



Safe Sport 2025-2026

Saskatoon Water Polo Club Meeting, October 2025

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Liability and Insurance
3. Anti-doping
4. Safe play and Injury prevention
5. Harassment
6. Social Media Behaviour
7. Under water contact

1. Introduction + what is Safe Sport:

- ▶ Safe Sport addresses the safety of all water polo participants inside and outside the pool during all our activities.
- ▶ It includes physical and verbal harassment, safe play, injury prevention, anti-doping, and any other safety related component.

2. Liability and Insurance

- ▶ If an incident occurs, Insurance will cover cost of Legal Fees and eventual Fine if
 - ▶ Safe Sport Policies are set
 - ▶ Safe Sport Manual on WPS Website
 - ▶ Screening and training of identified members is done:
 - ▶ Criminal Check and screening form
 - ▶ Respect in Sport
 - ▶ WPS does for WPS staff and coaches in its events
 - ▶ Clubs must do it for their own staff
 - ▶ Safe Sport prevention is annually done
 - ▶ WPS does it to its clubs' members and staff
 - ▶ Each club is responsible to bring this prevention down to all its members (athletes and parents)

2. Anti-doping:

Refer to WPC website: [Water Polo Canada : Website by RAMP InterActive](#)

Concerns mostly National Team athletes who should ask their doctors to verify medicines they prescribe are not in the anti-doping list.

3. Safe play and Injury prevention:

- ▶ Game and practice safe play: water polo is a physical game BUT there are rules of play to support player safety. Coaches and referees help ensure the safety of athletes.
- ▶ Coaches address athletes who do not respect rules, especially rules regarding safety. Misbehaviour should be corrected using educational tools but also sanctions when indicated by policies.
- ▶ Injury prevention is very important for our coaches:
 - ▶ Athletes will receive education/training to prevent injuries
 - ▶ Injuries will be identified quickly
 - ▶ Injured athletes will be referred to a professional and return to train as permitted
 - ▶ Communication among coaches, athletes and parents is KEY.
- ▶ Helmet for goalies to wear at practice is strongly recommended.
- ▶ Concussion training (i.e., Making Headways) for Coaches is mandatory for NCL coaches and players, we strongly recommended all other coaches and parents to take the course too.

4. Harassment:

- ▶ The Code of Conduct is signed by ALL members and parents as well as the Code of Ethics:
- ▶ Reminder of important points:
 - ▶ Rule of two
 - ▶ Background screening
 - ▶ Ethics training for coaches and all participants (e.g., Respect in Sport Training)
- ▶ IDENTIFY harassment is key:
 - ▶ By coaches, other athletes AND parents
 - ▶ Parents should help identify if their kids have been harassed BUT also if have contributed to harassment.
 - ▶ Additional work ask to parents to prevent Bullies
- ▶ Duty to Report: where/how/to who?
 - ▶ To: wpsask.ca (link on front page)
 - ▶ Independent 3rd part for the “triage” of complaints
 - ▶ *Duty to Report* using the link above. Maltreatment signs are listed on the code of conduct and ethic
- ▶ Treatment of a Report/ complaint:
 - ▶ Third Party “ITP Sport” to receive complaint online
 - ▶ Non maltreatment issues will be re-orientated to the proper channel
 - ▶ All complaint will be treated following policies (can be found on wpsask.ca)

5. Social Media Behaviour:

- This a very BIG concern of today
- Everybody must be careful on what they post: the Codes of Conduct and Ethics can apply on social media.
- Harassment on social media can be very hard to avoid, and when happening, it is very hard to stop, identify the harasser(s) and sanction them before harm occurs.
- Athletes/coaches/staff must set all Privacy controls to the maximum level of security.
- Even with privacy controls, everyone should keep in mind that what is posted online is not under their control anymore; online content can be stolen and shared to anybody.

6. Under water contact

▶ Landscape:

- ▶ Deep water and not natural environment, contact, swim suit

▶ Acceptable contact

- ▶ Permitted by the spirit of the sport which means to take a positional advantage in regard of the water Ball, defensively and offensive.
- ▶ With any part of the body except the neck, head and genital area
- ▶ The contact must have for unique goal to take a positional advantage in regard of the ball to defend or attack during the game
- ▶ Grabbing the suit is sometimes not sanctioned at higher levels, although it is technically against the rules
- ▶ It excludes contact with the goal of hurting the other player

▶ Not acceptable contact

- ▶ Any contact toward genitals.
- ▶ Any contact with the goal to hurt the other player
- ▶ Any contact with the goal to harass: must be reported immediately
- ▶ Players using not acceptable contact must know that they will be sanctioned following policy if this contact is confirmed.

▶ Accidental contact

- ▶ Players are working for a positional advantage and does not have the intention of hurting or harassing another player.
- ▶ Accidental contact occurs at all levels
- ▶ Sometimes accidental contact is misperceived as intentional.
- ▶ Accidental or not, the player who received the contact must still report it immediately to the coach, parents, referee or any other support.
- ▶ The player that made the “accidental contact” should, if they notice it, should acknowledge the unintentional contact to the opponent by apologizing, as well as informing their coach and the referee.