



TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS FOR UNDERWATER HOCKEY COMPETITIONS

Previously 'Procedures & Obligations'

**Version 1
February 2025**

Approved BoD 234 - 2025/01

APPLICATION

This document sets out the Tournament Regulations that must be adhered to for the organisation of all CMAS Sanctioned Underwater Hockey Tournaments. National Federations are encouraged to use the relevant sections of this document when running their own tournaments to ensure consistency.

This document replaces the previous document known as ‘PROCEDURES AND OBLIGATIONS FOR THE ORGANISATION OF UNDERWATER HOCKEY COMPETITIONS’

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Released	Amendments
1	February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Document renamed from ‘Procedures and Obligations’ to ‘Tournament Regulations’ to better reflect purpose of document.• Elite/Masters World Championships Qualification process added (5.1)• Section #3 ‘Championship Event Duration’ updated and separated into sections for Elite/Masters (Section 5) & Age Group (Section 6) World Championships, respectively.• Added new rules on Continental/Intercontinental Championships schedule (Section #4)• Section 7 ‘Round Robin Rankings’ created with existing text moved. Tie-breaking procedure (7.4) modified.• References to defunct “World Tournament Director” role removed.• Reference to “Video” in ‘Protest After Match’ clarified (8.3).• Other sections re-numbered for improved organisation.

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1.0 DESCRIPTION, DEFINITIONS, AGE, AND ELIGIBILITY

1.1 Description

- 1.1.1 Underwater Hockey is a sport played on the bottom of a swimming pool by two teams, each wearing basic snorkelling equipment, i.e. fins, mask, and snorkel. The object of the match is to use an approved stick to push or pass an approved puck along the bottom of the pool, into the opposing team's goal.
- 1.1.2 The term competition can be used as a general term which in the case of underwater hockey is equivalent to the use of the term tournament. A tournament is a series of competitive matches between two (2) or more teams at any one given time.
- 1.1.3 The ruling body for all International Underwater Hockey games and events shall be CMAS via the CMAS Underwater Hockey Commission.
- 1.1.4 Any inquiries concerning the rules by which international matches are played should be addressed to the Rules Director of the CMAS Underwater Hockey Commission.

1.2 Competition Definition

1.2.1 Competitions are classified into three (3) categories:

Categories	Competitions	Example UWH Events
Category A	World Championship	Elite World Championship, Masters World Championship, Age Group World Championship
	Continental Championship	European Championship
	Intercontinental Championships	Qualifier for World Championship
Category B	World, Zone and Continental Cups (national teams)	SEA Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth, Southern Hemisphere, Americas Cup, Trans-Tasman, FISU, 3x3 or 4x4 world tournaments.
Category C	Other International Events (clubs)	Club tournaments and other events.

- 1.2.2 An international competition may be registered as Category A, B or C.
- 1.2.3 The Category A competitions are the World Championships, Continental or Intercontinental Championships of National Teams.
- 1.2.4 Elite & Masters World Championships shall take place every four (4) years, with entry limited by a qualification structure (see 5.1). Teams are representative of their Country/Federation.
- 1.2.5 Age Groups World Championships shall not be limited by qualification and are open to eligible National Teams that are representative of their Country/Federation. The minimum criteria for considering an eligible world championship are:
 - 1.2.5.1 Teams are representative of their Country/Federation.
 - 1.2.5.2 A minimum of ten (10) countries participating.
 - 1.2.5.3 A minimum of three (3) continents represented. CMAS adopts the continental subdivision of countries as established up today and as it may be changed in the future by the International Olympic Committee
 - 1.2.5.4 A minimum of five (5) National Federations teams entered in each division.

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- 1.2.6 A Continental Competition is a tournament between nations of the same Continent and an Intercontinental Competition is a tournament between nations of two or more Continents. The minimum criteria for considering an eligible Continental or Intercontinental Championships are:
 - 1.2.6.1 Teams are representative of their Country/Federation.
 - 1.2.6.2 For Continental Championships, CMAS adopts the continental subdivision of countries as established today and as it may be changed in the future by the International Olympic Committee.
 - 1.2.6.3 Intercontinental Championship is open to two continents following the continents defined in 1.2.6.2.
- 1.2.7 The category B and C competitions have particular regulations that must be approved by the CMAS BoD and are always associated with the competition contract.

1.3 Age Determination, Divisions and Exceptions

1.3.1 The age of a Player is obtained by subtracting the year of birth from the current year. The Player will compete from January 1 to December 31 of the year in this category.

1.3.2 **Divisions**

- 1.3.2.1 **Elite Men's Division.** Minimum age is 18 (see 1.3.3). There is no upper age limit. and/or
- 1.3.2.2 **Elite Women's Division.** Minimum age is 18 (see 1.3.3). There is no upper age limit. and/or
- 1.3.2.3 **Men's Masters Division.** Minimum age is 35. There is no upper age limit.
Players age to be determined as per Rule 1.3.1. and/or
- 1.3.2.4 **Women's Masters Division.** Minimum age is 35. There is no upper age limit.
Players age to be determined as per Rule 1.3.1. and/or
- 1.3.2.5 **U24 Men's Division.** The age category is 19-23 inclusive.
Players age to be determined as per Rule 1.3.1. and/or
- 1.3.2.6 **U24 Women's Division.** The age category is 19-23 inclusive.
Players age to be determined as per Rule 1.3.1. and/or
- 1.3.2.7 **U19 Men's Division.** The age category is 15-18 inclusive.
Players age to be determined as per Rule 1.3.1. and/or
- 1.3.2.8 **U19 Women's Division.** The age limits are 15-18 inclusive.
Players age to be determined as per Rule 1.3.1.
- 1.3.2.9 A Player can only play for one team in a tournament.

1.3.3 **Age Exceptions** - A player whose age places them in the Under-19 division may compete in Under-24 or Elite division only if they are 18 years of age or older (adult) before the date of the first day of the competition.

