



Rules and regulations

HOPLA CUP 2027

(U10-U12-U14)



The purpose of these rules and regulations is to set out a number of fundamental values and principles that govern the atmosphere in which the organisers wish the 'Hopla Cup' tournament to take place.

These rules and regulations are largely based on the 'CHARTER OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN SWIMMING' adopted by the Extraordinary General Assembly of the FFN on 9 December 2017. They apply to all those involved in the tournament, including players, coaches, officials, referees, chaperones, spectators and supporters, etc.

They are structured around two main themes:

1. Sportsmanship and the values of water polo.
2. The ethical rules applicable more specifically to those involved.

It is important to bear in mind that the Hopla Cup is a competition for children and young teenagers, who, due to their age, are less 'equipped' (or more sensitive) to certain issues or ways of thinking.

Every coach, referee and supporter must use appropriate language when encouraging spectators under the age of 13.

The aim is for everyone to make the most of this weekend's gathering, which is intended to be warm, friendly and festive. Above all, we hope that everyone involved will enjoy playing, watching or cheering on the teams, ideally with a sense of togetherness amongst all.

Don't forget, they're only children; it's a sport, it's just a game, it's 'their' match.

The coaches are often volunteers, the referee is only human, and it's not the World Cup.

1. Principle I – Showing good sportsmanship

Showing good sportsmanship in sport and in life means:

- Showing respect for the game, the rules, yourself, others and the organisation,
- Being honest, upright and fair,
- Being supportive, selfless and friendly,
- Being tolerant.

2. Principle II – The fundamental values of sport

- To be open and accessible to all, regardless of ability,
- To promote equal opportunities,
- To foster cohesion and solidarity amongst all those involved in sport,
- To reject all forms of discrimination.

3. Principle III

Sportsmanship and the values of sport must be taught, promoted and upheld.

4. Principle IV – Respect

- Respect all those involved in the competition: partners, opponents, referees and officials, educators and coaches, managers and organisers.
- Competition is synonymous with opposition and competitiveness. However, such competition is a source of enjoyment, interaction and personal fulfilment only when it takes place in a spirit of courtesy and mutual respect, without aggression.
- Opponents and teammates, coaches and managers, referees and officials, organisers and those responsible for the facilities all play an essential role in ensuring the smooth running of the competition. Their contributions must be respected equally. These contributions must never be belittled but rather recognised through appropriate actions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Every participant in the game must ensure that they behave courteously and respectfully at all times. Participants must therefore refrain from criticising, insulting or mocking any other participant in the competition. They must be aware of the harmful consequences that a disrespectful attitude, on or off the playing field, can have for themselves and for other participants, the competition and the sport.
- Educators, coaches and officials have a vital role to play in ensuring that sporting events run smoothly. They must set an example and convey dignified and respectful messages in order to positively influence the behaviour of others, first and foremost the athletes.
- Before, during and after matches, participants should adopt attitudes that encourage courtesy and highlight the role of each individual involved.

5. Principle V – Respecting oneself

Before one can respect others – and in order to do so – one must respect oneself.

This concept could be defined as seeking self-confidence and confidence in one's abilities, remaining true to one's convictions, maintaining one's freedom of choice and thought without infringing upon that of others, and, finally, protecting one's body and mind.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To achieve self-respect, every participant in the tournament must, in particular, ensure that they:

- Take care of their appearance, dress and language;
- Do not adopt an attitude or use language that could lead to a loss of self-esteem.

6. Principle VI – Respect the decisions of referees and officials

- Referees and officials are responsible for ensuring the rules are applied and, as such, they fulfil an essential role without which there would be no tournament.
- They may make errors of judgement (just as players do), which must be accepted as an inevitable part of competition. These should not be disputed and must, of course, never give rise to excessive, abusive or violent reactions.
- Respecting the decisions of referees and officials is essential to the smooth running of the tournament and, more broadly, to the positive image we wish to project.
- Furthermore, referees and officials are full participants in the sport and must be viewed as such. They are members of the sporting organisations of which they form an integral part, in particular the club to which they belong. There is no reason to categorise referees and officials or to regard their status as different from that of other participants in swimming simply because of their role. Such a perception may hinder a proper understanding of the role of referees and officials.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Every participant, whether an amateur or a top-level athlete, and every manager or sports official, must exercise restraint towards referees and officials; this means never challenging their decisions through gestures or words, nor disparaging their performance in public.
- Organisers must safeguard the roles of referees and officials. It is their responsibility, at all times, to promote, through all appropriate means (pre-match or post-match protocols in water polo, fun activities during training sessions, etc.), players' understanding of the role of the referee and that of all officials.
- The Hopla Cup is also a tournament that enables younger players to gain an introduction to the roles of referee or official – roles that are certainly complementary to that of a player. This awareness-raising and training aims to foster a better integration and understanding of the role of referees and officials within the life of clubs and the FFN.
- The presence of experienced mentor referees will enable younger participants to develop their technical and behavioural skills, particularly in the areas of stress management, communication and conflict resolution. Communication is a key factor that can really help foster greater acceptance of the roles of referee and official. Novice referees will take part in training sessions in the run-up to the tournament, with a view to improving their skills and meeting the requirements of their level of play.

