



THE MARIST AUCKLAND WATER POLO CLUB (Inc)

SUNSCREEN GUIDELINES

Purpose

To provide guidelines that will minimise the risks associated with sun exposure for all Marist Auckland Water Polo Club players.

Background

FINA's Water Polo rule 5.5 currently states:

“Players shall not have grease, oil or any similar substance on the body. If a referee ascertains before the start of play that such a substance has been used, he shall order it to be removed immediately. The start of play shall not be delayed for the substance to be removed. If the offence is detected after the play has started, the offending player shall be excluded from the remainder of the game and a substitute permitted to enter the field of play immediately from the re-entry area nearest to his own goal line.”

This rule is intended to prevent a player gaining an unfair advantage when being challenged for the ball during competition.

However, it does not consider the importance of protection against UV radiation. Sunsmart's guidelines state that skin and eyes must be protected from September to April. Guidance is for a sunblock with a minimum of SPF 30 to be applied 20 minutes before going outdoors, and then reapplied every two hours.

Commencing in 1993, at a number of FINA water polo events the use of alcohol-based sunscreens has been allowed. Consequently, Water Polo Australia recommends that alcohol-based sunscreens be used during competition and that WP Rule 5.5 not be enforced when they are used.

NZWP is writing guidelines for all New Zealand clubs and will consider Water Polo Australia's recommendation during this process. These will be published during 2019.

Procedures

The Marist Auckland Water Polo Club (Inc) has determined that the health and safety of our players is a priority. Therefore, for all games played at outdoor venues, the Club will require players to use alcohol-based sunscreens. Age Group Coordinators and Managers for each team will be made aware of these guidelines and the Club will provide sunscreen for these games.

All players, coaches, managers, referees and supporting adults associated with the Club are also encouraged to wear appropriate hats, sunglasses and clothing, and seek shade whenever possible.

Should a player not be able to use sunscreen, the player or their caregiver is to advise Marist in writing prior to a tournament.

Review

These guidelines will be reviewed on publication of NZ Water Polo's updated guidelines.