

IGSA Sport Water Polo 2025 - Risk Assessment Hazard Checklist

Type Of Activity	Water Polo matches	Assessment Date	10/1/2025
Assessed By	Kate Howitt		
Locations	Various	Activities	Year 7 – 12 Water Polo Matches

1 INDOOR HAZARDS

1.1	Inappropriate lighting	Y
1.2	Temperature	Y
1.3	Insufficient or unsuitable space	
1.4	Untidiness – causing trip / fire hazard	Y
1.5	Stairs – dark / steep / no handrail	
1.6	Lack of fire escapes / extinguishers / procedures	
1.7	Slip / trip / fall hazards	Y
1.8	Inadequate ventilation	
1.9	Inhalation of dust	
1.10	Poor surfaces for activities – slips / trips / impact	Y
1.11	Electrical hazards	

2 SPORTING ACTIVITY HAZARDS

2.1	Uneven playing surface	
2.2	Playing surface too hard or soft	
2.3	Hard or sharp objects on pitch	
2.4	Sliding on Astroturf or similar surface	
2.5	Collisions / Conflict with surrounding objects or people	Y
2.6	Impact from sports equipment - Ball or Clubs	Y
2.7	Contact sport injury	Y
2.8	Personal injury – fracture / sprains / cuts	Y

3 HAZARDS ON COASTS & COASTAL WATERS

3.1	Falls from cliffs, piers, sea walls	
3.2	Struck by falling objects from cliff	
3.3	Slips & falls on slopes / loose surfaces	
3.4	Quick sand & mud	
3.5	Access problems due to steep angle of beach slope	
3.6	Collisions between water users	
3.7	Swept away by wave surges	
3.8	Being washed against rocks / piers	
3.9	Low water temperatures	
3.10	Communication problems from waves / swell / distance	
3.11	Struck by objects in water	
3.12	Stranded by tides	
3.13	Swept away by currents	
3.14	Rip tides	
3.15	Longshore drift	
3.16	Conflicts between beach users	

5 HAZARDS ON HILLS AND MOUNTAINS

5.1	Slips & trips on grass, mud, rock	
5.2	River crossings	
5.3	Remote locations	
5.4	Difficult communication – weather / distance	
5.5	Falling debris	
5.6	Extra work imposed by terrain type / angle	
5.7	Lack of shelter	
5.8	Separation of group members	
5.9	Getting lost	
5.10	Falls from height	
5.11	Extremes of weather	

6 PEOPLE & ORGANISATIONAL HAZARDS

6.1	Lack of information, training or instruction	Y
6.2	Poor activity planning or preparation	Y
6.3	Poor activity delivery or organisation	Y
6.4	Ignorance of rules and / or procedures	Y
6.5	Unsafe behaviour or attitude	Y
6.6	Lack of appropriate first aid equipment and experience	Y
6.7	Medical conditions of participants	Y
6.8	Poor safety control from group leaders	Y
6.9	Poor safety awareness from participants	Y
6.10	Lack of cooperation within group	Y
6.11	Differing skill levels within group	Y
6.12	Low level of physical fitness / strength	Y
6.13	Aggression between participants	Y
6.14	Aggression from crowd / public	Y
6.15	Contact between participants increasing risk	

7 EQUIPMENT AND OTHER HAZARDS

7.1	Crash handling	
7.2	Transport to and from your activity	Y
7.3	Food poisoning	
7.4	Hazardous substances	
7.5	Equipment with moving / hot parts	
7.6	Heavy equipment	
7.7	Electrical hazards from equipment	
7.8	Noise from equipment	
7.9	Risk of trapping body / clothing in equipment	
7.10	Inadequate environment for equipment operation	
7.11	Inadequate protective equipment	Y

7.12	Equipment in unsuitable condition	
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4	HAZARDS ON STILL / MOVING WATER	
4.1	Getting swept away from equipment or people	
4.2	Collision with rocks in and to sides of rivers	
4.3	Striking / trapping by submerged obstacles	
4.4	Being dragged down by undertow	
4.5	Restricted or impossible access to / from water	
4.6	Access problems – rescue / getting kit into water	
4.7	Falls from drops in level at weirs / waterfalls	
4.8	Getting out of depth	
4.9	Low water temperature	Y
4.10	Separation from other people	
4.11	Slips / trips on steep banks or uneven surfaces	
4.12	Difficult communications	
4.13	Remote locations	

8	OTHER HAZARDS SPECIFIC TO YOUR ACTIVITY	
8.1	Sunsense & Dehydration	Y
8.2	Lightning	Y
8.3	Unattended children	Y
8.4		
8.5		
8.6		
8.7		
8.8		
8.9		
8.10		

IGSA Sport Risk Assessment – Water Polo

Organisation Name	IGSA Sport	Number of persons involved	2,500
Nature of Activity	Water Polo Matches	Frequency of Activity	Weekly
Assessed By	Kate Howitt	Date	10/1/2025

