

**VOLUME 1 (OF 2)**

**INTERNATIONAL RULES FOR  
UNDERWATER HOCKEY**

**TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS AND PLAYING AREA  
REQUIREMENTS**

**Version 10.0  
July 2011**

**Volume 1: Tournament Regulations and Playing Area Requirements**  
*Volume 2: Rules of Play*

## REVISION HISTORY

V9.1 2006

V10.0 March 2010

## AMENDMENT HISTORY

Section	Changes	Passed
1.2.2.1 & 1.2.2.2	Removed age restrictions referred to in these sections.	Portugal 2010
1.2.2.5 & 1.2.2.6	Various: Alteration to include U23 grade by changing age limits to 19-22 years old inclusive	Portugal 2010
1.2.2.7 & 1.2.2.8	Various: Alteration to make Junior Grades U19 by changing age limits to 14-18 years old inclusive	Portugal 2010
1.2.2.9	Remove Cadets age grade	Portugal 2010
1.2.5	Added new rule re mandatory date for World Championships and set maximum duration at 10 days.	Portugal 2010
1.4	Various: Altered player eligibility rules for National representation.	Portugal 2010
4.1	Added maximum event duration constraint	Portugal 2010
4.2	Define tournament orientation duration	Portugal 2010
4.3	Remove graded inter-sectional play	Portugal 2010
5.2.6	Altered the Jury to be chaired by Tournament Referee	Portugal 2010
Various	Various: Amendments to sections dealing with 'Delay of Game'/'Corner Rule'.	Portugal 2010
11.3.3.1	Alterations to rule regarding glove colours.	Portugal 2010
11.3.7	Various: Alterations to relax rules affecting stick materials.	Portugal 2010
14.1.1	Reworded rule defining 'possession'.	Portugal 2010
14.2.1.1	Added new rule re determination of game result	Portugal 2010
14.2.3.2	Clarified rule on stop clock during last 2 minutes of timed play periods.	Portugal 2010
15.2	Added new rule formalising 'free substitution' after a goal has been scored.	Portugal 2010
17.4.4	Added new rule requiring reporting of players/coaches receiving total game dismissals, to a Tournament Jury.	Portugal 2010



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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 of six players, 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.

### **1.2 Tournaments, Championships, and Division Age Requirements**

- 1.2.1 A **Tournament** is a series of competitive matches between two (2) or more teams at any one given time.
- 1.2.2 **World Championship:** an international competition may be registered as a "World Championship" with CMAS if two or more of the following requirements are met:
- 1.2.2.1 For all tournaments and all grades (World, European or Cup and Master Elite U23 and U19) the number of team must be compliant with CMAS Procedure
- 1.2.2.2 In case of the minimum team requires will not be enough the tournament will be called "demonstration" and won't provide any ranking
- 1.2.2.3 The **Men Master's Division.**  
Minimum age is 35 (male) and players must have attained his 35<sup>th</sup> birthday on or before the first match of the competition. There is no upper age limit.
- 1.2.2.4 The **Women's Master's Division.**  
Minimum age is 32 and players must have attained her 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday on or before the first match of the competition. There is no upper age limit.
- 1.2.2.5 The **Men U23's Division.**  
The age category is 19-22 inclusive. Players must have attained his limiting birthday on or before the first of January on the year of the event.
- 1.2.2.6 for the **Women U23's Division.**  
The age category is 19-22 inclusive. Players must have attained her limiting birthday on or before the first of January on the year of the event.
- 1.2.2.7 The **Men U19's Division.**  
The age category is 14-18 inclusive. Players must have attained his limiting birthday on or before the first of January on the year of the event. See section 1.3.1 for exceptions for players of younger than 14 y.o.
- 1.2.2.8 The **Women U19's Division.**  
The age limits are 14-18 inclusive. Players must have attained her limiting birthday on or before the first of January on the year of the event. See section 1.3.1 for exceptions for players of younger than 14 y.o.
- 1.2.3 A Continental or Zone Competition is a tournament between nations of the same Continent or Zone.
- 1.2.4 The International Referee in control of the overall refereeing at a World or Zone Championship shall be termed the **World Tournament Referee.**
- 1.2.5 Preferred dates for U19 and U23 events will be during the month of July, starting and concluding within the two week period either side of 15 July. Inclusive of scheduled training days the tournament shall be no longer than 10 calendar days in duration.

### **1.3 Age Determination and Exceptions**

- 1.3.1 The age of a U23 or U19 competitor is that age on 1 January of the calendar year. The player maintains that age and may compete in that category until 31 December of that same year regardless of the actual birth date of the competitor.

#### **Age Exceptions**

- 1.3.1.1 A player whose age would place them in Junior Men or Junior Women divisions may compete in the immediately higher appropriate division only if both of the following requirements are met:
- 1.3.2.1.1 Before the start of any match of the Tournament, a signed written agreement by the player is given to the World Tournament Director. If the competitor is a minor, the agreement is additionally signed by a parent or a legal guardian; and
- 1.3.2.1.2 Before the start of the Tournament, a medical certificate signed by a licensed medical official stating that

the player may compete in the immediately higher appropriate division is given to the World Tournament Director.

