NOV.		DIV 2 NTH				DIV 4 CEN				
20 NOV.					DIV 4 SE			DIV 4 SW		
27 NOV.										
4 DEC.					DIV 1 YTH					
11 DEC.										
18 DEC.	DIV 2 STH	DIV 2 NTH		DIV 3 NTH	DIV 3 STH	DIV 3 CEN				
2005										
1 JAN.										
8 JAN.	DIV 1						DIV 3 STH		DIV 3 NTH	DIV 3 CEN
15 JAN.		DIV 1 L					DIV 4 SE	DIV 4 SW	DIV 4 NTH	DIV 4 CEN
22 JAN.	GB									
29 JAN.		DIV 2 NTH		DIV 2 NTH L	DIV 2 STH L				DIV 1 YTH	
5 FEB.										
12 FEB.	DIV 2 STH			DIV 3 NTH	DIV 3 STH	DIV 3 CEN				
19 FEB.	DIV 1					DIV 2 YTH	DIV 2 STH L			
26 FEB.	GB									
5 MAR.	DIV 1 L				DIV 4 SE	DIV 4 CEN		DIV 4 SW	DIV 4 NTH	
12 MAR.		DIV 1		DIV 1 YTH						
19 MAR.	DIV 2 STH						DIV 3 STH		DIV 3 NTH	DIV 3 CEN
26 MAR.	Easter	Easter								
2 APR.	DIV 1 L	DIV 2 NTH		DIV 2 NTH L	DIV 2 STH L					
9 APR.	GB									
16 APR.	DIV 2 STH				DIV 2 YTH					
23 APR.		DIV 2 NTH								
30 APR.	CHARLEROI									
7/8TH MAY.				DIV 1 FINALS O/ WOMEN						
14 MAY.	ESSEN									
21 MAY.	PLAY OFFS DIV 2									

National Leagues Reorganisation

As many of you are aware, the cost of hiring the swimming pools we use to play our National League Tournaments has been increasing dramatically over the last few years. The increase in the cost of hiring pools has not been passed on to the teams playing in the Leagues but has been subsidised by the BCU Polo Committee utilising a VAT rebate we received a few years ago.

This money has now run out and the BCU and the BCU Canoe Polo Committee can no longer subsidise the cost of hiring the pools. Inevitably, if teams wish to continue playing in National League Competitions they are going to have to pay the actual cost of hiring the pools.

One obvious way of trying to keep the costs of League Tournaments down is to play our League Tournaments outdoors and to pay the fees to venues specific to Polo (investing in the sport) rather than funding Local Authorities.

Moving our National League outdoors is not currently feasible due to our League season being over the winter period. However, the Polo Committee is considering moving to a League system similar to that run in Germany arranged over the summer months. Much thought is required before any decisions will be taken and teams and players will be given the opportunity to share their views, suggestions and opinions before any decisions are made. In order to assist in the decision making process and to investigate ways of trying to reduce costs (and invest fees back into the sport) the Polo Committee is 'piloting' a new League format for Division 1 Open and Division 1 Ladies for the 2004/2005 season.

For Div 1 Open and Div 1 Ladies the 2004/2005 season will start in January 2005. There will be 3 Tournaments held indoors; teams will play in 2 out of the 3 Tournaments. A League Competition will be held on 23 rd – 24 th April 2005 at an outdoors venue (likely to be Liverpool) where the remainder of the League Games will be played. The League results for Div 1 Open and Div 1 Ladies will be determined at this competition.

After feedback from teams and players, if this system is a success it may be implemented in other divisions. If it is not a success we will have to look at another option. As it stands, if we are to carry on as we are, teams will have to pay up to £80 per tournament and this money is then lost to the sport. If we look to adopt a new system, predominantly outdoors, clubs may wish to host League Tournaments and provide new venues in the knowledge they will get funding

from League fees to put back into the sport (to assist in the provision of equipment, facilities and coaching). This is surely the right way to go.

The Committee realises this is a significant change to the current system but wish it to be noted that as it stands, unless all teams are happy to pay the ever increasing cost of hiring indoor pools we have to move outdoors and invest in our sport.

As many of you will know having read the Canoe Polo Newsletter, the National League for 2004/2005 will be restructured. Since the Newsletter was printed there have been a number of changes to the reorganisation of the Leagues.

Open Division 1 - 8 teams
Open Division 2 - Div 2 North 8 Teams
Div 2 South 8 Teams
Open Division 3 - Div 3 North 10 Teams
Div 3 Central 10 Teams
Div 3 South 10 Teams
Open Division 4 - Div 4 North 8-10 Teams
Div 4 Central 8-10 Teams
Div 4 South East 8-10 Teams
Div 4 South West 8-10 Teams

The Ladies and Youth League Structure will remain unchanged.

Div 4 final numbers will be dependant on new League entrants for 2004/2005.

We would like to take this opportunity to apologise for the short notice of this information and will ensure this will not happen again. In the 2004/2005 season it is likely there will be a play off between the top two teams of Ladies Division 2 North and South and the bottom 2 of Ladies Division 1.

The new promotion system for 2004/2005 will be communicated after the next BCU Canoe Polo Committee meeting. The Committee wish to ensure that a fair and equitable system is implemented across all Leagues and will inform teams of any future changes to the current system as soon as the information is available.

The Committee are committed to develop and strengthen Canoe Polo in Great Britain and these changes are required to assist in the development of our sport.

Dave Sanders
May 04

NATIONAL LEAGUE RULES

The following rules will apply to the conduct of the National Leagues in the 2004/05 season. Clubs should familiarise themselves with the Rules. Questions relating to interpretation should be addressed to the National Leagues Organiser. All breaches of the rules may be considered by the Canoe Polo Committee, which may decide to apply any one of a number of sanctions, (on an individual, Team or Club), including the issue a formal warning, deduction of points or, in the most serious of cases, exclusion of a Player/Team/Club from the Leagues. Clubs should also refer to the National League procedures, which have been prepared by the Canoe Polo Committee with a view to providing League Organisers with guidance in relation to the conduct of the Leagues.

Teams and players are expected to conform to the spirit of the Rules rather than seeking to abuse them for personal or Team advantage.

SECTION ONE BCU Membership Requirements

1.1 Club Affiliation

- 1.1.1 Any Club applying to enter a Team in a National Canoe Polo League must be affiliated to the BCU, SCA, WCA or CANI.
- 1.1.2 A photocopy of the parent Club's Affiliation Card must accompany each Team's National League Re-entry/Entry Form.

1.2 Individual Membership

- 1.2.1 Other than for the exemptions in Rules 1.2.2, and 1.2.3 all players must be current individual members of the BCU, SCA, WCA or CANI. (The class of membership must permit competitive events to be entered).
- 1.2.2 Until further notice Youth players who hold a valid BCU Paddlesport Membership Card for their Club's Youth Section are eligible to play in the National Youth League without individual BCU membership.
- 1.2.3 Until further notice, Players in women's Division 3 and youth Division 2 may take out Day Membership of the BCU to play in each of their National League Tournaments as an alternative to being comprehensive members.
- 1.2.4 A player must provide a photocopy of their Federation Membership Card at the time of registering for each National League team in which they wish to play. (See Section 3).

SECTION TWO Application for National League Membership

2.1 New and Re-applications

- 2.1.1 Entries from Clubs/Teams wishing to join the National League for the first time, or to re-join will only be accepted on an official Entry Form, available from the National Leagues Organiser, printed in this yearbook, or down-loaded from our web-site, canoepolo.org.uk.
- 2.1.2 Entry Forms must be submitted by 11th June 2004.
- 2.1.3 The £35 Team Registration Fee, (to cover the cost of trophies, administration etc.), must accompany the Entry Form
- 2.1.4 One tournament fee must accompany the Entry Form. This will be carried forward to cover the fee for the final tournament of the season, but will be forfeit if the Team fails to participate in a tournament they

were scheduled to attend. (The level of tournament fees for the 2004/05 season is indicated in the notes that accompany the Entry Form).

- 2.1.5 Entries received after 11th June 2004 will be required to pay a fine of £100 if there are still places available.
- 2.1.6 Any Team failing to complete the season's fixtures will be required to pay all the Pool Fees that would have been due had they done so.
- 2.1.7 A Team applying for a League place does so on the understanding that it must be prepared to attend any of the Tournaments scheduled for the Division concerned.
- 2.1.8 Applications from new Teams/Clubs should be supported by their Regional Polo Organiser.

2.2 Rejection of Applications

- 2.2.1 The Polo Committee may reject an application for any of the following reasons:
 - a. Failure to send, with the Entry Form, proof of current Club Affiliation to the BCU, SCA, WCA or CANI.
 - b. Failure to provide a cheque to cover the League Registration Fee and one Tournament Fee with the Re-entry Form.
 - c. Failure to provide, with the Entry Form, evidence of the ability to provide a Referee of the required Grade.
 - d. Evidence of any fees remaining outstanding from a previous season from any Team within the Club concerned.
 - e. Failure to comply with League Rules in the previous season, (notably with regard to the provision of an appropriate Referee and non-attendance at one or more scheduled Tournaments).
 - f. Where the Entry/Re-entry form is received after the published closing date and all places in the League have already been filled
- 2.2.2 If the number of new applications exceeds the number of vacancies, the Polo Committee will take into account a variety of factors in deciding which Team(s) to accept. Criteria will include evidence of genuine commitment to the sport, (through participation/results in Regional Leagues, Open Tournaments, National Championships, etc.) and attendance of players/officials at refereeing/coaching courses.

Special consideration will be given to Teams whose applications were unsuccessful in previous seasons.

- 2.2.3 Any Team wishing to return to the National League after one or more seasons' absence may be required to re-enter at the lowest level. However, the Polo Committee has the discretion to reinstate a Team at a higher level should this be possible without affecting automatic promotion and relegation (if applicable) and if such action is deemed to be in the best interests of the sport.

2.3 Ownership of League Places

- 2.3.1 A place in a League Division is considered to belong to the Affiliated Club and not to the individual Team members.
- 2.3.2 The Polo Committee may agree to transfer a League place to another Affiliated Club at the end of a season, subject to the approval of both Clubs concerned and providing the Team will contain at least 3 members of the previous season's Squad.

SECTION THREE Player Eligibility and Registration

3.1 Player Registration

- 3.1.1 All players wishing to represent a Team must be registered with the National Leagues Organiser. Registration is achieved by **either**:
- a. Being named on the Team's Entry Form, in which case a photocopy of their BCU, SCA, WCA or CANI Membership Card must be attached;
 - b. Sending their details, together with a photocopy of BCU, SCA, WCA or CANI Membership Card, to the National Leagues Organiser at least 14 days prior to the first Tournament in which they wish to play;
 - c. Presenting their BCU, SCA, WCA or CANI Membership Card to the League Secretary/Chief Tournament Official prior to the start of the first Tournament in which they wish to play.
- 3.1.2 In the case of Clubs with more than one Team in the Leagues, in no circumstances may a player, once Registered by one of the means outlined in Rule 3.1.1, play in a lower Division within the same class of competition, (i.e. Open, Women's or Youth), regardless of whether they have yet played for the higher Division Team.

3.2 Playing Up

- 3.2.1 A player Registered with a lower Division Team may 'play up' for a Team in a higher Division.
- 3.2.2 Once a player has 'played up' in more than five games for a Team, he/she will not be allowed to play again for the Team in the lower Division.
- 3.2.3 A player who has previously played in a higher division than that in which he/she is registered for the current season may not play up without the express permission of the National Leagues Organiser or the BCU Polo Committee.

3.3 Transfer Between Teams in the Same Division

- 3.3.1 Clubs with more than one Team in the same Division may, at any stage in the season, substitute one or two players from one Team to another Team in the same Division.
- 3.3.2 Once substituted in this way a player must complete the season with the new Team.
- 3.3.3 A player may not compete in more tournaments than the number allocated to Teams in that Division.

3.4 'One Club' Rule

- 3.4.1 Other than as outlined in Rules 3.4.2 and 3.4.3, a player is only eligible to register to play for one Club in each of the three categories of competition - Open, Women's, Youth - during a season. (For the avoidance of doubt, this Rule does not currently prevent a Woman from playing for a Club in a Women's League and for a different Club in an Open League, or a Youth Player playing in a Youth League for a Club and for another Club in an Open League).
- 3.4.2 A player who has not already played for the Club with which they originally registered may register to play for another Club in the same category of competition provided that 14 days notice in writing is given to the National Leagues Organiser.
- 3.4.3 Any player unable to complete a full season with the Club with which they originally registered, due to a major change in personal circumstances, may apply in writing to the Polo Committee, giving a minimum of 28 days notice, for permission to transfer to another Club. Approval will normally depend on provision of written agreement from both Clubs concerned.

SECTION FOUR League Structure

- 4.1 The following categories of team are catered for within the National Leagues:-
- 4.1.1 Open Open to any team
- 4.1.2 Women Open to any team whose members are all female
- 4.1.3 Youth Open to any team all of whose members are not more than eighteen years of age on 1st January of the year in which the season finishes. (For the 2004/05 season players must be under 18 on 1st January 2005 - i.e. born on, or after, 1st January 1987).
- 4.2 Within a Division each Team will play every other Team twice during the season. (This format may only be varied with the approval of the Canoe Polo Committee).
- 4.3 Where a Division contains 10 Teams there will be six tournaments, with each team attending four.
- 4.4 Where a Division contains 8 teams there will normally be four tournaments with each team attending three.

SECTION FIVE Allocation of Points

- 5.1 Points will be awarded as follows:-
3 for a win, 2 for a draw, 1 for a loss, 0 for failing to field a team.
- 5.2 The result of a forfeited game will be deemed to be a 3-0 win for the attending team.
- 5.3 In order to decide end of season League positions, where two or more teams have gained the same points they will be ranked based on the following criteria:
- Goal difference,
 - Goals scored,
 - Results of the games between the teams concerned,

If any of the Teams concerned were credited with one or more 3-0 victories as a result of the forfeiture rule (5.2), calculations will be based on a revised League table that totally excludes all games involving the Team(s) that forfeited games.

SECTION SIX Promotion / Relegation

The new promotion system for 2004/2005 will be communicated after the next BCU Canoe Polo Committee meeting. The Committee wish to ensure that a fair and equitable system is implemented across all Leagues and will inform teams of any future changes to the current system as soon as the information is available.

SECTION SEVEN Refereeing

7.1 Team Refereeing Commitment

7.1.1 For the 2004/05 season Teams will be required to provide the following minimum Grade of Referee for all Tournaments they are required to attend:

Open Division 1	Grade 1 or 1 (T)
Open Division 2	Grade 2
Open Division 3	Grade 3
Open Division 4	Grade 4

Women's Division 1	Grade 2
Women's Division 2	Grade 3
Women's Division 3	Grade 4

Youth Division 1 Grade 3

Youth Division 2 Grade 3

7.1.2 A Team's nominated Referee will normally be required to officiate over the same number of games that his/her Team is due to play at a given Tournament. (Teams will be required to officiate over more games at T-shaped pools requiring three Referees).

7.1.3 Nominated Referees must be prepared to officiate at any stage of the Tournament.

7.2 Substitute Referees

7.2.1 Anyone refereeing a game due to another team failing to provide an official will be eligible for a £5 contribution towards their expenses, (to be paid by the League Organiser/Chief Tournament Official at the end of the Tournament).

7.3 Failure to Provide a Referee

7.3.1 If, for whatever reason, a Team is unable to provide a Referee of the required Grade for a given Tournament, the League Organiser must be notified as soon as possible.

7.3.2 Any Team failing to provide a Referee will be subject to the following sanctions:

1. If at least 14 days notice is given, a fine of £50.
2. If less than 14 days notice is given, a fine of £70.
3. If less than 24 hours notice, or no notice, is given, a fine of £70 - in addition the Team will be reported to the Polo Committee which may, depending on the circumstances, levy an additional fine.

7.3.3 Any team failing to provide an appropriate referee for two or more tournaments will have their entry for the following season rejected.

SECTION EIGHT Tournament Organisation and Administration

8.1 Communication with Teams

- 8.1.1 Details of the tournaments a Team is required to attend should be received at least 6 weeks prior to the first tournament of the season.
- 8.1.2 In deciding on which Teams to call to which Tournaments the League Organiser will attempt to take specific requests into account, but Teams must accept that it may not prove possible to satisfy all individual requirements. (Rules 2.1.8 and 2.3.6).
- 8.1.3 Confirmation of each Tournament and final match details will be sent out at least 14 days prior to the Tournament.
- 8.1.4 Results will be sent to all Teams in a Division within 3 days of each Tournament.

