



**2023-2024 SEASON
INFORMATION PACK**



Welcome to the 2023/2024 Ireland Water Polo Season.

The fixtures for the coming season can now be found on the Ireland Water Polo app and website. Below is the formats of the league and cup for the coming season which has been prepared by the Fixture secretary and approved by the competitions and National Water Polo Committee.

Every effort where possible has been made to avoid clashes with leagues of the same gender/age grade as well as with National Squad training sessions. Given the amount of time that has been put into preparing the fixtures and to ensure all clubs have a settled fixture list for the season ahead, no requests to change fixtures will be allowed. Any withdrawals before the commencement of the season will result in a €500 fine.

All competitions for the coming season will be conducted in accordance with the Ireland Water Polo and World Aquatics rules (<https://www.worldaquatics.com/rules/competition-regulations>) except for rule 4.3 (where all games shall have a winner at full time).

Due to our current restrictions on pool time, the addition of penalty shoot outs in the event of a draw in league games will not be possible. This will be reviewed again for the 2024/2025.

Results

For league games points shall be awarded as follows:

Win - 3 Points

Draw - 1 Point

Loss - 0 Points

Where teams are tied with the same number of points in the final points table and where a decision must be reached in relation to final positions, it shall be decided as laid out in 13.7 of the Ireland Water Polo rule book (See Annex A).

For cup competitions (Including the ISC Qualifiers) the new world aquatics rule 4.3 will be implemented.

All matches shall have a winner at full time in any game. For group games points will be awards as follows:

Win in regular time - 3 Points

Win after PSO – 2 Points

Loss after PSO – 1 Point

Loss in regular time - 0 Points

Where teams are tied in the group phase of a cup competition, places should be decided as laid out in Appendix 9 – 4.1 of the World Aquatics rule book (Annex B).

League Formats

Competition	Teams	Format ¹	Duration	Timeouts	Ball size	Match Fee ²
MNLD 1	8	2 Rounds	4x8	2	5	€115/€145 ³
WNLD 1	6	2 Rounds Plus Playoff between Top 3 and Bottom 3	4x8	2	4	€115/€145 ⁴
MNLD 2 EW & NS	10	1 Round – To be played Pre-Christmas	4x7	2	5	€115
MNLD 2 A & B	11 ⁵	1 Round - Tier 1 – Top 2 & best 3 rd place in MNLD2 EW/NS Plus U17 National Team	4x7	2	5	€115
WNLD 2	5	2 Rounds – Finished by March 2024	4x7	2	4	€115
MNLU19 (YOB 04/05/06)	5	2 Rounds – Finished by 17 th Dec - YOB – 2004/2005/2006 only	4x7	2	5	€115
NLU16 Boys (YOB 2007)	12	2 Rounds - 1st Rd – 2 Gps of 6; 2nd Rd - T1: 1 st &2 nd , T2: 3 rd &4 th , T3: 5 th &6 th	4x7	2	5	€80
NLU16 Girls (YOB 2007)	6	2 Rounds Plus Playoff between Top 3 and Bottom 3	4x7	2	4	€80
NLU14 Boys (YOB 2009)	11	2 Rounds – 1st Rd - 2 Gps of 6 & 1 Gp of 5; 2nd Rd - T1: 1 st &2 nd , T2: 3 rd &4 th , T3: 5 th &6 th	4x5	2	5	€65
NLU14 Girls (YOB 2009)	8	2 Rounds	4x5	2	4	€65

Match/Team Sheets

To assist with the use of digital match sheets for the 23/24 season, Coaches/Team managers will have access to input their team list into the competition management system in advance of their league games. An online training session for this will be given in advance of the season starting.

If a player does not hold a Swim Ireland registration & a competitive Water Polo License, they will not be visible in the system to be able to be selected on the match sheet.

Water Polo Caps

LEN has recently issued minimum requirements regarding the design and colour of Water Polo Caps. Clubs should adhere to these requirements for all Ireland Water Polo Competitions. <https://www.len.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/INSTRUCTIONS-FOR-WATER-POLO-CAPS.pdf>

Walkover Fees

Walkover charges for the 23/34 season will be €400 for matches in the international pitches, €300 for all other 4x8/4x7 matches and €200 for 4x5 matches. 3 Walkovers in a season will result in elimination from the league.

¹ Matches in MNLD 2 A & B, NLU16 Boys and NLU14 Boys in the second half of the season are subject to change due to final positions in round 1. Changes will depend on team and pool location.

² Match fees have increased due to against the increased pool costs, extended match duration in the NLU16 and increased free hours now allocated to National Squad sessions.

³ Match fee for MNLD1 matches that will be held in the international pitches (30x20) in the NAC and Bangor.

⁴ Match fee for WNLD1 matches that will be held in the international pitches (25x20) in the NAC and Bangor.

⁵ National U17 Boys will join MNLD2 A. Third best team from both MNLD2 EW & NS will be based on highest points after 4 games, then GD, GF, GA or if still level a coin toss.

