



Code of Conduct and Ethics

(the “Code”)

Water Polo Canada (the “NSO” or “WPC”) has adopted the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (“UCCMS”), as amended from time to time, which shall be incorporated into this Code by reference as if set out in full herein. Any modifications or amendments made to the UCCMS by the relevant functions of Abuse-Free Sport shall come into effect immediately upon their adoption by the relevant functions of Abuse-Free Sport and automatically without the need for any further action by the NSO.

As a Signatory of Abuse-Free Sport, the NSO has designated specific Registrants within the NSO as Abuse-Free Sport Participants. A full list of designated individuals is available on the WPC website.

*It is important to note that the Code applies to all Members and Registrants, **but not all Members and Registrants are Abuse-Free Sport Participants** and subject to the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (OSIC) Process under Abuse-Free Sport.*

Members of the NSO may have their own code of conduct applicable to their registrants participating in the Member’s activities and events. A Member’s registrant may also be subject to this Code if they are involved in the NSO activities, events or programs, including being designated an Abuse Free Sport Participant.

A. Purpose

1. The purpose of this Code is to ensure a safe and positive environment within the programs, activities, and Events of WPC by making all Members and Registrants aware that there is an expectation, at all times, of appropriate behaviour consistent with the NSO’s core values, mission, and policies.
2. WPC and its Members and Registrants support equal opportunity, prohibit discriminatory practices, and are committed to providing an environment in which all individuals can safely participate in sport and are treated with respect and fairness.
3. It is expected that all Members and Registrants conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the True Sport principles.

B. Application – General

4. This Code applies to the conduct of all Members and Registrants during the business, activities, and Events of WPC including, but not limited to competitions, practices, evaluations, treatment,

or consultations (e.g., massage therapy), training camps, travel associated with organizational activities, the office environment, and any meetings.

5. This Code also applies to the conduct of all Members and Registrants outside of the business, activities, and Events of WPC when such conduct adversely affects the WPC's relationships (and the work and sport environment) or is detrimental to the image and reputation of WPC. Such applicability will be determined by WPC or the relevant Member, as applicable, at its sole discretion.
6. In addition, this Policy will apply to breaches of the Code that occurred when the Members or Registrants involved interacted due to their mutual involvement in the sport or, if the breach occurred outside of the sport environment, if the breach has a serious and detrimental impact on the Member(s) or Registrant(s).
7. This Code applies to Registrants active in the sport or who have retired from the sport where any claim regarding a potential breach of this Code occurred when the Registrant was active in the sport.

C. **Prohibited Behaviours**

8. All Members and Registrants must refrain from any behaviour that constitutes a Prohibited Behaviour as defined by the [UCCMS](#) and the Code.
9. Members and Registrants are responsible for knowing what actions or behaviours constitute Prohibited Behaviours and Maltreatment.
10. Prohibited Behaviours under the [UCCMS](#) include, but are not limited to:
 - a) Physical Maltreatment
 - b) Psychological Maltreatment
 - c) Neglect
 - d) Sexual Maltreatment
 - e) Grooming
 - f) Boundary Transgressions
 - g) Discrimination
 - h) Failing to Report
 - i) Aiding and Abetting
 - j) Retaliation
 - k) Interference with or Manipulation of Process
 - l) Filing a False Report

In addition to the Prohibited Behaviours as defined by the [UCCMS](#), this Code sets out other expected standards of behaviour and conduct for all Members and Registrants and any failure to respect these expected standards of behaviour by a Member or Registrant may constitute a breach of this Code.

D. **Responsibilities of Registrants**

11. All Registrants have a responsibility to:

- a) Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes Maltreatment and Prohibited Behaviour under this Code and the [UCCMS](#).
- b) Maintain and enhance the dignity and self-esteem of other Registrants by:
 - i. Treating each other with fairness, honesty, respect and integrity;
 - ii. Focusing comments or criticism appropriately and avoiding public criticism of Athletes, coaches, officials, organizers, volunteers, employees, or other Registrants;
 - iii. Consistently demonstrating the spirit of sportsmanship, sport leadership, and ethical conduct; and
 - iv. Ensuring adherence to the rules of the sport and the spirit of those rules.
- c) Refrain from the use of power or authority to coerce another person to engage in inappropriate activities.
- d) Refrain from consuming tobacco products, cannabis, or recreational drugs while participating in the programs, activities, competitions, or Events of the NSO.
- e) In the case of Minors¹, not consume alcohol, tobacco (including the use of e-cigarettes), cannabis, or any other prohibited substance at any competition or Event.
- f) In the case of individuals who are not Minors, not consume cannabis in the Workplace or in any situation associated with the Events of the NSO (subject to protections under applicable human rights legislation), not consume alcohol during training, competitions, or in situations where Minors are present, and take reasonable steps to manage the responsible consumption of alcohol in adult-oriented social situations.
- g) When driving a vehicle:
 - i. Have a valid driver's license;
 - ii. Obey traffic laws;
 - iii. Not be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs or substances;
 - iv. Have valid car insurance; and
 - v. Refrain from engaging in any activity that would constitute distracted driving.
- h) Respect the property of others and not wilfully cause damage.

