



**2024-2025 SEASON  
INFORMATION PACK**



Welcome to the 2024/2025 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](#) except for rule 4.3 (where all games shall have a winner at full time).**

**The 24/25 season will see the introduction of rule 4.3 to the MNL1 and WNLD1 leagues but due to our current restrictions on pool time, this rule will not be in force for any other leagues.**

### **Results**

For league games (excluding MNL1 & WNLD1) 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 MNL1, WNLD1 and all cup competitions (Including the ISC Qualifiers) the world aquatics rule 4.3 will be implemented.

All matches shall have a winner at full time in any game. 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 20.9.1.11 of the World Aquatics rule book (Annex B).

# SWIM IRELAND

## Water Polo

### League Formats

Competition	Teams	Format <sup>1</sup>	Duration	Timeouts	Ball size	Match Fee
MNLD 1	8	2 Rounds	4x8	2	5	€115/€145 <sup>2</sup>
WNLD 1	6	2 Rounds	4x8	2	4	€115/€145 <sup>3</sup>
MNLD 2 EW & NS	11	1 Round – To be played Pre-Christmas	4x7	2	5	€115
MNLD 2 A & B	12	1 Round - Tier 1 – Top 3 in EW and Top 2 in NS Plus U17 National Team	4x7	2	5	€115
WNLD 2	7	2 Rounds	4x7	2	4	€115
MNLU19	5	2 Rounds – YOB – 2005/2006/2007 only Plus 2 2008's per game	4x7	2	5	€115
NLU16 Boys (YOB 2008)	10	2 Rounds - <b>1<sup>st</sup> Rd</b> – Play all teams once (2x7); <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Rd</b> – Split into Div 1 and Div 2	2x7/4x7	1/2	5	€45/€90
NLU16 Girls (YOB 2008)	8	2 Rounds	4x7	2	4	€90
NLU14 Boys (YOB 2010)	12	2 Rounds – <b>1<sup>st</sup> Rd</b> - 2 Gps of 6 -N/S & E/W; <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Rd</b> – 3 Tiers of 4 - 6 games per Tier	4x7	2	5	€80
NLU14 Girls (YOB 2010)	9	2 Rounds	2x7	2	4	€40

### Digital Match/Team Sheets

Please remember that we will be using digital match sheets to update all team sheets. To assist with the use of digital match sheets, please ensure that all players and coaches are registered with a either a competitive or non- competitive Water Polo license in their just go account as well as all the correct selection criteria (e.g. Year of birth, gender etc.).

**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 on the day of the match. Any unregistered player who takes part in a game will not be insured.**

### Walkover & Unregistered Player charges

Walkover charges for the 24/25 season will be €400 for matches in the international pitches, €300 for all other 4x8/4x7 matches and €200 for 4x5/2x7 matches.

3 Walkovers in a season will result in elimination from the league.

The charge for playing an unregistered player will be €120 for the 24/25 season as well as the result being recorded as a 4-0 win to the opposition.

### Named Players

All named players for clubs which have more than one team in both Division 1 and Division 2 must submit their list of named players as per Ireland Water Polo rules to [waterpolo@swimireland.ie](mailto:waterpolo@swimireland.ie) by 13<sup>th</sup> September.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Match fee for MNLD1 matches that will be held in the international pitches (30x20) in the NAC, UL and Bangor.

<sup>3</sup> Match fee for WNLD1 matches that will be held in the international pitches (25x20) in the NAC, UL and Bangor.

### National Cup Dates/Formats

Competition	Gender	YOB	Venue	Date <sup>4</sup>	Duration <sup>5</sup>	Timeouts	Ball size	Format <sup>6</sup>	Team List Due
Irish U13 Cup	Male	2011	Lisnasharragh	25-27 Oct 2024	2x7 (S/F & F 4x4)	1	4	2 Gps of 5 & 1 Gps of 4, Top 3 & best r/up in S/F	4 <sup>th</sup> October
	Female	2011			2x7 (S/F & F 4x4)	1	4	2 Gps of 5, Top 2 - S/F	
Irish U19 Cup	Male	2005	UL	29/30 Nov & 1 Dec 2024	4x7	2	5	1 Gp of 4, 1 Gp of 3, Top 2 to S/F	8 <sup>th</sup> November
	Female	2005			4x7	2	4	1 Gp of 4, 1 Gp of 3, Top 2 to S/F	
Irish U17 Cup	Male	2008	Lisnasharragh	17-19 Jan 2025	4x7	2	5	2 Gps of 5, Top 2 - S/F	13 <sup>th</sup> December
	Female	2008			4x7	2	4	2 Gps of 3, Top 2 to S/F	
NLD1 Cup	Male	N/A	Bangor	31 Jan & 1/2 Feb 2025	4x8	2	5	2 Gps of 4, Top 2 to S/F	10 <sup>th</sup> January
	Female	N/A			4x8	2	4	2 Gps of 3, Top 2 to S/F	
Irish U15 Cup	Male	2010	Galway	25-27 April 2025	4x7	2	5	3 Gps of 4, Top 3 & best r/up in S/F	4 <sup>th</sup> April
	Female	2010			4x7	2	4	3 Gps of 3, Top 3 & best r/up in S/F	
ISC	Male	N/A	UL	8-10 May 2025	4x8	2	5	2 Gps of 4, Top 2 to S/F	17 <sup>th</sup> April
	Female	N/A			4x8	2	4	2 Gps of 3, Top 2 to S/F	
Irish U12 Cup	Mixed	2013	NAC	June 2025	TBC	TBC	3	Dates & Format TBC	23 <sup>rd</sup> May

Cup Qualifiers: ISC Qualifiers will take place for the Women's senior cup only on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> February in the NAC.

Inter-pro's: To take place on the 16<sup>th</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> of February for U15s (4x6) & U17s (4x7).

U12 Mixed Cup: Special Rules used in 2024 will apply in 2025.

### **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.

<sup>4</sup> All Cup dates are set based on pool availability.

<sup>5</sup> Duration of tournament games subject to change depending on pool availability.

<sup>6</sup> 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 20.9.1.11 (World Aquatics Rule Book)**

**20.9.1.11.1.1 Tie Breaking Rules, Group phase or Round Robin Tournaments**

20.9.1.11.1.1.1 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.

20.9.1.11.1.1.2 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