



NSW Handball League

COMPETITION BY-LAWS

(Updates 23 December 2023)

Foreword

The NSW Handball Association (NSWHA) conducts its competitions and matches according to the International Handball Federation (IHF) Rules of The Game 2016 and Current editorial changes and additions as published on their website, with the exception of those as detailed within this document.

The NSW Handball League Competition Rules have been constructed by NSWHA and approved by the President and are based on previous rules and guidelines as well as input from clubs and competition representatives.

The Competition Committee of NSWHA comprises:

- Board Delegate, as Chair
- League Administrator/s
- One (1) nominated representative from each NSWHA affiliated club.

Should a club or team wish to apply for an exemption or change to any of the rules/sanctions listed in this document (while still acting within the spirit of that rule), a written application to the Competition Committee is required. The Committee will examine the request at the next available opportunity and make a recommendation to NSWHA Board.

Ultimately, the final decision shall be made by the Board of NSWHA. Requests of this nature should be forwarded to the Competition Committee.

Competition rules

1. Playing area

The NSWHA will endeavour to provide the best possible playing surface to all players, based on venue availability and endeavour to provide as close as possible to IHF regulation court sizes.

The NSWHA must approve all playing venues.

2. Balls

- Only IHF approved balls can be used. The balls are to be provided by the competing clubs.
- Two (2) balls are nominated for each game, with one ball placed on the score table as reserve.
- Men's competition will use size 3 balls.
- Women's competition will use size 2 balls.
- The two (2) competing teams will provide one (1) ball each for the game, to be handed to the table officials before the match starts.

3. Participants (Coaches, Players, Officials)

All participants must be registered and financial members of NSWHA or other State bodies affiliated with Handball Australia (HA) and must be approved by NSWHA to participate for the given club/team.

Only members registered as players can take to the playing field during the competition. This is to be strongly enforced as a duty of care and insurance matter.

4. Registration of Clubs/Teams

NSWHA reserves the sole right to approve clubs/teams into its competitions. A club/team must fulfil the following requirements before they can be considered in the competition:

- Appoint a team manager or coach (a point of contact)
- Nominate two referees and table officials for match duty when required.
- Appoint a representative to the Competition Committee
- Register at least **10** players with NSWHA or other State bodies affiliated with HA. If a team has less than 10 players, special dispensation may be sought from the Board.
- Provide proof of at least one complete set of uniforms in accordance with the IHF Rules of the Game
- Submit a team sheet with the above information and pay team registration fees to NSWHA.

Should a team withdraw (or be withdrawn) from the competition, all points for and against and all goals for and against will be deleted. The entry fee for this team will be forfeited.

5. New player/official registrations

Once the team sheet is submitted clubs/teams can continue to add players and officials to their roster (up to a maximum of **19** players per team). This is to encourage growth in the competition. Clubs with more interested players are encouraged to consider submitting a second team.

Before a player or an official can take part in a competitive match, the following requirements must be fulfilled:

- Player/official is registered with the NSWHA, or other State bodies affiliated with HA and must meet their financial responsibilities, as required by the NSWHA.
- Player/official is 16 years of age or older for the men's competition or 14 years or older in the women's competition. Any exceptions need to be applied for on a case-by-case basis.
- NSWHA approves the player/official to be part of the club/team applying.
- New players can be added to the team until the conclusion of round matches, prior to the play-offs, but will not be eligible to play in the semi-finals or final unless they have met the eligibility criteria.
- Officials can be added up until the end of the Competition.
- A player registration and payment is required at least **3** days prior to match date to be eligible to play
- The Competition Registrar must ratify a player/official prior to participation taking place.

6. Transfer of players and officials

A player/official seeking to transfer between clubs is required to complete the following criteria prior to NSWHA authorising the transfer:

1. A written letter is to be provided by the player/official to NSWHA, explaining in detail, the reasons for transfer. The letter is to be forwarded by NSWHA to the player's Current Club (Appendix A) and copied to the player's proposed club.
2. The Current Club is to formally authorise the transfer in writing.
 - The Current Club is to include the following confirmations as part of their authorisation that the player:
 - o is not financially in debt to the club.
 - o is not currently sanctioned or under any disciplinary action.
3. NSWHA must confirm that the player/official:
 - is not financially in debt to the NSWHA and HA
 - is not sanctioned or suspended for disciplinary reasons.
4. NSWHA advises the player of any outstanding debts/sanctions (Appendix B)
 - All financial transactions must be completed prior to NSWHA offering the Proposed Club the transfer, except for 5 below.
5. NSWHA is to formally write to the Proposed Club outlining any conditions for the transfer, including outstanding sanctions/penalties carrying over (Appendix C)

- The Proposed Club may choose to finalise the Financial Debt on the Transferees behalf.
- 6. The Proposed Club is to formally accept the transfer in writing based upon the conditions set out by the NSWHA offer.
NSWHA is to notify the player and all Clubs of the outcome of the application (Appendix D).
- 7. Players can only transfer once during a season.

