

South West University Polo League 2022/23

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1. **Information**

This year SWUPL will have 7 universities participating: Bath, Bristol, Birmingham, Cardiff, Exeter, Southampton, and Swansea. The league will be run as a double round robin across roughly 8 Saturdays or Sundays across the year with an open, ladies, and B/Fresher division. The league will then be used to seed teams for SWUPL Finals day which will be a stand alone knockout tournament.

Information will be distributed via the “SWUPL 2022/23” group chat for polo secs and across the “South West Universities Canoe Polo Leagues” Facebook page as well as via tournify.

This year SWUPL will cost £25 per university which will go towards paying for use of the pitch. In addition each university must purchase the correct licences to allow their members to use the docks for any game days which they play at.

This year scoring will be done by the universities playing in the game. They will report the score via the scoring spreadsheet shared on the SWUPL 2022/23 group chat. In the event of any issues surrounding the scoring of games the SWUPL Coordinator will investigate and decide the outcome of the game.

Finally a few other things have been changed or updated in the rules below so please read through the rules as well as the Health & Safety briefings carefully. Once you have understood these please could you sign Section 3 “Health & Safety” and return it to the SWUPL Coordinator.

2. Rules

Basic rules:

- 2.1. Standard canoe polo rules apply unless specified (according to the British canoeing canoe polo rules 21)
- 2.2. Kit and equipment won't be checked so it is the university's responsibility to use appropriate kit. If a referee or SWUPL coordinator spots dangerous equipment being used, the equipment must be removed from the field of play. All decisions to be made at the referee's discretion.
- 2.3. If a match is 'scratched' for any reason, the score is recorded as a 3-0 win to the team that did not cause the match to be scratched. If both teams are responsible for scratching the match, a 0-0 score will be recorded, and no points won for either team.
- 2.4. Any match scheduled as scratch is not part of the SWUPL league and therefore no league points will be scored from the match.
- 2.5. Anyone who wants to referee a match may do however if referees from universities not participating in the current game are available they should be used in preference
- 2.6. Referees should be of a suitable experience for the level of game (generally grade 4 qualified or better however this isn't essential) and if an inexperienced referee is used the other should be more experienced and take control of the match.
- 2.7. Any university competing within the SWUPL league does so under the understanding that they must be prepared to attend all game days required, after team availability has been submitted. If a university is not able to attend a game day they should notify the SWUPL coordinator at the earliest opportunity and at least one week in advance, and may be subject to sanctions at the SWUPL coordinators discretion in accordance with the 2022 British Canoeing National League rules.

Team selection:

- 2.8. Unlimited squad number
- 2.9. Players who play an open league match may not play in the B league for the rest of the game day. Some swapping across the season is permitted, as often team constitution will change based on attendance (The B-league is seen as a development league aimed at getting freshers as much game time as possible. Please be sensible with selection and don't put an experienced player in the B-team as they won't develop as a player and it isn't fair on other B teams)

- 2.10. Playing with fewer than 5 players does not automatically ‘scratch’ the match. To scratch a match with fewer players, an agreement with the other team must be reached.
- 2.11. The following is used as a guide for team constitution:
- Individuals that are current university students studying an undergraduate or postgraduate course, are automatically eligible to play in the league.
 - Recent Graduates (1st or 2nd year out of university) are also permitted to take part but will count as “ineligible players” see Below.
 - Students from a university other than that on the team sheet (I.e. a Bath player on the Bristol team), are also classed as “ineligible Players”
 - Members of the university and in possession of university ID/club membership (staff, internships) are considered eligible players, with the clarification of the SWUPL Coordinator.
- If ineligible players are used, the other team and table should be notified before the match and have the choice of scratching the match in their favour.

Ladies specific rules:

- 2.12. Ladies may play in the Ladies’ league and in the Open League however the number of ladies allowed to play in both leagues on a single game day is 3 per university
- 2.13. As Ladies’ teams can contain those new to the sport, “no binning” can be requested by one of the teams. This should be arranged prior to the game, and it is the captain’s responsibility to ensure that the other teams captain is in agreement. Although we are playing in good faith, agreeing to “no binning” should not be seen as a guarantee that nobody will be pushed in as we are all human and mistakes happen. Your paddlers should be skilled enough to safely exit the boat in the case of an unexpected capsize.

If a player cannot be binned due to medical reason, then that is covered separately in the Health and Safety policy, section 3.5.

B team specific rules:

- 2.14. Referees should apply some moderation when enforcing obstruction rules.
- 2.15. Referees should explain the reason for any fouls called up on; it is the referee’s discretion as to when a card should be given.



- 2.16. Play should be suspended with a time out in the event of a swimming player, to reduce risk of collision.
- 2.17. Similar to in Ladies league 1.13 “no binning” can be requested

3. Health & Safety

As SWUPL is not hosted by a single club, and the coordinator may not be present, it is important that each club is responsible for themselves. Universities, and their trip leaders, are responsible for the safety of their own members. Canoe Polo is an assumed risk sport. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own involvement.

First Aid

- 3.1. Every university in attendance must provide their own qualified first aider and a suitable first aid kit.
- 3.2. Each university's first aider, and a responsible trip leader (can be the same person) should be made known to the SWUPL Coordinator and other universities in attendance. If a first aider cannot be provided, the SWUPL Coordinator should be made aware a **minimum of 1 weeks' notice**, so a replacement can be sourced. This first aider should have access to medical information for all trip participants from their club.

Risk Assessments

- 3.3. Universities must provide individual risk assessments for any considered "at risk", such as underlying medical conditions that might require risk mitigation on the day, to the SWUPL coordinator. The SWUPL coordinator, with consultation, will then confirm either a go ahead or a "more mitigations required" for those under this umbrella wishing to take part.
- 3.4. Where necessary information from individual risk assessments will be distributed to those required such as Team Captains, Uni First aiders and Trip Leaders.
- 3.5. If an individual cannot be binned due to medical reasons, this must be shared with all players on either team affected and enforced by the referee with a yellow card to the perpetrator as the act is both deliberate and dangerous.

GDPR

- 3.6. All personal documents will be deleted at the end of the season.

By signing this document, agreement has been made on behalf of the club that you understand the risks and are responsible for your own involvement. Bath University Canoe Club, its members, and the SWUPL Coordinator, take no responsibility for events that take place while they are not present.

University: _____

Polo Secretary: _____