8.2 Tournament Administration

- 8.2.1 Teams should hand their tournament fee, (payable by cheque to 'BCU Canoe Polo Committee'), to the Table Officials prior to the start of their first Game.
- 8.2.2 Teams should hand their Team Sheet, completed in full, to the Table Officials prior to the start of their first Game.
- 8.2.3 Any player whose BCU Membership was due for renewal subsequent to the last Tournament in which he/she played, or who has not previously registered to play for the Team in question, should present their BCU, SCA, WCA or CANI Membership Card to the Table Officials prior to the start of their first game.
- 8.2.4 A League Organiser/Chief Tournament Official may require a player to produce their BCU, SCA, WCA or CANI Membership Card at any time.
- 8.2.5 Any Team arriving late/failing to appear at a tournament must submit a full explanation, in writing, to the National Leagues Organiser and League Secretary within 48 hours.
- 8.2.6 The Game Order will not normally be changed to cater for the late arrival of a Team.
- 8.2.7 Once published, the Game Order may be amended by the League Organiser subject to all Teams concerned receiving a minimum of seven days written notice of the changes.
- 8.2.8 Changes to the playing order less than seven days prior to a Tournament date, (including changes requested on the night of the Tournament itself), can only be made with the specific approval of all participating Teams.

SECTION NINE General Sanctions

- 9.1 A Team missing a League Tournament or, if qualified to attend, the end of season play-offs, will be required to pay the Tournament Fee and Referee Fines if appropriate.
- 9.2 Ultimate responsibility for the payment of fines and fees rests with the Club named on the Team's League Entry Form.
- 9.3 In the event of any team failing to meet its financial commitments all Teams from the parent Club are liable to disqualification from all National Polo Competitions.
- 9.4 Any Team missing one Tournament may have its application for entry for the following season Any Team missing two or more Tournaments will not be accepted for entry the following season.

National League Entry / Re-entry form

2004 / 2005 season

The following notes must be read in conjunction with the full national league rules. (these can be found on the polo website – www.canoepolo.org.uk)

Please note that the leagues have been restructured. see canoepolo.org.uk and/or page 8 for further details.

The BCU has been running the leagues at a deficit in the region of £6000 per season. This can not continue. there have been increases in both registration and tournament fees, which are unavoidable. The leagues will still run at a loss. however, the BCU Canoe Polo Committee appreciate that fees are markedly higher and have tried to limit the impact to teams where possible.

Club Affiliation – any team applying for a national league place must be affiliated to the BCU, SCA, WCA, or CANI. class of membership must permit competitive events to be entered. Youth members holding a valid BCU paddlesport membership card, may play in the youth league without individual membership. All players must provide a photocopy of their membership card at the time of registering with each national league team with which they wish to play. It is acceptable in some cases that the bcu membership card may be shown at the beginning of the first tournament attended.

One club rule – other than in exceptional circumstances. a player may only register for one club in each category of the competition – open, women, and youth – in a season.

Application Conditions

the team registration fee must accompany the entry form – one tournament fee must accompany the form – this will cover the costs for the final tournament.

Fees:-	Div 1 open	£35 registration + £85 tournament fee
	Div 2 open	£35 registration + £85 tournament fee
	Div3 open	£35 registration + £65 tournament fee
	Div 4 open	£35 registration + £65 tournament fee
	Div 1 ladies	£35 registration + £85 tournament fee
	Div 2 ladies	£30 registration + £65 tournament fee
	Youth leagues	£30 registration + £65 tournament fee

Teams applying for a league place do so on the understanding that they must be prepared to attend any of the tournaments scheduled for the division concerned.

Entries not received by 11th june 2004 will only be accepted after receipt of £100 fine.

Teams must provide the following minimum grade of referee for all the tournaments, the required grades are listed on page 13 of the 2004 Yearbook.

The Polo Committee may reject an application for any of the reasons given on page 10 of the 2004 Yearbook.

Your completed form/proof of affiliation/referee qualifications should be sent to:-

Claire Turner, 24 Green Lane, Davenham, Cheshire CW9 8HU (polo_sec@hotmail.com)

Please include 2 s.a.es with your application.

National League Entry / Re-entry form

2004 / 2005 season

Club Name:Club Affiliation Number

Club Contact:Position:

Address:

.....

.....Post Code

E-mail:

Tel No: Hme:Work:Mobile:

Club Treasurer:Tel No:

Address:

.....

.....Post Code

Team Contact:Position:

Address:

.....

.....Post Code

E-mail:

Tel No: Hme:Work:Mobile:

Team Name:

League Applied for (Please Circle): **Open** Div1, Div2(N), Div2(S), Div3(N), Div3(C), Div3(S),

Div4(N), Div4(C), Div4(SW), Div4(SE)

Ladies: Div1, Div2(N), Div2(S), **Youth** Div1, Div2(N), Div2(S),

Referee's Name:Grade:

Referee's Name:Grade:

We the undersigned agree to abide by the National League Rules as published in the 2004 Yearbook, any amendments that may subsequently be made by the Canoe Polo Committee and will be responsible for the financial dealings of the team:

Club Treasurer:Date:

Manager/Captain:Date:

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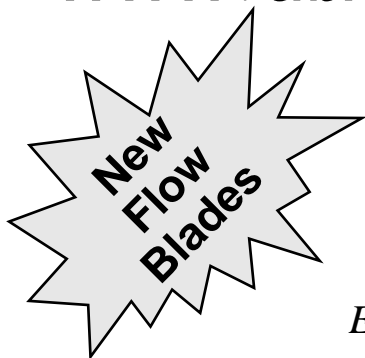
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NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Open

Division One

1999/2000	St. Albans
2000/01	St. Albans
2001/02	Viking "A"
2002/03	Friends of Allonby "X"
2003/04	Meridian

Division Two

1999/2000	Viking 'B'
2000/01	Friends of Allonby 'X'
2001/02	Dragon
2002/03	Avon 'A'
2003/04	Luton

Division Three

	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
1999/2000	Matlock	Luton Old Boys
2000/01	Selkirk	Dragon
2001/02	Viking 'C'	Meridian 'B'
2002/03	Peninne	Matlock 'B'
2003/04	Hull Mariners	Braintree A

Division Four

North

	<u>North (A)</u>	<u>North (B)</u>
1999/2000		Selkirk
2000/01		West Lothian
2001/02	Manchester Xclusive	Matlock 'B'
2002/03	White Rose	Kingston Krakens
2003/04		

Central

1999/2000	Cherwell Yellow
2000/01	Cherwell Red
2001/02	St Albans
2002/03	St Albans 'C'
2003/04	Meridian C

South East

Dreamers
Dreamers
Clapham
Clapham
Luton

South West

1999/2000	Aberfan 'A'
2000/01	Avon 'C'
2001/02	Bristol Pitbulls
2002/03	Blakedown
2003/04	Aberfan 'A'

Women

1998/99	
1999/2000	
2000/01	
2001/02	
2002/03	
2002/03	

Division Two

	<u>North</u>	
1998/99	Old Speckled Hens	
1999/2000		Pink Ladies
2000/01		St. Albans 'B'
2001/02		Derby Rammers 'A'
2002/03	Matlock	
2003/04	St Albans	

Division One

Team Xclusive
St. Albans
St. Albans
St Albans
Friends of Allonby Xclusive
Aberfan

South

Aberfan
Avon Ladies

Division Three

	<u>North</u>		<u>South</u>
2001/02	Friends of Allonby	Liver Birds	Avon Ladies

Youth

1998/99	
1999/2000	
2000/01	
2001/02	
2002/03	
2003-04	

Division One

Friends of Allonby 'A'
Friends of Allonby 'A'
Friends of Allonby 'A'
Friends of Allonby 'A'
Friends of Allonby 'A'
Viking

Division Two

	<u>North</u>		<u>South</u>
2001/02	League did not run.		Blakedown
2002/03	League did not run.		Bere Forest
2003/04			Aberfan

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Results are shown below for the last ten years:-

Open

1994	St. Albans	beat	Meridian
1995	Viking	beat	Wimps
1996	Viking	beat	St. Albans
1997	Bere Forest	beat	Wimps
1998	St. Albans	beat	Woodmill
1999	Woodmill	beat	Meridian
2000	Viking	beat	Bere Forest
2001	St. Albans	beat	Bere Forest
2002	Friends of Allonby 'X'	beat	St. Albans
2003	Friends of Allonby 'X'	beat	Bere Forest

Women

1994	St. Albans 'A'	beat	Mutineer
1995	Mutineers	beat	St. Albans
1996	Mutineers	beat	Dragon
1997	Mutineers	beat	South Shore
1998	Mutineers	beat	St. Albans 'A'
1999	St. Albans	beat	Team Xclusive
2000	St. Albans	beat	Friends of Allonby Xclusive
2001	St. Albans	beat	Old Speckled Hens
2002	Friends of Allonby Xclusive	beat	St. Albans
2003	Dragon Ladies	beat	Friends of Allonby Xclusive

Youth

1994	Friends of Allonby	beat	Bere Forest
1995	Friends of Allonby	beat	Bere Fores
1996	St. Albans	beat	Meridian
1997	Meridian	beat	Viking
1998	Meridian 'B'	beat	Meridian 'A'
1999	St. Albans 'A'	beat	Friends of Allonby 'A'
2000	Friends of Allonby 'A'	beat	St. Albans 'A'
2001	Friends of Allonby 'A'	beat	St. Albans 'A'
2002	Friends of Allonby 'A'	beat	Viking 'G'
2003	Viking 'C'	beat	Friends of Allonby 'A'

Regional Reports

All the Regions have the opportunity to submit reports about their activities for inclusion in this yearbook. Those who have taken the opportunity appear here:

YORKSHIRE REGION

The Canoe Polo winter leagues continued during the 2003/2004 season in the Yorkshire Region commencing in September and finishing in April. There were again 30 open teams split into three divisions and 2 ladies leagues (premier and novice), also an U16 league. The season was very successful, and entry forms for the 2004/2005 have now been circulated for all the above leagues plus, hopefully an U.18 league.

Canoe Polo continued during the Summer with three big events held in the region.

Hull International Canoe Polo Challenge 2003 was again held at Princes Quay and was a great success. The BUSA Championships and the National Championships were both held at Hatfield Marina, the former attracting a record number of teams.

With regard to the seemingly ever present refereeing problem, various courses were held with paddlers travelling from as far away as Scotland to take part. Chris Bussell has now resigned as the Referee Co-Ordinator, and his job has been taken over by one of our Yorkshire Region Committee members – Paul Beverley.

One sad note – the Humberiders, who have been in National Division 1 for over 15 years, decided to call it a day. Some members of the team are, however, encouraging and coaching younger members in the regional leagues.

A serious problem in the region, which is also raising its head nationally, is the lack of pools. This is due to them either closing down, getting refurbished or in some areas putting up the costs dramatically. This is something which obviously we have to keep a close watch on.

Grateful thanks must go to all the volunteers who keep canoe polo leagues running so successfully. Without them, the polo scene could be very different, so on behalf of the paddlers in the region – a big thank you.

Tony Pell



British Canoe Union Canoe Polo Committee

Annual General Meeting *5th December 2004*

*at the Headquarters of the 73rd Derby Scout Group, Allestree,
Derby, commencing at 12.00 noon.*

Please seriously consider whether you might be able to contribute towards the management and development of Polo. The Committee desperately needs some new blood to cover all the work, and to generate new ideas and enthusiasm to take the sport forward.

In advance of the AGM if you would like to discuss any item, or require further details of how you could get involved, please contact:

Curly Barker on 0208 252 6618

or email him at curly.barker@canoepolo.org.uk

Communications

The BCU Canoe Polo Committee's website [1] is aiming to be the main communication mechanism for the committee, this will allow timely & prompt communications of polo related information to the polo community within Great Britain.

It's has been recognised that poor communication in the past years has caused many problems for polo players, the committee, event organisers and any one involved in polo. With today's easy access to technology for the majority of people, problems with communications is easy to address. The website will be the focal point for all the committee's communications, this will be backed up by mailing lists & forums. In addition to the website, year books and newsletters will still be produced in hard copy form for people without access to internet. The number of available copies will be reducing over the coming months & years in lieu of the more efficient & cheaper website.

To enable this communication systems to work, all interested parties need to interact with the website, this could be in the form of posting articles, news & announcements of events, reporting successes & problems. There are 1000's of polo players within Great Britain, the committee, a small team of volunteers can not keep track of all polo activates with out your help!

The committee's website is currently under development, a temporary site is currently available [1] while the main site is in development. Any suggestions and ideas would be gratefully be received [2]. To keep up to date with any polo developments & news, you should subscribe to the committee's news mailing list [3]. The new website is expected to be available around June/July.

Just remember, communication is a two way process, we need your help!

1. <http://www.canoepolo.org.uk/>
2. feedback@canoepolo.org.uk
3. <http://www.canoepolo.org.uk/contact/>

CANOE POLO EXECUTIVE

COACHING AND PLAYING DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES 2004

As some of you are aware there have been discussions on and off for a number of years as to the way forward in terms of development within our sport. Whilst a number of Clubs have some form of Coach/Player support, for the majority it is non-existent, and out of frustration we are losing both potential players and coaches. It is hoped that this initiative will at least be able to provide some practical support for those less fortunate.

Format

As part of the development we are looking to run the Coaching and Players initiatives simultaneously.

Level 1 Coaching Qualification

The Level 1 Course consists of a mainly theoretical six hours course. What we are hoping to do is to incorporate the Course within the framework of a practical 'hands on' player development. Therefore hopefully giving the potential coach the benefit of the coaching staff's experiences.

Potential Coaches should preferably be an appointed Referee or working towards a Refereeing Qualification. However this should not deter you as a working knowledge of the current rules is essential if only to gain the maximum benefit from the course.

Player Candidates

Initially all participants should be at a reasonable standard of playing (not novices) and paddling, and must have the ability to successfully roll on both sides in open water. Applications from other disciplines within Canoeing are welcome.

A working knowledge of the current rules is essential if only to gain the maximum benefit from the course. A declared intent to gain a Refereeing Qualification is desirable.

Suffice to say it is nigh impossible to either Coach or Play without at least a working knowledge of the playing rules.

Qualification

Ladies/Girls Over 14 years

Youth 14 years to U18 years

For Insurance purposes all participants must be members of the BCU.

Coaching Staff

Initially Ginny Coyle's, Alan Vessey, Mike Moffitt.

Much depends on how successful the development is but it is hoped that other senior Coaches, Players and Club Coaches will participate.

Costs and Venues

The Course will cover the full weekend and because most of the costs are controlled in house the initial weekends will be at the Queens Dock Polo Facility, Liverpool. By way of encouragement Courses will only reflect the running costs.

No dates are as yet fixed but it is hoped that they will run in the period late September and early to mid October.

Expressions of interest should be directed to the mail address below.

Closing Date 1st August 2004

Mike Moffitt
mike@mmoffitt.freeserve.co.uk



BUSA Canoe Polo 23rd- 25th April 2004

TAKE 4 pitches measuring 35 x 23 metres STIR IN two teams of 5, one ball, and goals suspended 2metres in the air ADD in a huge amount of sunshine and blue sky what do you get?

BUSA Canoe Polo 2004!!!

76 teams comprising of 24 Universities descended on Hatfield Water Park near Doncaster from Friday 23rd-Sunday 25th April for an action packed weekend of paddling carnage that is BUSA CANOE POLO.

Canoe Polo involves paddling and ball handling skills in a high contact, exciting team game, where tactics, position and fitness feature high on the play list.

Play started early on the Saturday morning with the 'Open A Team' and Ladies Group Matches kicking off first, followed by the B' Team Div 1 and Reed Chillcheater matches in the afternoon. The places at the top of the groups were highly fought for to secure a place in the playoffs later that evening. Play was brought to a close as the sun went down on a scorching hot day at Hatfield, with many teams settling for a night on the beer safe in knowledge it would not affect their position standings the following day!

A party marquee was erected on the Hatfield campsite with the all-important catering team from Grimsby and Cleethorpes Venture Scout Unit and more importantly the bar. Everyone was fed and watered by the wonderful catering staff (all volunteers!) and then carnage reigned!!!

The more professional (?!) teams at the competition got an early night as play restarted at 8am on the Sunday morning, again the weather promised to be good and we weren't disappointed. Sunday separated the men from the boys as Nottingham, Cardiff, Cambridge and York battled it out for the top place in the Open A Team competition. Liverpool, Warwick and Bath Ladies saw off their rivals to finish 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. The Leeds 'Biscuit' and the 'Donut' Teams dominated both the top and bottom of the Reed Chillcheater division! With the GB Women, warming up for the World Championships in Japan, beating up the boys to finish a creditable 3rd place in the B' Team Div 1 competition behind York Uni Old Boys in 1st and Warwick 'Old Gits' in 2nd.

