



**VICTORIAN
UNDERWATER HOCKEY
COMMISSION INC**

Victorian Underwater Hockey Commission (VUHC)

BY-LAWS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This document supplements the Rules of the Victorian Underwater Hockey Commission Incorporated (**VUHC**) and further outlines matters concerning membership and club structure, the rules governing members and competitions, the role and responsibilities of the VUHC Committee, and the selection of Victorian team players and officials in relation to the annual Australian Underwater Hockey Championships.

2. AIMS

- 2.1. The VUHC acts as the peak state body for underwater hockey in Victoria in accordance with the Rules of the VUHC (**VUHC Rules**).
- 2.2. The core aim and purpose of the VUHC Committee is to promote fairness, inclusiveness and safety, and foster the development of the sport of underwater hockey in Victoria.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1. All players at recognised club venues must be registered members of the VUHC and the Australian Underwater Federation (**AUF**) in order to be covered by insurance.
- 3.2. All players participating in a sanctioned VUHC competition or event must be registered members of the VUHC/AUF, however, interstate players who are not registered members of the VUHC may participate in VUHC competitions if they are registered members of the AUF.
- 3.3. Players must currently register through the Australian Underwater Federation (www.auf.org.au) in their applicable level of registration.
- 3.4. The Committee may waive the VUHC membership fee (excluding the insurance component of that membership fee) in cases where players are transferring from an equivalent interstate branch and have already paid an equivalent fee for that year.
- 3.5. All registered members are to be bound by a Code of Behaviour as determined by the VUHC (**the VUHC Code of Behaviour**). The VUHC Code of Behaviour is set out in Appendix 1.



- 3.6. Registered members of the VUHC have all membership rights as described in the VUHC Rules.

4. MEMBER CONDUCT

- 4.1. Registered members of the VUHC must abide by the Code of Behaviour at all times when representing the VUHC (i.e. during training sessions, game nights, national and international competitions, social competitions, events, fora and functions etc.).

5. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

- 5.1 The VUHC Committee will take disciplinary action on the basis of section 19 of the VUHC Rules.

- 5.2 The VUHC Rules stipulates that one of the grounds for disciplinary action is where a member has engaged in conduct 'prejudicial' to the Association. The VUHC considers that the following amounts to conduct that is prejudicial to the Association:

- 5.1.1. Breach, neglect or refusal to comply with the VUHC Code of Behaviour;
- 5.1.2. Behaviour and/or conduct that detracts from the VUHC's good reputation at any time the member is representing the VUHC; and
- 5.1.3. Abusive, threatening, intimidating, harassing or insulting language, conduct or behaviour towards another member, player, supporter or official presiding at a club, local, state or national underwater hockey event, forum or function.

6. RECOGNISED CLUBS

- 6.1. The VUHC recognises the following past and present underwater hockey clubs (and their home venues):

- Bairnsdale Underwater Hockey Club
- Geelong Underwater Hockey Club
- Horsham Underwater Hockey Club
- Monash University Underwater Hockey Club
- University of Melbourne Underwater Hockey Club
- Warragul Underwater Hockey Club
- Wizards Underwater Hockey Club
- Wonthaggi Underwater Hockey Club
- Richmond Underwater Hockey Club
- Ballarat Underwater Hockey Club
- Melbourne Underwater Hockey Club

- 6.2. Each recognised club must nominate a registered member in their club to act as a VUHC Club Representative.



- 6.3. The VUHC Club Representative must report to the VUHC Committee on a regular basis and is responsible for forwarding club details and details of incidents or injury in Club events to the Secretary of the VUHC Committee.
- 6.4. The VUHC Club Representative is responsible for and must ensure that all players playing at the club are registered members of the VUHC/AUF.

