BRITISH WATER POLO LEAGUE

These notes are issued as guidance for teams when completing the referees’ evaluation form on the BWPL data system.

1. **What is the evaluation used for?**
   To assist the BWPL Officials’ Group in monitoring and maintaining the standard of refereeing by the League’s panel of referees. *Gradings will not be shared outside this group.*

2. **Who should make the evaluation?**
   Any competent person with a sound knowledge of the rules; preferably a non-playing team manager, coach or other official but, if this is not possible, the team captain.

3. **When should the evaluation be made?**
   Within seven days. Please complete the BWPL form assessing performance of the referees and return it electronically via the League’s data management system. Failure to comply will result in a £5 fine on each occasion. *See Rule 107.3.*

   But . . . within three days if you are sending a Deficient evaluation (*Rule 107.4*). This **must be accompanied by a written statement explaining why the grading has been given** and include a copy of the match sheet. Pending the appointment of a new Officials’ Coordinator, please forward to the BWPL Officials’ Group, c/o League General Secretary Chris Ducker, chris.ducker@bwpl.org.

4. **How should the evaluation be made?**
   The League expects its teams, coaches and referees to approach each match in a positive spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. Referees and players have varying levels of skill and experience, but all should aim for the same outcome - a fair match result that reflects the teams’ performance on the day and, in all respects, a match played in the true spirit of the sport.

   Evaluators should remember that, at the start of every match, referees have a **Good** evaluation, irrespective of any previous encounters. If referees demonstrate any failings during the match, the evaluator must apply the criteria below to arrive at a final grading.

   The degree of difficulty of the game should *not* affect the evaluation. In an **Easy** game where the referee is not tested he should receive a **Good** grading if he is error free or near it.

5. **What criteria should be used for the gradings?**
   - **Good:** Should be awarded to a referee who has demonstrated overall control and consistency, dealing firmly with exclusions, penalties and any other important incidents and communicating effectively with the players. A referee should not be denied a Good evaluation because he/she is perceived to have made one or two minor errors.
   - **Satisfactory:** Awarded when a referee has not demonstrated full consistency and firmness and/or has occasionally failed properly to apply the rules, but without affecting the overall match outcome.
   - **Poor:** To a referee who has shown inconsistency, lack of firmness and control, poor communication and has clearly failed to apply the rules to such an extent that he/she has materially affected the fairness of the match outcome.
   - **Deficient:** This is the lowest level and should only be given when, *after serious consideration*, the evaluator is satisfied a referee has shown such a great lack of consistency, firmness and/or lack of knowledge of the rules that he/she has changed the outcome of the match.

6. **How is the degree of difficulty of the game decided?**
   - **Difficult:** A very physical game or with many technical fouls irrespective of the score.
   - **Medium:** Close game but with a moderate level of physical play or technical fouls.
   - **Easy:** One-sided game or without the need for significant intervention by the referees.