

Hello all,

Thank you for your willingness to make a difference. We really hope that this year we can build on what we achieved last year. Enjoy yourself and just give your best. You can only referee what you see. That is why we have a team of three (at least for the U19 League).

Please use common sense in applying rules. Evaluate the situation and determine the best outcome for that specific situation. Your decision is final. Remember to keep your calm and not get emotionally involved in the game and remember the swimming triangles when you are in the water. Taking care of the safety of players comes first. Let's make sure that it is a fair contest for both sides.

The **Tournament Referee** is:

- Disney van der Walt (+27 78 203 1836)

The two **Assistant Tournament Referees** are:

- Samantha Kemp (+27 81 039 5751)
- Rudolf Pretorius (+27 82 677 9158)

There are two **playing areas**:

- Pool A - Closest to the entrance (East)
- Pool B - Closest to the glass doors (West)

Each playing area will have its own independent timing system.

The **starting sides** are:

- Black: South - Closest to the ocean
- White: North - Closest to the mountains

The **leagues** are as follows:

- U13 Boys (and Mixed)
- U16 Boys (and Mixed)
- U16 Girls
- U19 Men
- U19 Ladies

Each league will play a **Round Robin followed by Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals, 3rd Place and Finals.**

Registration and Gear Check will happen before the tournament starts:

- Date: **Wednesday, 25 March 2026**
- Time: From 18:00, each team will receive a timeslot
- Venue: Generation Schools Swimming Pool, Somerset West

If your team is absolutely unable to make the above, reach out to the Tournament Referee immediately to make alternate arrangements. Remember **unregistered teams cannot play.**

Please **familiarise yourselves with the gear rules and regulations** it is vital for player safety and fair and accurate refereeing (especially in the older leagues). Players will not be allowed to play with gear that doesn't pass gear check.

Unless your team is playing with pre-approved club caps, each player must have a dark cap for playing black and a light cap for playing white.

After each game, teams must provide the following officials:

- Black:
 - 1 x Water Referee
 - 1 x Time Keeper
- White:
 - 1 x Chief Referee
 - 1 x Water Referee
 - 1 x Score Keeper

We are aiming to have enough time between games so that coaches that need to officiate will have time for a quick debrief before starting their duties as officials.

All officials must **be at the playing area preparing for their duties 5mins before** the start of the game. This includes checking that the:

- **Puck is in the middle** of the pool (there is a marked area in the grouting)
- **Goals are against the wall** and the in middle
- **Wearing the appropriate referee gear** (cap, vest and gloves)

There will be **Contact Sheets on the tables** with the details of each team's manager, coach and designated officials (Time / Score Keepers and Chief / Water Referees). Please be aware of who you are officiating with and use these Contact Sheets to locate any missing/late officials.

There will be a **dedicated 3rd Water Referee for each game in the U19 League**, meaning that designated officials might be assigned to other games in addition to the games after their team has played.

It is the responsibility of each official and their team to ensure that they fulfil their duties. **Teams will be penalised with a R500 fine** when their officials miss their duties. There are **Complaint Forms** at the Referee Station for reporting this.

We will have a **Notice Board at the pool** and a **Notice Group on WhatsApp** to send out important information such as Game Schedules and Referee Schedules. Please ensure that all your coaches, managers and designated officials have been added to the Notice Group.

The **Referee Schedules** will be sent out as follows:

- Round Robin - before the start of the tournament
- Play-offs (Quarter Finals, Semi-Finals, 3rd Place and Finals) - once the Round Robin has finished

All games will be played according to the **latest full CMAS rules and regulations**, except for:

- **Overtime/Golden Goal rules** - not applicable to the Round Robin games
- **Game Time rules** - may differ between the age groups of the leagues

An advantage puck cannot be given within **2m of the side and 5m of the back**:

- The 5m is in line with the flags hanging overhead
- The 2m is just further away from the side than the reach of your arms stretched out to the sides of your body

For penalty shots, there will be **marked grouting for the 3m penalty spot and the 6m half-circle**. The penalty shot will start with the puck on the penalty spot, and it needs to be cleared outside the half-circle to be successfully defended.

Timekeepers, please familiarise yourself with the timing system.

Score Keepers, make sure you fill in all the necessary fields on the Score Sheet and write down the end time of the game. Teams only have 30 minutes time after a match to lodge a written protest.

Please place the puck on the table at the end of each game.

No players allowed in the playing area (pool):

- More than 5mins before their game
- More than 5mins after their game

All **players to display a clearly visible number** on their body on:

- Upper-legs - both, on the sides
- Upper-arms - both, on the shoulders
- Mid-back (for girls/ladies) OR Upper-back (for boys/men)

Captains must have a clearly visible C on their upper-arms (or use the armbands) and **Vice-Captains must have a clearly visible VC** on their upper-arms (or use the armbands).

Only the captain may query a referee's decision in-water (or the vice-captain if the captain is in the substitution area or sin bin). Excessive questioning needs to be kept to the minimum or a referee time-out must be called to avoid time wasting. **Referees should answer direct questions** by the captain or vice-captain with due respect.

Games will consist of (as previously stated, may vary between age groups):

- 2 x **15-minute halves**
- 1 x **3-minute break** between halves

Coaches or captains may call **1 team timeout per half**.

We will be using **in-water substitution**. Please make sure players know that their snorkels must be breaking the surface to avoid substitution penalties against the team.

We will be playing with a **Sims puck** for the duration of the tournament.

Each playing area will have a wall on one side and a barrier on another side (in addition to the two end walls).

The goals have angles sloping towards the wall. Play **will carry on if the puck ends up on top** of the goal box.

If the **puck accidentally goes underneath or behind the goals, the goal will be awarded** to the attacking team (referee's discretion to be used).

There will be **Protest Forms** available at the Referee Station.

Any abusive behaviour (swearing, screaming or otherwise degrading behaviour) by any referee or player towards any other referee or player will incur the following penalties:

If a player misbehaves, the following must happen:

- During the game
 - The referee must not get emotionally involved in a discussion with the player
 - Call a referee timeout
 - Go to the deck and indicate to the Chief Referee
 - The actions of the player
 - The number of the player
 - If the Chief Referee agrees with the Water Referee on the infringement, the player will get an immediate 2-minute penalty
- Immediately after the game
 - The Chief Referee and the Water Referee (or Dedicated Referee, if any) must submit a **Player Misconduct Form** to the Tournament Referee
 - For the first offense,
 - The player will receive a R500 fine
 - This must be paid before they may continue playing
 - The decision is final
 - For the second offense
 - The player will receive a R1000 fine
 - And be suspended for the next game
 - This decision may be appealed
 - For the third offense
 - The player will be issued a total dismissal from the tournament
 - An inquiry will be conducted as per CMAS regulations

If a referee misbehaves, the following must happen:

- During the game
 - The captain must go to the Chief Referee
 - The Chief Referee must call a referee timeout
 - Address the matter
 - If the referee is guilty, immediately remove them from the game and call the Tournament Referee for a replacement
- Immediately after the game
 - The Chief Referee and Captain must submit a **Referee Misconduct Form** to the Tournament Referee
 - The Tournament Referee will call a hearing with the Disciplinary Committee
 - The referee will have a chance to state their case

- The Disciplinary Committee will make a decision, which is final.

The Disciplinary Committee consists of:

- Jack van Blerk
- Kevin Cooke
- Disney van der Walt
- Samantha Kemp
- Rudolf Pretorius
- Bennie Naude

This is in short what you need to know if there are any questions, please ask anytime.