- 1.4 National Federation and Player Eligibility for International Competitions
- 1.4.1 CMAS Competitions in Category A:
- 1.4.1.1 Only Nations that have their NF properly registered with CMAS may compete in a CMAS Category A tournament.
 - 1.4.1.2 The percentage of the foreign athletes (non-citizens) in a national team cannot be above 30.
 - 1.4.1.3 Athletes participating in Category A competitions must have a valid CMAS Sports License for UWH for the current year.
 - 1.4.1.4 Athletes competing for a national team in Category A competitions must either:
 - 1.4.1.4.1 Hold citizenship of the country for which they are intending to play OR
 - 1.4.1.4.2 Submit proof that they have been resident in that country for a minimum of 12 months (prior to the competition).
 - 1.4.1.5 Athletes holding dual citizenship must choose to compete for only one Federation. This choice obliges the athlete to remain with that NF until the requirements of 1.4.1.4 above are met.
 - 1.4.1.6 Athletes changing nationality may be subject to further restrictions as imposed by CMAS Sports Committee.
- 1.4.2 CMAS Competitions in Category B:
- 1.4.2.1 Athlete participating in Category B competitions must have a valid CMAS Sports License for UWH for the current year, under the country they are representing.
 - 1.4.2.2 Athlete participating in Category B competitions may have different nationality of the country representing, provided that:
 - Athlete has national license of that country.
 - To be affiliated to a foreign national team, the athlete must have the agreement of the two NF (their natural NF and NF being represented).
- 1.4.3 CMAS Competitions in Category C:
- 1.4.3.1 Athlete participating in Category C competitions must have a valid CMAS Sports License for UWH for the current year.
 - 1.4.3.2 Athlete participating in Category C Competitions under the registration of the club may have different nationality provided that:
 - Athlete has national license of that club (delivered by NF of the club).
 - To be affiliated to a foreign club, the athlete must have the agreement of the two NF (their natural NF and NF of the club).
 - 1.4.3.3 Athletes decide the registration of their clubs at the beginning of each calendar year, and they cannot change it during the same year. Registration shall be held by the NF of the club.

2.0 HOSTING REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Tournament Timing

- 2.1.1 Preferred dates for World Championship events will be during the month of July, starting and concluding within the two-week period either side of 15 July.
- 2.1.2 Preferred dates for Continental or Intercontinental Championships should be set to avoid clashes with World Championships. Generally, this is late August/ September period. Inclusive of scheduled training days the tournament shall be no longer than 7 calendar days in duration.
- 2.1.3 Preferred dates for category B and C events should be set to avoid clashes with World, Continental, or Intercontinental Championships.

2.2 Venue/Pool Facilities Rules for International Competitions

- 2.2.1 The regulations limit and stipulate the world, continental or zone championships meet the FINA standard FR3 Swimming Pools for Olympic Games and World Championships.
 - 2.2.1.1 Include an enclosed facility.
 - 2.2.1.2 The facility must allow two regulation underwater hockey playing courts (25x15 m preferred).
 - 2.2.1.3 The preferred pool depth is 2.4 - 3.0 m.
 - 2.2.1.4 The pool floor should be ceramic tile or similar that allows a plastic covered puck to slide easily over the surface. PVC liner pools are to be avoided.
 - 2.2.1.5 The pool floor penetrations must be flush with the pool bottom or outside playing area(s).
 - 2.2.1.6 The facility lighting intensity not less than 1500 lumens.
 - 2.2.1.7 The pool water temperature is not less than 26°C (+/- 1°C).
 - 2.2.1.8 The pool uses fresh water.
 - 2.2.1.9 The facility must have separate fibre connection allowing online broadcasting with preferred upload speeds greater than 20 mbps and allowing two courts to be broadcast simultaneously and separated from the facility Wi-Fi network.
 - 2.2.1.10 The facility has an area for drug testing of athletes.
 - 2.2.2 Bids for hosting an international competition, not meeting the Standards as defined in section 2.2.1, may be presented and accepted at the discretion of the CMAS UWH Commission.
- ### **2.3 Tournament Officials**
- 2.3.1 The International Official in control of underwater hockey international competitions shall be termed the CMAS **Technical Delegate**. They will be nominated from within the continent hosting the event by the CMAS Underwater Hockey Commission. Their role is to observe the compliance of the organisation to meet these requirements. They will liaise with the CMAS Underwater Hockey Commission and the host NF or organising body.
 - 2.3.2 The Chairperson of the NF or organising committee in control of the overall organisation of the international competition shall be termed the **Chairman of Tournament**. Their role is to ensure the successful organisation of the tournament.
 - 2.3.3 The International Referee in control of the overall refereeing at an international competition shall be termed the **Tournament Referee**. The Tournament Referee will be appointed by CMAS Underwater Hockey Commission in agreement with the host NF. This referee may or may not be from the host federation.

2.4 Category A Competitions

2.4.1 The host NF or organising body will work with the CMAS Underwater Hockey Commission to submit a Bid to host an International Event. This bid will be reviewed and Endorsed by the CMAS Underwater Hockey Commission prior to submission to CMAS BOD for formal approval.

2.4.2 Category A Competitions organisation must comply with relevant CMAS General Technical Documents and Contracts, including (but not limited to):

- Contract Competitions – Cat A
- Annexes contract CAT A UWH
- Procedures & Obligations Championships and Competitions Cat A – Cat B
- Championships and Competitions Organisation General Protocol Event Category A
- Naming Competitions CMAS
- Doping procedures organisers (CMAS Anti-Doping Fight In-competitions Controls Guideline to organisers)
- CMAS Brand Book
- Schedule of media activities (communication plan / marketing plan / Broadcast proposals / Photography & Image proposal / social media plan)

Specific clauses are included in this document below for reference.

2.4.2.1 CMAS logo may be used without changing them as defined in CMAS General Procedures and Obligations for the organisation of CMAS Competitions guidelines.

2.4.2.2 Championships logo may be created as defined in General Procedures and Obligations for the organisation of CMAS Competitions guidelines.

2.4.2.3 CMAS logo and name must figure on the title of the championship

2.4.2.4 CMAS Logo must figure on the Participant badges supplied by the organising federation, back colours set as follows:

- VIP Red
- Organisation Yellow
- Referee and Safety Green
- Teams Officials Grey
- Athletes Blue
- Press White
- Television and Streaming Purple
- The federation is free to choose other colours for any other category that it considers necessary.