#### **1.4 Federation and Player Eligibility**

##### 1.4.1 Federation Eligibility for Tournaments

1.4.1.1 Only Nations that have their Federations properly registered with CMAS may compete in a CMAS tournament.

##### 1.4.2 Athletes must either:

1.4.2.1 Hold citizenship of the country for which they are intending to play; **OR**

1.4.2.2 Submit proof that they have been resident in that country for a minimum of 12 months in the previous 18 months (prior to the competition); **AND**

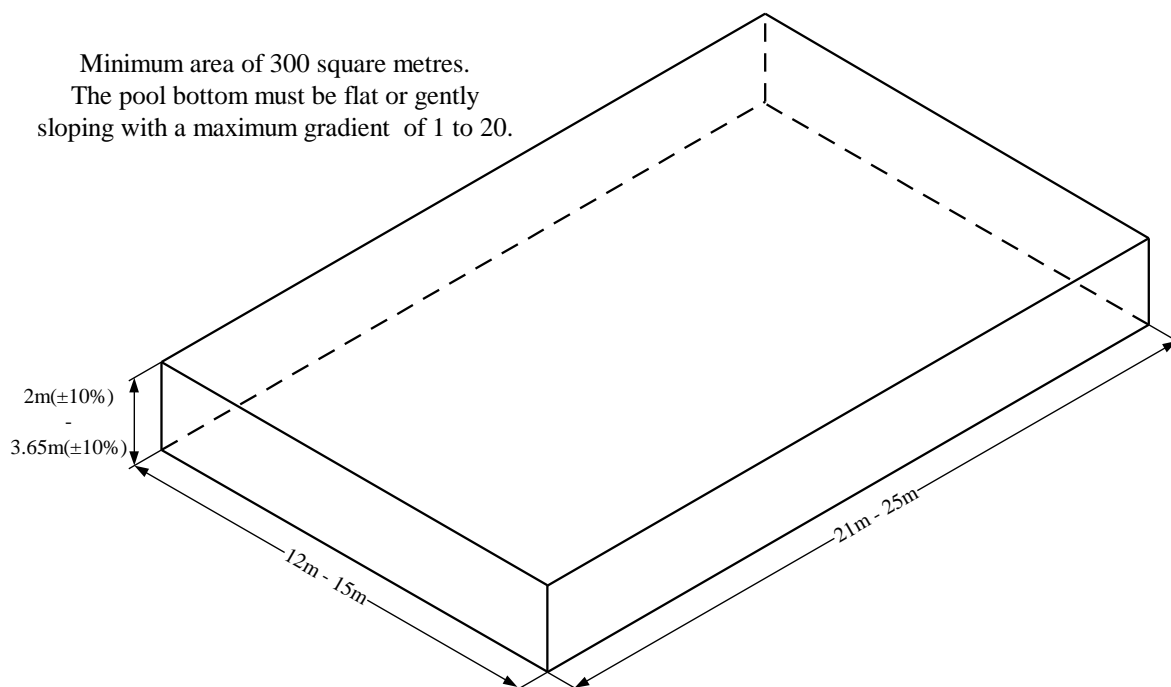
1.4.3 Athletes holding dual citizenship must choose to compete for only one Federation. This choice obliges the athlete to remain with that Federation until the requirements of either of 1.4.2.1 or 1.4.2.2 and 1.4.2.3 above are met.

