



2012 National League Championships  
**Official Format A Grade**  
February 2012

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- The 2012 National League Championships will be a series of three ranking tournaments culminating in a grand final play-off on the final day of the third tournament.
- The three tournaments shall be as follows: 24 – 25 March (Lake Roto Kohatu, Christchurch), 21 – 22 April (Naenae, Wellington), and 26 – 27 May (Waterworld, Hamilton).
- Players may only compete for one club.
- Teams are club based. All members of a team must be a member of the club they are playing for.
- New teams to the grade are required to gain permission from the Competitions Council.
- If any club wishes to enter two teams in the same grade they must provide distinct team lists that will apply for the duration of National League. Players may not move between two teams in the same grade at any time.
- If a club enters teams in more than one grade, i.e., A grade and B grade, players may not move between these teams. The exception to this rule is for women who may play for a women's team in A grade or B grade and simultaneously represent the same club in an open team in a different grade.
- All A Grade teams are required to supply one regional referee unique to that team. The nominated referee must have a minimum qualification of regional theory prior to the first competition. That referee must achieve a practical qualification prior to the end of the grand finals.
- Any player red carded in a game automatically receives a one game ban for the next game that player is due to play for that team during National League.
- All games should be played on a court that meets the requirements of the International Canoe Federation Canoe Polo Competition Rules and have timing and scoring systems clearly visible to players and the public viewing areas.
- New Zealand Canoe Polo shall be responsible for: booking and meeting the costs of venues; providing competition quality balls; and organising referees, scorers, and timekeepers via the referees and duty team draws.
- An automatic \$50 fine shall apply for each duty missed. This shall be payable prior to the team's next game. Please note: supplying an appropriately qualified referee as detailed above is part of team duty.
- All games shall be controlled by a minimum of one regionally qualified referee. Play off and medal games should be controlled by two regionally qualified referees.
- All games shall be played according to the International Canoe Federation (ICF) Canoe Polo Competition Rules. It is the Competition Council's intention to apply the changes outlined in the 2011 version of the ICF rules including the use of the shot clock.

#### **A Grade Ranking Tournaments**

- The Competitions Director shall determine the draw for the tournaments. The draw should be available two weeks prior to each tournament.
- The draw format for the ranking tournaments is two evenly ranked pools (top half and bottom half) playing full round robins. Initial rankings will be based on 2011 results. New teams will be ranked lowest.
- Play-offs shall then take place to ensure all teams finish each tournament with a ranking; this will include a playoff for top of the lower pool against bottom of the top pool.
- For subsequent tournaments pool groupings will be based on the previous tournaments final placing. Pools will then be divided into top and bottom half pools.

#### **A Grade Grand Finals**

- At the end of the three tournaments the ranking from each tournament will be compiled to determine a final ranking.
- Final championship results shall be determined with play-off games: 1<sup>st</sup> vs. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> vs. 4<sup>th</sup> and so forth.
- Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded.

**Points and placings:**

Points shall be awarded from the ranking tournaments for final placings only and as follows:

- 1st 20 points
- 2nd 16 points
- 3rd 14 points
- 4th 12 points
- 5th 10 points
- 6th 9 points
- 7th 8 points
- 8th 7 points
- 9<sup>th</sup> 6 points
- 10th 5 points
- 11th 4 points
- 12th 3 points
- 13th 2 points
- 14th 1 point

Rankings at the tournaments and placings at the end of round robin pool play shall be determined according to the 2011 ICF rules which state:

- Three points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw, and zero points for a loss or if a team misses a game.
- Where two or more teams have gained the same number of points, they shall be ranked in order according to the following procedures: (a) Goal difference; (b) Total number of goals scored; (c) Results of game between the two teams within that group; (d) Play Off, if possible.

NOTE: Where the goal difference rule is applied results from play-off games will not be included.

Elimination games and games to determine final ranking places shall comprise of:

- Two periods of 10 minutes with a three minute half time.
- If the scores are equal at the end of play and a result is required there will be a one minute break followed by periods of five minutes of sudden death play (one minute between periods).

**Entries:**

- All entries close on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012. Strictly no late entries will be accepted. Completed entry forms should be emailed to the Competition Director James Mitchell at [jamespaddles@gmail.com](mailto:jamespaddles@gmail.com)
- Full squad lists must be supplied by Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012. Team lists can be updated during the season in writing. Any alteration or amendment to the lists must be handed to the chief official in writing prior to commencement of the relevant tournament or affected player(s) will be ineligible to play.
- National League entry fee is \$1000 per A grade team and \$600 per B and C grade team. Full payment must be posted to New Zealand Canoe Polo at the address below no later than Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2012 or may be paid electronically to NZ Canoe Polo, BNZ, 02 0876 0048375 00.
- Teams that haven't paid by this date won't be eligible to play in the finals tournament.

**Disputes**

Any formal disputes during a tournament will be handled according to clause 6.0 of the Association Disputes Policy and section 79 of the International Canoe Federation Canoe Polo Competition Rules. If the competition has been concluded the case will be referred to the Board.