2.4.2.5 Media: CMAS Competitions are and will be CMAS property. TV and Online Broadcasting rights will be property of CMAS in accordance with Championships organisation procedures & Obligations and contract of the event.

2.4.2.6 Advertising will be in accordance with the CMAS Championships Organisation Procedures & Obligations and contract of the event.

2.4.2.7 Communication of Results will be in accordance with the CMAS Championships Organisation Procedures & Obligations and contract of the event.

- 2.4.2.8 Opening Ceremony: will be in accordance with the CMAS Championships Organisation Procedures & Obligations and contract of the event. All ceremonies are to be practiced by key volunteers and officials.
- 2.4.2.9 Closing and Medal Ceremony: These two events will be merged together in accordance with CMAS Championships Organisation Procedures & Obligations and contract of the event. All ceremonies are to be practiced by key volunteers and officials.
- 2.4.3 **Finance** - The Financial risk of hosting the Category A tournament rests with the Host National Federation or organising body. The Tournament Budget must contain all expenses for the hosting of a tournament including:
- 2.4.3.1 For Category A events the Host National Federation will be responsible for the lodging expenses, full board, in single room for the following CMAS representatives:
- CMAS President or his/her representative
 - Sports Committee President
 - Director of the CMAS Underwater Hockey Commission or his/her representative
 - CMAS Technical Delegate
- 2.4.3.2 The travelling expenses of CMAS Technical Delegate.
- 2.4.3.3 The Host Federation or organising body will be responsible for the lodging expenses, full board, in single room of the CMAS Underwater Hockey Director (x1) and CMAS Technical Delegate (x1) for the duration of the tournament.
- 2.4.3.4 The tournament referee costs referenced in clause 2.4.4
- 2.4.3.5 Anti-doping Control must be undertaken during all World, Continental and Intercontinental Championships. Host NF or organising body are to contract their National Anti-doping Organisation (NADO) to undertake the prescribed testing. The cost is borne by the host NF or organising body. CMAS anti-doping will advise the testing requirements to the NADO (CMAS Doping Procedures for Organisers document)
- 2.4.3.6 All Venue hire and equipment hire costs to deliver a successful competition including, but not limited to:
- Aquatic Centre - Pool, Meeting rooms, Registration area
 - Meeting rooms (Tournament Control, Referee, Delegates meeting, CMAS UWH Commission meeting)
 - Opening Ceremony
 - Medal and Closing Ceremony
 - Post Tournament Party
 - Timing Equipment
 - Court Barriers, Lane ropes and substitute standing platforms
 - Underwater Filming and Streaming
- 2.4.3.7 Competition Inspection - All the expenses of the CMAS representative must be supported by LOC (Travel, local transportation and full board accommodation) for the competition inspection.
- 2.4.3.8 Insurance - The Host Federation must subscribe and provide the insurance of civil responsibility to cover all the aspects of the competition.
- 2.4.3.9 Safety - The Host Federation must take care of the right and necessary means according to safety procedures of each discipline and the rules of the organising country.
- 2.4.3.10 Security and Medical services - The Host Federation must take care of the right and necessary means according to security and medical services according of the law of the country where is held the competition.
- 2.4.3.11 All other expenses deemed necessary for the successful host of a championship.

- 2.4.4 Tournament Referees - The Hosting NF or organising body will provision in Category A competitions' budgets for the following expenses for up to 43 referees:
- 2.4.4.1 Category A competition Budgets will fund the referees' uniform of:
- 1x red protective cap,
 - 1x yellow in-water vest,
 - 1x yellow or orange referee gloves
 - 2x out of water polo shirts
- 2.4.4.2 In category A competitions the Referees will provide their own:
- Plain black shorts and
 - Plain black swimsuit
- 2.4.4.3 In the category A competitions the budgets will cover Accommodation, Board and transfers for the referees for the duration of the competition, plus a number of preceding days as follows:
- Three additional nights for up to eleven (11) Tournament Referees and Referee Coaches, and
 - Two additional nights for the remaining referees.
- 2.4.4.4 All Federations will need to fund the travel and provide up to three competent CMAS Level 3 referees (as defined by the CMAS UWH referee framework). Referees to be selected on merit by their NFs and must be approved by the Tournament Referee.
- 2.4.4.5 Based on the number of Championship Team entries the target number of referees required are:

Number of teams	Number of Referees
32-38	35
38-44	39
45-49	43
50+	43+

2.5 Category B and C Competitions

- 2.5.1 All competitions which do not meet the category A criteria are classified as category B and C.
- 2.5.2 SEA Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth, Southern Hemisphere, Americas Cup, Trans-Tasman, FISU, 3x3 or 4x4 world tournaments, or other can obtain CMAS category B competition official status.
- 2.5.3 Club competitions can obtain CMAS category C competition' official status.
- 2.5.2 The host federation or organising body shall be entitled to support by promotion of the tournament on CMAS media channels.
- 2.5.3 All participating athletes in a CMAS supported event must purchase a CMAS Athlete's license.
- 2.5.4 All other requirements for category B and C competitions are relaxed and it is assumed the event requirements are covered by other obligation agreements.



3.0 CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT DURATION

- 3.1 An Elite & Masters World Championship event is limited to a maximum of seven (7) days. This allows a minimum of one (1) day of orientation and maximum of six (6) tournament days. Tournament draws are to be constructed to meet these requirements.
- 3.2 An Age Group World Championship event is limited to a maximum of eleven (11) days. This allows a minimum of two (2) days of orientation and maximum of nine (9) tournament days. Tournament draws are to be constructed to meet these requirements.
- 3.3 A Continental or Intercontinental Championship is limited to a maximum of seven (7) days. This allows a minimum of one (1) day of orientation and maximum of six (6) tournament days. Tournament draws are to be constructed to meet these requirements.
- 3.4 Category B and C competitions have no restrictions in format or time however, generally these will be three (3) days in duration covering a weekend.