## **2.0 PLAYING AREA (see Figures 2A - 2E)**

### **2.1 Playing Area**

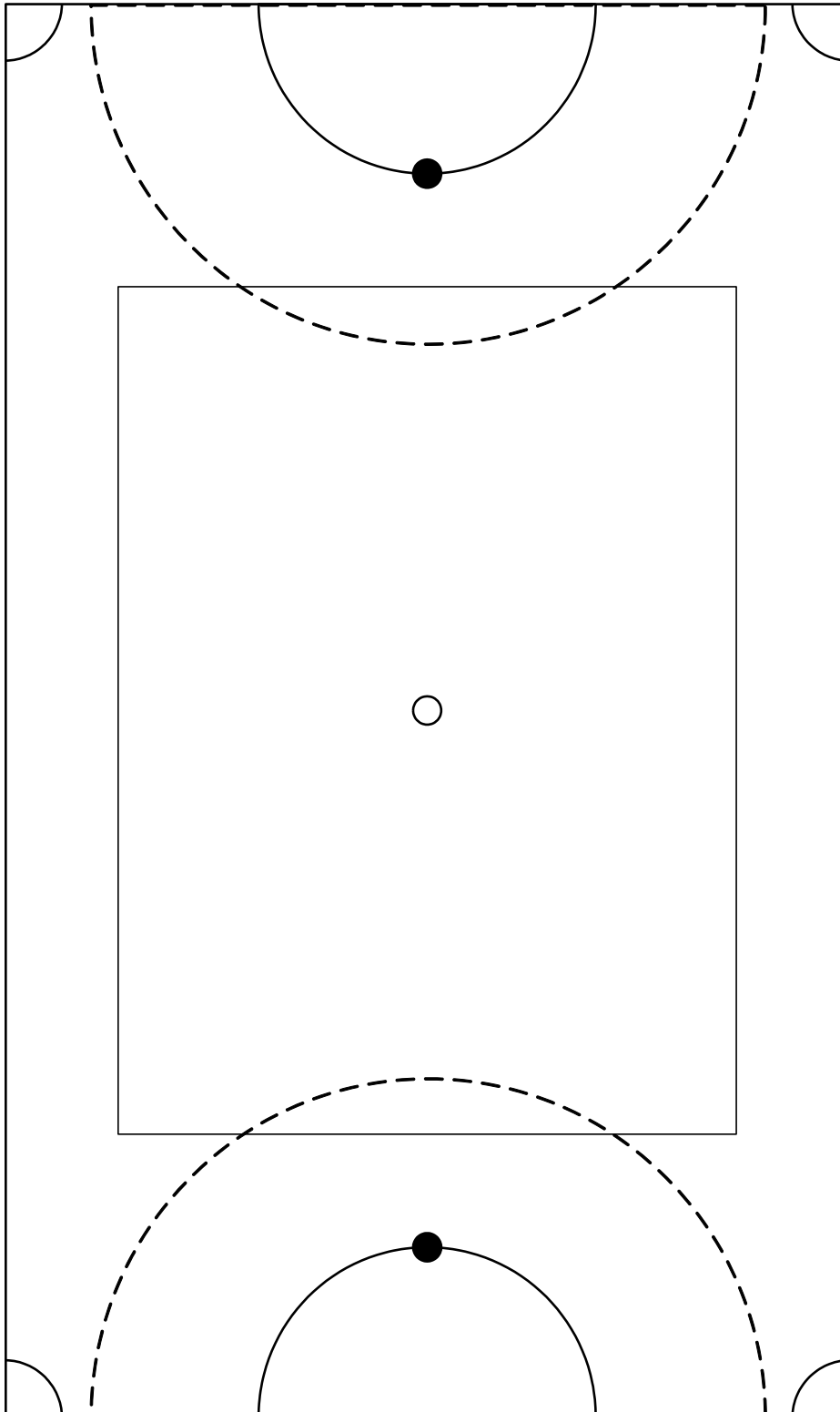
- 2.1.1 The playing area shall be a swimming pool or part thereof.
- 2.1.2 The playing area shall be 12m-15m wide and 21m-25m long, provided that the minimum playing area is 300 square metres.
- 2.1.3 The pool bottom must be flat or gently sloping with a maximum gradient of 1 to 20.
- 2.1.4 The depth of the water shall be between 2m and 3.65m inclusive, with a  $\pm 10\%$  allowance with the approval of the World Tournament Director. Pools shallower than 2m must be considered "fast and safe" by the World Tournament Director.
- 2.1.5 The end lines must be of a solid nature, i.e. pool walls.
- 2.1.6 A sideline may be either a pool wall, sturdy barrier, or a demarcation line on the pool bottom.
- 2.1.6.1 The barrier should have a minimum height of 300mm.
- 2.1.6.2 A floating line will **not** be immediately above a demarcation line on the bottom to mark the sideline on the surface. The floating line must be outside the playing area.
- 2.1.6.3 The demarcation line belongs to the playing area.
- 2.1.6.4 For World Championships, sturdy barriers or walls are essential. For Zone for other tournaments, a sturdy barrier or wall is preferred. However, if not possible, a demarcation line is acceptable.
- 2.1.7 At each end of a playing area, centred on the mid-point of the end line, a penalty shot area will be marked by a dotted line on the pool bottom to define a semi-circle with a 6m radius, and a goal area will be marked by a solid line on the pool bottom to define a semi-circle with a 3m radius.
- 2.1.8 A Penalty Spot shall be marked in the middle of a 3m arc.
- 2.1.9 A Centre Spot shall be marked in the geometric centre of the playing area
- 2.1.10 The "corner" is defined as that part of the playing area bounded by the side and end walls (or side and end lines) and a circular arc of 1 metre radius whose centre is at the intersection (or projected intersection in the case of a curved corner) of the side and end walls (or side and end lines). There are four such 'corners' in a single playing area.

**FIGURE 2A** **PLAYING AREA DIMENSIONS**



The depth of the water shall be between 2m and 3.65m, with a  $\pm 10\%$  allowance with the approval of the World Tournament Director. Pools shallower than 2m must be considered “fast and safe” by the World Tournament Director.

