



Guidelines

Encouraging the core values, reputation, positive behaviours and attitudes of water polo



Water Polo
AUSTRALIA



Think.Act.Play.

Water Polo is a game steeped in tradition and a wonderful sport to play. It can have a positive influence that enriches the lives of all involved.

Providing a safe, fair and inclusive environment for everyone involved in our sport, and ensuring that our core values, good reputation and positive behaviours are maintained is a priority of Water Polo Australia.

Think.Act.Play. is designed to promote positive behaviours by players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators that uphold the values, reputation and spirit of Water Polo.

Think.Act.Play. is delivered through numerous initiatives including:

- **Event briefings** – discussion and reminders to coaches and officials at national events to reinforce the behavior expectations and highlight opportunities to further engage with Think.Act.Play. at that event.
- **Athlete engagement** – athletes participating in events are encouraged to share the message and their take on the values of teamwork and respect through social media and the campaign hashtag #ThinkActPlay.
- **Positive messaging** - key messages encouraging fair play and positive sporting behavior will be displayed around event venues, on clothing and signage and via social media to continually remind the water polo community.
- **Post-game handshake** – encouraged following all games at all levels to take place poolside and involve players, coaches, managers from both teams and referees.
- **Pool Marshalls** – will play a vital role in encouraging good behaviour amongst spectators at events.
- **Good sport award** – will be awarded for displays of exemplary sporting behaviour throughout national tournaments.
- **Champions** – Water Polo role models will be utilised in promotional initiatives and competitions from time to time.
- **Education Modules** – within all new accreditation courses a dedicated module to Think.Act.Play. explores how individuals can embody the principles of Think.Act.Play. and strategies to act as role models within the wider water polo community.



Key messages:

The target groups for **Think.Act.Play.** include players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators; essentially the entire Water Polo community.

There are three slogans that underpin the **Think.Act.Play.** program aimed at promoting positive behaviour and respect. Each slogan is relevant to everyone involved in the game.

Think before you speak: What you say and do shapes the culture of our sport. Your words can influence the way people are seen and treated by others, and the way in which people feel about themselves. It can also impact the way the community perceives our sport. *Remember - what you say matters.*

Act with respect: Showing respect and treating everyone fairly is just as important as the game. No matter who you are or where you come from, treating each other with respect and dignity ensures everyone can enjoy the game. Whether you're playing, coaching or cheering from the sidelines - respect the referee's decision. *Remember - to earn respect you must give it.*

Play in the spirit of the game: The way you play, coach and support says a lot about your character. Playing in the **spirit** of the game is more than just the rules. Players that keep their cool under pressure, even when things are not going their way, have a better chance of winning the game. Coaches that encourage sportsmanship get the best from their players. Parents that set a good example help their children enjoy the game. *Remember - take responsibility for your actions and play in the spirit of the game.*

WPA Member Protection Policy

The WPA [National Member Protection Policy](#) underpins the **Think.Act.Play.** campaign. For references to dispute/incident procedures and processes please refer to this policy on the WPA website.

Codes of conduct:

The WPA Codes of conduct are listed within the WPA National Member Protection Policy and are to be adhered to under all circumstances. There are specific codes of conduct for various segments of individuals involved in water polo including players, coaches, officials parents, spectators and anyone employed, or recruited in any capacity by Water Polo Australia and its affiliates.



COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

The Coach Code of Conduct forms part of the WPAL Member Protection Policy that can be found on the website at www.waterpoloaustralia.com.au

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being.
2. Ensure the athlete's time spent with you is a positive one.
3. Treat each athlete as an individual.
4. Provide a drug free environment.
5. Be fair, considerate and honest with athletes.
6. Be professional and accept responsibility for your actions.
7. Make a commitment to providing a quality service to your athletes.
8. Operate within the rules of your sport. Any physical contact with athletes should be:
 - Appropriate to the situation.
 - Necessary for the athlete's skill development.
 - Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards your athletes.
9. Refrain from any form of harassment.
10. Provide a safe environment for training and competition.
11. Show concern and caution towards sick and injured athletes.
12. Be a positive role model for your sport and athletes.
13. Refrain from inappropriate behaviour towards officials and parents.



OFFICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Official Code of Conduct forms part of the WPAL Member Protection Policy that can be found on the website at www.waterpoloaustralia.com.au

1. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being regardless of age, gender, ethnic origin, religion or ability.
2. Be professional in your appearance and manner and accept responsibility for all actions taken.
3. Provide a drug free environment.
4. Make a commitment to providing quality service to officiating in your state and WPA by seeking continual improvement of your officiating knowledge and skill through study, performance appraisal and regular updating of competencies.
5. Operate within the rules and spirit of water polo.
6. Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards athletes, officials, parents and coaches.
7. Refrain from any form of sexual harassment.
8. Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
9. Be impartial.
10. Avoid any situation that may lead to a conflict of interest.
11. Show concern and caution towards sick and injured athletes.
12. Encourage inclusivity and access to all areas of officiating.
13. Be a positive role model for refereeing and officiating.



ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

The Athlete Code of Conduct forms part of the WPAL Member Protection Policy that can be found on the website at www.waterpoloaustralia.com.au

1. Play by the rules.
2. Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain, coach or manager approach the official after the competition.
3. Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport.
4. Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit so will you.
5. Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
6. Treat all participants in your sport as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
7. Cooperate with your coach, team mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
8. Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents and coaches.
9. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.



VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Volunteer Code of Conduct forms part of the WPAL Member Protection Policy that can be found on the website at www.waterpoloaustralia.com.au

1. Involve young people in planning, leadership, evaluation and decision making related to the activity.
2. Give all young people equal opportunities to participate.
3. Create pathways for young people to participate in sport not just as a player but as a coach, referee, administrator etc.
4. Ensure that rules, equipment, length of games and training schedules are modified to suit the age, ability and maturity level of young players.
5. Provide quality supervision and instruction for junior players.
6. Remember that young people participate for their enjoyment and benefit. Do not over emphasise awards.
7. Help coaches and officials highlight appropriate behaviour and skill development, and help improve the standards of coaching and officiating.
8. Ensure that everyone involved in junior sport emphasises fair play, and not winning at all costs.
9. Give a code of behaviour sheet to spectators, officials, parents, coaches, players and the media, and encourage them to follow it.
10. Remember, you set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.
11. Make it clear that abusing young people in any way is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action.
12. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.



PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Parent Code of Conduct forms part of the WPAL Member Protection Policy that can be found on the website at www.waterpoloaustralia.com.au

1. Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
2. Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
3. Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
4. Encourage children always to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
5. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
6. Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performances and skillful plays by all participants.
7. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
8. Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
9. Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
10. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.



SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

The Spectator Code of Conduct forms part of the WPAL Member Protection Policy that can be found on the website at www.waterpoloaustralia.com.au

1. Remember that young people participate in sport for their enjoyment and benefit, not yours.
2. Applaud good performance and efforts from all individuals and teams. Congratulate all participants on their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
3. Respect the decisions of officials and teach young people to do the same.
4. Never ridicule or scold a young player for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.
5. Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players.
6. Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no game.
7. Encourage players to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.
8. Do not use foul language, sledge or harass players, coaches or officials.
9. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.



IMAGES OF CHILDREN

WATER POLO AUSTRALIA'S POSITION ON TAKING IMAGES OF CHILDREN

Images of children can be used inappropriately or illegally. Water Polo Australia requires that individuals and associations, wherever possible, obtain permission from a child's parent/guardian before taking an image of a child that is not their own. They should also make sure the parent/guardian understands how the image will be used.

To respect people's privacy, we do not allow camera phones, videos and cameras to be used inside changing areas, showers and toilets.

When using a photo of a child, we will not name or identify the child or publish personal information, such as residential address, email address or telephone number, without the consent of the parent/guardian. We will not provide information about a child's hobbies, interests, school or the like, as this can be used by pedophiles or other persons to "groom" a child.

We will only use images of children that are relevant to our sport and we will ensure that they are suitably clothed in a manner that promotes participation in the sport. We will seek permission from the parents/guardians of the children before using the images. We require our member state and territory associations and clubs to do likewise.

For further information on "grooming" or other types of child abuse and their indicators please visit PlayByTheRules.net.au.

Event Conditions of Entry:

Upon entering a Water Polo Australia affiliated event or a venue that is hosting a Water Polo event, you are agreeing to recognize and abide to the Conditions of Entry.

Example conditions of entry sign: -->

Event Incidents:

Incidents or complaints from conduct at WPA events are handled under the WPA Member Protection and Disciplinary policies – refer to the WPA website for more.

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CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

By entering this venue, all persons agree to be bound by the following terms and conditions:

- They will adhere to Centre Management's Conditions of Entry.
- They will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and in accordance with the Water Polo Australia (WPA) Member Protection Policy and Codes of Conduct.
- Comply with any reasonable direction from the Pool Marshall, Tournament Director, or any other official of WPA or affiliated member.
- Present themselves to the WPA or affiliated members' Disciplinary Tribunal if so required.

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