The whole weekend was rounded off with the BUSA Open Final between Cardiff and Nottingham. Both sides were fired up for the final. The first half started tentatively with both teams getting shots blocked. Cardiff tried to initiate a chasing game but then settled into a set defence. The first goal came when Barney Connell took a dribble down the left of the Cardiff zone and shot from a tight angle. Richard Longley added a second minutes later before Cardiff got 1 back to make it 2-1 at half time in Nottingham's favour.

Nottingham secured the second half sprint and rushed the first attack of what was a scrappier second half. With about 5 minutes to go Longley scored a second to give Nottingham a 2 goal lead. This forced Cardiff to try and chase the ball down. In response, Nottingham played the ball deep around the half way line drawing Cardiff out and eventually earning



Nottingham a second goal they were then slow to focus back on the game. Allowing Cardiff to take the opportunity to score an immediate reply. At 4-2 with 2 minutes remaining Nottingham spread themselves out making it difficult for Cardiff to retain the ball and ran the clock down. Nottingham came out 4-2 winners to retain their title. It was a well-contested match, a fitting end to a great weekend. This game saw the Nottingham keeper Graham Aitchison play in his last BUSA, having participated in the event for the last 10 years!



An excellent level of competition and participation made this what's believed to be the largest two day canoe polo event in Europe, something which could not have been possible without the amazing organisation by Loughborough Students Canoe Club especially Chris Walder. The event would also not have been possible without the support of the

sponsors and a huge Thank-you goes to Chris Reed from Reed Chillcheater, Dave Brown from DBXclusive and Epsan Waterfly for providing the polo balls and finally all the staff at Hatfield Water Park for once again helping the event run very smoothly.

BUSA is kindly sponsored by The Daily Telegraph and Price Waterhouse Coopers.

Final Placings:

Open A

1. Nottingham
2. Cardiff
3. Cambridge
4. York

B Teams Div 1

1. York Uni Old Boys
2. Warwick Old Gits
3. GB Womens

Reed Chillcheater

1. Leeds Buscuit
2. Cambridge
3. ULU B

Ladies

1. Liverpool
2. Warwick
3. Bath
4. Bristol

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11th/12th June 2005



The Merseyside International is one of the premier events of the annual Mersey River Festival and will again provide fabulous competition in Open, Ladies and Youth Classes, subject to entries.

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For an Entry Form or further information please contact:-

Mike Moffitt
74 Burnie Avenue
Bootle
Merseyside, L20 0BW
Tel: 0151 922 0760

mike@mmoffit.freeserve.co.uk
and don't forget to visit **www.foacc.com**

REFEREEING

Chief Referee's Sub-Committee.

For the 2004 – 2005 season refereeing will continue to be managed by a sub committee of senior referees assisted by the refereeing administrator, rather than a Single chief Referee.

Reporting to the Polo Committee, the Chief Referee's Sub-Committee will have responsibility for rule interpretation in respect of BCU organised events and their subsequent implementation, disciplinary matters, arrangements for referee development including provision of formal courses and associated examination papers, referee standardisation and assessment, and the creation and upkeep of comprehensive data/records on all trainee and qualified referees in order to maintain and/or improve the quantity and quality of referees throughout the UK.

The Chief Referee's Sub-Committee will present a summary report at the 2004 Annual General Meeting reflecting on the past year, and proposals for 2005.

Refereeing Grading, Structure of Courses, Training and Assessment.

Minimum Required Grade of Referee.

Referee Grade	Open Divs	Women's & Youth Divs	Assessment at Div.
Grade	1	1	1
Grade 1T	1	1	1
Grade 2	2	1	3
Grade 3	3	2 & 3	4
Grade 4	4	2 & 3	Regional/Open/International

In general, the grade of referee directly relates to the highest Division a referee can referee at in Open class. In Ladies and Youth classes the minimum required referee is one less than the grade. For example, a minimum Grade 2 referee is required in Women's Division 1.

Grade 1T Referees.

These referees are viewed as having the potential to become Grade 1 Referees. They are appointed, or can ask to be appointed, to Grade 1T (on approval of the Chief Referee's Sub-Committee) for 2 years, in which time they are expected to attempt to pass the Grade 1 Theory paper and the required number of Practical Assessments.

Note:- Grade 1T is an extension of Grade 2, but they are allowed to referee up to Division 1 Open specifically in-order to gain experience at the highest levels. These Referees are expected to try to attain the Grade 1 position within 2 years of being appointed.

Practical Assessments for all Grades.

Assessments should be carried out over at least 2 games and cannot be carried out at a club training session. The venue for assessment must be a competition environment where teams are expected to play to win, rather than to simply train. Candidates for assessment cannot be assessed during a game in which their own club is playing. If a candidate is without doubt of high enough standard for a Grade 4 or 3 Referee, and their written exam results support this where the Course Leader is carrying out the practical assessment, then only one (1) game is required for assessment, although assessment over additional games can later be asked for if required at that same event.

Practical assessments must be undertaken at the following standard of competition:-

Ref. Grade	Open Division
Grade 1	1
Grade 1T	1
Grade 2	3
Grade 3	4
Grade 4	Regional / Open / International

Although practical assessments can be carried out at National Women's and Youth Leagues as well as Regional events, the grade sought must be reflected in the level of game being played. If, in hindsight, the Assessor deems that the game was not of a high enough standard, then the assessment must be repeated.

All assessments are carried out at the grade below the level being sought. So if someone was already a Grade 3 and they have already passed the Grade 2 written exam, they still take their assessment at Division 3 because their current grade is 3 and, therefore, Division 3 is the highest at which they can referee.

Every two (2) years every referee is required to be re-assessed to ensure they are maintaining the minimum required standards. This is the referee's own responsibility to maintain. They may contact the Refereeing Administrator directly for information regarding when this is due, but should not expect to be reminded. Allowing this to slip is a justifiable reason for down-grading.

Referees Courses.

There are courses for each grade of Referee from Grade 4 to Grade 2. All training is carried out with the prior knowledge and consent of the Refereeing Administrator on behalf of the Chief Referee's Sub-Committee. All candidates must hold the next lower grade when training for Grade 3, 2 and 1.

There is a limited possibility for Fast Tracking to Grade 3 for previous referees whose qualification has lapsed. However, this must be with the Refereeing Administrator's explicit prior knowledge and consent. Any 'new' potential Referee can advance through the grades as quickly as they are able, so long as they fully merit their higher grading in the opinion of the Course Leaders and Assessors.

Grade 1 training is based on an informal open discussion. Passing a written exam is also required followed by three separate practical assessments by at least two appropriately appointed Assessors. The candidate is brought forward for training by nomination, or on individual request.

Grade 2 training is a half day seminar with a written exam followed by a practical assessment on a minimum of two games by appropriate Assessors.

Grade 3 and 4 training is a full day (7 hours) course. All the rules will be discussed and an appropriate exam for each grade will be given. Subsequent practical assessment is also required, usually over two games, before the grading can be ratified. Candidates for Grade 3 and 4 can be catered for on the same course, so long as those for Grade 3 understand they are required to contribute more to general discussions.

Please see details of Referees Courses scheduled for the 2004/05 season at the end of this section.

Referee Course Fees.

A Referees Pack is available at a cost of £20 which will include the fee for any of the grades as part of the pack. The pack contains the following:- a current BCU Canoe Polo Year Book, Whistle with Cord, Set of Red, Yellow and Green Cards, and a Paddle Gauge.

The following course fees are applicable until further notice:-

Grade 4	£12.50 £20.00	(including Referees Pack)
Grade 3	£12.50 £20.00	(including Referees Pack)
Grade 2	£10.00	
Grade 1	Free	

All Grade of Referee training will be free to any Non Playing Referees as a way of encouragement to the highest level they can achieve. They will also be singled out for priority treatment in their training and assessment.

Practical Assessment and Re-Assessment Fees.

All Practical Assessments must be arranged prior to an event. It is not reasonable to simply turn up at an event and expect to be assessed without warning.

Candidates are advised to bring with them a Practical Assessment Form. These are available either from their Course Leader, the Refereeing Administrator, or by downloading a copy from the BCU Canoe Polo Committee Web Site (<http://www.canoe polo.org.uk>). The completed Practical Assessment Form must be forwarded to the Refereeing Administrator by the Assessor.

Grades 2, 3 and 4

Since Practical Assessments are required within one (1) year of the Exam for these grades, there is no fee required on the understanding that once a candidate fails one assessment they can no longer be assessed at that tournament (i.e. the rest of the night in a league). At the direction of the Assessor, the candidate should practice at club sessions for a specified period of time before presenting themselves for assessment again. This information can be passed on to the Refereeing Administrator and be easily checked.

Teams are not permitted to use unqualified refereeing candidates (who are there to be assessed) to avoid the need to provide an appropriately graded qualified Referee.

Grades 1 & 1T

There is no fee for their assessments.

Using the Assessment Forms.

A Practical Assessment Form must be completed by an appropriate Assessor for the grade being sought. The form is filled in with a number in the small boxes indicating the grade of referee viewed by the assessor for that section. So, if the candidate is being assessed for a Grade 3, they must attain a 3, 2 or 1 in all of the boxes to pass the assessment on that game.

In the categories for Dress, Whistle and Signals a 'Cross' or a 'Tick' will be entered. If a single cross is recorded under any of these categories, then the assessment for that game will have been failed. The minimum standard for that grade over two games is required to pass the assessment.

Full details are required for the candidate including the address, club, grade being sought, what the event was, and the quality of the games.

Re-Assessment.

All Referees are required to be re-assessed every two (2) years without exception.

Re-Assessment fees are £5 for all grades except Grade 1. The £5 is payable to the Assessor prior to any assessment. Referees failing to maintain their grade by Re-Assessment face down grading.

Registration of Persons for Course Leaders and Assessors.

Anyone who is interested in becoming either a Course Leader or Assessor should notify the Refereeing Administrator to find out what is required. In some cases, some training may be required.

Random Assessments.

As a means of improving standards and general knowledge of the rules, random assessments are being carried out. Any of the appointed Assessors may carry out Random Assessments on behalf of the Chief Referee's Sub-Committee. If Referees are found to be below the required standard they may be asked to re-train. For many, this will only require the attendance at an appropriate referees course and re-assessment.

On successful random assessment, referees will be required to present themselves for re-assessment after a period of 2 years.

Qualified Referees' List.

This list is constantly changing, usually as referees gain higher Grades and as new Referees enter the system. Occasionally there is a need to downgrade referees. The latest list of graded referees is maintained by the Refereeing Administrator. The easiest way to view a recent list is either through the latest BCU Canoe Polo Committee Newsletter or on the web site at: <http://www.canoe polo.org.uk/>
Referees who's re-assessment is more than two years overdue will be removed from the list.

The current list contains a number of Grade 1T's. These Referees were personally appointed directly by the Chief Referee, whilst in post, or on advice of other senior Referees. It is hoped they will all attain Grade 1 status within their two year time limit or they will have to be down graded to Grade 2, which would be unfortunate since our sport is in desperate need of more higher graded Referees.

You will also note the very small number of official Time Keepers. There are many people doing this job and it isn't too difficult to become an Official Time Keeper. There is a very short and relatively easy exam which can either be taken individually or in conjunction with a Grade 4 or 3 Referees Course.

Players Learning the Rules.

Players of all abilities are welcome to attend any Referees course for the fee of only £5. Their attendance will be registered and they will no doubt make better players having attended.

There is no exam for players.

REFEREES COURSES FOR THE 2004/05 SEASON.

To formalise the administration of Referees' Courses it is the Polo Committee's intention to run courses throughout the 2004/05 Season. The dates for 2004 are shown below. Dates for 2005 have not been finalised yet, they will be published on the web site in the near future.(www.canoepolo.org.uk)

These dates will be the only Referees' Courses to be held over this competitive year. Each course will be run for Grades 2, 3 and 4 standards. Two experienced Referees will deliver the course to ensure that all standards of referees are catered for.

The dates and location of the 2004/05 Referees' Courses are as follows:-

- Saturday 4th September Erith (Near M25 Dartford Crossing)
- Sunday 5th December Scunthorpe.
- Sunday 12th December Cwmfelinfach, Crosskeys, Wales

The full details of venues will be forwarded to attendees on application for the course. Each course will address the theory side of refereeing. Successful candidates will then have one year in which to complete their practical assessment in order to fully qualify as a referee. Grade 1T and 1 courses will be organised subject to demand during the year.

The closing deadline for each Course is set as 2 weeks in advance. If you are intending to attend a Referees Course please complete the form below and return it to Paul Beverley, 40 Banks Avenue, Ackworth, West Yorkshire, WF7 7JU with a deposit of £5 (cheques payable to the BCU Polo Committee,) by the designated closing date.

Referees Course Attendance Form.

I,, will be attending the Referees Course Grade 2, 3 or 4*
(* Delete as appropriate)

being held onat

I enclose a cheque (payable to the BCU Canoe Polo Committee) for £5 as a deposit to secure my place on the above Course.

Signature: Date:

Contact Details of Attendee:

Postal Address :

..... Post Code:

Telephone No: E-Mail Address:

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E-mail joy@geoffreydavis.fsnet.co.uk

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E-mail anthonypell@aol.com

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BRITISH CANOE UNION DOPING CONTROL RULES

Definitions

In these rules:

‘Prohibited drugs’ means drugs and other substances that may be taken for the purpose of enhancing performance in sport or that are included in lists published from time to time by the International Olympic Association and/or the International Canoe Federation as being prohibited drugs and substances.

‘Doping’ means the taking of or distribution to an athlete of a prohibited drug.

‘Designated sampling officer’ means a person designated by the B.C.U. or a National Canoeing Association or an independent sampling officer appointed by a Sports Council or the International Canoe Federation for the purpose of collecting samples of a body fluid from athletes in the course of training or competing for testing for the presence of a prohibited drug.

1. Prohibition of doping.

1.1 Doping is prohibited

2. Submission to tests.

2.1 Any athlete shall, if requested by a designated sampling officer, submit to a doping control test.

2.2 Every athlete invited on to a B.C.U. National team or squad shall be required to sign a declaration agreeing to submit to testing before being allowed to participate in the said team or squad.

2.3 Any refusal or failure to submit to a doping control test when required to do so shall be treated as prima facie evidence of a contravention of Rule 1.1 and shall be reported to the B.C.U. Drugs Advisory Committee, who shall institute disciplinary procedures as if the test had been carried out and a positive result found.

2.4 The athlete concerned shall immediately be suspended from all B.C.U. or I.C.F. competitive events pending a decision under the disciplinary procedures.

2.5 The identification of a prohibited drug or of one of its metabolites, or the presence of specified amounts of endogenous substances subject to quantitative analysis in a body fluid shall be prima facie evidence of a condition of Rule 1.1 and disciplinary procedures will be instituted.

2.6 Any person assisting in the contravention of any provision of these Rules shall be presumed to have committed an offence against these Rules and may be subject to disciplinary action.

3. Sampling procedures.

3.1 Samples may be taken at any international or domestic competitive or squad training event for the management of which the B.C.U. or the I.C.F. is responsible or on other occasions as determined by the B.C.U. Sports Management Committee or Specialist Committee concerned.

3.2 The competitor shall provide a minimum of 100 ml of urine under the direct observation of the sampling officer. The sample shall be divided (either by the competitor or, if requested, by the sampling officer) into two parts. The first, the A sample, shall be approximately 2/3 of the total volume and the second part shall be approximately 1/3 of the total volume.

3.3 Both ‘A’ and ‘B’ samples shall be submitted to an I.O.C. accredited laboratory. The ‘A’ sample will be analysed for the presence of substances of the I.O.C. Doping Classes and Methods. The ‘B’ sample will be securely stored by the laboratory pending the results of the ‘A’ sample analysis. If the ‘A’ sample report is negative, the ‘B’ sample will be destroyed. However, if the ‘A’ sample is found to contain a substance of the I.O.C. Doping Classes or Methods, the ‘B’ sample shall be retained.