4.0 INTERCONTINENTAL or CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 Each team will play no more than three (3) matches per day.
- 4.1.2 Six (6) playing days are allowed.
 - 4.1.2.1 Up to three-and-a-half days (3.5) for round robin play.
 - 4.1.2.2 Up to two-and-a-half days (2.5) for play-offs.

4.2 Number of teams in tournament

- 4.2.1 The maximum number of teams in each division shall be capped once entries reach 16 teams.
- 4.2.2 If eight (8) or fewer teams participate in a division, a full round robin will be scheduled.
- 4.2.3 If nine (9) or more teams participate in a division, then the teams will be divided into two (or more) seeded groups. The highest seeded teams will form one group, with the lower seeded teams forming the other group.

Example:

Group A	Group B		Group A	Group B
Seed #1	Seed #6	or	Seed #1	Seed #9
Seed #2	Seed #7		Seed #2	New Team #1
Seed #3	Seed #8		Seed #3	New Team #2
Seed #4	New Team #1		Seed #4	New Team #3
Seed #5	New Team #2		Seed #5	New Team #4
			Seed #6	New Team #5
			Seed #7	New Team #6
			Seed #8	New Team #7

- 4.2.4 Seeding will be determined as follows:
- 4.2.4.1 Previous World Championship ranking.
 - 4.2.4.2 Teams not ranked in the previous World Championship shall be seeded based on the previous Intercontinental Championship ranking.
 - 4.2.4.3 Any further teams not ranked will be allocated in alphabetical order based on the IOC code.
- 4.2.5 At the discretion of the Technical Delegate, Masters Division teams may be included within the respective Elite Division competition during the Group Stage, to enable more matches to be played by the Masters Division teams. Championship (play-off) play will only take place between teams of the same Division.
- 4.3 Section Play
- 4.3.1 Section Group stage play will be scheduled with a maximum of seven (7) total matches per team.
 - 4.3.2 Matches will be scheduled to spread play as evenly as possible, but some teams may play one or two matches less depending on the number of entries.
 - 4.3.3 Rankings for Round Robin play shall be determined using Section 7 'ROUND ROBIN RANKINGS' of these regulations.
 - 4.3.4 Inter-Section games between the highest ranked teams in the lower group and the lowest ranked teams in the upper group, may be scheduled by the Technical Delegate as appropriate to the number of total teams. The winning teams in these games shall take the positions in the higher group
- 4.4 Championship Play
- 4.4.1 The Technical Delegate may include a "round-of-16" match to enable teams to play up to 8-10 matches for the championship.
 - 4.4.2 The Championship bracket will play a "Multilevel Tournament with Eight Entries" play-off with complete losers' bracket determining all places (see appendix).
 - 4.4.3 There will be a consolation bracket for all remaining teams, so all participating teams are seeded for the following (Bi-) Continental Championships.

5.0 ELITE & MASTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

5.1 **Qualification** - Teams must qualify for Elite & Masters World Championships by participating in their Zone’s respective Intercontinental/Continental Championships. Qualification is arranged as follows:

5.1.1 For each Elite & Masters World Championships, particular Intercontinental/Continental Championships will be designated as the Qualification Tournaments by the CMAS UWH Commission.

5.1.2 The Host Country for the World Championship tournament is allowed one (1) team World Championship qualifying position per division, regardless of ranking, for those divisions in which they participate in the Qualification Tournament.

5.1.3 For each division, all Zones are to be represented relative to their participation level in the Qualification Tournaments. The number of qualifying positions allocated to each zone shall be determined by the number of entries in the tournament relative to the total entries for that division across all qualification tournaments, and shall be determined by the following formula:

$$\text{Zone Qualifying Allocation} = \frac{\text{Number of Zone Entries}}{\text{Total World Entries in Division}} \times (\text{Total WC Spaces} - \text{Host Team})$$

5.1.3.1 **Elite Men’s & Women’s Divisions** - A total of twelve (12) teams qualify (including host country). If the host country participates, qualifying places are therefore determined:

$$\text{Zone Elite Qualifying Allocation} = \frac{\text{Number of Zone Entries}}{\text{Total World Entries in Division}} \times 11$$

5.1.3.2 **Masters Men’s & Women’s Divisions** – A total of ten (10) teams qualify (including host country). If the host country participates, qualifying places are therefore determined:

$$\text{Zone Masters Qualifying Allocation} = \frac{\text{Number of Zone Entries}}{\text{Total World Entries in Division}} \times 9$$

5.1.3.3 Allocation numbers calculated using the above formulas shall be rounded to the nearest whole number, except where the sum of these numbers across all zones does not equal the number of available spaces in the division. In this instance, the procedure to determine the allocations is as follows:

- i. When slots are over-allocated with normal rounding, the zone with the lowest decimal (in the number calculated by the formula) is rounded down, with the others rounded to the nearest whole number.
- ii. When slots are under-allocated with normal rounding, the zone with the highest decimal (in the number calculated by the formula) is rounded up, with the others rounded to the nearest whole number.
- iii. Where zones cannot be separated by the above, a zone with the World Championships host country receives the lesser initial allocation (as they receive the extra host allocation).
- iv. Where the World Championship host’s zone is not involved in the tie, the zone with the highest-ranking team (in the division in question) at the last World Championships receives the greater allocation.
- v. Where still needed, a random draw/coin toss performed by the UWH Commission will break the tie.

5.1.4 A minimum of one (1) qualification position is allocated in each division for each zone qualification tournament, in addition to World Championship host country allocation (if applicable to host’s zone). If necessary, to prevent the maximum number of teams for a division being exceeded, this allocation will be subtracted from the largest zone allocation.

5.1.5 The highest ranked teams in each Qualification Tournament will qualify for the World Championships, according to that Zone’s qualifying allocation.