¹ As defined by the age of majority in the province where the action in question occurred.

- i) Promote sport in the most constructive and positive manner possible.
- i) refrain from engaging in deliberate behaviour which is intended to manipulate the outcome of a para-classification, competition and/or not offer, receive or refrain from offering or receiving any benefit which is intended to manipulate the outcome of a competition or para-classification. A benefit includes the direct or indirect receipt of money or other anything else of value, including, but not limited to, bribes, gains, gifts, preferential treatment, and other advantages. Sporting advantage is also a benefit;
- j) Adhere to all applicable federal, provincial/territorial, municipal and host country laws; and
- k) Comply with the bylaws, policies, procedures, rules, and regulations of the NSO, its Members and those of any other sport NSO with authority over the Registrant, as applicable, and as adopted and amended from time to time.

E. Directors, Committee Members, and Employees

12. In addition to section D (above), directors, committee members, and employees of WPC will have additional responsibilities to:

- a) Function primarily as a director, committee member or employee of the NSO (as applicable) and ensure to prioritize their duty of loyalty to WPC (and not to any other organization or group) while acting in this role.
- b) Act with honesty and integrity and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the nature and responsibilities of the business and the maintenance of a Registrant's confidence.
- c) Ensure that financial affairs are conducted in a responsible and transparent manner with due regard for all fiduciary responsibilities.
- d) Comply with their obligations under the *Screening Policy*, including understanding ongoing expectations under the *Screening Policy* and fully cooperating in the screening process.
- e) Conduct themselves openly, professionally, lawfully and in good faith.
- f) Be independent and impartial and not be influenced by self-interest, outside pressure, expectation of reward, or fear of criticism in their decision-making on behalf of WPC.
- g) Exercise the degree of care, diligence, and skill required in the performance of their duties pursuant to applicable laws.
- h) Maintain required confidentiality of organizational information.
- i) Commit the time to attend meetings and be diligent in preparation for, and participation in, discussions at such meetings; and
- j) Have a thorough knowledge and understanding of all governance documents.

F. **Athlete Support Personnel**

13. In addition to section D (above), Athlete Support Personnel have additional responsibilities.
14. Athlete Support Personnel must understand and respect the inherent Power Imbalance that exists in this relationship and must not abuse it, either consciously or unconsciously.
15. Athlete Support Personnel will:
 - a) Avoid any behaviour that abuses the Power Imbalance inherent in the position of the Athlete Support Personnel.
 - b) Ensure a safe environment by selecting activities and establishing controls that are suitable for the age, experience, ability, and fitness level of the Athletes.
 - c) Prepare Athletes systematically and progressively, using appropriate timeframes and monitoring physical and psychological adjustments while refraining from using training methods or techniques that may harm Athletes.
 - d) Avoid compromising the present and future health of Athletes by communicating and cooperating with sport medicine professionals in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of Athletes' medical and psychological treatments.
 - e) Support the Athlete Support Personnel of a training camp, provincial/territorial team, or national team, should an Athlete qualify for participation with one of these programs.
 - f) Comply with all established responsibilities and obligations as set out by the Athlete Support Personnel's professional governing association or order, if any.
 - g) Accept and promote Athletes' personal goals and refer Athletes to other coaches and sport specialists as appropriate.
 - h) Provide Athletes (and the parents/guardians of Minor Athletes) with the information necessary to be involved in the decisions that affect the Athlete.
 - i) Act in the best interest of the Athlete's development as a whole person.
 - j) Comply with their obligations under the *Screening Policy*, including understanding ongoing expectations under this *Policy* and fully cooperating in the screening process.
 - k) Under no circumstances provide, promote, or condone the use of drugs (other than properly prescribed medications) or prohibited substances or prohibited methods and, in the case of Minors, alcohol, cannabis, and/or tobacco.
 - l) Respect competitor Athletes and, in dealings with them, not encroach upon topics or take actions which are deemed to be within the realm of 'coaching', unless after first receiving approval from the coaches who are responsible for the Athletes.