4. *Procedures following testing*

- 4.1 If the result of the test is positive the athlete concerned shall be notified immediately by the B.C.U. and shall be suspended from all B.C.U. competition pending an investigation by the B.C.U. Drugs Advisory Committee.
- 4.2 The reserve sample shall be tested by the Drugs Testing Unit, normally within 7 days of the notification to the athlete concerned of the result of the first test. The athlete or his or her nominee shall be offered the opportunity to attend at the testing laboratory on the date when the reserve sample is to be tested by the Drugs Testing Unit.
- 4.3 If the result of the test of the reserve sample is negative, the athlete concerned shall be notified accordingly and the suspension lifted and no further action shall be taken.
- 4.4 If the result of the testing of the reserve sample is positive the test results shall be taken as conclusive and the athlete concerned shall be informed immediately of this result.
- 4.5 The B.C.U. Drugs Advisory Committee shall investigate the circumstances at a meeting to be held within 28 days of the notification to the athlete concerned and he or she shall be invited to attend the meeting, or be represented and give an explanation of the circumstances. The athlete shall be informed that he or she may submit a written explanation prior to the meeting instead of or as well as attending in person.
- 4.6 The B.C.U. Drugs Advisory Committee shall consider the circumstances in the light of the explanation and any advice available from the Drugs Testing Unit as to the interpretation of the results and shall then decide whether a penalty should be imposed, and if so what penalty, and shall report its decision immediately to the Chief Executive of the B.C.U., stating the reasons for the conclusions it reached in the course of considering the circumstances and any explanation given by the athlete.
- 4.7 Where an athlete has refused or failed to attend to submit to a doping control test as requested under Rule 2.1 the B.C.U. Drugs Advisory Committee shall invite him or her to provide an explanation and shall proceed to consider the circumstances as if the results of tests had proved positive.

5. *Penalties*

The British Canoe Union's B.C.U. Drugs Advisory Committee may:

Decide to warn or reprimand the athlete **or**

Impose a period of suspension from any or all B.C.U. competitive events for a stipulated period **or**

Impose a period of suspension from any or all B.C.U. Competitive events up to and including a specified major championships **or**

Impose a life-time ban on participation in any or all B.C.U. Competitive events **or**

In addition to or instead of any of the above penalties, recommend to the B.C.U. Council of Management that the athlete should be suspended or expelled from B.C.U. membership.

6. *Subsequent procedures*

- 6.1 The Chief Executive of the B.C.U., (or an officer delegated by him), shall, within 7 days of being notified by the Drugs Advisory Committee of its decision and its conclusions, notify to the athlete the decision and conclusions of the B.C.U. Drugs Advisory Committee and the date when any penalty imposed or recommended under Rules 5.2, 3, 4 or 5 will become operative and that he or she has a right of appeal against the decision within 14 days to the B.C.U. Council by sending to the Chief Executive of the B.C.U. a written statement setting out the grounds of the appeal. The B.C.U. Council or Standing Committee appointed by Council under Rule 6.3 shall meet within 30 days of receipt of the appeal. Where an appeal is made any penalty imposed shall be treated as in abeyance pending consideration of the appeal by the B.C.U. Council.

- 6.2 The decision of the B.C.U. Council shall be final, and shall be notified to the Sports Council and the I.C.F., and the name of the offender and the penalty imposed may be published.
- 6.3 The B.C.U. Council's function under Rules 6.2, and 6.3 may be performed by a standing committee appointed for the purpose under Article 42 of the B.C.U. Articles of Association.
7. **Application to members** of C.A.N.I., S.C.A. or W.C.A. or other governing bodies of sport recognised by the Sports Council and/or the Central Council of Physical Recreation and/or the I.C.F.
- 7.1 Where the athlete is a member of the Canoe Association of Northern Ireland, the Scottish Canoe Association, the Welsh Canoeing Association or governing body of sport as defined above, the outcome shall be reported to that Association or governing body of sport with a view to their applying a comparable penalty to competitive events for which they are the governing body.
8. **Application of a decision** under the Drugs Control Rules of C.A.N.I., S.C.A. or W.C.A. or other governing bodies of sport recognised by the Sports Council and/or the Central Council of Physical Recreation and/or the I.C.F.
- 8.1 Where the B.C.U. is notified by the Canoe Association of Northern Ireland, the Scottish Canoe Association or the Welsh Canoeing Association or governing body of sport as defined above of the outcome of comparable disciplinary proceedings against a B.C.U. member, a comparable penalty shall apply to B.C.U. competitive events.
- 8.2 Any athlete who is suspended or banned from competition by any governing body of sport or who has been suspended or expelled from that organisation for offences against the rules for the control of doping within that sport shall not be eligible for participation in competitive events held under B.C.U. rules.



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Entries & Further Information Please Contact

Leigh Rowland
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Lower Lamphey Road,
Pembroke
SA71 4AG

Tel: 01646 687452
E-mail: leighrowland@aol.com

Hywel Whittaker
Canglton
Windmill Lane
Cowbridge
Valle of Glamorgan
CF71 7HX

Tel: 07785 371 705
E-mail: Hywel@gemindigitalcolour.co.uk

Provisional Date For 2005 6th & 7th August

Great Britain National Squads

The Canoe Polo Committee currently supports four National Squads - for Senior Men and Women and Under 21 Men and Women - reflecting the classes of competition at which Championships are organised at World and European level.

In 2004 World Championships are being held in the city of Miyoshi, Japan in July. The Great Britain teams face two contrasting challenges.

The men will be attempting to retain their World Champions status for the third consecutive occasion. They became World Champions in Brazil in 2000 and repeated the feat in Germany in 2002.

The women will be striving to improve on the fifth place they gained in 2002.

National Squad selection weekends for all four squads are normally held in the late autumn. Those selected then face a demanding six to eight months

Through the winter squad training weekends are held monthly using facilities at Hatfield (near Doncaster), The Burrs, (Bury) and Liverpool.

In the spring and summer the commitment becomes bi-weekly, the training weekends being interspersed with participation in three or four international tournaments, (traditionally including Charleroi and Mechelen in Belgium and Essen, Germany).

The training weekends and tournaments enable the Coaches whittled down the Squads to the eight players who will represent Great Britain at that year's Championships.

The Coaches face a similar commitment to the players. Appointments are made for a two-year period, encompassing a European and World Championships. The 2003/2004 Coaches are Mike Moffitt (Senior Men), Dianne Ratcliff (Senior Women), Matthew Morris (Under 21 Men) and Aaron Fear-Ross (Under 21 Women).

The coaching positions for 2005 and 2006 will be advertised in the summer of 2004, with interviews taking place in the early autumn. Those appointed will face preparing teams for the 2005 European Championships (being held in Spain) and the 2006 World Championships (Holland).

But the Men's and Women's Senior teams will also be hoping to be represent Great Britain at the 2005 World Games, being held in Germany, Canoe polo having been included in the programme of this prestigious multi-sport games for the first time. (Places at the Games will be allocated to the top six teams from this year's World Championships).

Although the Polo Committee faces the continuing challenge of supporting the European and World Championships, in the coming two years it is intended that particular attention will be paid to under 18 and under 16 development. Plans for 2005 have still to be finalised, but there is increasing recognition of the need to apply resources to working with these age groups, with these initiatives eventually taking place on a regional, rather than a wholly national, basis.



Revised Top Ten World Rankings
(2000 Rankings in brackets).

Men

1st	Great Britain	(1st)
2nd	The Netherlands	(2nd)
3rd	Germany	(3rd)
4th	Italy	(4th)
5th	Australia	(5th)
6th	France	(6th)
7th	Spain	(8th)
8th	Chinese Taipei	(---)
9th	Switzerland	(10th)
10th	Belgium	(---)

Women

1st	Germany	(1st)
2nd	France	(3rd)
3rd	Australia	(5th)
4th	Japan	(4th)
5th	Great Britain	(2nd)
6th	New Zealand	(7th)
7th	Italy	(---)
8th	Ireland	(6th)
9th	The Netherlands	(---)
10th	Spain	(---)

Under 21 Men

1st	Germany
2nd	The Netherlands
3rd	Italy
4th	France
5th	Ireland
6th	Chinese Taipei
7th	Spain
8th	Great Britain
9th	Belgium
10th	Brazi

Under 21 Women

1st	Germany
2nd	Poland
3rd	Japan
4th	Great Britain
5th	France

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EUROPEAN AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

The results of all European and World Championships held to date are as follows:-

Men

European Championships

1993	Germany	beat	Great Britain	
1995	Great Britain	beat	France	
1997	France	beat	Great Britain	
1999	France	beat	Great Britain	
2001	Germany	beat	Great Britain	
2003	The Netherlands	beat	Germany	(Great Britain 3rd)

World Championships

1994	Australia	beat	Germany	(Great Britain 3rd)
1996	Australia	beat	Italy	(Great Britain 5th)
1998	Australia	beat	Great Britain	
2000	Great Britain	beat	The Netherlands	
2002	Great Britain	beat	The Netherlands	

Women

European Championships

1993	Germany	beat	Great Britain	
1995	Germany	beat	Great Britain	
1997	Great Britain	beat	France	
1999	Germany	beat	Great Britain	
2001	Great Britain	beat	Germany	
2003	Germany	beat	France	(Great Britain 3rd)

World Championships

1994	Australia	beat	Great Britain	
1996	Great Britain	beat	Australia	
1998	Australia	beat	Great Britain	
2000	Germany	beat	Great Britain	
2002	Germany	beat	France	(Great Britain 5th)

Men's Under 21

European Championships

1999	Great Britain	beat	France	
2001	France	beat	Germany	(Great Britain 4th)
2003	Germany	beat	The Netherlands	(Great Britain 6th)

World Championships

2002	Germany	beat	The Netherlands	(Great Britain 8th)
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Women's Under 21

European Championships

1999	France	beat	Great Britain	
2001	Germany	beat	France	(Great Britain 3rd)

World Championships

2002	Germany	beat	Poland	(Great Britain 4th)
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BCU CANOE POLO RULES

The following are the BCU Rules, revised slightly for the start of the 2003/2004 National Leagues Season, which are based on the International Canoe Federation Rules V5.00 dated 14th January 2003. The ICF Rules have been left intact in so far as is reasonably possible to help all referees and players understand how the game is played at International level.

Changes to the Rules introduced for 2003/04 are **highlighted**.

The ICF have not announced changes for 2004/5 at the time of going to press and it is assumed that the latest version of the rules will be ratified at the ICF Polo Committee's meeting in Japan in July 2004. Following this it is likely that the full ICF Committee will approve the new rules and that any changes will be implemented from 2005 onwards. Please check the website: canoepolo.org.uk for changes. The BCU will implement changes made by the ICF as soon as practically possible, but not mid season.

In accordance with tradition, the following markings will be used to indicate a change for domestic BCU competition compared with the pure ICF rules:-

- When text is UNDERLINED it will be an ICF rule which is relaxed for domestic BCU competition.
- When text is **BOLD & ITALICS** it will be a BCU addition to the ICF rules, or an interpretation for clarity of a particular rule, to be applied in all events organised by the BCU Canoe Polo Committee.

Players and Referees should be aware that all the rules (not including Bold & Italics) contained here can be enforced in International events, particularly those that are sanctioned as ICF Tournaments. Players should understand there may be zero tolerance on things like playing equipment and team identification.

Useful abbreviations / definitions

BCU	British Canoe Union
CPC	Canoe Polo Committee
DOP	Direction of Play
GPS	Goal Penalty Shot
ICF	International Canoe Federation
L&T	Leading & Trailing
Balls Out of Play	Side Line, Goal Line & Corners
Free Throw	The ball has to be passed before a direct shot at goal can be taken.
Free Shot	The player taking the throw may shoot directly at goal if they wish.
Leading Ref.	Referee in front of the main action of the game.
Trailing Ref.	Referee following behind the main action of the game.

Changed Rules for 2003

The following rules were changed or introduced by the ICF in Version 5.00 dated 14th January 2003:-

Paragraphs 2.2, 2.4, 4.3, 4.4, 11.2, 16.3, 16.5, 21.5, 24.1.2, 24.2.1, 24.2.2, 26.1, 28.2, 28.3, 29.1, 30.3, 30.6, 31.1, 31.2, 31.5, 35, 35.1, 35.2, 35.3, 35.4, 35.5, 41.1.3, 41.2.1, 41.7, 41.7.1, 41.7.2, 42.1, 42.2, 42.4, 42.5, 42.6, 44.2, 46.1, and 47.2.

ICF Rules Version 5.00 ~ CHAPTER 3 GAME REGULATIONS

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47.	TAKING A TIEBREAKER SHOT

1. PLAYING AREA

- 1.1. The playing area shall be rectangular, and have a length of thirty-five (35) metres and a width of twenty-three (23) metres. The Immediate-Surround of the playing area shall be an unobstructed area of water, with where possible a minimum width of one metre outside all boundaries. *A 33m swimming pool will be the minimum permissible for National League fixtures.*
- 1.2. The water throughout the playing area must be still water at least ninety (90) centimetres deep.
- 1.3. There must be a clear height of at least three (3) metres without obstacles, and a minimum ceiling height of five (5) metres, above the playing area.
- 1.4. There shall be a walkway on each side of the playing area kept clear for the referees.

2. PLAYING AREA BOUNDARIES AND MARKERS

- 2.1. The longer boundaries are to be referred to as the sidelines, the shorter boundaries as the goal lines.
- 2.2. The sidelines and goal lines are to be indicated by a floating lane rope. *The Pool side may be used as the Side line if required. The section of the goal line four (4) metres either side of the centre of the goal frame should be free from floats so as not to interfere with the positioning of the goalkeeper.*
- 2.3. Markers indicating the goal lines, half way line and points six (6) metres and four-and-half (4.5) metres from each goal line are to be placed along the sidelines, and be clearly visible to both referees and players. *The 4.5m mark is for Tiebreaker Shoot-Out. (see Diagram L&T 3b).*
- 2.4. *Markers indicating the substitute-areas are to be placed on the goal lines four metres either side of the centre of the goal frame, and be clearly visible to both referees and players.*

3. GOALS

- 3.1. Goals will be located over the centre of each goal line with their lower inside edge two (2) metres above the surface of the water. The goals are to be held in such a way that they are prevented from swinging. The goal supports and nets should not interfere with any player defending or manoeuvring around the goal area, or with the flight of the ball in the area of play.
- 3.2. The goals will consist of open frames one (1) metre high by one and a half (1.5) metres wide (measured internally) hung vertically. The maximum width of a material used to construct the goal frame will be five (5) centimetres. The goals are to have nets, which allow the ball to pass freely through the goal frame but indicate clearly that a goal has been scored. The frame must be red and white striped each stripe being of 20 centimetres length.

4. THE BALL

- 4.1. The ball shall be round and shall have an air chamber with a self-closing valve. It shall be waterproof, without external strapping or any covering of grease or similar substance.
- 4.2. The weight of the ball shall be not less than four hundred (400) grams and not more than four hundred and fifty (450) grams.
- 4.3. For games played by men, *under-21 men and master men*, the circumference of the ball shall not be less than sixty-eight (68) centimetres and not more than seventy-one (71) centimetres, and its pressure shall be 90-97 kPa (kilo Pascal's) (13-14 pounds per square inch atmospheric).

- 4.4. For games played by women, **under-21 women and master women**, the circumference of the ball shall not be less than sixty-five (65) centimetres and not more than sixty-seven (67) centimetres, and its pressure shall be 83-90 kPa (kilo Pascal's) (12-13 pounds per square inch atmospheric).

Size 5 Water Polo Balls will be used for Open Class, and Size 4 Water Polo Balls will be used for Ladies and Youth Classes.

5. GAME OFFICIALS

- 5.1. The game officials shall consist of two (2) referees, two (2) goal line judges, one (1) scrutineer, two (2) timekeepers and one (1) scorekeeper.
- 5.1.1. Depending on the degree of importance games can be controlled by teams of between three (3) and eight (8) officials. Where there are only three (3) game officials, two (2) shall be the referees who shall take on the additional duties of the goal line judges and the scrutineer and one timekeeper taking over the duties of the timekeepers and scorekeeper.

6. REFEREES

- 6.1. The referees shall be in absolute control of the game. Their authority over the players shall be effective during the whole time that they and the players are within the competition area.
- 6.2. All decisions of the referees on questions of fact shall be final and their interpretation of the rules shall be obeyed throughout the game. No protest or appeal can be made in relation to an interpretative decision of a referee. The referees shall not make any presumption as to the facts of any situation during the game but shall interpret what they observe to the best of their ability.
- 6.3. The referees shall whistle to start and restart the game and to declare goals, goal line **and side line** throws, corner throws, infringements of the rules and time-outs. A referee may alter their decision provided they do so before the ball is put back into play. The referee must ensure that before the game is restarted that in their sole discretion neither team is disadvantaged.
Limiting the time in which referees may change their minds could inconvenience out of positioned players.
- 6.4. The referees shall have the power to order any player or team official from the playing area in accordance with the appropriate rule and to abandon the game should a player refuse to leave the playing area when so ordered.
- 6.5. The referees shall have the power to order the removal from the competition area any player, team-official or other person whose behaviour prevents the referees from carrying out their duties in a proper and impartial manner.
- 6.6. The referees shall have the power to abandon the game at any time if, in their opinion, the behaviour of the players, team-officials or other circumstances prevent it from being brought to a proper conclusion. If the game has to be abandoned the referees shall report their actions to the Chief Official.