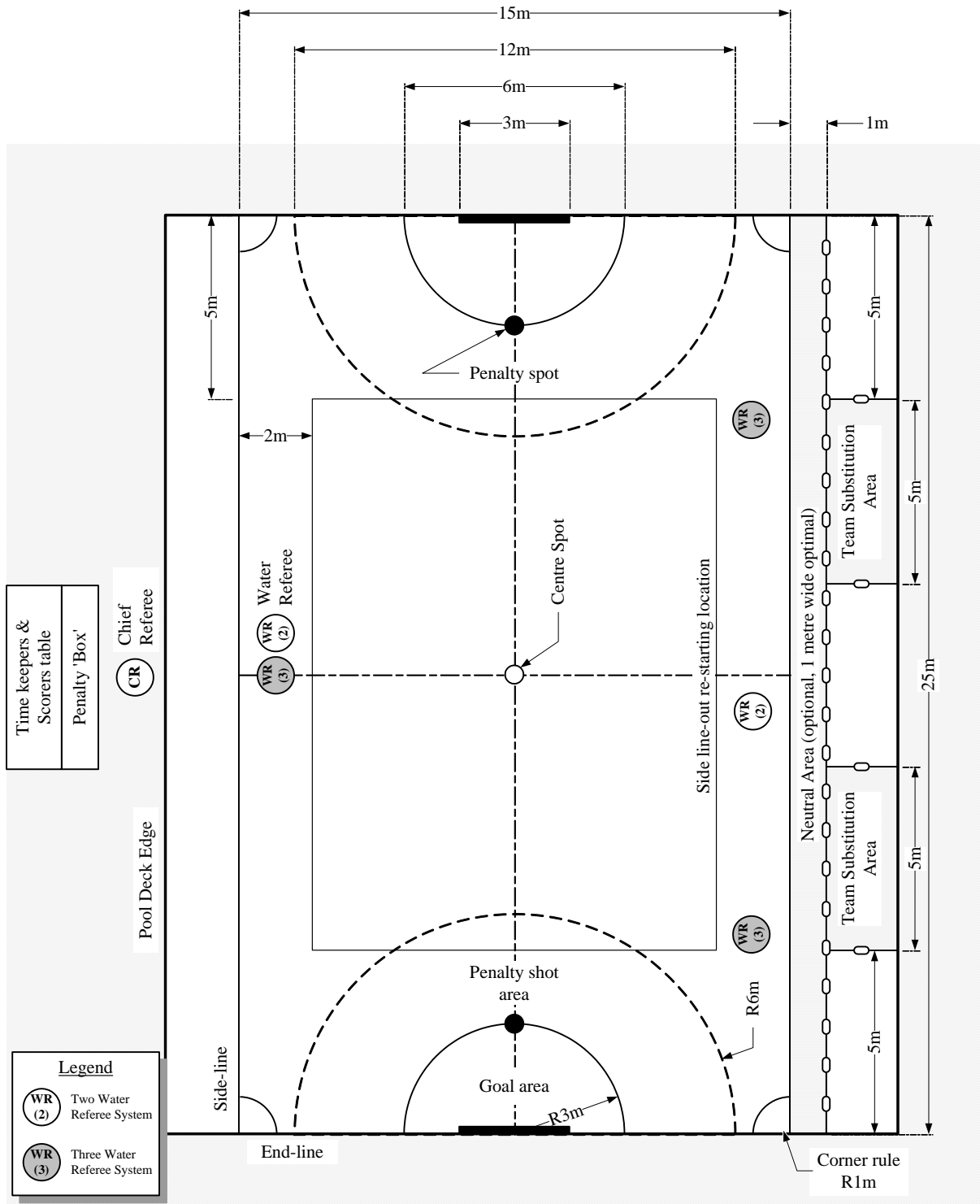
**FIGURE 2B** **PLAYING AREA MARKINGS**



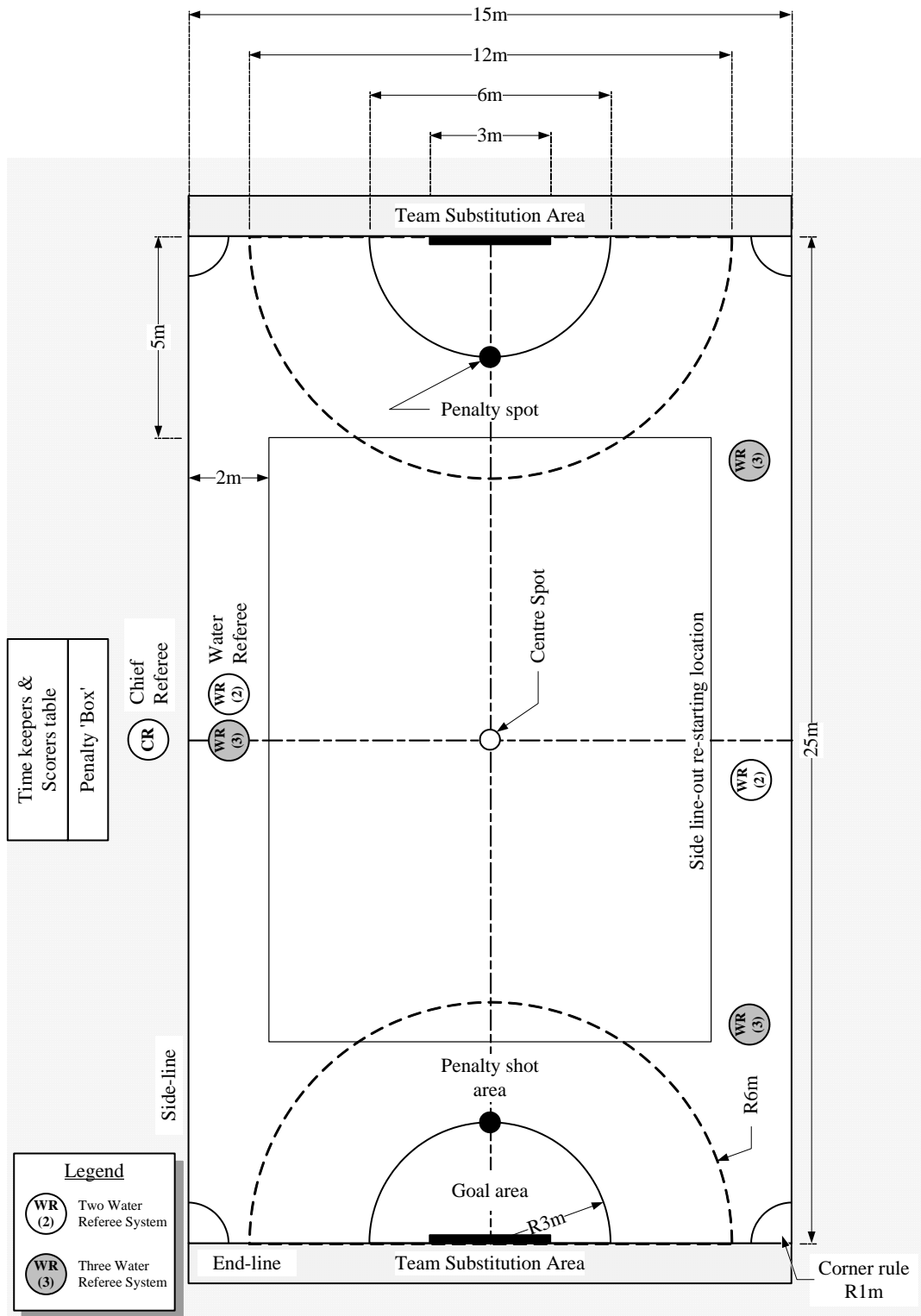




**FIGURE 2D PLAYING AREA LAYOUT: IN-WATER SIDE-SUBSTITUTION**



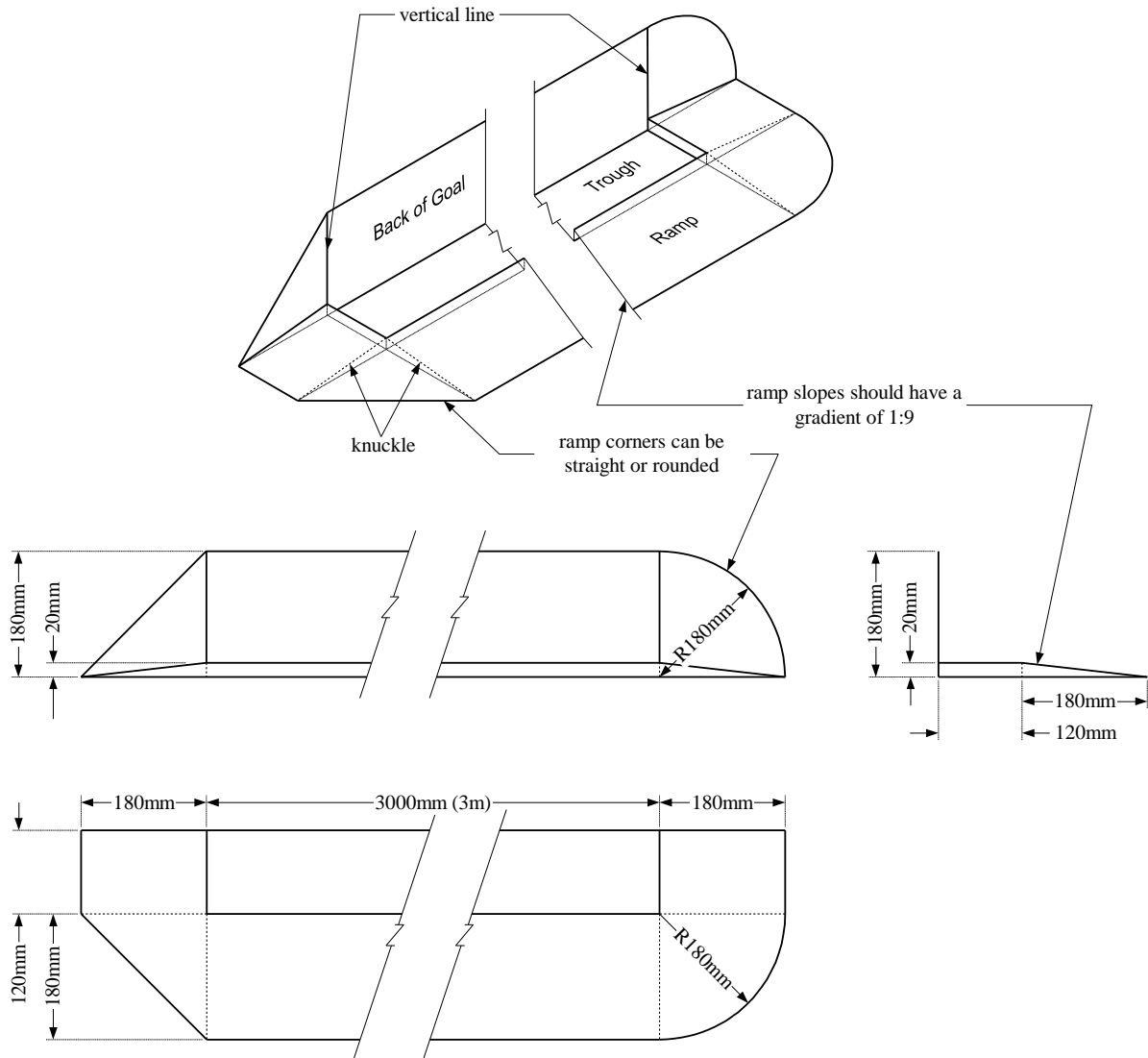
**FIGURE 2E PLAYING AREA LAYOUT: END-LINE SUBSTITUTION**



**3.0 GOALS** (see *Figure 3A*)

- 3.1 Shall be made of galvanised or stainless steel (of 2mm minimum thickness sheet metal) or similar frames. All sharp edges shall be removed and/or protected.
- 3.2 Open-ended goals will be used.
- 3.3 Shall be 3.36m long, with a trough of 3m, placed in the centre of each end line, and secured in position.
- 3.4 The area behind the anterior lip of the goal is called the trough.
- 3.5 The goal back must have two (2) vertical lines marking the 3m limits of the goal volume.

**FIGURE 3A** **THE GOALS**



**4.0 Tournament Play Schedule and Ranking**

**4.1 Championship Event Duration**

- 4.1 A World Championship event is limited to a maximum of 10 day
- 4.1.1 Two days of orientation
- 4.1.2 Eight days of tournament play.

**4.2 Length of the Orientation Period**

- 4.2 Orientation Period for World Championship event
- 4.2.1 A minimum of 2 days is allowed for orientation
- 4.2.2 A maximum of 3 days is allowed for orientation
- 4.2.3 Participating federations may request pool time prior to the scheduled orientation days. Accommodation of such requests is at the discretion of the host federation, and costs for additional pool time are the responsibility of the requesting federations.

