

ROI Only - Level 3 Clarification – Currently Applies to Dublin-Based Water Polo Clubs

- Senior Athletes are defined as Division 1 and Division 2 players in both Men's & Women's
- Teams must not comprise of athletes under the age of 16 years
- Teams must be made up of a named squad with maximum of 15 players within the squad to which no more than 5 players out of the 15 are under the age of 18 years
- Each club must name the 15-person squad for their Division 1 & Division 2 Teams by emailing a list to waterpolo@swimireland.ie prior to the start date of the Water Polo Season (17th October 2020)
- Such Senior Athletes are permitted to travel in and out of any Level 1/2/3 County for Division 1 & Division 2 organised club-based team training and National League Division 1 & Division 2 matches only
- Division 1 and Division 2 teams must train in separate pods and not mix with other teams/pods within the club
- Athletes not on the submitted list of Division 1 or Division 2 teams are not permitted to travel in and out of a County in Level 3
- All athletes must enter and exit the facility as individuals and are not permitted to mix within pods and/or socialise before, during or after sessions
- Full contact training with the use of balls is permitted for named Senior Athletes for Division 1 & 2 teams only
- Athletes are not permitted to play up or down between Divisions while in Level 3 to avoid the mix of teams/pods

General Water Polo Updates – ROI & NI

- Carpooling is not recommended at Level 1 or Level 2 and it is not permitted at Level 3
- Any pre-match briefing should adhere to social distancing guidelines and all individuals taking part in the briefing must wear a face mask
- Post-match briefings are not permitted
- **NB!** Please note there was a rule change at the 2020 Ireland Water Polo AGM where if an athlete under 17 years plays in Division 1, they won't be able to play in the under 16/17 league in the 2020/2021 season
- The National Water Polo Committee will issue a fixture list covering the first 3 weeks of the season commencing on the 17th October 2020. This fixture list will include format changes to the U15 and U19 Cups. The U15 Cups will be single day and single gender event days on 31st October (Boys) and 1st November (Girls) in NUIG, Galway. The U19 Cups will be played over a series of weekends with a finals and semi-finals day.
- Clubs will not be fined/penalised if matches need to be cancelled due to a suspected/confirmed COVID-19 case arising within their club. Where possible notifications must be sent 24 hours prior to the commencement of the match to the Ireland Water Polo Fixtures Secretary by emailing wpfixtures@swimireland.ie and also waterpolo@swimireland.ie
- All suspected/confirmed cases of COVID-19 within your club must be reported to Swim Ireland by emailing covid19officer@swimireland.ie
- Intra club and inter club matches are now permitted in Northern Ireland in line with Government Guidelines and where updated Risk Assessments have been produced in association with each individual facility

- Face masks must be worn at all times except for when in the water
- Each team must provide a Covid Officer for all National League and Cup matches
- The Covid Officer for the home team will also be responsible for the referees/officials on duty
- Swim Ireland staff may conduct spot checks to ensure adherence to requirements

Water Polo Financial Update – 2020/2021 Season

Due to the uncertain circumstances around this coming season, we have made a number of changes relating to the finances for this season. These are to assist clubs manage their cash flow as they deal with reduced member numbers from Covid-19.

- WP License fee suspended for the 20/21 Season (Previously communicated as part of SI affiliation launch)
- There will be no cost for withdrawal from the league prior to the commencement or during the season in that division
- For Cup competitions withdrawal must be made prior to the relevant Cup draw. Final confirmation of entries to a particular Cup will be sought prior to the draw. The Cup fee will be set based on the number of entries in the draw & will be payable 1 week prior to the commencement of the tournament
- Match fees will remain the same (€105 - Senior, €55 - Junior), these match fees are based on a pool hire of 1 hour. Due to COVID-19, extended breaks between matches will be necessary with pool hire still required for this period of change over. This cost will be bore by the NWPC.
- Walkover fines will not be enforced where a club cannot fulfil a fixture due to a suspected/confirmed case of COVID-19. All cases must be reported to Swim Ireland's COVID-19 Officer by emailing covid19officer@swimireland.ie to ensure no walkover charge will be incurred.
- Billing for league match fees this season will not be done as per previous seasons of 50% in due in October and 50% due in January. Considering the short-term planning that will be required this season, match fees will only be billed at the end of each month for the matches that were played in that month. These must be paid within 2 weeks of the invoice date.
- If any Cup is not run as a weekend tournament, but over a number of weekends in league match format, the relevant match fee mentioned above will apply and will be included in your monthly invoice.