Administration:

- Preferred communication medium: **email**
- Committee member responsible for the administration of the transfer: **Registrar**
- Registrar has sole discretion on transfer so long as all criteria in Section 6 are met.
- In the event that all criteria are not satisfactorily completed, a quorum of the Executive must be consulted for consideration of the application

Exclusions:

- When a club has folded and players and officials are seeking new clubs

7. Movement of players within Teams of a Club

(This rule only applies if there is more than one division)

The following rules will apply only to clubs who have more than one team in the competition:

- Players can be moved, without formal application to NSWHA, within the teams of a given club under the following rules:
 - o A player can only play in **one** match per round.
 - o A player must have played a minimum of **three** round matches in that given team to be eligible to play in that team for the finals.
 - o A player may not be 'borrowed' in play-off matches or against a player's own team.
 - o The maximum number of players that a team can 'borrow' for a game is such that the number of players is equal to the number of players in the opposition team.
 - o A team may only borrow if it has 6 or less players, who are registered and eligible to play in that match.
 - o Players can only play in a higher division than that originally graded. A player could play in a lower division, only after special dispensation has been granted by the board of NSWHA.

8. Temporary transfer of players between clubs

As a general rule, transfers of players from different clubs should be discouraged; however, NSWHA will consider it on a case-by-case basis.

A club seeking to temporarily transfer a player from another club is required to

complete the following criteria, prior to NSWHA authorising any player transfer:

- A written letter is to be provided by the Requesting Club to the Registered Club explaining the:
 - Name of the player
 - Reason for the transfer request, including:
 - Why a participant of their own club cannot fulfil the position.
 - Duration of the temporary transfer (*maximum 14 days; exceptions can be considered by the Board*)
 - Event that has instigated the transfer request.
 - Start date of the transfer period
 - Completion date of the transfer period
- The Registered Club may 'accept' or 'refuse' the transfer request without reason.
- The transfer must be formally accepted or refused in writing.
- The acceptance or refusal is to be forwarded to NSWHA by the Requesting Club for authentication and approval.
- NSWHA is to formally authenticate the acceptance or refusal with the Registered Club.

If acceptance is granted by the registered club:

- NSWHA must review and authorise any conditions requested of the Registered Club They may include but not be limited to:
 - Confirmation of welfare of player whilst in the care of another Club
 - Confirmation that suitable insurances have been taken out to protect the transfer player.
 - Compensation plan in the event of injury of the Transfer Player
 - Rehabilitation plan in the event of injury of the Transfer Player
- NSWHA must provide the Requesting Club with any of their own conditions.
- The Requesting Club is to accept **all** of the terms and conditions of the Registered Club and NSWHA in writing.
- A player transfer fee as determined by NSWHA is payable by the Requesting Club.
- Payment in full is required (14) days prior to the event instigating the transfer.
- Receipt of payment is to be provided by the Requesting Club to the NSWHA, the Registered Club & the Transfer Player
- NSWHA is to confirm the Registered Club and NSWHA Conditions have been met.
- The Registered Club is to provide formal confirmation of payment and agreed terms.
- NSWHA can confirm acceptance of the Transfer Player to the Requesting Club

If the offer is refused by the Registered Club:

- A written letter may be provided by the Registered Club to the Requesting Club explaining the refusal. Reasons may include:
 - Player is not fit.
 - Player is injured.
 - Club requires retention of player for club related reasons.

There is no appeal process available to the Requesting Club

Special Note: Acceptance of a Transfer Player does not entitle the Requesting Club to any benefit whatsoever outside of the use of the player for the transfer period.