**4.3 Eight Day or Fewer Tournament Schedule.**

- 4.3.1 General
  - 4.3.1.1 Each team will play no more than three (3) matches per day.
  - 4.3.1.2 Eight (8) playing days are allowed.
  - 4.3.1.3 Five and one-half days (5.5 days) for play.
  - 4.3.1.4 Two and one-half days (2.5 days) for play-offs.
- 4.3.2 Number of teams in tournament.
  - 4.3.2.1 If twelve (12) or fewer teams participate in a division, a full round robin will be scheduled.
  - 4.3.2.2 If thirteen (13) or more teams participate in a division, a split round robin will be played. Seeding of teams will be necessary.
- 4.3.3 Seeding.
  - 4.3.3.1 Seeding will be based on final placing at the immediately previous Championship.
  - 4.3.3.2 In divisions with thirteen to nineteen teams (13-19), play will be divided into two (2) Sections, A and B.
- 4.3.4 Section Play.
  - 4.3.4.1 Section A will play a full round robin
  - 4.3.4.2 Section B will play a full round robin.
  - 4.3.4.3 Inter-Section play will be scheduled (a maximum of fifteen (15) total matches/team) to allow maximum mixing of the Sections in the round robin.
  - 4.3.4.4 Matches will be scheduled to spread play as evenly as possible, but some teams may play one match less depending on the number of entries.
  - 4.3.4.5 Inter-Section matches will be assigned by seeding from the section round robin stage.
- 4.3.5 Points to determine play-off status and ranking.
  - 4.3.5.1 Points awarded as follows:

**Intra-Section Match Points**

Win	+2 points
Tie	+1 point
Loss	0 points
Forfeit	-2 points

4.3.6 Championship Play.

4.3.6.1 The Championship bracket consists of the top four Sectional Play-off winners plus the top four Section A teams.

4.3.6.2 The Championship bracket will play a “Multilevel Tournament with Eight Entries” play-off with complete losers bracket determining all places (see Figure 4A).

4.3.6.3 There will be a consolation bracket for all remaining teams, so all participating teams are seeded for the following World Championships.

4.3.7 Breaking a tie in ranking

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

4.3.7.1.1 Head to head competition

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

4.3.7.1.3 Least number of losses. Team with the least losses is ranked higher.

4.3.7.1.4 Least sum of points allowed in all matches in the intra-section matches. Team allowing the least number of goals is ranked higher.

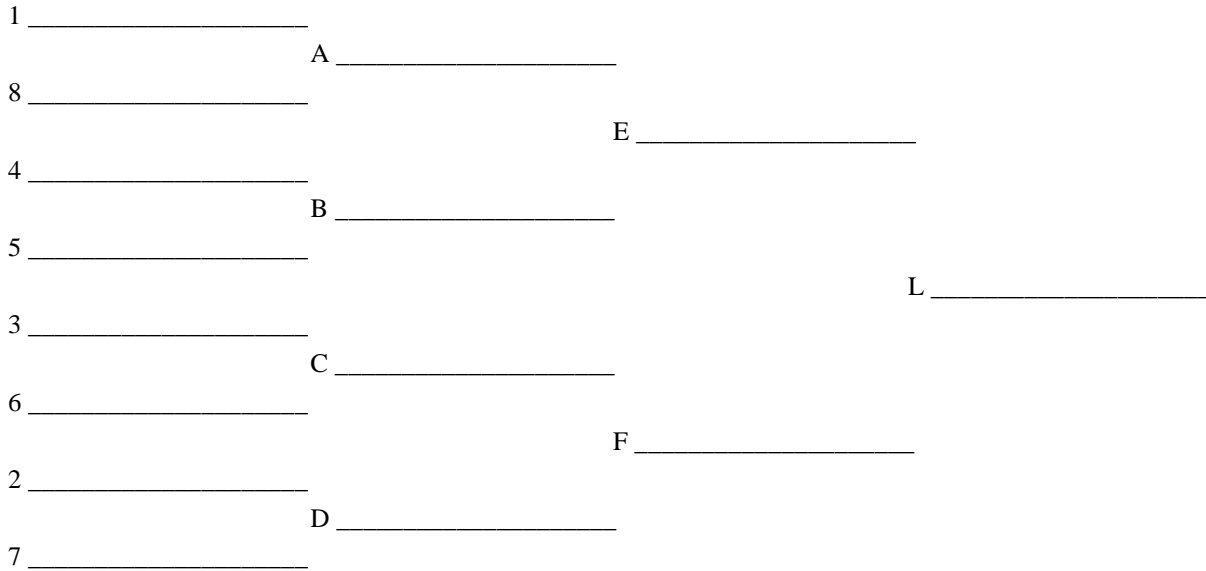
4.3.7.1.5 Coin toss

4.3.7.2 In the event of three or more equally ranked teams without a clear ranking by head to head competition, use procedures 4.1.8.2 through 4.1.8.4 inclusively to eliminate teams three through the last tied team. When two teams remain, go through steps 1 through 5 again to rank the remaining 2 teams.