- m) When a Power Imbalance exists, as defined in the [UCCMS](#), not engage in a sexual or intimate relationship with an Athlete of any age.
- n) Disclose to the NSO or the Member (as applicable) any sexual or intimate relationship with an Athlete over the age of majority and, if requested by WPC, immediately discontinue any involvement with that Athlete.
- o) Recognize the power inherent in the position of Athlete Support Personnel and respect and promote the rights of all Registrants in sport. This is accomplished by establishing and following procedures for confidentiality (right to privacy), informed participation, and fair and reasonable treatment. Coaches have a special responsibility to respect and promote the rights of Registrants who are in a vulnerable or dependent position and less able to protect their own rights; and
- p) Dress professionally and use appropriate language.

G. Athletes

16. In addition to section D (above), Athletes will have additional responsibilities to:

- a) Follow their athlete agreement (if applicable).
- b) Report any medical problems in a timely fashion, when such problems may limit their ability to travel, practice, or compete.
- c) Participate and appear on-time and prepared to participate to their best abilities in all competitions, practices, training sessions, and evaluations.
- d) Properly represent themselves and not attempt to participate in a competition for which they are not eligible by reason of age, classification, or other reason.
- e) Adhere to any rules and requirements regarding clothing, professionalism, and equipment; and
- f) Act in accordance with applicable policies and procedures and, when applicable, additional rules as outlined by Athlete Support Personnel.

H. Officials

17. In addition to section D (above), officials will have additional responsibilities to:

- a) Maintain and update their knowledge of the rules and rule changes.
- b) Not publicly criticize other Registrants.
- c) Adhere at all times to the rules of World Aquatics and any other sport organization that has relevant and applicable authority.

- d) Place the safety and welfare of competitors, and the fairness of the competition above all else.
- e) Strive to provide a fair sporting environment, and at no time engage in Maltreatment or Prohibited Behaviour toward any person on the field of play.
- f) Respect the terms of any agreement that they enter with WPC.
- g) Work within the boundaries of their position's description while supporting the work of other officials.
- h) Act as an ambassador of the sport by agreeing to enforce and abide by national and provincial/territorial rules and regulations.
- i) Take ownership of actions and decisions made while officiating.
- j) Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all Registrants.
- k) Act openly, impartially, professionally, lawfully, and in good faith.
- l) Be fair, equitable, considerate, independent, honest, and impartial in all dealings with others.
- m) Respect the confidentiality required by issues of a sensitive nature, which may include discipline processes, appeals, and specific information or data about Registrants.
- n) Comply with their obligations under the *Screening Policy*, including understanding ongoing expectations under this *Policy* and fully cooperating in the screening process.
- o) Honour all assignments unless unable to do so by virtue of illness or personal emergency, and in these cases inform a supervisor or the NSO at the earliest possible time.
- p) When writing reports, set out the actual facts to the best of their knowledge and recollection; and
- q) Dress in proper attire for officiating.

I. **Parents/Guardians and Spectators**

18. In addition to section D (above), parents/guardians and spectators at Events will:

- a) Encourage Athletes to compete within the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- b) Condemn the use of violence in any form.
- c) Never ridicule a Registrant for making a mistake during a competition or practice.
- d) Respect the decisions and judgments of officials and encourage Athletes to do the same.

- e) Support all efforts to stop and prevent verbal and physical abuse, coercion, intimidation, and excessive sarcasm.
- f) Respect and show appreciation to all competitors, and to coaches, officials and other volunteers
- g) Never harass Registrants, competitors, Athlete Support Personnel, officials, parents/guardians, or other spectators; and
- h) Never encourage, aid, cover up or assist an Athlete in cheating through doping, competition manipulation or other cheating behaviors.

J. Members and NCL Teams

19. Members and NCL Teams must:

- a) Adhere to all WPC governing documents and policies, and, when required, amend their own rules to comply or align with those of WPC.
- b) Pay all required dues and fees by the prescribed deadlines.
- c) Ensure that all Athletes and coaches participating in sanctioned competitions and Events of WPC are registered and in good standing.
- d) Appropriately screen prospective employees to help ensure Athletes have a healthy and safe sport environment.
- e) Ensure that any possible or actual misconduct is investigated promptly and thoroughly.
- f) Impose appropriate disciplinary or corrective measures when misconduct has been substantiated.
- g) Advise WPC immediately of any situation where a complainant has publicized a complaint in the media (including social media).
- h) Provide WPC with a copy of all decisions rendered pursuant to WPC's policies for complaints and appeals and
- i) Implement any decisions and disciplinary sanctions imposed pursuant to WPC, or any Member or Club's discipline process.

Anti-Doping²

² Any capitalized terms used in this Anti-Doping section shall, unless the context requires otherwise, have the meanings ascribed to them in the Definitions section of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program.

20. WPC adopts and adheres to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (“CADP”). WPC will respect any sanction imposed on an Individual as a result of a breach of the [Canadian Anti-Doping Program](#) or any other applicable Anti-Doping Rules.