From ICF Chapter 2 Rule 30.9.4 - Referees should provide their own equipment; the dress of referees is an appropriate black shirt and shorts or trousers. Referees should also wear sports shoes or appropriate alternatives.

7. GOAL LINE JUDGES

- 7.1. The goal line judges shall be situated on the opposite side to the table-officials, one on each goal line.
- 7.2. The duties of the goal line judges shall be to signal by:
 - 7.2.1. Raising a green flag **or hand** when the players are correctly positioned on their respective goal lines at the start of a period;
 - 7.2.2. Raising a red flag **or hand** to indicate the ball is out of play by crossing the goal line. (Goal line-throw, corner-throw, goal);
 - 7.2.3. Waving a red flag **or hand** for an improper start or restart;
 - 7.2.4. Waving a red flag **or hand** for an improper re-entry of an excluded player or improper entry of a substitute.

For a sent-off player, the Time Keeper informs the Goal Linesmen of the end of exclusion and then the Goal Linesman informs the player. The player is then allowed to re-enter the playing area immediately subject to the conditions for Entry to the Playing area, Re-Entry and Substitution (28).

- 7.3. Each goal line judge shall be provided by the Organising Committee with a supply of balls and when the original ball has gone outside the field of play, they shall immediately throw a new ball to the goalkeeper (for a goal throw), to the nearest player of the attacking team (for a corner throw), or as otherwise directed by the referee.

The Goal Linesmen must ensure that substitutes do not interfere with play. If in their opinion a substitute does interfere, or remains in the "Subs No Waiting Area" (see diagrams for L&T) directly behind the goal, then they should draw this to the attention of the referee who will then deal with the matter with at least a Green Card.

The Goal Linesmen must ensure a player being substituted has entirely left the Playing Area with the whole of their kayak before the substitute may enter the playing field.

8. SCRUTINEER

- 8.1. The scrutineer will be responsible for checking the equipment of all players before and during their game. They may also check equipment at any other time during a competition.

The BCU Canoe Polo Committee, National Leagues Organiser, National League Secretaries, or relevant Competition Organising Committee may appoint a Scrutineer for any applicable event.

9. TIMEKEEPERS

- 9.1. The timekeepers shall be situated at the official's table.
- 9.2. The duties of the timekeepers shall be to:
 - 9.2.1. Record the exact periods of playing time, timeouts and the intervals between the periods;
 - 9.2.2. Control the periods of time-outs and to signal the period by raising a red flag / hand, except that a referee shall signal the end of a time-out;
 - 9.2.3. Record the send-off times of players ordered from the playing area in accordance with the rules, together with the re-entry times of such players or their substitutes;

If a Time-Out is called, or an interval (half time or extra half time) occurs, while a player is serving a send-off period then the timing of the send-off must also be stopped for the duration of the Time-Out or interval. The send-off period will continue when the game is restarted.

- 9.2.4. Control the periods of exclusion of players and to signal the end of the period of exclusion by a visual electronic device or by raising and waving a green flag / hand;

The Timekeeper adjudicates the length of the send-off, and signals to the Goal Linesmen when the send-off period has expired.

- 9.3. A timekeeper shall signal by any means provided it is distinctive, acoustically efficient and readily understood, the end of each period independently of the referees and their signal shall take immediate effect except in the case of the simultaneous award by a referee of a goal penalty shot, in which event the goal penalty shot shall be taken in accordance with the rules;
- 9.3.1. The first timekeepers shall perform the duties stated in 9.2.1 and 9.2.2 and the second timekeeper shall perform 9.2.3 and 9.2.4.

10. SCOREKEEPER

- 10.1. The scorekeeper shall be situated at the official table.
- 10.2. The duties of the scorekeeper shall be to:
- 10.2.1. Record the awarded goals and maintain the scoreboard during the game;
- 10.2.2. Maintain the record of the game, including the players, the score, time-outs, green, yellow and red cards awarded against each player.

The Scorekeeper should draw attention to the referee by suitable means (such as waving their hand) to indicate a player has accumulated either three (3) Green Cards (= Yellow Card) or two (2) Yellow Cards (= Red Card) including the one currently being issued as applicable.

11. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- 11.1. 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 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.

From ICF Chapter 2 article 21.1.3 - Up to 10 players may be used for each team as a squad, but a maximum of 8 may be on the water for any game with up to 5 permitted on the actual playing area at any time.

- 11.2. **The list of players names and numbers for a game must be handed to the appropriate official before the time indicated by the Competition Committee.**

12. ANTI-DOPING

- 12.1. Doping as defined in the Olympic Movement Anti-Doping Code is strictly forbidden. Doping control shall be conducted in accordance with the ICF Doping Control regulations under the supervision of the ICF Medical Committee. *See also BCU Doping Control Rules in this Yearbook.*

13. IDENTIFICATION

- 13.1 All players must have kayaks with the decks of the same colour, spray decks of the same colour, outmost body covering of the same colour, helmets of the same colour and shirts of the same colour. ***All players must comply with the wearing of shirts.***
- 13.2 Where a solid colour(s) is used for the hull of the kayak, the kayaks of all players of the team must match this. In the case of clear hull kayaks the presence of carbon fibre or other integral materials within the construction will not be deemed as affecting the overall colour of the hull.
- 13.3 If the referee or scrutineer determines there is inadequate distinction between the teams, the first named team on the game sheet will be required to change their body identification colours.
- 13.4 The players of the team shall be numbered from 1 to 99. This number shall be displayed on the body covering and on the helmet.

Players are advised not to order new Body Protection vests from manufacturers which have numbers either zero (0) or above Fifteen (15), in case of any rule changes regarding this matter.

- 13.5 The numbers will be clearly legible to the referees from anywhere on the field and must clearly individually identify each player in a team. A number at least 20 cm high must be on the back of the body. A number at least 10 cm height must be on the front of the body. Numbers at least 7.5 cm high must be on each side of the helmet. The captain of each team shall be distinguished from the rest of the team by an armband.

14. KAYAKS

- 14.1. One kayak, approved by the scrutineer, per player.
For full specifications on kayaks and padding - ***see section on Kit Specifications.***

Width 50-60cm, Length 2-3metres (not including bumpers), minimum weight when dry 7Kg and approved by the BCU Canoe Polo Committee.

15. PADDLES

- 15.1. One double-bladed paddle, approved by the scrutineer, per player.
For full specifications on paddles - ***see section on Kit Specifications.***

Length 220cm max, blade area 50x25cm max, edges 5mm thick min, Radii in plan 30mm min, no bolt on or rivetted metal edges to the blades.

16. PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

- 16.1. Each player must wear one ***CE*** helmet with facemask, approved by the scrutineer.
For full specifications on helmet and facemasks - ***see section on Kit Specifications.***

All Helmets must be of a CE Approved design and construction without exception.

- 16.2. Body protection, approved by the scrutineer, must be worn.
For full specifications on body protection - ***see section on Kit Specifications.***

Body Protection should have a minimum of external fasteners and in any case should not risk injury to either the wearer or other players through accidental contact. Loose loops or buckles of any description, whistles, knives, or other WW aids are not permitted to be attached to the Body Protection.

- 16.3 A shirt with sleeves, which at least covers the mid upper arm, must be worn. The players shall not have grease, oil or any similar substance **on their arms and neck**. *Division 1 in each National class must have matching colour shirts. All others must wear a shirt (any colour), but should try to work towards a single team colour.*
- 16.4 Beside the equipment and clothing listed above, personal clothing and effects, and a spray deck for the player is permitted. Extra protective equipment on the hands, forearm and elbows is permitted provided it is firm fitting, securely attached and with no sharp edges such that they do not endanger any other player. No other equipment is permitted. A player must not wear any items (such as jewellery) that can endanger either the wearer or any other player.

The wearing of any jewellery is strictly forbidden and includes items such as rings, bracelets (including friendship bands) necklaces and earrings. Non removable rings with no protruding gems may be taped up.

- 16.5 Players may not apply any greasy substances **to their equipment**.

17. TRADE-MARKS AND ADVERTISING SYMBOLS

- 17.1. Boats, accessories and sportswear may carry trademarks, advertising symbols, and words.
- 17.2. All advertising material should be placed in such a way that it does not interfere with competitors identification and does not affect the outcome of the game
- 17.3. Trademarks, advertising symbols and words must be identical and in the same position on the kayaks and clothing of all players.
- 17.4. Paddles may carry trademarks, advertising-symbols and words.
- 17.5. The advertising of tobacco smoking and strong spirit drinks will not be accepted.
- 17.6. The Organising Committee of an international competition has the right to advertise during the competition on the kayaks of the players. The advertising symbols must be in a rectangular area between 40cm and 70cm from the front of the kayak. The advertising symbols must fit in a rectangular area of 30cm by 15cm. The advertisement may appear twice in the advertising area of the kayak.
- 17.7. The guidelines for any advertising material carried on the clothing and equipment of the players should be as follows:
- 17.7.1. The ICF and National Federations organising an ICF competition should not engage in exclusive sponsorship advertising.
- 17.7.2. Any boat, accessory, or article of sportswear, which does not comply with the above mentioned conditions will be ineligible for use during a competition. Teams are responsible for ensuring their own equipment meets these rules and regulations.

18. EXCHANGING EQUIPMENT

- 18.1. Each player is permitted to leave the playing area and exchange any piece of equipment, at any time during the game, provided the equipment has been approved by the scrutineer. The player concerned must collect equipment being exchanged from their substitutes area.

The Referee must dismiss from the Playing Area any player in breach of the Game Regulations at the first break in play once the Referee is aware of the infringement. The player will then be free to exchange equipment and re-enter the Playing Area, or send on a substitute, subject to the rules of entry to the Playing Area. The Dismissal is likely to be for equipment failure such as defective padding or dangerously damaged boat, paddles or other personal equipment.

19. SCRUTINEERING

- 19.1. Players' equipment is subject to scrutineering before, during or after a game.

A referee must dismiss from the playing area, once aware of the infringement, any player whose equipment is in breach of the rules, either at the first break in play or direct if the equipment has become dangerous for the players

Scrutineers may be referees appointed either by the BCU Canoe Polo Committee, League Organiser or Chief Referee.

20. PLAYING TIME

- 20.1. Playing time shall be two (2) periods each of ten (10) minutes, unless extra periods need to be played or a tiebreaker shoot-out has to take place. The minimum playing time will be seven (7) minutes each way. *The minimum Playing time will be 6 minutes each way.*
- 20.2. The half time interval shall normally be three (3) minutes. The minimum half time interval will be one (1) minute.
- 20.3. The teams shall change ends after each period of play.
- 20.4. The referee may call time-out during the playing time. The timekeeper will stop the clock when the referee signals for time-out and restart the clock when the referee restarts the game with a whistle.

21. TIME-OUT - Signal 7 Applies

- 21.1. The referee shall use a triple whistle to stop the game for time-out.
- 21.2. Time-out must be given if a capsized player or their equipment is interfering with play.
- 21.3. Time-out should be used immediately when game regulations are dangerously breached or if field equipment needs correction or adjustment. (for example, endangering another player due to a broken paddle).
- 21.4. Time-out should be used if any injury has occurred, or a player is illegally on the field, provided this does not disadvantage the other team.
- 21.5. Time-out must be used after a goal is scored, or a goal-penalty-shot or *referee's ball* is awarded, or for any other incidences at the discretion of the referee.
- 21.6. If the referee has stopped the game, not during a break in play and where neither team was at fault (e.g. referee error, faulty goals, injury) the play will be restarted with a free throw to the team that last had possession. Where time-out was given for a capsized player the opposition is given a free throw to restart. If the referee cannot determine who had possession at the time of the whistle, the referee will restart the game with a referee's ball. Signal 8 applies.

22. CHOICE OF END

- 22.1. The first named team on the game sheet will start on the goal line at the left-hand side of the official table unless one of the captains or the Chief Official request a toss of a coin to determine the choice of ends.

23. COMMENCEMENT OF PLAY

The First Referee should check that the other Referee, Timekeeper and Scorekeeper and the Goal-Line Controllers are ready.

- 23.1. At the beginning of each period of play, five (5) players will line up ready to start, stationary and with some part of their kayaks on their own goal line.

If a 33m pool is used then all players will be required to line up at the start of each period with some part of their kayak touching the back wall. In normal play the boundary will be played to the goal line.

Once both of the Goal-Line Controllers are indicating the teams are ready to start the 1st Referee then blows the whistle to start play. In preparing to blow whistle, avoid indicating to the players that the whistle is about to blow.

- 23.2. The referee will blow the whistle to start play and then release or throw the ball into the centre of the playing area.

Referees should immediately check the Goal-Line Controllers. They should indicate a start infringement if any paddler moved off the goal-line before the whistle was blown.

- 23.3. If the ball is released or thrown giving one team definite advantage, the referee shall call for the ball and shall restart for the commencement of play.

- 23.4. Physical assistance from other players is not allowed on the player attempting for the ball. Infringement incurs a free throw. Signals 1 and 14 apply.

- 23.5. Only one player from each team may make an attempt to gain possession of the ball. Any other player that accompanies the player attempting for the ball must not be within a radius of three (3) metres from the body of the player attempting for the ball. Infringement incurs a free throw. Signals 1 and 14 apply. *This change of rule is to clarify the situation of only 1 player making an attempt for the ball at the start of each half.*

24. BALL OUT OF PLAY - Free Throw

The referee is able to penalise a player who deliberately bounces the ball on opponent's boats to gain sideline, corner or goal-line throws. This action is considered dangerous and will be penalised with a Green Card. Signals 7 and 17 apply.

- 24.1. Sideline and overhead obstacle: When any part of the ball touches the physical sideline or the vertical plane of the physical sideline, or touches any overhead obstacle, the team that was not the last to touch it with their paddle, kayak or person is awarded a sideline-throw. Signals 5 and 14 apply.

In the situation where a low overhead obstacle (such as the with the overhead wires at Coventry Pool) can risk interfering with the normal flight of the ball, a sideline-throw will be taken by the team who was in the process of passing the ball (or paddle flicking etc) at the time the ball hit the obstruction if it drastically changes the flight of the ball.

If the ball is thrown and then deflects off an opponents equipment e.g. paddles etc, then a sideline throw will be awarded against the team who touched the ball last (therefore the instance would be treated as a low ceiling - Side Line Ball). Signal 5 and 14 apply.

- 24.1.1. If the physical sideline is moved out of position as a consequence of normal play, the boundary moves with it.

This makes it clear for players and Referees to determine the true boundary when floating ropes are used.

- 24.1.2. Sideline-throw. The player taking the throw must position their **kayak** at the point of exit of the ball or the point of the sideline nearest to the point of contact of an overhead-obstacle.
- 24.2. Goal-line: Either a goal-line or corner throw will be awarded when any part of the ball touches the vertical plane of the front of the goal frame between the corner markers, except where a ball rebounds off the goal frame (not the goal supports) into the playing area or where a goal is scored.

For venues where it is not physically possible to have a floating goal-line directly in-line with the front face of the goal, the ball will be considered out of play when any part of it passes the front vertical plane of the goal frame.

A floating Goal Line rope will simply be used to visually separate the playing area from the substitutes area.

- 24.2.1. Goal line throw: When the ball goes out over the team's own goal line and has been last touched by the other team then a goal line throw will be awarded. Signals 6 and 14 apply. **The player taking the throw must be positioned with their kayak on the goal line**
- 24.2.2. Corner-throw: When the ball goes out over the team's own goal line and was last touched by their own team (defending team) then a corner throw will be awarded. Signals 5 and 14 apply. The player taking the throw **must be positioned with their kayak** in the corner of the playing area.

If the side of the pool is being used as the sideline, then the player taking the corner throw should position themselves directly parallel to the side of the pool.

The referee not controlling the corner thrower should be looking for illegal tackles and obstruction under the goal or out in the general area of play at that time.

25. SCORING A GOAL

- 25.1. A team scores a goal when the whole of the ball passes through the plane of the front of the goal frame of their opponent's goal. If a goal is not rigidly fixed and moves, the ball must go through the goal frame. Signal 3 **and time-out applies**. The referee will indicate the number of the player scoring the goal to the scorekeeper. Signal 3 applies. ***In National Leagues and events of a lower standing, there will no Time-out following a goal being awarded.***
- 25.2. If the ball is prevented from entering a goal by either a defender's or substitute's paddle that enters the goal from behind, then a goal is awarded. (*see 29.2 below*)

26. RESTART AFTER GOAL - Free Throw

Both Referees stand at the centre line.

