

Manchester Wildcatz Canoe Polo Club

NORTH WEST & CENTRAL REGIONAL CANOE POLO LEAGUE RULES

1. MEMBERSHIP

1.1 All clubs entering the Manchester Wildcatz North West and Central canoe polo league must be affiliated to the BCU and a photocopy of the parent club's affiliation card must accompany every team entry/re-entry form.

1.2 All players must hold current BCU membership permitting competition entry and be bona fide members of the canoe club entering.

2. REGIONAL LEAGUE

2.1 The League will be open to all players. The league will be split into Divisions depending on the number of teams entered.

3. ENTRY TO THE LEAGUE

3.1 All teams wishing to enter or re-enter a League must apply on the official entry form obtainable from the Regional Leagues Organiser (RLO) or downloadable from www.salfordpolo.co.uk. Entry will only be accepted if the form is completed in full and returned to the RLO with the appropriate entry fee by the closing date. Late entries may be accepted but is under no obligation to do so.

3.2 Preference of entry will be given to those teams showing a positive interest in Canoe Polo, i.e. entry to regional/national championships, attendance at refereeing and coaching courses etc. Special consideration will be given to teams whose entries were unsuccessful in their application for the previous season. Entries may not be considered from teams who are unable to supply an appropriately qualified referee.

3.3 The level of entry and tournament fees will be set annually by the RLO and advised to clubs prior to the commencement of the season. The entry fee is only refundable to a team not being offered a place in a league by the Committee.

3.4 Payment for one tournament must also be paid with the League entry fee. This will be carried forward to pay for the last tournament in the Division but will be forfeit if the team fails to arrive at a League tournament for which they are scheduled.

4. PLAYER REGISTRATION

4.1 Players are only eligible to play for one club in during a season and must be registered for their club and team on the entry form for that league. A copy of their BCU card (both sides) must be provided.

4.1.1 Players may be allowed to play for more than one club/team across the divisions if they have received special permission from the RLO before the start of the season (i.e. University players may play for their club and university teams)

4.2 All players in Divisions One and Two Open must take their up to date BCU membership card to each tournament. A player whose membership lapses during the season will be required to provide proof of membership renewal.

4.3 Before the start of each League tournament all teams will be required to complete a "Regional Leagues team/player registration form" available from the tournament organiser.

5. TRANSFER OF PLAYERS BETWEEN TEAMS/CLUBS

5.1 Clubs with more than one team may transfer one or more players from each team to play in another team in the same Division or higher provided the RLO and League Division Secretary/Tournament Organiser are informed in writing prior to the commencement of the tournament. Players transferred in this way must complete the season with their new team. No player may compete in more tournaments than those allocated to teams in that Division.

5.2 A player registered with a lower division team may play up for a team in a higher division. Once a player has played up in more than one tournament for a team he/she will not be allowed to play again for the team in the lower division. No individual may play more than one additional tournament than they would have played in the division that they were originally registered.

5.3 Players who have not played for the Club with which they originally registered must give 14 days' notice in writing to the RLO to register to play for another club in the same category of competition.

5.4 Players unable to complete a full season with the club with which they originally registered due to a major change in personal circumstances may apply in writing to the RLO for permission to transfer to another club. Approval will normally require the written agreement of both clubs concerned.

5.5 Prior to the start of the season a club may register a player who is a bona fide club member, uncommitted to any teams from another BCU affiliated club to play for their own part/composite team. Such transferred players must remain with the composite team for the whole of the season and may not be used by the club from which they came in the same league as the composite team is entered.

6. REFEREEING

6.1 All teams in Divisions 1 Open will be required to provide a Grade 3 referee or above for all tournaments entered. Failure to do so will incur a fine of £20. Teams in other leagues are required to provide at least a Grade 4 referee.

6.2 Clubs having several teams in the Regional Leagues must have sufficient qualified referees to officiate for their teams should tournaments clash.

6.3 Any team unable to provide a referee for a tournament must notify the League Division secretary as soon as possible. A fine may be imposed.

6.4 A team's nominated referee will be required to officiate at a tournament, a number of games equal to that which the team is due to play in.

6.5 In the absence of an official scrutineer, the Referee will be responsible for not allowing any unsafe equipment to be used during the tournament.

