

**PCAL SPORTS RULES**  
**WATER POLO (BOYS AND GIRLS)**  
**Approved by BOM August 31 2022 (Correct Version)**

**1.1 Season of Sport**

This sport shall be conducted in the Fall season as defined by the Central Coast Section and State CIF by-laws. See Article V of the By-Laws of the Central Coast Section.

**1.2 Start Dates for Practices, Scrimmages and Contests**

Dates for the start of practices, of scrimmages, and of contests shall be as set forth in Article V of the By-Laws of the Central Coast Section.

**1.3 Contest Limits per Season**

Limitations on the number of contests in which a team or athlete may compete shall be as set forth in Article V of the By-Laws of the Central Coast Section.

**1.4 Divisions**

Effective Fall 2022, league play in this sport shall be conducted in in a single division in each gender. Those divisions shall be known as PCAL Boys Water Polo and PCAL Girls Water Polo.

**1.5 League Schedules**

**1.5.1 Round Robin**

The league schedule shall be a single, double or triple round robin schedule, as may be decided by the League Board of Managers from year to year.

**1.5.2 Preparation and Approval of Schedules**

League schedules shall be prepared by the League Commissioner and sent to the League Athletic Directors Council for review, modification as needed. The Athletic Directors Council then send a recommended schedule to the League Board of Managers who consider, change as they deem necessary and vote approval of a final schedule.

**1.5.3 Obligation of Schools to Compete According to Schedule**

See Article 19 in the League By-laws regarding the obligation of all league schools to compete according to the approved league schedule.

**1.6 Contests**

The following provisions shall govern all regular season Water Polo contests hosted by a League School. Tournaments or Invitational events may be conducted under differing rules not in conflict with the rule book for this sport.

**1.6.1 Rules**

Contests in this sport shall be governed by the rules of the National Federation of High Schools for that sport and in accordance with any additional rules set forth in this Section 1.6.

**1.6.2 League Contest Start Times; Duration and Order; Rosters**

**1.6.2.1 Start Times**

If Four games, times are to be 4:00/5:00/6:00/7:00; if three games, recommended times are 4:00/5:00/6:00; if two games, recommended times are 4:00/5:00.

Unless otherwise agreed to in advance by the administrations of both schools involved, no contest on a Monday through Friday shall be scheduled to begin before 4:00 PM or after 7:00 PM. In the event that a host school cannot provide a site within these required time parameters, that school shall travel to the opposing school's site for the contest and shall pay for the officials as if it were the home site.

Note: It is understood that transportation schedules for visiting teams may interfere with starting times. It is also understood that visiting teams will notify home team administrators of Athletic Director in such a case. No team shall be penalized for transportation difficulties.

#### **1.6.2.2 Duration and Order of Contests**

JV games will consist of four, **six** minute quarters

Varsity games will consist of four, seven minute quarters

At regular season dual matches, JV shall play first, then Varsity.

School can agree to have quad matches including both Boys and Girls. If there are quad matches, then in odd years, Boys JV and Varsity shall play before Girls, and in even years, Girls JV and Varsity shall play before Boys.

#### **1.6.2.3 Rosters**

Visiting teams must present a roster to the desk before the start of the game. The scorebook must have both names and cap numbers.

#### **1.6.3 Officials**

Officials shall be assigned by PSI for ALL schools in this PCAL Water Polo League, including those schools supplementing into the league from the SCCAL.

#### **1.6.4 Priority and Other Contest Rules**

##### **1.6.4.1 Participation Levels**

Each school will attempt to field a Varsity and JV team.

JV teams will be made up of players in grades 9-12. Movement is allowed up and down during the entire season, and an athlete may participate in both a JV and a Varsity contest on the same day, keeping in mind that this would count as two contests against that athlete's maximum contest limit per CCS.

### **1.7 PCAL Year-End Tournament**

Effective Fall 2022, each gender shall have a end-of-season tournament conducted as follows:

- a. The top 6 teams from round robin play in each gender shall participate in the tournament, and shall be seeded in accordance with the round robin results, with ties broken pursuant to the PCAL Tie Breaker rules contained in the PCAL By-Laws, Article 23.3.
- b. The tournament shall be a single elimination tournament conducted in 3 days, the Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday following completion of the round robin play, at pre-determined sites as follows:
  - i. The Tuesday first round games shall be as follows: The #1 and #2 seeds shall have Byes, with Game #1 between seeds #3 v. #6 and Game #2 between seeds #4 and #5.
  - ii. The Thursday second round games shall be as follows: the #1 seed vs the winner of first day Game #2, and the #2 seed vs the winner of first day #Game #1.

- iii. The Saturday games for each gender will be the winners of the Thursday games playing each other. The winner of those games shall be the tournament champion for each gender.

#### **1.8 League Championship Determination**

Each gender shall have a league champion determined by a combination of the round robin play and the league tournament results as follows: The top finisher in the league round robin play shall be the League champion. If a different school wins the league tournament, Co-champions will be declared. If the round robin ends in a tie, co- or tri-champions shall be declared, with an additional shared champion declared if yet another team wins the league tournament.

#### **1.9 League Qualifiers to the CCS Playoffs**

CCS designates the number of Automatic qualifier spots to PCAL in each gender. Effective Fall 2022, each gender is awarded two automatic qualifier spots to CCS. Those two spots in each gender shall be awarded as follows: #1 Qualifier the dual round robin champ (apply tie breakers as needed) and #2 Qualifier, the league tournament highest finisher who is not the round robin champ. Any other team would need to qualify for CCS on an At-Large basis.

#### **1.10 All League Selections**

Each gender shall have its own All-League selections, with those selections made by the coaches of that gender after the end of the League season. Those selections shall be made and announced in accordance with the provisions of the PCAL By-Laws, Article 24, as well as the PCAL All-League Selection Policy.

### **End PCAL Water Polo Sports Rules.**

#### **History of Amendments:**

March 2018: Original rules.

March 2019: Deletion of year end tournament and amending how league championships and CCS qualifiers determined; Provisions to deal with no SCCAL schools beginning Fall 2019; Provisions re order of events.

January 2022: Changes to reflect a single division in each gender.

August 2022: Changes to reflect revived season-end tournament and impact on League championship and CCS qualifiers.