21. All Registrants shall:

- a) Abstain from the non-medical use of medications or drugs or the Use of Prohibited Substances or Prohibited Methods as listed on the version of the World Anti-Doping Agency’s Prohibited List currently in force.
- b) Refrain from associating with any person for the purpose of coaching, training, competition, instruction, administration, management, athletic development, or supervision, who has been found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation and is serving a period of Ineligibility imposed pursuant to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program or any other applicable anti-doping rules.
- c) Cooperate with any Anti-Doping Sport Organization that is conducting an investigation into any anti-doping rule violation(s).
- d) Refrain from any offensive conduct toward a Doping Control official or other individual involved in Doping Control, whether or not such conduct constitutes Tampering as defined in the Canadian Anti-Doping Program.
- e) All Athlete Support Personnel or other Persons who are Using a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method without a valid and acceptable justification shall refrain from providing support to Athletes that fall under the NSO jurisdiction.

Retaliation, Retribution or Reprisal

22. It is a breach of this *Code of Conduct and Ethics* for any Registrant to engage in any act that threatens or seeks to intimidate another individual with the intent of discouraging that Registrant from filing, in good faith, a complaint pursuant to any WPC policy. It is also a breach of this *Code of Conduct and Ethics* for a Registrant to file a complaint for the purpose of retaliation, retribution or reprisal against any other Registrant. Any Registrant found to be in breach of this section shall be liable for the costs related to the disciplinary process required to establish such a breach.

Privacy

23. The collection, use and disclosure of any personal information pursuant to this Policy is subject to WPC’s *Privacy Policy*.

K. Definitions

24. Terms in this Code are defined as follows:

- a) **Abuse-Free Sport (AFS):** Program created by the Sport Dispute Resolution Center of Canada (SDRCC) in accordance with its mandate to establish an independent safe sport mechanism to implement the UCCMS.
- b) **Abuse-Free Sport Participant:** Individual participating in the Signatory's operations, activities and programs who is bound by the Abuse-Free Sport Participant Consent Form. Abuse-Free Sport Participant may include, without limitation, an athlete, a coach, an official, an athlete support personnel, an employee, a contractual worker, an administrator or a volunteer acting on behalf of, or representing the Signatory in any capacity.
- c) **Athlete** – An individual who is an Athlete Participant in WPC who is subject to the policies of WPC and to this Code.
- d) **Athlete Support Personnel** - Any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, official, medical, paramedical personnel, parent or any other person working with, treating or assisting an Athlete participating in or preparing for sports competition.
- e) **Bullying** – Offensive behaviour and/or abusive treatment of a Registrant that typically, but not always, involves an abuse of power.
- f) **Event** – an event sanctioned by WPC, and which may include a social Event.
- g) **Harassment** or harass – A course of vexatious comment or conduct against a Registrant or group, which is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome.
- h) **Member** – Refers to the provincial/territorial organizations that are admitted as Members of WPC per the WPC's Bylaws.
- i) **NSO** – Refers to Water Polo Canada (WPC).
- j) **Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (OSIC)** – functionally independent division of the SDRCC, or designate responsible for administering the UCCMS for purposes of the Abuse-Free Sport program, which specific responsibilities include (i) administering the Complaint Management and the Sport Environment Assessment processes; (ii) maintaining the Registry; (iii) monitoring organizational compliance by Abuse-Free Sport Signatories and issuing reports as required, and (iv) acting as the central hub for Abuse-Free Sport. This definition shall take into account the transfer of OSIC outside the structure of the SDRCC once the transfer becomes effective.
- k) **Registrant** – Refers to all categories of individual members and/or registrants defined in the By-laws of WPC who are subject to the policies of the NSO, as well as all people employed by, contracted by, or engaged in activities with the NSO including, but not limited to, employees, contractors, Athletes, coaches, instructors, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, , parents or guardians, spectators, committee members, or directors and officers.

- l) **Person in Authority** – Any Registrant who holds a position of authority within WPC including, but not limited to, instructors, officials, managers, Athlete Support Personnel, chaperones, committee members, or Directors and Officers.
- m) **Power Imbalance** – as defined in the UCCMS.
- n) **Signatories**: UCCMS Adopting Organizations (as defined in the UCCMS), including the NSO, that have retained the services of the Abuse-Free Sport program for the administration and enforcement of the UCCMS, pursuant to an agreement in effect with the SDRCC or its designate.
- o) **UCCMS** – *Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport*, as amended from time to time by the relevant functions of Abuse-Free Sport.
- p) **Vulnerable Participant** – as defined in the UCCMS.
- q) **Workplace** – Any place where business or work-related activities are conducted. Workplaces include but are not limited to, the registered office(s), work-related social functions, work assignments outside the registered office(s), work-related travel, the training and competition environment, and work-related conferences or training sessions.