- 5.1.6 If a team of the World Championship host country is ranked in a qualifying position in its Qualification Tournament, the allocation shall roll-down one position down the ranking of that zone.
- 5.1.7 If a qualifying team informs the CMAS UWH Event Director that it will not participate in the World Championship (except the host country), the allocation shall roll-down one position in the ranking of that country's zone Qualification Tournament.
 - 5.1.7.1 If the team withdrawing is from the host country, the qualifying positions for each zone must be re-calculated to correctly distribute the additional space now available in that division.
- 5.1.8 Where there are no further teams in the ranking to roll-down a qualifying allocation, the allocation may be assigned to another zone at the discretion of the CMAS UWH Commission.
- 5.2 Tournament Schedule
 - 5.2.1 Each team will play no more than two (2) matches per day.
 - 5.2.2 Six (6) playing days are allowed:
 - 5.2.2.1 Up to three and a half (3.5) days for round robin play
 - 5.2.2.2 Up to three (3) days for play-offs
- 5.3 Round Robin stage
 - 5.3.1 If seven (7) or fewer teams participate in a division, a full round robin will be scheduled.
 - 5.3.2 If more than seven teams participate in a division, teams will be divided into two groups, with teams assigned according to their ranking in their respective Intercontinental/Continental Championships.

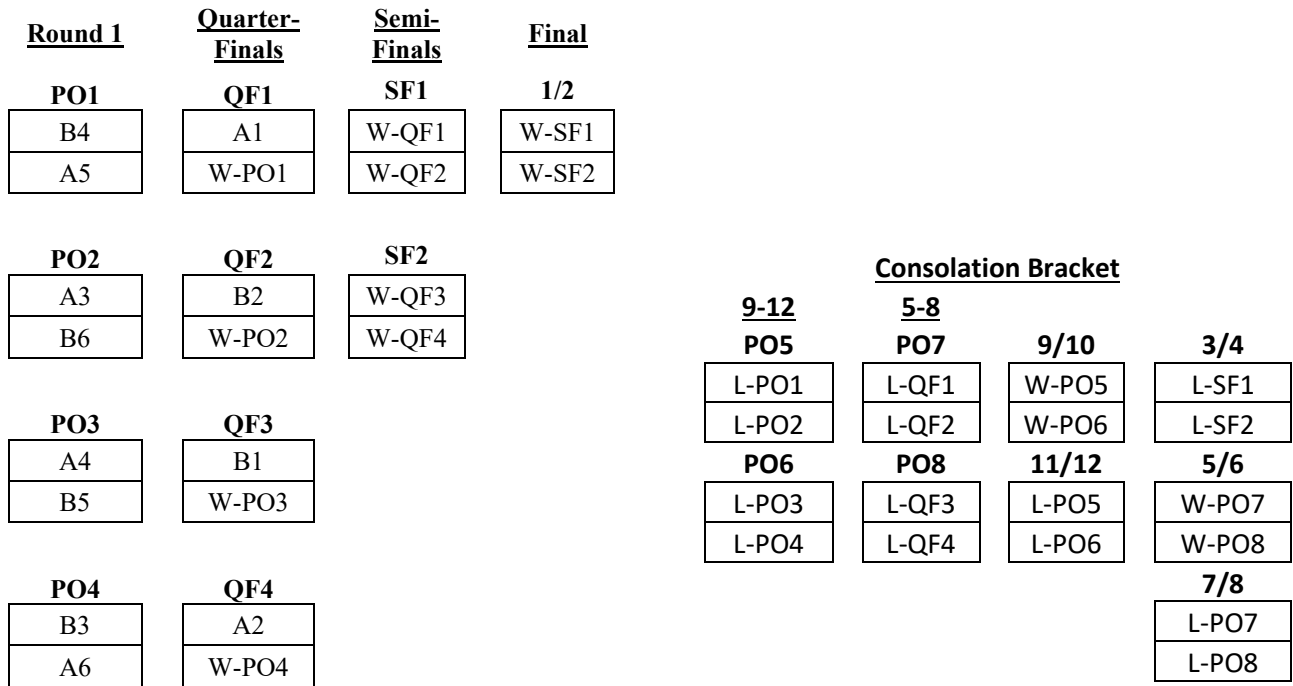
Example:

Group A	Group B		Group A	Group B
Euro-Africa#1	Asia-Oceania #1	or	Euro-Africa #1	Asia-America #1
Americas #1	Euro-Africa #2		Asia-America #2	Euro-Africa #2
Asia-Oceania #2	Americas #2		Euro-Africa #3	Asia-America #3
Euro-Africa #3	Asia-Oceania #3		Euro-Africa #5	Euro-Africa #4
Asia-Oceania #4	Euro-Africa #4		Euro-Africa #7	Euro-Africa #6
Euro-Africa #6	Euro-Africa #5			

- 5.3.3 Matches will be scheduled to spread play as evenly as possible, but some teams may play one or two matches less depending on the number of participating teams.
- 5.3.4 Rankings for Round Robin play shall be determined using Section 7 'ROUND ROBIN RANKINGS' of these regulations.
- 5.4 Championship Play
 - 5.4.1 Where a division consists of a full twelve (12) participating teams, a four-round knock-out competition bracket will be played. The two highest ranked teams in each group at the conclusion of the Round Robin will receive a bye through to the second knock-out round (Quarter-Finals). Complete losers' bracket will also be played determining all places. See Figure 5a.



Figure 5a



5.4.2 For divisions comprising between eight and eleven (8-11) competing teams (inclusive); the four (4) highest ranked teams in each group will progress to the Championship bracket. They will play a “Multilevel Tournament with Eight Entries” play-off with complete losers’ bracket determining all places (see Figure 6a).

5.4.2.1 There will be a consolation bracket for all remaining teams, so all participating teams will achieve a World Championship ranking.

5.4.3 For divisions comprising less than eight (8) competing teams an appropriate Championship bracket will be determined by the Technical Delegate.



6.0 AGE GROUP WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

6.1 General.

6.1.1 Each team will play no more than three (3) matches per day.

6.1.2 Nine (9) playing days are allowed:

6.1.2.1 Up to six days (6) for qualifiers and round robin play

6.1.2.2 Up to three days (3) for play-offs

6.2 Number of teams in tournament.

6.2.1 If twelve (12) or fewer teams participate in a division, a full round robin will be scheduled (no qualification round). A Double or Triple Round-Robin may be scheduled where the number of teams is fewer than eight (8).