8. Forfeits

A club/team will forfeit the match if:

- At the time of throw-off, they do not have the minimum required registered players to take the field (in accordance with IHF Rules of the Game)

9. Penalties for Forfeiting

Teams forfeiting a match will be penalised as follows:

- A fine of \$250 (payable to NSWHA) will automatically apply for forfeiting where NSWHA is not given more than 24 hours notice.
- Forfeit for matches due to unsanctioned events warrants an immediate disqualification of that team for the rest of the competition.
- Disqualification of a team immediately makes the Club ineligible for the National Club Championships

Forfeits are permitted without penalty in the event that an IHF sanctioned event overlaps the NSWHA competition.

Forfeited matches are not rescheduled – they are forfeits.

- Forfeited matches will impose (-2) penalty points on the forfeiting team as well as the winning team gaining the full points for the victory.
- The forfeiting team will be penalised by -10 goals, while the winning team will receive +10 goals for that round match.
- If a team forfeits three games in one competition season, it will be disqualified from the remainder of the season.
- Where both teams forfeit a match, neither team shall be awarded any goals or competition points.
- A team which forfeits must still fulfil any official duties that it has in relation to other matches during that round.

10. Ineligible Players

An ineligible player is defined as

- (i) One who is not registered and payment made, at least **3** days prior to the match date.
- (ii) One that has insufficient matches to play in a play-off, semi-final or final.

Should a team play an ineligible player, the team concerned will be disqualified from that match. This is not a forfeit.

If it is proved that the club has wilfully sanctioned such practice, the said team shall be suspended from further part in the Association's competitions or otherwise be dealt with at the discretion of the relevant committee.

Where an ineligible player plays, the player's team shall receive nil points and nil goals for that game and the opposing team will be deemed to have won the match by ten (10) goals or the number of goals scored by that team, whichever is the greater.

Where both teams have played ineligible players, each team will receive nil points and nil goals.

11. Postponement of Matches

A team can request a postponement of a match provided the request is received by the Competition Manager at least **3** days prior to the match date.

A club/team can request postponement of a match for a one-week period unless special permission is requested and granted. The request will only be approved if an agreement is reached with both the opposing club/team and NSWHA.

If a match is postponed to a later date, NSWHA must approve the playing venue and approve or appoint referees and table officials.

Any requests for postponement of matches should be forwarded to the Competition Coordinator.

A team can only request a postponement if a state or national teams event impacts that team so that it has less than the required number of players.

If the event is to be conducted in Sydney, priority is to be given to the game/competition firstly.

12. Duties of NSWHA

NSWHA is responsible for:

- Appointing match referees
- Appointing table officials
- Publishing registered and numbered bulletins informing all competing teams if:
 - A transfer has occurred.
 - A match has been postponed.
 - A change in match schedules or venues has occurred.
 - Results and tables
 - Disciplinary decisions made.
 - Player suspensions
- Appointing a Disputes Committee (as per By-Law 26 of the NSWHA Constitution, 2004)
- Appointing a Disciplinary Committee matters including Blue cards. (see Section 15 below).

13. Duties of Teams

Each team participating in matches is responsible for:

- Checking the scoresheet prior to the start of each match to ensure the eligibility of players and checking player names and numbers.
- Supplying officials
- Uniforms – as per IHF rules

14. Discipline, disputes and appeals

In the event of any protest, appeal or dispute between teams and in the event of players and/or officials receiving disqualifications, where a report by the referees is mandatory according to the IHF Rules of the Game, NSWHA shall set up a Disciplinary Committee to hear protest and appeals, to arbitrate between disputing teams and to deal with further punishment of disqualified players and officials.

Any protest or notice of dispute likely to require the involvement of a Disciplinary Committee shall be lodged with the NSWHA within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident giving rise to the dispute. Both disputing teams and any player or official facing disciplinary charges may be represented and/or present witnesses to support their case.

The Disciplinary Committee shall have at its discretion the power to recommend to NSWHA that a suspension and/or fine on any players, or a fine on any team for any clear infringement of rules.

It should be noted that the Handball Australia (HA) precedent for a red card with report at Nationals has usually incurred at least a one match suspension to be served at the next equivalent opportunity.

15. Points system

During the regular part of the competition, the following system will apply for the competition:

- 3 points awarded for a win.
- 2 points awarded for a draw.
- 1 point awarded for a loss.
- Also, see Sections 8, 9, 10 – forfeits and ineligible players.

NSWHA will determine the outcome of the final stage of competition and notify the clubs/teams at the conclusion of the competition.

