

Underwater Hockey Australia

High Risk Policy

The sport of Underwater Hockey has been played for over 35 years in Australia. During that time the incidence of recorded accidents and/or injuries has been very few. This document is to serve as an outline of Risk Management to be adopted as or incorporated in, all State and Territory High Risk Policies for our sport.

Underwater Hockey Australia (UHA) is committed to providing a safe environment for the participants in our sport.

The document serves as a tool to use in the case of: -

- A] Prevention of accidents/injuries**
- B] Management of an accident/injury if occurred**
- C] Management of emergency situations**
- D] Recording of accidents/injuries**
- E] Follow up procedure for further prevention**

A] Prevention of accidents/injuries

1] *Horseplay, Running, Pushing etc. around pool deck*

The pool deck area is always a wet, hard and sometimes slippery surface. The occurrence of horseplay, running, pushing people in, throwing pucks or other items etc. is a dangerous practice. It must not be tolerated and kept in check at all times. The responsibility of control should not be left to the pool supervisors. It is clearly an area that officials from Underwater Hockey must control. The appointed-Competition Organiser, Coach, Captain, Club Delegate, Deck Referee or any Committee Member must

first give the participants a clear warning that any or this behavior will not be tolerated. If the participants continue then the official must seek the assistance of team captain/manager/coach to ask the offenders to leave the pool area until they are prepared to comply. If further breaches are in evidence, then the offenders must be asked to leave the pool. The official may need the assistance of a Pool supervisor to enact this procedure.

2] Wrestling in the pool

The pool playing area and in-water surrounds is not a playground. Any misbehavior, wrestling and/or fighting will not be tolerated. The referees will monitor players and officials as per the rules of the game and appropriate penalties will apply to players. Officials will also be expected to behave in a controlled manner. Breaches outside of game play must be controlled by the organiser, coach or captain on the day. If any person not complying with these standards refuses to cease their unruly behavior then they can be reported to a tribunal.

3] Blood in pool

Due to the to the enormous risks associated to disease transmitted by a persons blood, any bleeding by a person at any underwater hockey activity must be attended to immediately. The person who is bleeding in the pool must leave the water and be escorted to the nearest first aid post to seek assistance from a trained person. If the person bleeding is unaware the they are bleeding then the in-water referee, Captain, Coach or Organiser must inform the player involved and get them to leave the water and they must be escorted to a first aid post. If the person bleeding is

a player in a match and refuses to leave then the chief referee must stop the game and award a forfeit in favour of the opposing team.

In all cases the person who is bleeding must be accompanied by an official until a first aid officer is in attendance. If the wound requires stitches or external help then the person must be given assistance if required by an official from underwater hockey.

4] Electrical appliances around pool

All electrical cords, appliances and equipment) must be of a type approved by the local Electrical Authority. The placing of leads and connections must be secure from becoming wet by using covering that is appropriate for the situation. Any leads that cross over walkways must be secure to prevent tripping and must be in a bright easy to see colour. Where possible have all leads above ground supported on stands so as not to pose a trip hazard and to avoid contact with water. Where cords must be on the ground across walkways or the like they must be taped or covered and highlighted. The pool should be checked for safety switch capability should a connection become wet. If this is not available then the power connections must have safety switches added. It is the responsibility of the organisers to make sure that these precautions are adhered to.

5] Protective Playing Equipment

All players must wear approved protective equipment whilst engaging in any Underwater Hockey activity in the pool. This includes water polo style cap with hard plastic ear covers in place. Latex (or other similar material) covered glove for the playing hand/s.

Mask fitted with tempered glass. Fins without hard plastic blades, sharp edges or sharp buckles. We also recommend that all players use an approved internal mouth guard or an external type fitted to the mask or snorkel.

For items B and C refer to recognized first aid practices for management of all such situations. St. Johns and other similar organisations have these procedures well documented.

B] Management of an accident/injury if occurred

- 1] Blood*
- 2] Facial injuries*
- 3] Head/Neck/Back injuries*
- 4] Broken Bones*

C] Management of emergency situations

- 1] Cardiac Arrest*
- 2] Unconscious person*

D] Recording of accident/injuries

All accidents or injuries must be recorded on the official Underwater Hockey Australia Accident/Injury Report form. See attachment A.

A copy of this form must be sent to the Executive Director of UHA within two weeks of the incident occurring. Failure to do so is a breach of this policy and may affect insurance responsibilities. A copy should be kept by all injured or affected parties and the state body.

E] Follow up procedure for further prevention

The collection of data from accident reports is an important tool for the future of the sport. All reports are to be analyzed by officials of the Executive Committee on an annual basis or more often if the need arises. Specific cases will be examined by the appropriate official if requested or a problem that requires immediate attention is identified. Any Policy, Rule or Procedure changes required as a result of any investigation carried out by any official must first be approved by the UHA Executive Committee before implementation.

The UHA Executive Director will arrange that all State and Territory delegates are informed of this investigation and the resulting changes required, if any.

Underwater Hockey Australia Accident Report

This report is to be completed and sent to the Executive Director of Underwater Hockey Australia

Injured Party details

Name

Address

Phone

Date of Accident

Location

Injuries received

Cause of Injuries

Treatment given

What steps have been taken to remedy Cause (if appropriate)?

Contact details of person/s assisting

Name

Address

Phone

Name

Address

Phone