6.2.2 If thirteen (13) to twenty-four (24) teams participate in a division, a qualification round will be held prior to the round robin section play. Seeding of teams will be necessary.

6.2.3 The maximum number of teams in each division shall be capped at 24 teams.

6.3 Seeding

6.3.1 For a qualification round, teams will be seeded into 4 groups based on the previous world championship ranking.

6.3.2 Unranked teams will be allocated in alphabetical order based on IOC Code.

6.4 Qualification Play

The qualification round robin will be held in the first 2 days of the championships and teams will then be seeded for intra-section round robin play in either; the Championship, Bowl and or perhaps Trophy sections based on their seeding. The groups will be made up as follows:

Qualification Group 1	Qualification Group 2	Qualification Group 3	Qualification Group 4
World Rank #1	World Rank #2	World Rank #3	World Rank #4
World Rank #8	World Rank #7	World Rank #6	World Rank #5
World Rank #9	World Rank #10	World Rank #11	World Rank #12
World Rank #16	World Rank #15	World Rank #14	World Rank #13
New Team #1	New Team #2	New Team #3	New Team #4
New Team #5	New Team #6	New Team #7	New Team #8

6.5 Section Play (Post Qualification Play)

6.5.1 Points from the qualification match between the two qualifiers in each section will be carried through to the section round robin.

6.5.2 Qualification and Inter-Section play will be scheduled with a maximum of twelve (12) total matches per team.

6.5.3 Matches will be scheduled to spread play as evenly as possible, but some teams may play one or two matches less depending on the number of entries.

6.5.4 Section matches will be assigned by seeding from the section round robin stage.

6.5.5 Should less than 16 teams and more than 8 teams enter the Championships then:

Anten Reynard

Championship 1st -8th place	Non-Championship 9th -16th Place
Gp 1 Seed 1 +Pts	Gp 1 Seed 3 +Pts
Gp 1 Seed 2	Gp 1 Seed 4
Gp 2 Seed 1 +Pts	Gp 2 Seed 3 +Pts
Gp 2 Seed 2	Gp 2 Seed 4
Gp 3 Seed 1 +Pts	Gp 3 Seed 3 +Pts
Gp 3 Seed 2	Gp 3 Seed 4
Gp 4 Seed 1 +Pts	Gp 4 Seed 3 +Pts
Gp 4 Seed 2	Gp 4 Seed 4

6.5.6 Should less than 24 teams and more than 16 teams enter the Championship, then the Technical Delegate may split the non-Championship teams into Group A and B to develop seedings for Playoffs.

Championship 1st -8th place	Non-Championship Gp A	Non-Championship Gp B
Gp 1 Seed 1 +Pts	Gp 1 Seed 3	Loss Gp 1 Seed 4 v Gp2 Seed 4
Gp 1 Seed 2	Gp 2 Seed 3	Loss Gp 3 Seed 4 v Gp4 Seed 4
Gp 2 Seed 1 +Pts	Gp 3 Seed 3	Gp 1 Seed 5
Gp 2 Seed 2	Gp 4 Seed 3	Gp 2 Seed 5
Gp 3 Seed 1 +Pts	Win Gp 1 Seed 4 v Gp2 Seed 4	Gp 3 Seed 5
Gp 3 Seed 2	Win Gp 3 Seed 4 v Gp4 Seed 4	Gp 4 Seed 5
Gp 4 Seed 1 +Pts		
Gp 4 Seed 2		

6.5.7 Should 24 teams enter the Championship, then teams will be split into 3 sections.

Championship 1st -8th place	Bowl 9th -16th Place	Trophy 17th -24th Place
Gp 1 Seed 1 +Pts	Gp 1 Seed 3 +Pts	Gp 1 Seed 5 +Pts
Gp 1 Seed 2	Gp 1 Seed 4	Gp 1 Seed 6
Gp 2 Seed 1 +Pts	Gp 2 Seed 3 +Pts	Gp 2 Seed 5 +Pts
Gp 2 Seed 2	Gp 2 Seed 4	Gp 2 Seed 6
Gp 3 Seed 1 +Pts	Gp 3 Seed 3 +Pts	Gp 3 Seed 5 +Pts
Gp 3 Seed 2	Gp 3 Seed 4	Gp 3 Seed 6
Gp 4 Seed 1 +Pts	Gp 4 Seed 3 +Pts	Gp 4 Seed 5 +Pts
Gp 4 Seed 2	Gp 4 Seed 4	Gp 4 Seed 6

6.5.8 Irrespective of the numbers of teams in each group the bottom two teams of the Upper group (Championship / Bowl) will play the top two teams from the Lower group (Bowl / Trophy).

6.5.9 The 7th seed from the upper group plays the 2nd seed from the lower group; the winning team becomes the 7th seed in the upper group and the losing team becomes the 2nd seed in the lower group. The 8th seed from the upper group plays the 1st seed from the lower group; the winning team becomes the 8th seed in the upper group and the losing team becomes the 1st seed in the lower group.

- 6.6 Rankings for Round Robin play shall be determined using Section 7 ‘ROUND ROBIN RANKINGS’ of these regulations.
- 6.7 Championship Play.
- 6.7.1 The eight (8) highest ranked teams in the Championship bracket will play a “Multilevel Tournament with Eight Entries” play-off with complete losers’ bracket determining all places (see Figure 6a).
- 6.7.2 There will be a consolation bracket for all remaining teams, so all participating teams are seeded for the following World Championships. The Tournament Organiser may include a round of 16 matches to enable teams to play up to 10-12 matches for the championship.
- 6.7.3 For divisions comprising less than eight (8) competing teams; an appropriate Championship bracket will be determined by the Technical Delegate.

