



## RE: Alberta Water Polo Provincial Finals 2025

Dear Community Clubs,

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the upcoming Winter Provincials. Please review the following important updates and share them with your club/team members. Some details may differ from past events, so *it is crucial that all participants are aware.*

The final schedule is completed with the club names. [VIEW HERE](#)

The Winter League schedule was created in December for the season and a club meeting was held to discuss some of the challenges we were facing with the late entry of 2 teams and limited pool time. One of the agenda items was to discuss the schedule of 12U teams playing Round Robin and then single elimination at the provincial weekend, for the 14U male/female divisions we had RR to rank the teams then leading to Okotoks (March 1-2) and over the last 2 weekends, a SEEDDED DOUBLE ELIMINATION BRACKET. As discussed at the meeting, the 5th and 6th place teams were out of the medal contention after Okotoks but were guaranteed 2 games because of the distance for some clubs.

### AWPA Provincial League Mission & Values

Our priority for the weekend is to create a safe and supportive environment for all participants. We understand the pressures of competition, and we encourage all, including spectators to model respectful behavior—focusing on effort and growth rather than just winning and losing.

### Referees, AWPAs Delegates & Tournament Lead

Each game will have a Provincial-level referee assigned, with oversight from the Referee in Chief and Tournament Leads. Our league is a learning environment not only for athletes and coaches but also for referees.

<b>Referee in Chief</b>	Mikhail Dykman
<b>League Commissioner</b>	Corey Conroy (remote)
<b>Tournament Leads</b>	Rae Lekness, OLY Kyra Christmas, OLY
<b>Upper Deck / Gate Access</b>	Cindy Jara

### Coaches

You have an important role this weekend. Your actions are viewed by parents and your young athletes. If you see an athlete who mistakenly injures another player, please have them apologize and have the assistant coach teach them how to properly play in that situation. It is difficult to have the 2 referees see everything that is happening in and under the water.

Concussion protocol documents: [Concussion pathway](#) [Return to Sport](#)

The WPC Concussion Action Plan provides guidelines for handling potential head injuries. You will find a sample game action plan and practice action plan in the provided link. It is important to note that the **coach** plays a crucial role in this protocol.



While referees and AWPAs representatives strive to address all concerns in real time, it is possible that certain incidents are missed. This is not ideal, but coaches also have the ability and responsibility to intervene. If an athlete is in distress, a coach can bring this to the attention of the referee, lifeguards, or other officials. Calling a timeout is also an available option to ensure an athlete receives the necessary attention.

### **Club Spectator Supervisor (CSS)**

Each team must submit the name of their Club Spectator Supervisor (CSS) to [commissioner@albertawaterpolo.ca](mailto:commissioner@albertawaterpolo.ca). Upon arrival, the CSS must introduce themselves to Cindy Jara (located near Door 17 on the viewing level). A lanyard and pass will be provided for identification and can be returned or passed to the next CSS.

Please ensure the CSS understands their responsibilities and upholds the AWPAs Code of Conduct and Respect in Sport for Parents. Individuals not adhering to these principles may receive a Code of Conduct letter. Use the 24-hour rule before approaching staff, volunteers, or sending emails regarding concerns.

### **Team Chaperones**

Each team is allowed one (1) chaperone on the pool deck before and after their games. During the game, chaperones must remain upstairs. Their role is to supervise athletes and ensure their safety. If an athlete requires assistance during a game, and the assistant coach is unavailable, the chaperone may enter the deck.

### **Pool Deck Access** *(please share this with all your athletes and parents)*

To access the pool deck please use the back stairs that are in the viewing area, past the workout glass.

- Only registered coaches and athletes listed on rosters may be on the pool deck up to 45 minutes before their listed game.
- Athletes not participating in a given age group must remain in the stands.
- Noise levels on the deck have impacted coaches' ability to communicate with players. Please encourage cheering from the stands instead of on the deck.
- A designated individual will monitor deck access—please ensure athletes and coaches are respectful to them.

Team managers can come down with the team to supervise until they start playing the game and then ask that the manager/chaperone goes back upstairs during the game.

To limit the number of people on the pool deck, we will not require parents to sign up as minor officials this weekend.

Thank you for your cooperation in making this a safe and enjoyable event for all. We appreciate your support and look forward to a fantastic tournament!

Best regards,

*Alberta Water Polo Association*