- 26.1. After a goal has been scored the team who have conceded the goal will take the restart throw. **The player taking the throw must be positioned with their kayak in the centre of the playing area.** The referee will blow the whistle to restart play. There is no requirement for the player to hold the ball above their head.
- 26.2. All players of both teams must start with their bodies in their own half.

Any player with their body not in a correct position is directed to move.

If any player then moves into the wrong position before the whistle they are penalised with a start infringement against that team (even the team who had the ball). Any further false starts will be penalised with a Green Card.

27. CAPSIZED PLAYER

- 27.1. If a player capsizes and leaves their kayak, the player may not take any further part in the play and must leave the playing area immediately, with all of their equipment. If a player who has capsized wishes to rejoin the game the player must do so according to the rules of entry to the field of play. No person may enter the playing area to assist a player with their equipment, and no-one may obstruct the referee while assisting a player. A team may be penalised during a game for any illegal outside assistance, or for any interference with the opposition that constitutes outside assistance. The referee to determine the severity of the sanction.

28. ENTRY TO THE PLAYING AREA, RE-ENTRY AND SUBSTITUTION

- 28.1. No more than the legally allowed number of players from a team may be on the playing area at any one time.
- 28.2. Substitutes must wait in **their own** substitutes area.

In general, substitutes are expected to sit in the side areas of the substitution area. Substitutes should consider the area within four metres either side of the goal frame as a "No Waiting Area" (see Diagram L&T) to avoid the possibility of interfering with players who wish to pass around the back of the goal as a normal part of the action of the game. Substitutes who persist in remaining in this area will be issued a Green Card. Signal 7 and 17 apply.

- 28.3. Exit and entry of players for substitution must be **anywhere along** the teams own goal line. The whole of the player's kayak must leave the playing area before the substitute may enter the playing area. Substitution is not allowed if any equipment for example a paddle or helmet remains on the playing area. Substitution is allowed at any time.
- 28.4. A player leaving the playing area solely as part of the action of the game is not subject to the conditions for re-entry.
- 28.5. A capsized player who has not left the playing area at their goal line may be substituted not earlier than the next break in play. All of the capsized players equipment (for example kayak and paddle) must be removed from the playing area before a substitution is allowed.

29. ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTION AND ENTRY TO THE PLAYING AREA

- 29.1. Where more than the legally allowed number of players from a team are in the playing area at any one time the player(s) coming illegally into the playing area should be given a yellow card(s), and the team **is required to play with one player less than they had before the player(s) came illegally into (the playing area) for the duration of the yellow card.** If it is not clear which player(s) should exit the playing area then the teams captain must nominate a player(s). Infringement incurs a sanction. Signal 7 and 14 apply.
- 29.2. In the event of a substitute placing their paddle in the playing area to prevent a goal from being scored, a goal penalty shot shall be awarded. The offending player should be penalised with a red card and the team must play with one less player on the playing area than they had prior to the offence occurring for the remaining time of the game. Infringement incurs a sanction. Signals 15, 16 and 7 apply.

The Captain will choose which players will remain on the playing area. The Substitute will be Red Carded along with one of the players of that team on the playing area at the time of the offence. Signals 7 (Time-out), 17 (Red Card) and signal 16 (Goal Penalty Shot) will apply.

30. ILLEGAL USE OF THE PADDLE - Free Shot

Signals 12 and 15 apply. The following are defined as illegal use of the paddle.

- 30.1. Contacting an opponent's person.
- 30.2. **Playing, or** attempting to play, the ball with a paddle when the ball is within arms reach of an opponent, and that opponent is attempting to play the ball with their hand.
- 30.3. Playing or attempting to play the ball with a paddle across the bow of an opponent's kayak, within arms reach of the opponent in a normal paddling position.

This is specifically to accept that this action is not dangerous when the opponent is not within arms reach of the ball, thus, no foul in this instance.

- 30.4. Placing a paddle within arms reach of an opponent who has the ball in their hand. A goalkeeper is excluded from this rule and is allowed to directly defend against a shot at goal as long as the paddle is not moved towards the opponent at the time of the shot and is not used in a deliberately dangerous manner.
- 30.5. When a player, with their paddle, attempts to restrict an opponent using their paddle.

30.6. Playing an opponents paddle instead of the ball.

- 30.7. Throwing a paddle.
- 30.8. Any other use of a paddle that endangers a player.

A player may not fend off any hand tackle with the paddle in any way.

31. ILLEGAL POSSESSION - Free Shot (except when failing to present ball)

31.1. Signals 11 and 15 apply. A player is in possession of the ball when they have the ball in their hand or are in a position to reach the ball with their hand, the ball being on the water and not in the air. A player balancing the ball on their paddle will also be considered to be in possession.

- 31.2. A player must dispose of the ball within five (5) seconds of gaining possession, either by passing it to another player or by performing one throw **causing the ball to travel at least one metre measured horizontally from the point of release.**
- 31.3. If a player shares possession with another player or the ball moves out of arms reach whilst being tackled, the five (5) seconds shall begin again once a player has regained possession.
- 31.4. A player who capsizes to the point of the whole of their body and head going under water is considered to have lost possession if they do not have the ball in their hand(s).
- 31.5. **A player may not manoeuvre their kayak with their hands or paddle whilst the ball is resting on their spray deck.**

32. ILLEGAL HAND TACKLE - Free Shot

Signals 10 and 15 apply. A Hand-Tackle is a player, with one open hand, pushing an opponent's back, upper arm or side. The following hand-tackles are illegal.

The action of pushing an opponent on their back is not considered to be dangerous.

- 32.1. Any hand-tackle where the tackled player does not have possession of the ball.
- 32.2. Any body contact other than an open hand to the back, upper arm or side.
- 32.3. Any hand-tackle, which endangers the tackled player.
- 32.4. A player may not fend off a tackle with the hand or forearm or with the movement of the elbow towards the hand-tackler.

Note: There is NO requirement for a Hand Tackled player to be in "Sole Possession". It is understood that a push against a boat or poolside is dangerous, but in general a push against a floating line is not seen as dangerous in itself.

33. ILLEGAL KAYAK TACKLE - Free Shot

Signals 10 and 15 apply. A kayak-tackle is a player manoeuvring their kayak against an opponent's kayak in an attempt to gain possession of the ball. The following kayak-tackles are illegal.

- 33.1. Any kayak-tackle that results in the tacklers kayak contacting the body of a player and/or endangering a player. The player's arm shall not be considered to be part of the body when any part of it is elevated away from the body.
- 33.2. Any kayak-tackle where the kayak comes in contact with the opponent's spray deck following a legal tackle will not be penalised unless the player continues to tackle into the spray deck.
- 33.3. When the ball is no longer in control of either player, they may move off each others kayak by using their hands to perform a controlled action on the opponents kayak.
- 33.4. A player in possession of the ball who fails to control the bow of their kayak and also fails to avoid contact with the body of an opponent.
- 33.5. Any hard tackle to the side of the kayak if it is at angles between eighty (80) and hundred (100) degrees and by momentary contact.
- 33.6. Tackling an opponent who is not within three (3) metres of the ball.
- 33.7. Tackling an opponent when the tackler is not competing for the ball.

34. ILLEGAL JOSTLE - Free Shot

Signals 10 and 15 apply. A jostle is a player manoeuvring their kayak against an opponent's kayak between the six (6)-metre lines and the goal line, to gain a position where neither player is attempting for the ball. The following jostling is illegal.

- 34.1. When a player is stationary or attempting to maintain a position and their body is moved by more than half a metre sustained contact from an opponent's kayak.
- 34.2. When the contact to the opponent's kayak would be defined as a kayak-tackle.
- 34.3. A player with the whole kayak behind the goal line may not be jostled, as they are not in the six (6) metre area.

35. ILLEGAL SCREEN - Free Shot

Signals 9 and 15 apply. An illegal screen is when a player actively impedes the progress of an opposing player, except where:

- 35.1. Both players are competing for the ball; or
- 35.2. The opposing player is in possession of the ball; or
- 35.3. The opposing player is within three (3) metres of the ball and is the nearest player to the ball, where the ball is on the water and not in the air; or
- 35.4. Both players are jostling within the six (6) metre area.
- 35.5. A player is considered to be actively impeding the progress of an opponent when their kayak is moving and/or they are attempting active paddle strokes.

Note that there is no longer a requirement to allow the opponent to go directly towards the goal.

36. ILLEGAL HOLDING - Free Shot

Signals 9 and 15 apply.

- 36.1. A player restricting the movement of an opposing player or gaining support or propulsion by placing their hand, arm, body or paddle on the kayak, or holding the opposing player or equipment.
- 36.2. A player using for propulsion or support, or moving out of place, any playing area equipment e.g. boundary markers, goal supports, or any surrounding object.

37. UNSPORTING BEHAVIOUR - Green Card

Signal 17 with a green card applies. The following is defined as unsporting behaviour:

- 37.1. Any infringement committed by a player during a break in play.
- 37.2. Hindering another player's attempt at righting themselves after capsizing. A player who is upside down must be allowed to get their head and both shoulders above the water before an opponent is allowed to attempt another tackle.
- 37.3. Interference with the equipment of an opponent. Such as holding or moving another player's paddle out of their reach, or deliberately preventing the player from regaining possession of the paddle.
- 37.4. Use of deliberate delaying tactics. Such as throwing the ball away, or deliberately obstructing the opposition, to delay a quick restart after an infringement.
- 37.5. Players showing dissent.
- 37.6. Retaliation.
- 37.7. Foul or abusive language.
- 37.8. Other unsporting behaviour to a player, referee or other official or behaviour considered detrimental to the game, at the discretion of the referee.

38. DEFENCE OF GOAL

- 38.1. The one defending player most directly under the goal, in order to defend the goal with the paddle is considered to be the goalkeeper at that time. The goalkeeper's body must be facing into the playing area and attempting to maintain a position within one metre of the centre of the goal line. If two or more players are directly under the goal, the player most directly under the goal is considered the goalkeeper at that time.
- 38.2. If the goalkeeper is not in possession of the ball and is moved or unbalanced by contact from an opposing player, then that player has committed an illegal tackle. Infringement incurs a sanction. Signals 10 and 15 apply.
- 38.3. If an attacker moves the goalkeeper by pushing a defender into the goalkeeper, where none of the defenders have possession of the ball, the attacker shall be penalised. If the defender has an opportunity to avoid contact with the goalkeeper after being pushed, but does not, the attacker will not be penalised.
- 38.4. If a defender pushes the attacker onto the goalkeeper, then the attacker should not be penalised. If the attacker has an opportunity to avoid contact with the goalkeeper after being pushed, but does not, the attacker will be penalised.

The intention of rules 38.3 and 38.4 is that players (both defenders and attackers) should make reasonable efforts to avoid contact with the goal keeper following a kayak tackled in the 6m area.

- 38.5. If an attacker, in possession of the ball, whose original direction or speed would not have led to contact with the goalkeeper is pushed onto the goalkeeper by a defender, the attacker will not be penalised.
- 38.6. A goalkeeper who is not in possession of the ball, but is attempting for the ball on the water, can be tackled like any other player. If the goalkeeper does not gain possession they will not regain goalkeeper status until the attacker has shot or passed the ball. After the attacker loses possession of the ball, the attacker must not actively impede the goalkeeper's attempt to regain or maintain their position.
- 38.7. Within the six (6) metre area, an attacker must not actively prevent a defender from taking the position as goalkeeper. A defender will be allowed to push an attacker with the kayak, in order to take the position of goalkeeper without penalty, unless dangerous play is used.

This does not allow goalkeepers to make an Illegal Kayak Tackle on an attacker who is stationary after the goalkeeper has already taken up position.

- 38.8. As soon as a team has control of the ball they can no longer be considered to be defending and thus cannot have a player defined as a goalkeeper.

39. REFEREE'S BALL - Time Out

- 39.1. A referee's ball will be declared when two or more players of opposing teams have one or more hands firmly on the ball, so that the players share possession of the ball for five (5) seconds. If initial contact is made directly with the ball, illegal holding will only apply if either player uses the opposition for support.
- 39.2. If the referee needs to stop the game, not during a break in play and where neither team is at fault (e.g. referee error, faulty goals, injury) and the referee cannot determine who had possession at the time of the whistle, the referee will restart the game with a referee's ball.
- 39.3. A referee's ball will be taken at the nearest point on the sideline to the incident. Where a referee's ball is awarded for an incident that occurs between the six (6) metre line and the goal line, the referee's ball will be held at the nearest six (6) metre line. Signal 8 and Time-out applies.

- 39.4. Two opposing players will line up at right angles to the sideline, on the side nearest their own goal line, near to the sideline where the situation occurred, one metre apart facing the referee. They will place their paddles on the water, but not between their kayaks and their hands on the deck of the kayak or on their paddle.
- 39.5. All other players must be at least three (3) metres away from the point between the two players participating in the referees ball. ***Other players who tackle opponents into this 3m area can be penalised with a Green Card and thus avoiding the need to carry out a referee's ball.***
- 39.6. The referee will throw the ball on the water between the players and blow the whistle to restart play. Both players must make an attempt for the ball with their hands as soon as it touches the water. The players must not play the ball before it hits the water. Infringement incurs a sanction. Signals 11 and 15 apply. ***If for any reason the ball is not throw in between the two players equally, then the referee's ball will be taken again.*** Signal 8 and Time-out applies.

Open play resumes once a player gains possession of the ball, so a direct shot at goal may be taken.

40 ADVANTAGE

- 40.1 The referees can allow play to continue when the team in possession is benefited by play continuing as a result of an infringement by an opponent, if neither referee has blown the whistle. The referee should recognise the illegal-play by signalling play-on. Signals 13 and 14 apply.

The Referee must not play advantage once a whistle has been blown.

When playing the Advantage rule, indicate this to the players and spectators by calling "Play-On" if possible.

- 40.2 The referee can penalise any player who causes an infringement for which advantage is played at the next break in play with a yellow or red card.

Normally advantage would be only used when a minor foul had taken place. This new rule allows a play-on situation and to then sanction the more serious foul as well.

In the case of very dangerous play, playing the advantage rule should be avoided. Instead use a Send Off Card and consider a Goal Penalty Shot if the incident is considered sever enough.

- 40.3 Advantage is to be indicated if there is no infringement but players think there is an infringement and have stopped play. (For example a whistle from another playing area, crowds etc.)

41 SANCTIONS

The referee can impose any combination of the following sanctions for illegal-play depending on the severity and/or frequency of offences being penalised. The referee may send a player off the playing area for varying periods depending on the severity and/or frequency of offence being penalised. Timing of send-offs is suspended for periods of time out or intervals of play.

- 41.1 Goal-penalty-shot. Signal 16 and time out applies.

- 41.1.1 A goal-penalty-shot will be awarded for any deliberate and/or dangerous offence in the six (6) metre area where a player is fouled in the act of shooting, or passing or positioning for a near certain goal. The act of shooting begins when a player has contact with the ball, with their hand or paddle, and is clearly attempting or preparing for a shot.

- 41.1.2 A goal-penalty-shot can be awarded for an offence where a player, outside the 6 metre area, is fouled in the act of shooting or passing or positioning for a near certain goal, whilst the goal is not otherwise defended if no attempt is made to avoid illegal play (deliberate) and/or an offence where paddle contact with the ball in the opponents hand or any illegal play that endangers the opposition occurs (dangerous).

41.1.3 A Goal Penalty Shot will be awarded for a deliberate and/or dangerous infringement on a player within the six (6) metre area who is attempting to take a free-shot.

Note that this rule allows for this to happen on the first infringement.

41.2 Free shot. Signal 15 applies.

41.2.1 A Free shot may be a direct shot at goal. General play resumes when the ball has travelled one metre horizontally or changed possession to another player of the team. A free shot will be awarded for offences where a goal-penalty-shot, **free throw**, corner throw, goal-line / side line throw, or a centre re-start has not been awarded.

Free Shots will be taken for: Illegal use of Paddle, Illegal Possession (not for failing to present ball), Illegal Hand / Kayak Tackles, Illegal Jostle / Screen / Holding

41.3 Free throw. Signal 14 applies.

41.3.1 A Free throw may not be direct at goal. General play resumes when the ball has travelled one metre horizontally or changed possession to another player of the team. A free throw will be awarded when a goal-penalty-shot or free shot has not been awarded.