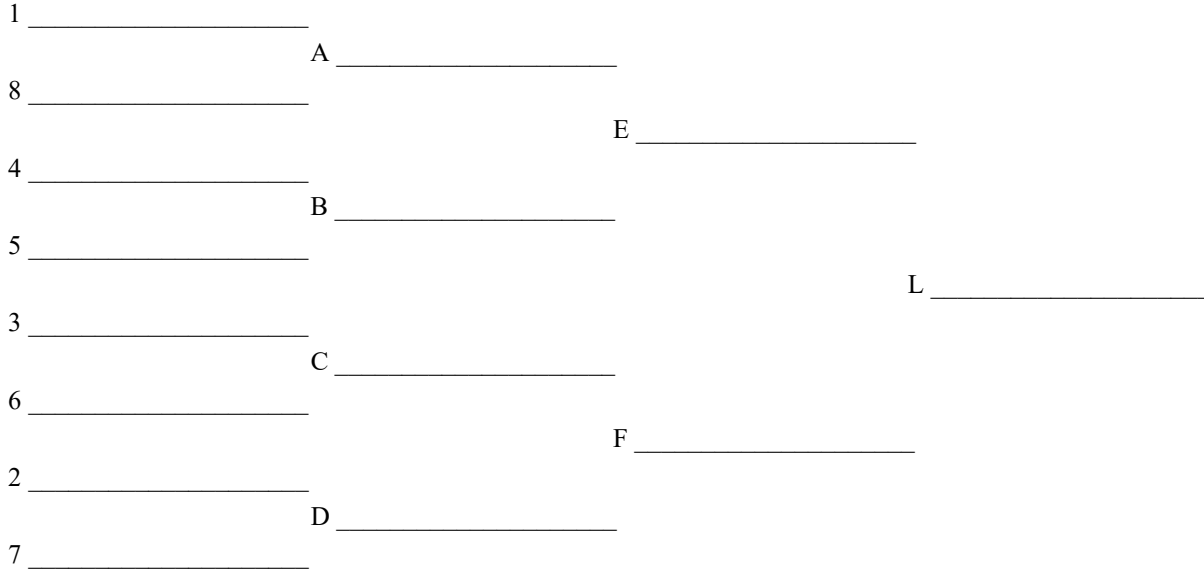


Figure 6a

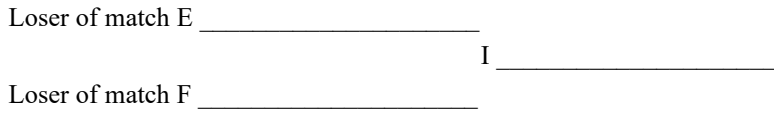
MULTILEVEL TOURNAMENTS WITH EIGHT ENTRIES

Seeding of Championship Bracket

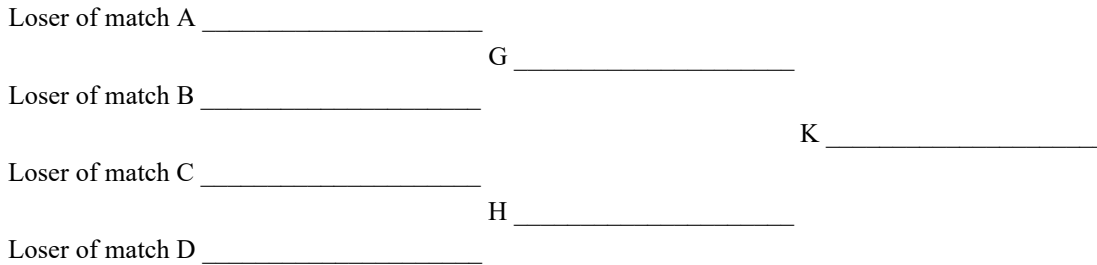
Match L determines the Champion and second place.



Match I determines third and fourth place.



Match K determines fifth and sixth place.



Match J determines seventh and eighth place.





7.0 ROUND ROBIN RANKINGS

7.1 In a tournament that includes a ‘Round Robin’ style round, rankings for that round shall be determined using a points system.

7.2 Points are awarded to a team for each match result are as follows:

Win	+3 points
Tie	+1 point
Loss	0 points
Forfeit	-3 points

7.2.1 Forfeit is defined in the Underwater Hockey Rules of Play.

7.3 At the end of the Round Robin stage of the tournament, teams will be ranked in each group according to the total number of points awarded in all games played against the other teams within its group.

7.4 If two teams are tied in ranking, the tie breaking procedure is as follows:

7.4.1 Head-to-head competition

7.4.2 Most number of wins in the intra-section matches. Team with the most wins is ranked higher.

7.4.3 Least number of losses in the intra-section matches. Team with the least losses is ranked higher.

7.4.4 Least sum of goals allowed in all matches in the intra-section matches. Team allowing the fewest number of goals is ranked higher.

7.4.5 Highest sum of goals scored in all matches in the intra-section matches. Team scoring the highest number of goals is ranked higher.

7.4.6 Coin toss

7.5 In the event of three or more equally ranked teams without a clear ranking by head-to-head competition, use procedures 7.4.2 through 7.4.6 inclusive to eliminate teams three through the last tied team. When two teams remain, go through steps 7.4.1 through 7.4.6 again to rank the remaining 2 teams.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Anton Reynard', is written over the signature line.