National Cup Dates/Formats

Competition	Gender	YOB	Venue	Date ⁶	Duration	Timeouts	Ball size	Format ⁷	Team List Due
Irish U13 Cup	Male	2010	Galway	28-29 Oct 2023	2x7 (S/F & F 4x4)	1	4	2 Gps of 4 & 2 Gps of 3, Top 2 to Q/F.	6 th October
	Female	2010			2x7 (S/F & F 4x4)	1	4	3 Gps of 3, Top 3 & best r/up in S/F.	
Irish U19 Cup	Male	2004	UL	1-3 Dec 2023	4x7	2	5	1 Gp of 4, 1 Gp of 3, Top 2 to S/F	10 th November
	Female	2004			4x7	2	4	2 Gps of 4, Top 2 to S/F	
Irish U17 Cup	Male	2007	Lisnasharragh	12-14 Jan 2024	4x7	2	5	3 Gps of 3, 1 Gp of 2, Top 2 to Q/F	15 th December
	Female	2007			4x7	2	4	2 Gps of 3, Top 2 to S/F	
NLD1 Cup	Male	N/A	Lisnasharragh	9-11 Feb 2024	4x7	2	5	2 Gps of 4, Top 2 to S/F	19 th January
	Female	N/A			4x7	2	4	2 Gps of 3, Top 2 to S/F	
Irish U15 Cup	Male	2009	Galway	26-28 April 2024	4x7	2	5	2 Gps of 3, 2 Gp of 2, Top 2 to Q/F	5 th April
	Female	2009			4x7	2	4	3 Gps of 3, Top 3 & best r/up in S/F	
ISC	Male	N/A	Bangor	9-11 May 2024	4x8	2	5	2 Gps of 4, Top 2 to S/F	19 th April
	Female	N/A			4x8	2	4	2 Gps of 3, Top 2 to S/F	
Irish U12 Cup	Mixed	2012	NAC	June 2024	TBC	TBC	3	Dates & Format TBC	24 th May

Cup Qualifiers: ISC Qualifiers will take place on 24 February & 2nd March in the NAC.

There will be **no** qualifiers for the U15 & U17 Cups in 2023/2024.

Inter-pro's: To take place on the 16th/17th of March for U15s (4x6) & U17s (4x7).

U12 Mixed Cup: Special Rules used in 2023 will apply in 2024.

Cup Team Lists

Clubs will input their team lists for the above cup competitions, into the competition management system by the relevant due date. An online training session for this will be given in advance of the season starting.

Accreditation

Team Staff will require an accreditation for all cup competitions. This will need to be applied for by your club through the normal process for each competition.

Athletes will move to annual accreditation after the affiliation deadline of the **14th of October 2023**.

⁶ All Cup dates are set based on pool availability. Change in U19 Cup is due to pairing with Diving Nationals to avoid loss of the NAC for two weekends. U15 Cup is moved to avoid the May Bank Holiday.

⁷ In competitions where the best runners up has to be determined, this will be decided based on the highest points after the round of group games, then GD, GF, GA or if still level a coin toss.

Annex A – Rule 13.7 (Ireland Water Polo Rule Book)

13.7 Scoring

Winners of a fixture shall be awarded three points. A draw shall be awarded one point to each team. Where teams are tied with the same number of points in the final points table and where a decision must be reached in relation to final positions, it shall be decided as follows:

- a) The team which has gained the most points in matches between the teams shall be ranked higher.
- b) If the teams are still tied, the team with the largest difference between goals scored for and against in results between the teams shall be ranked higher.
- c) If the teams are still tied, the team having scored the higher number of goals in matches between the teams will be ranked higher.
- d) If there is still a tie, then the team with the largest difference between goals scored for and against in all matches shall be ranked higher.
- e) If the teams are still tied, the team having scored the higher number of goals in all matches will be ranked higher.
- f) If the teams are still tied, a playoff match shall be played.

Annex B – Appendix 9 - 4.1 (World Aquatics Rule Book)

4.1 Tie Breaking Rules, Group phase or Round Robin Tournaments

4.1.1 If two (2) teams shall have equal points, further classification shall be established as follows:

The team winning the game between them (including penalty shoot-out if any) shall be placed higher. If there is more than one tie in a group, the highest placed tie shall be determined first.

4.1.2 If three (3) or more teams shall have equal points, further classification shall be established as follows:

The results among the tied teams shall determine which team is placed highest.

If, at any time during the application of the procedure, the number of tied teams is reduced to two (2), then the above procedure (1.2.1., tie between two teams) shall be used to determine which of the two (2) remaining teams is placed higher.

The comparison shall be made:

First, upon the points of the games among the tied teams. second, the goal difference (excluding the goals from penalty shoot-out) among the tied teams, third, based upon goals scored among tied teams. If still tied, the games played against the highest placed team (or teams, if tied, the team or teams not involved in the tie) shall be considered. The first comparison shall be based on goal difference, and if still tied, then based on goals scored.

If still tied, the results against the next highest placed team (or teams, if tied) shall be used in succession until all results have been considered.

If still tied, and there is no practical manner to determine the ranking, the final classification between the teams in the tie shall be decided by coin-toss.

If there is more than one tie in a group, the highest placed tie shall be determined first.

For the purpose of calculating either goal difference or goals scored, the goals in any penalty shoot-out will not be taken into consideration