If two or more teams finish on equal point scores, the team with the best goal difference will be deemed to rank higher. In case of equal goal differences, the team's head-to-head performances will be utilised, and the higher ranking will be given to the team with the higher head to head points value, if this is also equal the overall goal difference will be used to determine the rank. If this again is equal, the ranking will be determined by the team with the greater number of goals for will be the higher ranked team. If this is again equal higher ranking will be decided by a coin toss.

16. Finals

To be eligible to play in the finals series a player must have played three (3) matches in the competition for that team prior to the final series. The player must be a registered member of the club, before the last three (3) rounds of regular competition.

To participate in a finals series match, a player or official must not carry a suspension imposed by the NSWHA.

17. General Conduct

The NSWHA as a member of Handball Australia (HA) adopts the national Member Protection Policy and its related Code of Conduct. All members are required to adhere to this. Any NSWHA member whose actions have the potential to cause loss of venue hire or be found to bring the game or NSWHA into disrepute will be referred to the NSWHA for consideration by a Disciplinary committee.

18. Interpretation

Any situation not covered by these by-laws is to be determined or interpreted by the Board of Directors of NSWHA. All other rules and regulations regarding HA/NSWHA endorsed competitions, player registrations, playing rules and other regulations as specified in the Constitution of the NSWHA and HA shall apply to the competition as relevant. Any omissions in these rules will be dealt with as per the NSWHA Constitution and relevant Bylaws.

Appendix A



PO Box 6471
Silverwater NSW 1811
Email: bronwyn@nswhandball.com
Web: www.nswhandball.com.au
ABN: 40 213 240 540

<insert date>

Dear Club Officials,

RE: PLAYER TRANSFER REQUEST

..... has provided written correspondence to the Association,
seeking an immediate release and transfer from his/her current club,
.....and has stated his/her interest to join
.....

This transfer is requested to be completed by.....

In order to review this request, NSWHA requires confirmation of the following information:

- o is not financially in-debt to the club.
- o is not currently sanctioned or under any disciplinary action.

In order for NSWHA to finalise this matter, we seek your confirmation by <insert date> via email (details below).

Regards,

<insert name>

NSWHA Competition Registrar

<insert email address>

Appendix B



PO Box 6471
Silverwater NSW 1811
Email: bronwyn@nswhandball.com
Web: www.nswhandball.com.au
ABN: 40 213 240 540

<insert date>

Dear Player

RE: PLAYER TRANSFER REQUEST

NSWHA has undertaken a review of your transfer request. We can confirm that you:

- o are/are not financially in-debt to your current club.
- o are/are not financially in-debt to NSWHA.
- o are/are not financially in-debt to Handball Australia
- o are/are not currently sanctioned or under any disciplinary action.

Outstanding sanction/disciplinary action.....

Prior to NSWHA accepting your transfer application, all outstanding debts and sanctions are required to be finalised.

Please confirm your acceptance of our review. In the event that you disagree with our findings, please provide evidence to support the alternative.

NSWHA is seeking to resolve your matter with urgency, so your prompt assistance is appreciated.

Regards,

<insert name>

NSWHA Competition Registrar

<insert email address>

Appendix C



PO Box 6471
Silverwater NSW 1811
Email: bronwyn@nswhandball.com
Web: www.nswhandball.com.au
ABN: 40 213 240 540

<insert date>

Dear Club Official

RE: PLAYER TRANSFER REQUEST

..... has provided written correspondence to the Association,
seeking an immediate release and transfer from his/her current club
..... and has stated his/her interest to join
.....

This transfer is requested to be completed by.....

NSWHA has undertaken a review and can confirm that the applicant:

- o is not financially in debt to his/her current club.
- o is not financially in debt to NSWHA.
- o is not financially in debt to Handball Australia
- o is/is not currently sanctioned or under any disciplinary action.

Outstanding sanction/disciplinary action.....

NSWHA is seeking a formal acceptance from your club in order to complete the proposed transfer. We seek your confirmation by <insert date> via email (details below).

Regards,

<insert name>

NSWHA Competition Registrar

<insert email address>

Appendix D



PO Box 6471
Silverwater NSW 1811
Email: bronwyn@nswhandball.com
Web: www.nswhandball.com.au
ABN: 40 213 240 540

<insert date>

Dear Player and Club Officials,

RE: PLAYER TRANSFER REQUEST

NSWHA has undertaken a detailed review of the transfer request for:.....
.....

We can confirm that the transfer is now complete and
is now eligible to play for their new club.....

Regards,

<insert name>

NSWHA Competition Registrar

<insert email address>