8.0 PROTESTS AFTER A MATCH

- 8.1 Only the team Captain or Coach may put forward a protest.
- 8.2 The protest must be announced to the Technical Delegate, Tournament Referee or Tournament Referee Assistants within 15 minutes of the end of the protested match. The written protest, in English, French, or Spanish, must be submitted to the Technical Delegate within an hour of the end of the protested match.
- 8.3 The written protest must be accompanied by a deposit of EUR 100 or equivalent in cash. Further evidence (e.g. Video) may not be submitted by the protesting team.
- 8.4 If the above-mentioned requirements are not fulfilled, the protest will not be accepted.
- 8.5 The deposit will be refunded if the protest is judged valid.
- 8.6 A jury to hear the protest is formed and is chaired by the Technical Delegate. Other jury members include:
- 8.6.1 Two Referees chosen from the Jury Referees for the Tournament.
- 8.6.2 Two substitute Jury Referees are also nominated by the Tournament Referee to the Technical Delegate.
- 8.6.3 Technical Delegate for the provision of tournament options.
- 8.6.4 A meeting secretary will be appointed for the jury. The position is administrative/non-voting.
- 8.6.5 All members of the Jury, including the substitutes, must be of differing nationalities.
- 8.6.6 Jury members must attend the entire Tournament.
- 8.6.7 If any member of the Jury is of the same nationality as the teams involved in the claim, one of the substitutes is chosen (except in the case of the Technical Delegate who must be on the Jury).
- 8.6.8 The Jury Referees are nominated from those referees attending the tournament by the Tournament Referee to the Technical Delegate for approval prior to the first game of the tournament.
- 8.7 A jury may:
- 8.7.1 The Jury may listen to all people it deems helpful to reach a decision.
- 8.7.2 The jury can utilise any resource it deems helpful to reach a decision.
- 8.7.3 The decision shall be made by a majority using a hand vote. In the event of a tie, the vote of the Chair will be final.
- 8.7.4 The decision of the Jury is final.
- 8.7.5 The Jury's decision is provided immediately in writing to the Technical Delegate who will advise the complainant and others involved.
- 8.7.6 The members of the Jury and Technical Delegate must comply with the secrecy of the deliberations.
- 8.7.7 The Technical Delegate (jury) decision is final.

9.0 GAME DISMISSALS, DISCIPLINE AND REFEREE REPORTS

9.1 Extract from CMAS Disciplinary Code:

For any international sports event organised by CMAS, where an international jury is not expected, any referee or judge- as well as the highest CMAS official in ranking for the discipline involved attending the event in his/her quality of non-competitor are entitled to immediately and finally exclude from the competition any athlete whose attitude, actions or behavior are prejudicial to the public order, the fair development of the competition and/or its results.

The players can be punished on violent or injurious attitude, violating competition rules, doping condition or implementing fraudulent schemes. Decisions taken by judges, referees and technicians are supposed to be justified, unless evidence of the contrary. They shall notify their decision to the Steering Board of the Board of Directors within three days.

The same immediate suspension can be imposed on any individual, even if CMAS officer, who would adopt the same attitude or play an accessory role in any fraud or doping fact.

9.2 In the event of a Discipline or Referee Report being received by the Technical Delegate the Tournament Jury will be convened to review the report and follow clauses 8.6 and 8.7

9.3 After review of the complaint a Technical Delegate (Jury) decision will be issued. Should an immediate suspension be imposed on any individual, the CMAS President as well as the CMAS Underwater Hockey Commission Director will be immediately informed.

9.4 The following penalties can be imposed upon competitors and individuals being CMAS members:

- a) Warning.
- a) Reprimand.
- b) Fine
- c) Disqualification from a sport event and results, and return of awards and titles.
- d) Suspension, with or without defer, from CMAS competitions and events.
- e) Exclusion
- f) Unless otherwise specified, the judicial bodies of CMAS may increase the sanction to be pronounced as deemed appropriate if an infringement has been repeated.

**CMAS TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS
FOR UNDERWATER HOCKEY COMPETITIONS**



9.4.1 Guidelines (extract from CMAS Disciplinary Code):

	Offence	Tournament Jury	Discipline Commission
Game Dismissal	Game Dismissal	Stand down one match	Reported to the commission
	Game Dismissal Attacking or Fighting	Stand Down one day through to exclusion from the event	Reported to the commission
Minor Infringements	Unsporting behaviour of a minor importance	Warning	Reported to the commission
	Dissent by word or action in an unfair way	Reprimand Repeated - Suspension from Facility	Reported to the commission
	Persistent infringement of the laws of the game	Warning or Reprimand	Reported to the commission
Serious Infringements	Repeated minor infringements	Suspension during or Exclusion from the event.	Referred to the commission for further action
	Serious unsporting behaviour	Suspension during or Exclusion from the event.	Referred to the commission for further action
	Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	Suspension during or Exclusion from the event.	Referred to the commission for further action
	Disorderliness at competitions and during assemblies or other CMAS official events	Suspension during or Exclusion from the event.	Referred to the commission for further action
	Violent or offensive conduct	Exclusion from the event.	Referred to the commission for further action
	Misconduct against sport events officials	Exclusion from the event.	Referred to the commission for further action
	If, in the case of violence, it is not possible to identify the perpetrator(s), Disciplinary measures may be imposed on national teams where its athletes fail to conduct themselves properly	Exclusion from the event.	Referred to the commission for further action
	Anyone who intimidates a sport event official with serious threats will be sanctioned	Exclusion from the event.	Referred to the commission for further action
	The visiting team is liable for improper conduct among its own group of spectators, regardless.	Suspension during or Exclusion from the event.	Referred to the commission for further action

10.0 AMENDMENT OF RULES OF PLAY & TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

10.1 Amendments to the rules may be:

- a) Proposed by any participating National Federation in good standing with CMAS at any time; or
- b) Proposed by the College of Referees; or
- c) Requested by the CMAS Underwater Hockey Commission

Proposed amendment of rules must be in writing, together with reasons justifying the rule change and submitted via email to the CMAS Rules Director.

10.2 Proposed amendment of rules are to be considered by the College of Referees and a recommendation for each proposed rule amendment is provided by the CMAS Rules Director

10.3 The proposed amendment of rules and recommendation of the Rules Director are to be forwarded to the National Federations for consideration and subsequent voting at a meeting of the National Federations College of Referee representatives to be chaired by the Rules Director or the Referee Director.

10.4 The meeting of the National Federations is to be held via online platform with each proposed rule change voted on. A simple majority of 50% plus 1 is required for approval. The Rules Director will announce the results of a vote within one week after the meeting. Rules may be referred to NFs for trialling.

10.5 For all approved amendments of rules, the Rules Director:

10.5.1 Must send the updated Underwater Hockey Rules to the CMAS Commission Director who will endorse and provide to the CMAS BoD for approval.

10.5.2 Once CMAS BoD approved, the Rules Director has 6 months to integrate them into the Rules of Underwater Hockey. Then the rules will be posted on the CMAS website and announced to all participating countries. E-mail may also be used to distribute the rulebook.

10.5.3 Approved rule amendments will not be in force for any event less than 6 months after the approval of the rules.