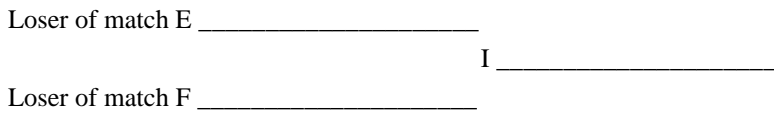
Figure 4A MULTILEVEL TOURNAMENT WITH EIGHT ENTRIES

Seeding of Championship Bracket

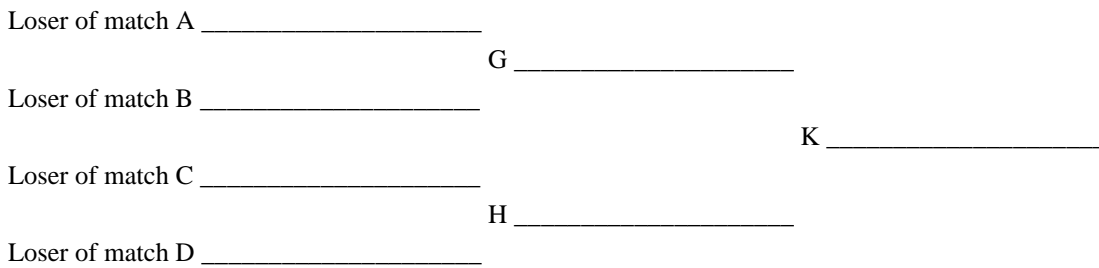
**Match L determines the World Champion and second place.**



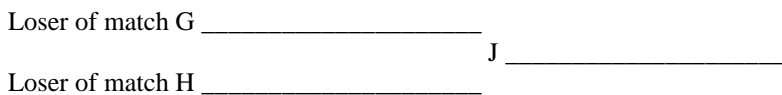
**Match I determines third and fourth place.**



**Match K determines fifth and sixth place.**



**Match J determines seventh and eighth place.**





## **5.0 Protests, Appeals, and Match Abandonment**

### **5.1 Protest During a Match**

- 5.1.1 Should a protest be made by a Team Captain or a Team Manager about the conduct of a match whilst it is in play, the Chief Referee shall stop play, consult the Water Referees and others as may be necessary, consider the factual evidence presented, announce a decision to all parties, and resume play.
- 5.1.2 If a player receives a penalty, only the Team Captain can protest to the Water Referee. This will not constitute “refusing to accept any decisions made by the Officials”; thus, it does not merit the award another penalty for breaking Rule 17.3.16. If after receiving an explanation, the player refuses to go to the penalty box, such action may constitute “refusing to accept decisions made by Officials”. The player will go immediately to the penalty area, and let the Team Captain protest the matter to the Chief Referee. After consultation, and the Chief Referee’s announcement of a decision, the team captain will no longer protest the issue, so that the match can be resumed. An appeal can be made following the match if necessary.

### **5.2 Appeal After a Match**

- 5.2.1 Only the team Captain or Chief Coach may put forward a claim.
- 5.2.2 The claim must be announced to the Tournament Director within 15 minutes of the end of the match. The written complaint in English, French, or Spanish, must be submitted to the Tournament Director within an hour of the end of the contested match.
- 5.2.3 The written claim must be accompanied by a deposit of EUR 100 or equivalent in cash.
- 5.2.4 If the above mentioned requirements are not fulfilled, the claim will not be accepted.
- 5.2.5 The sum of EUR 100 will be refunded if the claim is considered valid.
- 5.2.6 A jury is chaired by the Tournament Referee. Other members include:
- 5.2.6.1 Two International Referees chosen among the Referees from the Tournament. The Commission chooses these jurists prior to the first game of the tournament
- 5.2.6.2 Two substitute International Referees, also chosen by the Commission.
- 5.2.6.3 Tournament Director for the provision of tournament options
- 5.2.7 A meeting secretary will be appointed for the session. The position is administrative/non-voting.
- 5.2.8 All members of the Jury, including the substitutes, must be of differing nationalities.
- 5.2.9 Members must attend the entire Tournament.
- 5.2.10 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 Tournament Director who must be on the Jury).
- 5.2.11 The Jury may listen to all the people it deems helpful to reach a decision.
- 5.2.12 The decision shall be made by a majority using a hand vote. In the event of a tie, the vote of the President will be final.
- 5.2.13 The decision of the Jury is final.
- 5.2.14 The decision of the Jury must be given immediately in writing to the complainant and others involved.
- 5.2.15 The members of the Jury must comply with the secrecy of the deliberations.

### **5.3 Match Abandonment**

- 5.3.1 In the event of a match having to be abandoned, the Tournament Director shall decide what subsequent action shall be taken.
- 5.3.2 The Tournament Director’s decision is final.

**6.0 Ruling Body**

- 6.1 The Ruling Body for all International Underwater Hockey matches shall be the CMAS Underwater Hockey Commission.
- 6.2 Any inquires concerning the rules by which international matches are played should be addressed to the current World Rules Director of the CMAS Underwater Hockey Commission.

**7. AMENDMENT OF RULES**

- 7.1 Opportunity to propose, discuss and approve rule amendments is provided whenever several Federations participate in CMAS World Underwater Hockey Championships during which meetings of the CMAS Underwater Hockey Commission are convened.
- 7.2 Amendments to the rules may be proposed by any Federation at any time between World Championships. The Federation will forward in writing their proposed amendment(s) together with reasons justifying the rule change to the Rules Director for distribution to all participating Federations in good standing with CMAS. A ballot will be included on which Federations will record their vote, their reasons for accepting/rejecting the proposed rule change, and the signature of the person authorized to cast the vote. Whenever votes are taken between World Championships, they will be conducted by double registered mail.
  - 7.2.1 Any Federation requesting a postal vote must submit EUR 200 with the proposal to support postal costs.
  - 7.2.2 Votes will be returned to the Rules Director. A simple majority of fifty per cent of the returned votes plus 1 is required for a rule amendment to be approved. The Rules Director will announce the results of a vote within two weeks after the deadline to receive ballots.
  - 7.2.3 In order to be in force for a World Invitational Tournament or a World Championship, approved rule amendments must be distributed to all Federations by double registered mail (where applicable) at least six (6) months in advance of a world event.
  - 7.2.4 Rule change(s) approved unanimously by the College of Referees meeting prior to a World Championship, which are approved by the World Tournament Director, will be immediately implemented; the World Tournament Director will consult and inform participating team captains two days prior to the commencing of the tournament.
- 7.3 Rule changes - Agreed Procedure:

	6 Months after	2 years	12 Months prior	6 Months prior	
Elite World Cup	Write-up new rules and send out New Rule Book	CMAS Games and other events	Present New Rule Proposals	New proposals sent out to all countries for trailing	Elite World Cup

- 7.3.1 After a World Championship the Rules Director has 6 months to write up the new rules and include them into the Rules of Underwater Hockey, then the rules will be posted on the Commission website and announced to all participating countries. E-mail may also be used to distribute the rulebook.
- 7.3.2 The countries then have a further 24 months to present to the Rules Director proposed rule changes or guidance notes.
- 7.3.3 The Rules Director then must distribute all the proposals 6 months prior to the World Championships.
- 7.3.4 Countries then will discuss and/or trial all the proposals and then vote on them at the next World Championship.

## 8.0 Federation Rules Directors

### 8.1 Rule Directors by Federation

Note: This list is as current as possible but may not be accurate due to changes in the internal structure and procedures of the participating Federations.

FEDERATION	NAME	POSITION
<b>Argentina</b>	Pablo Segade <a href="mailto:pfsegade@yahoo.com.ar">pfsegade@yahoo.com.ar</a>	Contact Person
<b>Australia</b>	Simon Talbot <a href="mailto:Simon.Talbot@utas.edu.au">Simon.Talbot@utas.edu.au</a>	Chief Referee
<b>Belgium</b>	Romain Alderweireldt <a href="mailto:romain@buwh.be">romain@buwh.be</a>	Contact Person
<b>Canada</b>	Darryl Brambilla <a href="mailto:darryl.brambilla@gmail.com">darryl.brambilla@gmail.com</a>	Chief Referee
<b>Colombia</b>	Sebastian Lugo <a href="mailto:selugo83@gmail.com">selugo83@gmail.com</a>	Director Comité Deportivo
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Dagmar Jirsová <a href="mailto:dasa.jirsova@gmail.com">dasa.jirsova@gmail.com</a>	Contact Person
<b>France</b>	Jean Gatignol <a href="mailto:gatignolj@ras.fr">gatignolj@ras.fr</a>	Federation Rules Director
<b>Germany</b>	Jan Carmanns <a href="mailto:jan@carmanns.de">jan@carmanns.de</a>	Contact Person
<b>Holland</b>	Paul Van Geenen <a href="mailto:underwaterhockey@onderwatersport.org">underwaterhockey@onderwatersport.org</a>	Contact Person
<b>Hungary</b>	Adrienn Miklós <a href="mailto:mbsz@netroller.hu">mbsz@netroller.hu</a>	Contact address
<b>Ireland</b>	Hugh Nolan <a href="mailto:nolan_hugh@hotmail.com">nolan_hugh@hotmail.com</a>	Contact Person
<b>Italy</b>	Michele Battaglioli <a href="mailto:abattaglioli@tin.it">abattaglioli@tin.it</a>	Contact Person
<b>Japan</b>	Shuji Shimonagata <a href="mailto:shimo@faculty.chiba-u.jp">shimo@faculty.chiba-u.jp</a>	Contact Person
<b>Namibia</b>	Nils Wormsbächer <a href="mailto:infratech@phillogic.com">infratech@phillogic.com</a>	Contact Person
<b>New Zealand</b>	Andrew Berry <a href="mailto:Referees@underwaterhockey.org.nz">Referees@underwaterhockey.org.nz</a>	Referees Development Officer
<b>Philippines</b>	Marilen Carpio <a href="mailto:mgcarpio@easycall.com.ph">mgcarpio@easycall.com.ph</a>	Rules Director
<b>Portugal</b>	Joao José <a href="mailto:joaofreediver@hotmail.com">joaofreediver@hotmail.com</a>	President of FPAS UWH commission
<b>Poland</b>	Marek Rejman <a href="mailto:rejmar@awf.wroc.pl">rejmar@awf.wroc.pl</a>	Contact Person

FEDERATION	NAME	POSITION
<b>Singapore</b>	Joey Carpio <a href="mailto:jagcarpio@yahoo.com">jagcarpio@yahoo.com</a>	President, Singapore Underwater Hockey
<b>Slovenia</b>	Peter Grossman <a href="mailto:uw.h.slo@gmail.com">uw.h.slo@gmail.com</a>	Contact person
<b>South Africa</b>	Dr. Ronel Nel <a href="mailto:Ronel.Nel@nmmu.ac.za">Ronel.Nel@nmmu.ac.za</a>	Chief Referee SA
<b>Spain</b>	Marta Pons de Molina <a href="mailto:pons_marta@hotmail.com">pons_marta@hotmail.com</a>	Contact Person
<b>Turkey</b>	A. Inkilap Obruk <a href="mailto:iobruk@mn.net">iobruk@mn.net</a>	Contact Person
<b>Great Britain</b>	Nathan Peall <a href="mailto:referee@gbuwh.co.uk">referee@gbuwh.co.uk</a>	Chief Referee
<b>United States</b>	Doug Roth <a href="mailto:coachduck@gmail.com">coachduck@gmail.com</a>	Rules Director
<b>Serbia</b>	Bozana Ostojic <a href="mailto:calypso@eunet.rs">calypso@eunet.rs</a>	Contact Person
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Wayne Whitaker <a href="mailto:wayne_whitaker@zol.co.zw">wayne_whitaker@zol.co.zw</a>	Contact Person

**9.0 (RESERVED)**