Free Throws will be taken for: All balls out of play (Corner, Goal / Side Line), Start Infringements, Centre Restart and Illegal Possession - for failing to present ball only.

41.4 Player sent off for the rest of the game.
Signal 17 with a red card applies.

41.4.1 A red card must be awarded to a player receiving a second yellow card for any reason (see Rule 10 above).

41.4.2 A red card should be awarded when a yellow card is disputed or has not had the desired effect of causing the player to control their play or attitude.

41.4.3 A red card should be awarded if a personal attack on a player occurs.

41.4.4 A red card should be awarded for repeated and continuous foul or abusive language.

41.4.5 If a player is sent off for the rest of the game, the player cannot be replaced by a substitute.

41.5 Player sent off for two (2) minutes.
Signal 17 with a yellow card applies.

41.5.1 A yellow card must be awarded to a player receiving a third green card for any reason (see Rule 10 above).

41.5.2 A yellow card should be awarded for a deliberate and/or dangerous foul that prevents the scoring of a near certain goal where the referee feels that the awarding of only a free shot will not have the desired effect.

41.5.3 A yellow card should be awarded for dangerous illegal play, that is deliberate, repeated, or where no attempt is made to avoid dangerous play.

41.5.4 A yellow card should be awarded for repeated and continuous disputing of referee's decisions.

41.5.5 A yellow card should be awarded for foul or abusive language.

41.5.6 Players sent off must obey the rules of entry to the playing area for re-entry at the completion of the send-off period.

41.6 Warning.

Signal 17 with a green card applies (see **Rule 10**).

41.6.1 A green card should be awarded for deliberate unsporting behaviour of major influence to the state of the game.

41.6.2 A green card should be awarded for unnecessary verbal communication to the referee, dangerous play and/or unsporting behaviour.

Since Green Cards are counted as recording a pattern of bad behaviour of a player, Referees should ensure they are used in the same manner as a Yellow or Red in terms calling a Time-Out and then clearly indicating details to the score keeper including player number(s).

Process for Sending a Player Off with a Yellow or Red Card

- *Use a triple whistle to attract attention and Indicate a Time-Out, Signal 7 applies.*
- *The Timekeeper should acknowledge they have seen the Time-Out signal by raising their Red flag or arm.*
- *Issue the Appropriate Yellow or Red Send-Off Card.*
- *Show the card and player number (use a clenched fist to indicate 10 if required), to the Timekeeper and Scorekeeper, and wait for acknowledgement.*
- *The Scorekeeper should record the player's team and number and the duration of the send-off.*
- *Make sure the player leaves the Playing Area.*
- *The Referee uses the whistle to restart play with Signal 17. The Timekeeper should restart the clock at that time.*
- *At the end of the game the Referee (who carried out the sending off) must record the details of the send-off on the game sheet, and ensure the other Referee signs the sheet. This sheet must then be given to the Chief Referee. Normally the Tournament Organiser sends this on.*

If a sent-off player does re-enter the field without being signalled to do so by the Goal Linesmen, then as soon as the Referee is aware of it they shall stop the game, Send-Off the player for the rest of the game (using a Red Card) and award a Free-Throw to the opposition. If the sent-off player's team has scored any goals while the player has wrongly been on the Playing Area, those goals will be disallowed.

Players sent off with a red card, may not take part in a Tiebreaker Shoot-Out, and their team will lose that shot, and it will be treated as a miss. Players sent off with a yellow card may take part in a Tiebreaker Shoot-Out, no matter what point of the game they were sent off.

41.7 Team Warning.

Signal 17 with a green card applies. A team warning occurs when a referee awards a green card to all the players on a team.

41.7.1 A team warning will be awarded for repeated infringements of a particular offence by more than one player of the same team.

41.7.2 After a team warning has been given, a yellow card will be awarded to any player of that team for any subsequent infringement of the same offence.

Note that this is a sanction against teams who show a pattern of foul play.

42 TAKING THROWS

For a Free Throw, Free Shot, Side Line, Goal Line or Corner Throw only, the ball may cross over the boundary lines as part of the action of throwing the ball.

- 42.1 The player taking any goal line-throw, corner-throw, sideline-throw, free-throw or free-shot must hold the ball above their head, at arms length with their kayak stationary, before taking the throw. **The players initial throw must travel one metre measured horizontally from the point of release or changed possession to another player of the same team. Infringement incurs a sanction with the opposing team being awarded possession of the ball.** Signal 11 and 14 applies.

This rule allows the referee to punish players not presenting the ball and is taken as a Free Throw - the exception to the Illegal Possession Rule which is normally given as a Free Shot.

42.2 Free-throws, goal line-throws, restart throws and sideline-throws may not be directed at goal.

If a player taking a Free Throw (not a Free-Shot) attempts a direct shot at goal and the ball enters the goal mouth, either directly or having deflected off an opponents equipment, then a disallowed goal is signalled and a Goal-Line -Throw is to be awarded. The attempt itself at the goal from a Free Throw is not to be penalised.

- 42.3 The ball is not in play until the initial throw has travelled at least one metre measured horizontally from the point of release or changed possession to another player of the same team. A player must be allowed to take up their position to take the throw. No opponent may contact the player or their equipment until the throw is taken. The opposition must not attempt to prevent the ball from travelling one metre measured horizontally. Infringement incurs a sanction. Signals 11 and 14 or signals 11 and 15 apply. A free throw will be retaken as a free throw, and a free shot will be retaken as a free shot.

- 42.4 The player must throw the ball within five seconds of being in possession and in a position to take the throw. The five seconds for the restart applies from when any member of the team is in a position to pick up the ball and take the throw. Any dropping or fumbling of the ball will not be considered **as a foul**, provided the initial throw is taken within the five seconds. Infringement incurs a sanction **with the opposing team awarded possession of the ball.** Signals 11 and 14 or signals 11 and 15 apply. A free throw will be retaken as a free throw, and a free shot will be retaken as a free shot.

Note a drop or fumble is ignored provided that the throw is taken correctly within the original 5 seconds.

- 42.5 Where an infringement occurs that requires the awarding of a free-shot or free-throw. The **shot or** throw should be taken at a point that, in the referees sole discretion, best advantages the team. The referee will indicate that the **shot or** throw be taken either where the infringement occurred or, where the ball was at the time of the infringement, or where the ball landed if it was in flight at the time of the infringement. However, a defence of goal infringement must be taken where the infringement occurred.

This is like in the situation of a goalkeeper committing an Illegal Kayak Tackle on a stationary attacker. The foul would be taken where the incident occurred.

The Free-Shot or Free-Throw can be taken anywhere further back from the place where it should be taken, or even a little in front of the place, provided no significant advantage is gained.

If the Referee does not agree with where the shot/ throw was taken from, play should be stopped with a triple blow of the whistle and the new position should be indicated for it to be taken again.

42.6 Where a free-shot is awarded within one (1) metre of the goal the free shot will be taken at the nearest point one (1) metre from the goal line.

43 TAKING A GOAL PENALTY-SHOT

- 43.1 The player taking the goal penalty-shot will be stationary with their body on the six (6) metre line.
- 43.2 All other players must be in the other half of the playing area until play restarts.

Substitutes are not permitted to remain directly behind the goal (which is a no waiting area - see Diagram L&T).

- 43.3 The shot will be taken when the **Leading** referee blows the whistle. The five (5) second rule applies.

As a Goal-Penalty Shot is started with a whistle there is no requirement for the player to present the ball above their head.

- 43.4 Play will restart on the whistle.
- 43.5 The player taking the shot may not play the ball again until it has touched another player or another player's equipment or the goal frame.

44 COMPLETION OF PLAY - signal 2

The Winner of the game will be the team who scores the most awarded goals, in the goal in which they are designated as attacking in each given period of play.

- 44.1 The timekeeper will indicate the end of the period of playing time by the use of a loud signal. The ball is dead at the start of the signal. The referee shall use signal 2 to confirm the timekeeper's signal.
- 44.2 If a goal penalty-shot has been awarded prior to the signal for completion of play, the goal penalty-shot must be taken before play is to be considered completed. In this situation, the ball shall after it has been thrown immediately be dead if it hits the water **or the goal frame and comes back into the playing area.**

45 GOLDEN GOAL EXTRA TIME

- 45.1 Golden-goal extra-time shall, with the exclusion of Grand-finals, consist of up to two periods of three (3) minutes each; with the team scoring the first goal (**in the goal they are attacking**) deemed the winner. There shall be a one (1) minute break before the golden-goal extra-time commences and between halves, with a change of ends.
- 45.2 Golden-goal extra-time for Grand-Finals shall consist of up to two periods of ten (10) minutes each; with the team scoring the first goal (**in the goal they are attacking**) deemed the winner. There shall be a one (1) minute break before the golden-goal extra-time commences and between halves, with a change of ends.

Golden-goal extra-time can also be played with one period of unlimited playing time to the first goal, at the discretion of the competition organisers.

46 TIEBREAKER SHOOT-OUT

- 46.1 The captain of the team can choose which players, and their order, who will participate in the tiebreaker shoot-out. Normally five (5) players will be chosen, (**which may or may not include the goalkeeper**) however, at the end of playing time, any player(s) who are not part of the game because of a red card send-off, will not take part in the tiebreaker shoot-out and their team will forfeit those shot(s). **At the end of playing time, any player(s) who are not part of the game because of a yellow card send-off, will not take part in the tiebreaker shoot-out but their team will not forfeit those shot(s).**

Note that the intention here is that a maximum of 5 players from each team participate in the Tiebreaker Shoot-Out which may or may not include the teams usual Goal Keeper.

- 46.2 The participating players from each team will take tiebreaker shots alternating between teams after each shot. The referee will toss a coin and offer the choice of which team is to shoot first to the team captain that wins the toss. Both teams shoot at the same goal. Unless the Competition Committee has decided which goal should be used, the referee will decide which goal is to be used.
- 46.3 The goalkeeper not involved in defending the goal will position themselves beside the side line nearest the second referee in between shots unless they are taking a shot personally.
- 46.4 If, after each team has had five (5) tiebreaker shots, one team has scored a greater number of goals, then that team will be the winning team.
- 46.5 If, after each team has had five (5) tiebreaker shots, the score is still equal then the teams will take alternate tiebreaker shots, in the same order as the previous round, until, with an equal number of tiebreaker shots, one team has scored more goals.

47 TAKING A TIEBREAKER SHOT

- 47.1 The player taking the tiebreaker shot will be stationary with their body four metres and fifty centimetres (**4.5m**) from the goal line.

47.2 One player from the defending team may position themselves, in order to defend the goal with the paddle ("the Goalkeeper"). The goalkeeper's body must be facing into the playing area and attempting to maintain a position within one metre of the centre of the goal line. The goalkeeper must not leave this position during the period of the tiebreaker shot.

Note that this clearly states that the Goal Keeper will be positioned along the goal line, rather than one metre from it.

- 47.3 All other players must wait in the other half of the playing area until the completion of the tiebreaker shot.
- 47.4 The shot will be taken when the **Leading** referee blows the whistle. The five (5) second rule applies.
- 47.5 The player must take a direct shot at goal. **Only one shot is possible.**

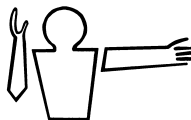
As the Tiebreaker Shot is started with a whistle, there is no requirement for the player to present the ball above their head.



APPENDIX-REFEREE HAND SIGNALS

1. START / INFRINGEMENT

Arm forward and bent upwards with palm open and facing sideways head level.



2. COMPLETION OF HALF / FULL TIME

Arms crossed in front of chest. Palms out.



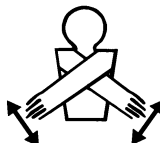
3. GOAL

Arms extended, palms together. Point to centre of field.



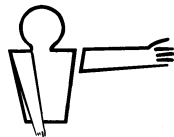
4. DISALLOWED GOAL

Repeated crossing of arms at thigh level. Palms open.



5. SIDELINE THROW / CORNER

Point at sideline. Other arm showing direction of play.



6. GOAL LINE THROW

Point open hand, arm extended along goal line. Other arm showing direction of play.



7. TIME OUT

Form "T" with hands above head.



8. REFEREE'S BALL

Arms extended forward at shoulder level, fists clenched, thumbs up.



9. OBSTRUCTION / HOLDING

Hold one arm up in the air fist clenched for the period of 2 seconds, and then point at the position where the free shot has to be taken. Other arm showing direction of play.



10. ILLEGAL TACKLE

Hold clenched fist against hip for the period of 2 seconds, and then point at the position where the free shot has to be taken.
Other arm showing direction of play.



11. 5 SECONDS / POSSESSION

Hold hand up at side at head level, palm forward. Spread all fingers for the period of 2 seconds, and then point at the position where the free shot has to be taken.
Other arm showing direction of play.



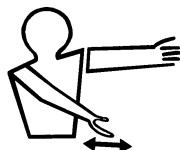
12. ILLEGAL USE OF PADDLE

The side of the other hand repeatedly chops the upper arm showing direction of play for the period of 2 seconds, and then point at the position where the free shot has to be taken.



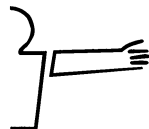
13. PLAY ON / ADVANTAGE

One arm elbow bent, hand pushing back and forth across the body at hip level at least three (3) times.
Other arm showing direction of play.



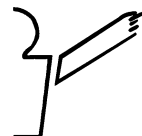
14. FREE THROW

Arm extended, palm open, pointing in direction of play parallel to side of field. Other arm showing offence signal (1, 5, 6, 11 or 13).



15. FREE SHOT

Arm extended, index finger pointing at goal in direction of attack.
Other arm showing offence signal (9, 10, 11 or 12).



16. GOAL PENALTY SHOT

Both arms extended, index fingers together and pointing at goal.



17. SHOWING CARDS

Green card	-	warning
Yellow card-		2 minutes send off
Red card	-	send off for the rest of game

Hold card above head. Other arm pointing to player. If necessary, indicate number of player with fingers. Use clenched fist to indicate ten where a number 10 or larger is required.



Referees Courses

The following Referees Courses are already planned to be held during the next twelve months:-

Potters Bar	26th June 2004
Erith (Near M25 Dartford Crossing)	4th September 2004
Scunthorpe	5th December 2004
Crosskeys, Wales	12th December 2004
Derby	26th January 2005

Other dates may be added, please check on canoepolo.org.uk

To make a firm booking on one of these Courses please complete and forward the Attendance Form on Page 31 of this Yearbook.

(please feel free to photocopy the Form)

or

For further details please contact Paul Beverley, Refereeing Administrator, email : paul@beverley1718.fsnet.co.uk

REFEREE GUIDELINES

GENERAL

1. Referees should officiate games in an unbiased and impartial manner.
2. Referees should respect without question all decisions given by the Referees controlling the game. They should set an example of good sportsmanship for other players to follow.
3. Referees should not publicly criticise the performance and decisions of a Referee officiating a game.

REFEREE RESTRAINT

4. Keep any verbal instructions to a minimum. If a player requests an explanation of a foul, simply maintain the signal. Do not allow yourself to enter arguments with players, either during or after the game.
5. If players dispute a decision, in general stick with the decision unless the opposite Referee also disagrees. (See section on Send-Off's in reference to continuous/ repeated disputation of decisions).
6. If a goal or goal-penalty decision is in doubt the Referees should consult. When consulting in a doubtful situation they should be cautious about being influenced by players reactions as these may be feigns to sway the Referees.

DUTIES OF REFEREES

7. During the game the Referee shall have full control of the game, from the entry of teams onto the Playing Area until they leave the Playing Area after completion of the game. In this regard, they shall enforce the Game Regulations, and ensure the Competition and Players Personal Equipment are maintained during the game, and shall ensure the competition rules are upheld as they apply to the game.
8. The Referees controlling a game are empowered to order spectators, coaches and other persons not actually playing in the game to leave the competition area.
9. The Referees controlling a game are empowered to bring charges before the BCU Canoe Polo Committee or other appropriate competition committee against persons not actually playing in the game.
10. The First Referee for a game shall ensure the game report sheet is correctly completed including any Send Off Forms.

REFEREE CO-ORDINATION

11. The Referee calling an infringement should blow the whistle loudly and immediately the infringement occurs (after deciding whether to play advantage or not - see below). The hand signal should be indicated quickly and clearly after the whistle. The signal must be clear and held until play has restarted.
12. Both Referees should check that the other Referee agrees with their decision. If the two Referees give different decisions each should be prepared to change their call if they are not totally certain of the call. Defer to the other Referee if they are indicating a more serious offence.
13. If one Referee has called an infringement that has not been seen by the other, then the other should indicate the same signal.
14. Where either Referee changes the direction of their signals after giving a positive signal to which the players have responded, a triple blast on the whistle should be used to gain every bodies attention (including the Time Keeper's), indicating a Time-Out, Signal 7 and the new Signal. Both Referees must ensure the teams have time to correct their consequent positioning before the restart occurs. The whistle is then blown to restart the game again.

