



Sea Wolf Water Polo Club Refereeing Policy

Purpose

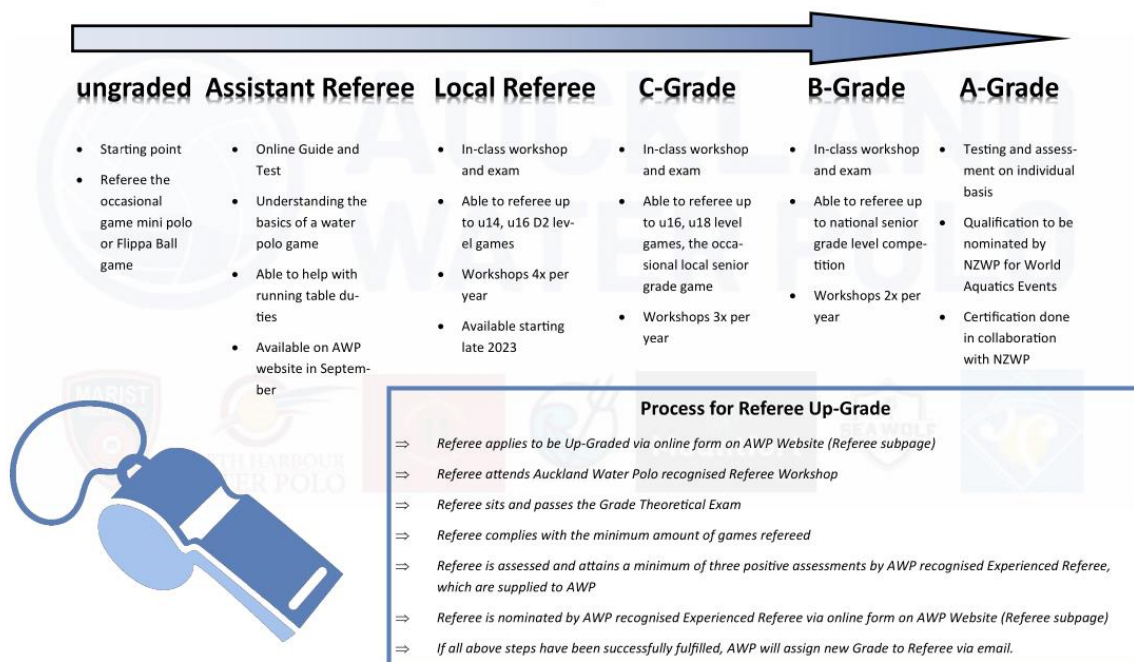
This policy outlines the requirements for refereeing at club-run water polo tournaments and leagues, in alignment with Auckland Water Polo (AWP) guidelines on referee accreditation. It aims to ensure that all games are officiated by referees with the appropriate level of certification and experience, thus recognising and rewarding referees who have achieved higher grades and incentivizing others to pursue higher qualifications.

[Auckland Water Polo \(AWP\) Referee Pathway](#)

[AWP has recently implemented a Referee Pathway](#) for referees to progress from an Assistant Referee with some basic knowledge of Water Polo through to A-Grade Referee. As referees progress up the pathway they are required to attend and pass theory courses & exams and are also assessed by senior peers on their ability to referee games.

Please note that there are now age restrictions on referee progression. Enthusiasts of any age can become Assistant Referees, however a Local Referee must be 14 before they can be graded and similarly a C Grade referee 16yrs and a B Grade referee 18yrs before they can attain that grade. The referee grades and pathway (courtesy of AWP) are as follows:

AWP REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY



Sea Wolf Run League / Tournament Referee Accreditation Requirements

In order to referee any Sea Wolf run game a referee must have the appropriate referee experience and / or qualification. If a developing referee (Local and C Grade) is also a player they can only referee below their grade or equivalent based on age.

1. Sea Wolf Waterwolves Program (Years 3 – 6) – Assistant Referee

- All games in Sea Wolf Waterwolves program must be officiated by a referee who has at least completed the AWP online Assistant referees course. The Waterwolves manager or a senior Sea Wolf club person should always be on hand to mentor, monitor and supervise these junior referees.

2. U12's Club Tournament – Local Referee

- All games in a Sea Wolf run U12 tournament must be officiated by a referee who has acquired the AWP grade of Local Referee or higher. A Seawolf senior club official with relevant coaching and refereeing experience should always be on hand to mentor, monitor and supervise these developing referees during tournaments

3. Junior League (Year 9 and 10 Games) & U14 Tournaments or games – C grade & Local

All games in Junior League / U14 tournaments must be officiated by 2 referees with one being a Senior Referee, specifically a referee who holds a B Grade or higher certification and if this is not possible then 2 C graded referees. This ensures a high level of expertise and consistency in officiating games and means

the senior referees can mentor and critique junior referees who they share control of the game with.

A. **A Grade Games (Boys and Girls)**

- All games classified as A Grade must be refereed by a senior referee (a referee who holds a B Grade certification or higher) and a C Grade referee. This reflects the advanced level of skill and understanding required for this grade and ensures that our Club is delivering a high quality product and experience for participating teams.

B. **B Grade / Mixed Grade Games**

- B Grade and Mixed Grade games must be officiated by a Senior Referee (a referee who holds a B Grade or higher certification and if this is not possible a C graded referee) and a Local Referee.

C. **Lower Grades:**

- For all lower-grade games, including those below B Grade, a Local Grade Referee may be assigned.

4. **U16 Tournaments or games**

specifically, U16 tournaments must be officiated by a Senior Referee, specifically a referee who holds a B Grade or higher certification and if this is not possible a C graded referee who either plays U18's or higher or is an U16 but not in the same grade. Eg a Div 1 U16 player who is a C grade referee may referee a Div 2 U16 game.

5. **U18 Tournaments or games**

All games in U18 tournaments must be officiated by a Senior Referee, specifically a referee who holds a B Grade or higher certification and if this is not possible a C graded referee who either plays U21's or higher or is an U18 but not in the same grade.

Implementation:

- **Priority Assignment:** For tournaments/games organised by Sea Wolf club, priority will be given to referees who are Sea Wolf members. Referees who have achieved their AWP B or C-Grade certification or higher will be given priority for refereeing games. This policy rewards referees who have completed the necessary training and achieved higher qualifications.
- **Incentivising Certification:** To encourage lower-graded and ungraded referees to pursue higher qualifications, referees with higher grades will be assigned to more competitive games. This serves as motivation for referees to attend AWP referee courses and improve their certification levels.

- **Schedule Management:** The club's Head Coach (or Referee Coordinator if relevant) will manage the game schedules to ensure that referees are assigned according to their grade. Referees will be informed of their assignments in advance, with adjustments made as needed based on availability and grading.
- **Training and Development:** The club will provide support and opportunities for referees and encourage referees to attend the relevant AWP referee courses. Games will be allocated to referees during Sea Wolf run tournaments and leagues to further help referees improve their skills and work toward achieving higher grades.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains aligned with NZWP & AWP guidelines and the needs of our club. Any updates or changes to the policy will be communicated to all referees and club members.

Contact Information

For any questions regarding this policy or referee assignments, please contact the Sea Wolf Water Polo Club's Head Coach or Committee Chair.

Policy Updates & Approvals

Date	Editor/Approver	Details
24 August 2024	Committee	Policy was created
<i>due August 2025</i>		<i>enter any changes as part of the annual review</i>