7. Principle VII – Refrain from all forms of violence and cheating

- Physical violence (blows, injuries) or psychological violence (threats, intimidation, slander, discrimination) endangers the health, safety or well-being of individuals and undermines everyone's personal development.
- Cheating or the manipulation of results undermines equal opportunities, compromises fairness and distorts the natural course of the game.
- At all levels of participation, such abuses render sport incapable of fulfilling its social and educational virtues and damage its image and development, particularly amongst the youngest members of society.
- Doping is both the ultimate form of cheating and an act of violence against oneself, one's health and one's dignity.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- All those involved in sport must accept differences in physical ability or way of thinking. These differences are a source of personal enrichment.
- All those involved in sport must regard the rejection of all forms of violence and cheating as a moral duty. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Verbal or physical aggression, provocation and incitement to violence,
 - Discrimination on the grounds of gender, physical appearance or ability, social status, sexual orientation, or religious or political beliefs,
 - Racist, homophobic or xenophobic behaviour,
 - Tactics, fraud or manipulation intended to distort a result, the course of a phase of play or to gain an advantage by misusing or circumventing the rules: simulation, false statements, use of forged documents, match-fixing, corruption, etc.
 - Damage to the property of others and the community: theft, breaking and entering, vandalism, sabotage, embezzlement, fraud, etc.
 - Over-training and excessively demanding competition schedules imposed on young athletes, which constitute a form of violence and represent a failure in education.
- Disciplinary sanctions are clearly necessary to curb violence and cheating on and around the playing fields, but they are not an end in themselves.
- The disciplinary approach must be complemented by an ongoing educational and/or remedial programme for all those involved in the game; this responsibility lies with both the FFN and its decentralised bodies, as well as with the clubs and the relevant public authorities.

8. Principle VIII – Maintaining self-control in all circumstances

- Sport involves pushing oneself to the limit but must not give rise to excessive behaviour.
- It is a pursuit of excellence; whilst the desire to win and the urge to surpass oneself may sometimes lead to risk-taking, neither the physical integrity of the opponent nor respect for one's own body must be compromised.
- Whilst it is perfectly legitimate to support one's own team, we must remember that other teams are just as worthy of respect and that sport takes place within a context that must be respected.

- Players, coaches and trainers, referees and officials must maintain a measured demeanour and keep their comments, reactions and emotions in check at all times, regardless of the media, economic, territorial or family stakes involved.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Educators have a significant role to play, particularly with the youngest children, in conveying – through setting an exemplary example – a message promoting psychological control over individual aggression and the scrupulous respect for the social and physical environment.
- Referees, officials and managers also have a vital role to play in preventing any escalation of tension. This requires them to behave in an exemplary and appropriate manner at all times, so as not to provoke aggressive or violent reactions – arising from a lack of understanding or a sense of injustice – amongst those who do not hold the same responsibilities.

9. Ethics Committee

- An ethics committee may be convened at the request of the president of Mulhouse Water-polo or the co-chair(s) of the Hopla Cup organising committee in the event of a breach of any of the eight principles set out above.
- The composition of the said committee shall be determined by the president of Mulhouse Water-polo or the co-chair(s) of the Hopla Cup organising committee, in accordance with the circumstances of the case.
- Sanctions may range from a simple reminder of these regulations, through the deduction of points or the forfeiture of one or more matches for the team concerned, to suspension for one or more matches or even permanent exclusion from the tournament for the person(s) or team(s) in question.

10. Fair Play Trophy

The Hopla Cup is an event founded on ethics and strong values of mutual respect and fair play. Everyone involved in this competition (children, coaches, team managers, parents, supporters, etc.) is required to uphold these values.

To highlight these principles, the Hopla Cup Organising Committee awards a prize known as the 'Fair Play Trophy'. The aim of this prize is to combat unacceptable behaviour and to recognise and encourage good behaviour.

Each team's assessment will be recorded on the match report drawn up by the secretary for each match.

The assessment applies to all teams for all matches in the tournament.

At the end of the tournament, teams will be ranked according to an average score awarded across all matches in the tournament. In the event of a tie regarding the ranking for this trophy, a draw will be held between the teams level on points.

All teams must attend the entire Awards Ceremony and, on this occasion, must wear the T-shirt provided to each participant and handed out on arrival.

12 CONSEILS POUR LES PARENTS DE JEUNES JOUEURS & JOUEUSES



Accompagner



Respecter
les ÉDUCATEURS



Encourager



Accepter l'ERREUR



Ne pas donner
d'instructions



Respecter
les ARBITRES



Rester derrière
la main courante



Contrôler vos
ÉMOTIONS



Être à l'écoute de
VOTRE ENFANT



Respecter
adversaires et
autres parents



Valoriser les
bonnes attitudes



Participer à la
vie du club

Ce n'est qu'un sport, un loisir, un jeu
Cela doit rester un **plaisir**
Ce ne sont que des enfants
C'est **LEUR** match
Gagner n'est pas la priorité
Ce n'est pas la coupe du monde

Les arbitres peuvent se tromper, ce
sont des êtres humains

Les éducateurs **DONNENT** de leur
temps, ils sont **BÉNÉVOLES**