15. If at any time the two Referees continue to disagree they shall stop the game to consult and if still in disagreement, the First Referee shall make the necessary decision.
16. The Referees should, at the completion of the game, discuss any disputed or contentious decisions.

CONTROLLING THE FIELD OF PLAY USING THE LEADING & TRAILING METHOD

(see Diagram L&T 1)

- a) The First Referee shall take that side of the Playing area from which they can ensure the score is correctly recorded. This will usually be the same side as the Time/Score Keepers Table.
- b) Each Referee is normally mainly responsible for that half of the field to their right (when facing the centre) and should move along the side of the field so as to be able to closely observe play in that area.
- c) In general, the Referee should move no further to his/her left than 2/3rds of the way from their right hand end line. The aim should be to achieve a “leading” and “trailing” system of controlling the game. The “Leading” Referee should keep up with the play and closely watch the main action in front of the goal. The “Trailing” Referee should be able to view all players on the Playing Area.
- d) Either Referee may call an infringement anywhere on the field, but in most situations should defer to the nearer Referee unless an obvious infringement has not been pulled-up.
- e) Each Referee shall make decisions relating to the side-line nearest to them.
- f) The Referee should quickly move directly to the goal-line on their right, when play is in that vicinity, to be in a position to give decisions on corners and goal-line throws at that end.
- g) The Referees shall normally control the corner and side-line restarts on their side of the Playing Area, and goal-line restarts to their right.
- h) The Referee controlling that side-line should have control over the 1 metre restart condition.
- i) “T” shaped pools (see Diagram L&T 2). In some pools it is necessary to have three referees, where there is a diving pit or similar. In this instance the first referee should take the long side line, that runs the length of the playing area. The two second referees take the short sides, each covering the appropriate goal line. This means that the first referee switches from being the leading to trailing referee in the middle area of the pitch. Each referee should be prepared to call fouls at any point on the playing area.

Controlling Goal Penalty Shots or a Tie-Breaker Shot (see Diagram L&T 3a/b)

- The Leading Referee should move to the 6 metre (for Goal Penalty Shot) or 4.5 metre (for Tiebreaker Shot) mark and be responsible for controlling the taking of the shot.
- The Trailing Referee should take up a position to control the other players.
- When all the other players are correctly positioned, the Trailing Referee will raise their Hand.
- If the Leading Referee has the ball, it should be thrown to the shooter when all the other players are in the correct position as directed by the Trailing Referee.
- Leading Referee can then blow the whistle (so long as the shooter is correctly positioned) for the shot to be taken.
- In the case of a Tiebreaker Shoot-Out, the Leading Referee also controls the position of the goal keeper and signals the result of the shot. Signals 3 or 4 apply.

Diagram L&T 1

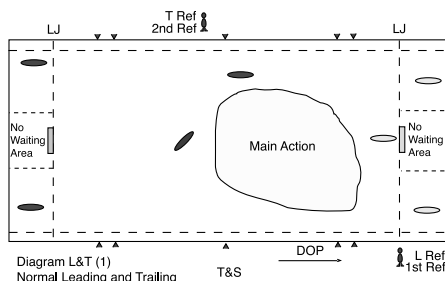


Diagram L&T 2

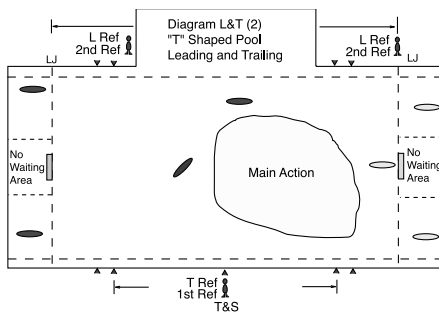


Diagram L&T 3a

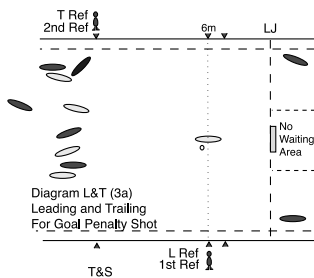
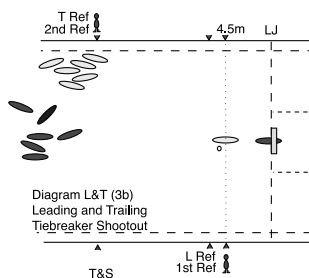


Diagram L&T 3b



Legend for Diagrams

L Ref – Leading Referee

T&S – Timekeeper & Scorekeeper

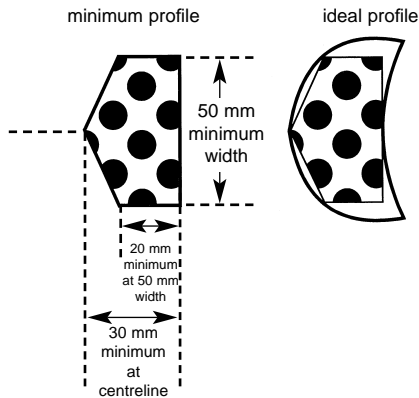
Ref – Trailing Referee

LJ – Line Judge

KIT SPECIFICATIONS

1. PADDING

- 1.1 Soft shock absorbing padding at least 30 mm thick at the horizontal centreline and 50 mm wide must be firmly attached to cover the edges of the front and rear of the kayak at the ends for at least 100 mm from the ends.
- 1.2 Soft shock absorbing material must be homogeneous (e.g.: foam, soft rubber). If it relies on a composite construction for its minimum thickness and shock absorbing property, then the essential shock absorbing property of the padding must not be lost under compression. The characteristics should be measured at the temperatures that will prevail during the competition.
- 1.3 Thickness must be a minimum of 30 mm when uncompressed. The padding must be compressible (by the scrutineer's or player's thumb) by at least 10 mm. The padding must not be compressible to less than 10 mm thickness. The thickness and compression are measured parallel to the axis of the kayak.
- 1.4 The 30 mm thickness must be reached on the horizontal centreline. It may be reduced to not less than 20 mm thick at a width of 50mm. (See profile diagrams).
- 1.5 The attachment must be durable enough to be reasonably expected to last for the entire duration of the competition. It must not move out of place during impact against other kayaks or the poolside. In general one layer of tape is not enough. *It is not necessary to have tape to secure the padding in place.*
- 1.6 If rivets or bolts (or similar) are used to attach the padding, they must be recessed at least 20mm into the padding.
- 1.7 The padding must be attached in a way that the edges and ends of the padding do not protrude, liable to catch on things. If tubing is used, the ends of the tubing must be closed or covered.
- 1.8 The padding must be positioned on the edge (see definition of edge in kayak specifications) to cover at least 15 mm above and below the edge. It must continue around the ends to cover at least 100 mm down the length of the kayak, the edges of the impact zone



For kayaks with integrated bumpers, these must still be securely fitted with additional padding that meet the above criteria.

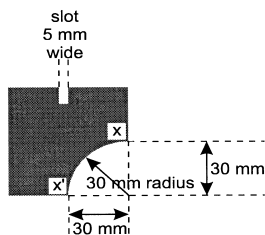
2. PADDLE

- 2.1 The paddle must be double-bladed with a maximum length of 2200 mm. There may not be sharp projections or edges. The blades shape, thickness and curves must stay within the regulations of this article. The paddle will be scrutineered with a gauge.
- 2.2 The paddle may not have sharp projections or edges or other dangerous features.
- 2.3 The blades to be no more than 500 mm x 250 mm in plan. The edges must have a minimum radius of 30 mm in plan and a minimum thickness of 5 mm (*on their edges*). *Metal tipped blades are not allowed, whether padded or not (unless this is an integrated part of the internal construction and have no exposed). Bolt on external metal rims are not permitted.*

3. PADDLE GAUGE

- 3.1 A standardised gauge is to be used to test compliance with the specifications. The gauge needs to be from sheet aluminium and precisely engineered.
- 3.2 To gauge the radius of curvature the radius portion of the paddle gauge, must be applied perpendicular to the surface being tested. If both points X and X' touch the surface at the same time without the rest of the paddle, the radius test is passed.

To gauge the thickness of the paddle-blade, hold the slot over the blade. If the paddle does not enter the slot, the test is passed.



If a paddle blade requires more than one (1) layer of PVC tape (normal electrical tape) to bring the edge thickness up to 5mm, then they will not be permitted to be used.

4. HELMET

- 4.1 The helmet must be a safety one and suitable. They must protect against any blow, which may be reasonably anticipated in the course of a game covering from the jaw line to the rear point of the skull, such that no contact is possible between the skull and a blade on a horizontally held paddle.

All Helmets for use in BCU events must be CE Approved - without question.

5. FACE-PROTECTOR (FACE-GUARD)

The face protector must be of a strong material such as steel or any equal strong material. In any part of the face protector, an object 70 mm wide and 70 mm thick must not be able to enter. The face protector must be securely fixed to the helmet, without sharp or dangerous fixings. They may not present any sharp or dangerous part. It must protect against any blow that may be reasonably anticipated in the course of a game. It must cover the entire face of the player beginning at the lower level of the chin and covering the surface between the two temples.

Any Strong material may be used in the construction and fitting of the face-guard, providing it is not know to shatter, or cause injury to either the wearer or others.

Generally, if a paddle (any legal one) can touch the players face through any holes in the face-guard when in the normal playing position, then that face-guard will not be suitable and will not be permitted to be used.

6. BODY PROTECTION

6.1 The body protection must be at least 15 mm thick. They must protect against any impact from other players equipment, which may be reasonably anticipated in the course of a game. The body protection must begin 100 mm of the cockpit rim measured at the player's side, with the player sitting normally in their kayak. The gap between the top of the protection at the side and the top of the armpit measured with the arm horizontal must be less than 100 mm.

BOAT DESIGNS

The following boat designs have been checked by the Canoe Polo Committee Boat Checking Committee and have been found to comply with the rules.

Apolo, Aquabat, Arrowbat Mk2, Combat (all versions), Combat Zone, Dash and Dash International, DB Designs Cyclone (polythene version), DB Designs Flight, Demon, Double Dutch Matador, Eliminator and Eliminator 2, Evolution, Felix Volta (UK Version), Felix Volta 393 & 395, Gala Sports Sphinx, Impulse Predator, Mogul, Mystere, New Dragonbat Extra, Nitro, P & H Polo and Polo Sprint, Polo Mint, Raptor, Reaction, Revenge (both composite & polythene), Rotabat, RS2, RX300, Shark, Skimmer, The Bug, Tiger, Tiger Mk2, Vampire, and Xcell. These designs will be acceptable in all BCU domestic events at least until the end of 2002.

The following designs do not comply with the current rules and may not be used in BCU domestic events:-Krackabat 1 & 2, Dragon Polo Mk2, Wombat, Brumby and Eskimo Gecko.

It is important to note that only boats of an approved design may be used in BCU events (due to the impracticality of competition organisers checking every boat). Individual members who wish to use boats other than, or modified from, an approved design, must get their individual boat checked *prior* to using it in any competition.

BOAT CHECKING

The BCU Canoe Polo Committee Boat Checking Panel exists to approve new designs of canoe polo kayak or individual unrecognised design of boats specifically for the use in BCU domestic events. While these checks are carried out to the latest known specifications of the ICF, the Panel does not state that anything it passes is ICF approved. To date (at the time of writing) there is no such approval available.

The Panel comprises of people who are in some way associated with the sport while also being familiar with engineering or architectural drawings, or are in some way professionally familiar with schematic drawings of the kind used in the specifications which describe the shape and size of a legal canoe polo kayak.

Ideally these Panel members will be spread geographically across the nation, although in the early stages of this initiative this may be limited to some degree.

The Boat Checking Panel is responsible for two activities:-

Checking **A New Design** which is intended for production of more than one model of the same shape.
Fee - £50 per check, plus £50 on Pass.

Checking **An Unknown Design** of boat for use in domestic (BCU) events.
Fee - £40 per check.

In either case a certificate will be issued by the BCU Canoe Polo Committee as directed by the Panel member for the item checked and passed. In the case of an unknown design, all models of this design will be required to undertake individual checking unless a new design is to be checked.

Requirements common to both new and unknown designs:-

- Boat Design checking will be carried out by appointment only and the Fee will be paid prior to the start of any checking.
- The checking of the design will be carried out as the Panel member feels fit according to BCU Polo Committee instruction, and no discussion will be entered into on this matter.
- The plug or boat may be constructed in any material so long as this will not cause any harm to the Panel member during reasonable handling for the purposes of checking. Assistance in handling may be requested by the Panel member.
- Some limited amount of reworking of the design may be allowed as directed by the Panel member, so long as this does not cause any nuisance (such as noise) or mess with which the panel member is unhappy.
- Any mess will be cleared away by the person carrying out the reworking.
- If the Panel member decides there is too much reworking required, or stipulates a time limit for reworking, then this will be adhered to. Any subsequent visits will require a new fee to be paid prior to checking.
- Protests may be submitted to the BCU Canoe Polo Committee in writing, but under no circumstance will the Panel member tolerate any harassment or abuse.

1. A New Design.

- Only Plugs/Patterns may be presented for checking. The Plug must be in the form that a mould for manufacture would be produced directly from, with no modification thereafter apart from final polishing. No boat may be submitted.
- The Plug shall be sturdy enough to be measured when reasonable care is taken on the part of the Panel member.
- Designers, manufacturers, their agents or a representative should be present while the checking takes place.
- The plug will be supplied with the edge clearly indicated. This edge will be checked and altered by the Panel member if they feel fit.

- The plug will be checked for length, width, depth and radius across the entire profile from one side to the other and from the edge up and down, as described in the latest specifications available (from the BCU Canoe Polo Committee).
- Persons submitting a plug to be measured are advised to take out any insurance for which they feel fit, but the BCU Canoe Polo Committee or their servants will not be responsible for any loss or damage to plugs presented for checking.

2. An Unknown Design.

- The boat will be supplied with no end bumpers fitted and these ends will be clean and free from any substance not included in the original manufacture of the kayak.
- Any part or amount of the external seam may be requested for removal.
- The boat will be checked so far as is reasonably practicable as determined by the Panel member.
- The owner of the polo kayak or a representative should be present while the checking takes place.
- Any internal or external feature including the seam, handles, foot rests, seat or other fittings which are considered to compromise the safety of either the paddler or other players (within the context of the sport of canoe polo) will be required to be permanently removed or reworked in such a way as to prove they will no longer cause concern to the Panel member.

Any boats claiming to be manufactured to an approved design, but which are found to not comply, will cause the BCU Canoe Polo Committee to determine a suitable restriction of use or manufacture, which could include the ban of any suspect boat until such time as is reasonable to check its individual specification.

The above also applies to old designs which are found to no longer comply to the current specifications. In this case a period of grace will be declared where the boats may be used up to a specified date. After this point that model may no longer be used in BCU Canoe Polo events.

From time to time Panel members will check existing designs as a means of eliminating models from the approved boat design list which are no longer compliant.

The BCU Canoe Polo Committee welcomes advice from manufacturers stating that their own old designs or models are no longer in production, and as such may be removed from the list.

NEXT YEAR'S YEARBOOK

The Canoe Polo Yearbook is distributed free to all Polo Teams entering the National Leagues and National Championships. Additionally, copies are supplied to Regional Polo Organisers and Regional Paddlesport Development Officers to assist them introduce new players and teams into the sport. Further copies may be obtained from the Secretary throughout the year at a cost of £3.00 each, which includes postage costs.

Copy date for all advertising, Regional Reports, League Reports, corrections etc. to be received by the Secretary is 1st April 2005.

The Yearbook is intended to assist all polo players and officials to enjoy their sport. If you have any helpful suggestions as to content, or offers of assistance in its production or printing, please feel free to make your views known via the Executive Committee.

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2nd - Netherlands
3rd - Germany
4th - Italy
6th - France
8th - Chinese Tapei
9th - Switzerland
10th - Belgium
12th - Brazil

Women

1st - Germany
2nd - France
5th - Great Britain
8th - Ireland
9th - Netherlands
11th - Finland
13th - Canada
14th - Chinese Tapei

U21 Men

4th - France
6th - Chinese Tapei
8th - Great Britain
9th - Belgium
10th - Brazil
12th - Switzerland
15th - Canada

U21 Women

4th - Great Britain
5th - France

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