Hazard Ref.	Potential Effect	Existing Controls in Place	HAZPAK	Further Controls Required?	Who By
1.1, 1.2	Inappropriate Lighting, Temperature	If either the lighting or temperature is not appropriate, pool staff to be informed to turn on more lights and to adjust the temperature of the pool area.	6		IGSA Staff, venue convener
1.4 1.7 1.10	Trip during practice or games on slippery surrounding surface. Possible problems with tiled surface on bottom of pool, slippery or uneven	No running around pool area, all spectators should be seated when possible away from pool area. Players should be encouraged to stay off the bottom of the pool and take care in the shallow end.	5	Report any concerns to the pool management or local council	Pool management, Council, schools, venue convener
2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8	Collisions with surrounding objects or people, Impact from sports equipment – ball, goal, Contact Sports injury, Personal injury	Players are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the rules of the game and IGSA Sport Code of Conduct. If serious injury does occur then an ambulance must be called immediately by the venue convener.	3	Code of Conduct and Risk warning available at venue for all to read.	IGSA Sport Venue Convener Coach / manager
4.9	Low water temperature	Pool management to monitor temperatures throughout the week and on Saturday mornings. If water is too cold, matches can be cancelled if there is no chance the water will warm up in time.	4		Venue managers, conveners
6.1- 6.2	Lack of info, training, planning, preparation	Schools to ensure that girls are adequately prepared to participate.	5		IGSA and school staff
6.3	Poor activity delivery or organisation	The convener will ensure that all players are briefed regarding the organisation of the venue and intervene where necessary if problems occur during matches or at the venue. The best equipment available will be used.	5		IGSA staff and convener
6.4 6.5	Ignorance of rules and / or procedures, Unsafe behaviour or attitude	IGSA Sport Code of Conduct is clear as to expectations upon players.	5	If any behaviour does arise, it will be dealt with swiftly by the school sport staff present	IGSA staff, school sport staff
6.7	Medical conditions of participants	Individual schools and associations to ensure their players are medically fit.	5		School Sport staff

Hazard Ref.	Potential Effect	Existing Controls in Place	HAZPAK	Further Controls Required?	Who By
6.8, 6.9, 6.10	Poor safety control from group leaders & participants Lack of cooperation	IGSA Sport staff to control and monitor safety through enforcing code of conduct at the trials.	4		IGSA Sport staff
6.11 6.12	Differing skill levels Low level of fitness / strength	Only capable players should be nominated	4		School Staff
6.13	Aggression between participants	Qualified and/or competent referees to control the game.	4		Referees
6.14	Aggression from crowd/public	Coaches and spectators are bound by the IGSA Sport Code of Conduct. IGSA Sport or school staff to deal with any spectator issues that may arise.	3		IGSA
7.2	Transport to and from your activity	Responsibility is with the students' school and or parents.	N/A		School staff
7.11	Inadequate protective equipment	Players are advised to wear appropriate equipment as required by the state and national sporting associations.	5		School Staff Referees
8.1	Sun Sense and Dehydration	All competitors reminded to Slip, Slop, Slap before commencing (relevant to outdoor venues). All students are expected to bring their own water bottles.	5		Individual school Coach / manager / students
8.2	Lightning	Players to be advised that at the first sign of local thunder or lightening they are to abandon the round and move undercover (relevant to outdoor venues). Venue conveners to indicate when or if play is to resume	5	Apply the 30/30 rule	IGSA Sport Venue Convener Coach / manager
8.3	Unattended children	Venue conveners and/or schools are to take responsibility for children without supervision.	3	Venue conveners informed of this in online seminar.	IGSA Venue Convener School Staff

HAZPAK ratings follow the WorkCover NSW guidelines to assist businesses to manage risks to health and safety

	Very likely Could happen any time	Likely Could happen sometime	Unlikely Could happen but very rarely	Very unlikely Could happen, but probably never will
Kill or cause permanent disability or ill health	1	1	2	3
Long term illness or serious injury	1	2	3	4
Medical attention or several days off school or work	2	3	4	5
First aid needed	3	4	5	6

IGSA Sport Water Polo Risk Assessment 2025

Date: 10/1/2025

Level of Competition: Interschool Water Polo

Year level/s: 7-12

Organisers to check the following:

General	YES	N/A
Permission has been obtained from parents/guardians for all students participating	Y	
Adequate coaches and staff are attending providing appropriate levels of supervision for competitors and spectators	Y	
Parents have been notified of location of venue, transport arrangements and time involved	Y	
First Aid Kit Available	Y	
Water is available for students at the venue	Y	
Ice is available	Y	
Students have been advised of personal sun protection requirements	Y	
A Risk Assessment has been completed	Y	

Participants & Officials

Risk Warning has been published where it is likely parents and players will read it	Y	
Students are well informed of safety & rules	Y	
Wet weather & extreme heat guidelines have been given to each player	Y	
Venue closure app and website address have been given to each player	Y	

Equipment / Grounds

Only appropriate grounds are used	Y	
Equipment has been checked	Y	
Venue audit has been carried out by Venue Convener	Y	
Coach/manager has agreed that venue is safe for play	Y	

Environmental

Weather conditions appropriate for the safe conduct of the event	Y	
Play cancelled if needed	Y	