7. STATE TEAMS

StateTeam Officials

- 7.1. Nominations for State Team Coaches, Selectors, Managers, Chaperones and Referees, where appropriate, shall be called for at least four months prior to scheduled date for the Australian Underwater Hockey Championships and positions shall be decided upon by the VUHC Committee 28 days thereafter.
- 7.2. Those nominating for official positions shall submit to the VUHC Committee a curriculum vitae, and/or application detailing their experience, in support of their nomination. Any positions not filled shall be re-advertised.
- 7.3. All state team members shall share the cost of airfares (economy) and accommodation (duration of competition only) for:
 - 7.3.1. A non-playing State Team Manager.
 - 7.3.2. Non-playing referee(s) to officiate at the nationals (when required).
 - 7.3.3. Non-playing coaches.
 - 7.3.4. Chaperone(s).
- 7.4. Playing Coaches and/or Team Managers will be eligible to receive up to fifty per cent reimbursement of accommodation and airfare costs. For coaches, these costs will be shared across the relevant state team and for a team manager these costs will be shared across all Victorian teams.
- 7.5. If any of the positions are shared, the cost equivalent of one position only will be covered by the state team(s).

General

- 7.6. All players trialling for state team selection must be current financial members of the VUHC and comply with the residency requirements in the Underwater Hockey Australia (**UHA**) By-laws.
- 7.7. All registered VUHC members intending to trial for state team selection must pay a deposit to the state team manager prior to entering the pool for state team trials.



- 7.8. Failure to pay a deposit as required or to make appropriate arrangements in writing with the state team manager, may result in the registered members' non-selection.
- 7.9. The state team manager will determine the deposit amount required to be paid and will notify members of the deposit amount 28 days prior to the due date and/or the date of the final state team trials.
- 7.10. If a registered member is unsuccessful in selection all deposits paid by that registered member shall be refunded to them in full.
- 7.11. If a player is successful in attaining a position in the State Team, has paid in part or in full the associated costs for the event but is unable to play, they must notify the State Team Manager as soon as possible to recover costs. Players should be aware that some costs may not be recoverable. These matters are for discussion between the player, State Team Manager and VUHC Committee, with the State Team Manager and VUHC Committee being responsible for final decisions regarding costs that are/not recoverable.

State Team Selectors

- 7.12. A selection panel consisting of three people (**the state team selectors**), one of whom is the team coach shall be appointed by the VUHC Committee prior to the trials.
- 7.13. The VUHC Committee shall send out a written request for nominations for state team selectors to be appointed prior to the state team trials.
- 7.14. Nominees for state team selectors should submit to the VUHC Committee a curriculum vitae, and/or application detailing their experience, in support of their nomination.
- 7.15. The state team coach will set the requirements for state team trials and will provide the selectors with all relevant information and instructions prior to the trial date.
- 7.16. A coach is not eligible to comment on the selection of a family member, partner or themselves.

State Team Selection

- 7.17. State team trials shall, where possible, be conducted at least three months prior to the scheduled date for the Australian Underwater Hockey Championships.
- 7.18. State team trials are to be organised by the state team coach(es) in consultation with the VUHC Committee and must be advertised at least 28 days prior to the trial date.
- 7.19. The state team coach must set the selection criteria to be followed by the selectors when selecting players trialling for a position in the state team.



- 7.20. The state team coach(es) must brief all players trialing on the selection criteria for a position in the state team prior to the commencement of the trial(s).
- 7.21. A player who is unable to attend the predetermined trial dates must submit a written application to the VUHC Committee as their nomination for selection on the state team. A player who is unable to attend the state team trials and has submitted a written application for nomination to the state team (**the nominee**), prior to the trials being held, may be provided with an opportunity to trial at a time mutually agreed upon by the VUHC Committee, the state team selectors and the nominee.
- 7.22. The announcement of the state team(s) shall be made by a spokesperson from the selectors within one week of the conclusion of the state team trials.
- 7.23. In the event that the number of people nominating for selection is insufficient to select a full team of 12, then players may be added to the selected team following the state team trials at the discretion of the coach and in consultation with the VUHC Committee, provided that they fulfil the original selection criteria outlined prior to trials.

8. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Aim and purpose of State Championships

- 8.1 State Championships is a competition for VUHC members that promotes participation, inclusion, and development of the sport at all levels. Its central aim is to be fun, competitive and fair for participants.

All participants to abide by VUHC Code of Behaviour

- 8.2 All VUHC members, players, officials and supporters participating in State Championships overseen by the VUHC Committee must abide by the VUHC Code of Behaviour.

Teams and Grading

- 8.3 Recognised Clubs must notify the VUHC Committee of their intention to enter teams into the State championships one month prior to the event.
- 8.4 Recognised Clubs must have A-grade and B-grade team lists approved by the VUHC Committee at least one week prior to State Championships, unless exceptional circumstances apply whereby the VUHC Committee may approve additions to a team no later than 24 hours prior to the competition commencing.
- 8.5 Players can contact the VUHC Committee to be placed in a team when there is not a place for them to play with their preferred club team.



- 8.6 A-grade players are those that have played at an elite level (in a representative state or national team) within the past 3 years.
- 8.7 B-grade level players can play in an A-grade team, however, A-grade level players cannot play in the B-grade division unless exceptional circumstances apply (for example the player is injured, pregnant, or returning from pregnancy).
- 8.8 Approval must be granted by the VUHC committee before an A-grade player is allowed to play in B-grade on the basis of exceptional circumstances. Even with the application of exceptional circumstances, no more than two A-Grade players are allowed to play in any B-Grade side.
- 8.9 Players at State Championships must be VUHC members, have an affiliation with the Recognised Club they are playing for at State Championships and must either be a current or former resident of Victoria. Former residents must have resided in Victoria for 12 consecutive months or more.
- 8.10 Subject to subrule 8.9, Recognised Clubs may include international or interstate players (non-resident individuals) in accordance with the UHA By-laws, as follows:
- 8.10.1 The VUHC Committee will grant permission for non-resident individuals to play for a Recognised Club at State Championships in the following circumstances:
- 8.10.1.1 Where a club team has **less than ten** players that team will be permitted to include a maximum of two non-resident players; or
- 8.10.1.2 Where the VUHC committee considers that inclusion of non-resident player(s) in a club team would:
- (a) benefit the competition as a whole; and
 - (b) encourage development of players; and
 - (c) maintain the integrity of the sport; and
 - (d) ensure fairness and equity within the competition and the promotion of the sport in Victoria.
- 8.11 A composite (e.g. Barbarians) team that does not meet the player eligibility requirements set out in subrules 8.9 – 8.10 above, and/or that is not entered under the name of a Recognised Club, may participate in State Championships but will not be eligible for finals or medals unless the Captains of all teams in the relevant division agree that the composite/Barbarian team is eligible for finals and/or medals.

Note: *Affiliation with a club is based on the player's preference and experience and does not necessarily require registration or membership with said club – e.g. it may be the club that*



they first learned to play underwater hockey. As a result, a player may be affiliated with multiple clubs in Victoria and it is the player's choice as to which Recognised Club (or composite/Barbarian team) they choose to play for.

9. VUHC POLICIES

There are various VUHC policy documents, which sit under the VUHC Rules, these By-Laws and the VUHC Code of Behaviour, and provide further guidance to members, officials, players and supporters regarding:

- appropriate and proper conduct;
- regulation of the sport;
- expectations and responsibilities of participants; and
- processes and procedures for raising issues with the VUHC.

Those policies include, but are not limited to:

- VUHC Member Protection Policy;
- VUHC Chaperone Policy;
- VUHC Communications Policy;
- VUHC Alcohol Policy;
- VUHC Including People with Disability Policy;
- VUHC Spectator Behaviour Policy; and
- VUHC Team Selection Policies (for both junior and open grades).