7. DIVISION AND TOURNAMENT ORGANISATION

7.1 Where a Division contains 10 teams there will be six tournaments with each team attending four.

Where a Division contains 8 teams there will be normally be four tournaments with each team attending three.

7.2 In each Division each team will play every other team twice during the season.

7.3 Wherever possible venues providing a pitch length of 35 metres will be used and otherwise preferably over 30 metres.

7.4 Points will be awarded as follows: 3 for a win, 2 for a draw, 1 for a loss, and 0 for failing to field a team. A forfeited game will be deemed to be a 3-0 win for the attending team.

7.5 Any teams missing league tournaments or play offs will be required to pay their full share of the pool hire charges as if they had attended. Referee fines will also be payable unless a minimum of 1 weeks' notice is given. Failure to do so may result in disqualification of the club from the league. Any team missing two or more tournaments will not be accepted for entry the following season. Any team missing one tournament may not be accepted for entry the following season.

7.6 Venues must be booked to permit 15 minutes time for each game. (15 x 6 minute half games in 4 hours)

7.7 Tournaments and matches will start at the appointed time with matches being 6 minutes each way with 1 minute interval at half time. Under exceptional circumstances i.e. broken goal etc, games may be shortened to a minimum of 5 minutes each way.

7.8 Order of play, lists of referees and other information for each tournament will be prepared by the League Division organiser prior to the start of the season wherever possible. Any additional information and final match details will, in any event, be sent by first class post or e-mail at least 7 days prior to the tournament. Results of a tournament will be sent to each team in a Division and the RLO within 21 days of the tournament.

7.9 The League Division organiser will arrange for the running of the tournament, provision of timekeepers, scorers, goals, end ropes, clearance of rubbish, etc, with the designated club/clubs.

7.10 Teams will ensure that they are changed and ready at the poolside to take to the water at the appropriate time. Teams arriving late will not have matches altered for them and will be recorded as not having fielded a team for any matches they miss unless they justify their lateness to the Tournament Organiser's satisfaction. In such cases the Organiser has the right to re-arrange the playing order as he/she sees fit.

7.11 Wherever possible teams should ensure that all boats and other equipment are left at the ends of the pool and not along the poolside. All players and equipment must be kept well away from the areas used by the referees.

8. PROMOTIONS AND DEMOTIONS

8.1 Subject to paragraph 8.4, promotions and demotions between League Divisions will take place on the completion of all league games at the end of the season. Prizes will be awarded to the first and second placed teams in each Division.

8.2 The bottom two teams in Open Division 1 will be demoted to Open Division 2 and be replaced by the top two teams from Open Division 2. The bottom two teams of Open Division 2 will be demoted to Open Division 3 and be replaced by the top two teams from Open Division 3.

8.3 In order to decide end of season League positions where two or more teams have gained the same points they will be ranked based on the following criteria;

- i. Goal difference
- ii. Goals scored
- iii. Results of the games between the teams concerned

8.4 In determining the size of League and Divisions for the next season the RLO reserves the right to promote/demote teams in the interests of sensible league organisation.

8.5 A team may request to re-enter the Leagues in a Division different to that calculated by these rules. Such a request must be in writing attached to the entry form and must set out in full the special circumstances claimed.

9. PLAYING RULES AND TEAM, CLUB, PLAYER DISCIPLINE

9.1 All matches shall be played strictly in accordance with the current BCU rules of Canoe Polo.

9.2 All clubs/teams/individuals entering the Regional Leagues are strictly bound by the rules of the competition. Any attempt by a club/team/individual to break the Regional League rules will result in the matter being referred to the RLO. Any club/team/individual found guilty of breaking the rules by the RLO may be disqualified from future league competitions for a period as determined by the RLO.

10. LEAGUE MANAGEMENT

10.1 The league will be managed by Manchester Wildcatz Regional League Subcommittee. To be chaired by the league organiser. The RLO will be ultimately responsible for organising of the Regional League and overseeing the successful and efficient organisation of the league.

11. GENERAL SANCTIONS

11.1 A team missing a league tournament will be required to pay the tournament fee and referee fines if appropriate.

11.2 Ultimate responsibility for the payment of fines and fees rests with the Club named on the team's league entry form.

11.3 In the event of any team failing to meet its financial commitments, all teams from the parent Club are liable to disqualification from the league next season.

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