10. SECTION "B" RULES (for penant competitions)

- 9.1 If during the play the puck gets caught behind the goal tray, the referees shall stop play, position the puck 5 metres directly out from the back wall where the puck was caught and resume play with an equal puck.
- 9.2 Once playing time for a game has commenced and there are a minimum of four players of either team in the water then the referees, at their discretion, will signal the start of play.
- 9.3 Teams playing the last game are responsible for removing and storing the goal trays and side walls after the game (i.e. one goal per team).
- 9.4 A minimum of four registered players are required to make up a team, otherwise the team will forfeit the match.
- 9.5 Players may play a total of five (5) games in teams they are not registered in.
- 9.6 Players are not permitted to play in a grade lower than their registered grade.
- 9.7 Players may not play for another team in their registered grade.



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- 9.8 Players may play in a grade higher than their registered grade if the team requesting that person to play doesn't have a team of six (6) players, otherwise permission of the opposing team's Captain must be gained.
- 9.9 Players must have played a minimum of six games for their registered team during the penant to be eligible to play in the finals. Players who have played at least one game in a higher graded team than their registered team may play for that team subject to 9.8.



APPENDIX 1 - VUHC Code of Behaviour

1. This Code of Behaviour specifically applies to and binds all VUHC members.
2. This Code of Behaviour also provides guidance in relation to the expected behaviour and proper conduct of players, officials and supporters.
3. VUHC members, players, officials and supporters shall abide by the spirit and positive values of the game of underwater hockey including those of fair play, respect, tolerance, equity, and the maintenance of a high standard of personal behaviour and integrity at any time they are representing the VUHC (i.e. during training sessions, game nights, social functions, attendance at interstate or national competitions etc etc) and/or attending VUHC sanctioned events or competitions, or any events or competitions run by recognised clubs in Victoria.
4. VUHC members must abide by the Australian sports drug code.
5. VUHC members, players, officials and supporters will not use any form of profanity.
6. VUHC members, players, officials and supporters must respect the rights, dignity, and worth of each and every person involved in the sport and will not intimidate, offend, insult or humiliate another player on the grounds of age, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability (sensory, mental or physical handicap), race, colour, marital or parental status, political ideology, economic disadvantage, and ancestry, national or ethnic origin.
7. VUHC members, players, officials and supporters must accept responsibility for their own behaviour and performance.
8. VUHC members, players, officials and supporters will show respect and courtesy to the referee and match officials, and respond promptly to any rulings, decisions or requests they make whether before, during or after a match.
9. VUHC members, players, officials and supporters must not engage in a physical attack or assault, including but not limited to, the laying of a hand upon, pushing, shoving, striking, or kicking of any official, participant, coach, team representative, or spectator.
10. VUHC members, players, officials and supporters will endeavour at all times to be mindful of safety concerns involving themselves and other members during the course of training, competition and non-competitive activities.
11. VUHC members, players, officials and supporters will not damage or deface any VUHC sanctioned facilities.
12. VUHC members will not use deliberately rough tactics during a game against the body or person of an opposing participant.



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13. VUHC members, players, officials and supporters must not use abusive, threatening, intimidating, harassing or insulting language, conduct or behaviour towards another person.
14. Members shall respect and play within the laws and regulations that govern the sport of Underwater hockey as set out by the Confédération Mondiale Des Activités Subaquatique (CMAS) or as interpreted by Underwater Hockey Australia (UHA) or the VUHC Committee.
15. If any party breaches this code of conduct, the VUHC Committee may:
 - a) Provide a written warning to the alleged offender; and/or
 - b) Inform Underwater Hockey Australia of the alleged conduct and any concerns regarding the conduct and/or behaviour of VUHC members, players, officials and/or supporters; and/or
 - c) Where the alleged offending conduct concerns a VUHC member, take disciplinary action in accordance with Division 2 of the VUHC Rules.

History and status of VUHC By-laws

Revision	Prepared By	Reviewed By	Approved By	Date Approved
1	Stephanie Goodrick	VUHC Committee	VUHC Committee	16/09/2015
2	Amy Barry-Macaulay	VUHC Committee	VUHC Committee	