



**2023-2024
PROVINCIAL EVOLUTION LEAGUE (PEL)
(September 2023)**

- INTRODUCTION -

Water Polo Saskatchewan is committed to offering quality events with the objective of fostering growth in the number of participating teams. By so doing, we are helping our sport to grow, and providing the participants with a positive and rewarding experiences.

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2022-2023 ENTRY FEES	3
SECTION A	3
1. GOVERNANCE	
2. Category of Play	
3. Playing Up Policy	
4. Definition	
5. Entry Format	
i) Entries	
ii) Fees	
iii) Team Roster	
SECTION B	5
1. Rule of Play	
2. Team Eligibility	
3. Player Eligibility	
4. Duration of Game	
5. Pool Specifications	
6. Competition Format	
7. Tie Breaker Procedure	
8. Vetoes	
9. Protest	
10. Conduct/Discipline	
11. Misconduct/Disrespect/Brutality	
12. Forfeits/Defaults	
13. Selection of referees	
14. Water Polo Caps	
15. Articles Causing Injury	
16. Appeals	
SECTION C	12
1. Pre-Competition - Technical Meeting	
2. Championship Awards	
SECTION D	13
1. PSO Obligation	
2. Obligations of the Hosting Facility	
3. Obligations of the Club/Team	
4. PSO Sanctions that may apply if the above rules are not adhered to:	
SECTION E	16
SAFETY	
SECTION F	17
WATER POLO SASK PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT	
1. Participant Responsibilities	
2. Chaperone Responsibilities	
3. Coaches' Responsibilities	
4. Referees' Responsibilities	

Entry Fees*

	Per player
PEL Development	\$80 TBC
PEL Elite	\$80 TBC

SECTION A

Governance, Categories, Definition, and Registration

1. Governance

Rules within the PEL apply to all PEL games

The PEL is governed by Water Polo Saskatchewan (WPS) in accordance with the By-Laws, rules and regulations set forth by the respect Board of Directors and Clubs.

2. Categories of Play

The Community League and PCC Competitions will be played in the following Categories, unless otherwise specified in the letter of invitation:

PEL Development (Born in 2009-2012) *

PEL Open (Born in 2011 & older) *

***Age limit might be changed to fit registration and number needs**

3. Playing Up Policy

- Exemption can be to play up can be requested contacting the League Manager Taylor Molde at taylor@wpsask.ca . Once the *Athlete Age Exemption Request and Waiver* has been submitted, the request will be review by the League committee.

4. Definition

“Participants” in a PEL shall be understood to include: Players, coaches, referees, managers,

chaperones, medical personnel, minor officials and volunteers. All participants must be registered members of their respective PSO.

5. Entry Format

i) Entries

PEL is an individual entry event.

Any player wishing to enter the PEL must enter their participating individual(s) directly into the WPC online database in the event they want to enter. The online Player registration must identify a team contact. Payment for entry Fees must be received by Water Polo Saskatchewan by the specific set deadline that will be communicate in November. Late entries may not be accepted.

ii) Fees

Entry fees must accompany the online Player registration.

iii) Team Rosters

All registered participants will be added to one of the team roster created by WPS.

All participants must be registered and in good standing with their respective team, club and PSO. Individuals or teams not abiding by this rule will not be permitted to participate.

If a player becomes in bad standing before or during the PEL season, the player may not be permitted to compete.

SECTION B

General Rules

1. Rules of Play

The rules of play for all categories shall be in accordance with the Federation International de Natation Amateur (F.I.N.A.) 2021-2024 rules, except where specified in the 2023-24 CL and PCC Handbook (PCCH).

The number of timeouts per team will be announced prior to the tournament.

2. Player Eligibility

- i) In order to be eligible to participate in the PEL, participants must be registered with a registered club.
- ii) Any minor age players (as per the provincial regulations of the location of the event) must bring, at its own expense, a chaperone (responsible adult) other than the head coach **and referee**, who will be responsible for the player.
- iii) Sask Coaches are required to be certified – **Respect in Sport – and provide a Criminal Check with Vulnerable Sector check.**
- iv) For all PEL games, all coaches who are present on the bench or involved in any coaching capacity before, during and/or after a game **must be certified through the Respect in Sport** coaching module as of November 1st, 2022. Coaches that begin coaching after the November 1st, 2022 must be certified through the Respect in Sport coaching module before their first PCC or CL game as a coach. This is in accordance with the WPS's Operational Policies and will be enforced by WPS. Coaches who are not certified through the Respect in Sport coaching module will be removed from the game and her or his team/club will be subject to the conditions described in Section B.2(iii).
- v) For all PEL days, only coaches who have taken the Regional Referee course will be allowed to share concerns/comments about the referees with the referees and/or WPS prior to, during, or following a game. We therefore strongly advise all coaches of all levels and age groups to take the course when offered.
- vi) **At the PEL, WPS will provide 2 referees certified or trained** who will officiate as many games as the club's teams will play during the event.
- vi) **At the PEL games, WPS will provide 2 Minor Official certified or trained, and registered in the Data Base as Minor Official.**

3. Player Eligibility

- i) Teams in all categories are permitted to select only players registered at a minimum

level of Provincial Member

4. Duration of the Game

▶ PEL:

Each game will consist of four (4) quarters of seven (7) minutes running time with two (2) minute intervals between periods.

Please Note: Timing of quarters may be changed due to # of teams entered, pool time available and # of players in the water at one time (5 on 5 or 7 on 7). Tie games will stand except where a winner must be determined to advance on to the next round of play. Please refer to #7 for the Tie Breaking Procedures

Each team shall be entitled to three (2) timeouts in any game. The third timeout may only be requested during extra time. The duration of the time out shall be one (1) minute.

Please Note: number of time out might be restricted to #1 per game due to # of teams entered.

5. Pool Specifications

▶ PEL:

The playing area for each PEL shall be in accordance with FINA specifications; however, exceptions may be granted by Water Polo Sask

(FINA WP 1.4: The distance between the goal lines shall not be less than 20m and not more than 30m. The width of the field of play shall be not less than 10m and not more than 20m.)

6. Competition Format

The format will be announced prior to the competition based on # of teams entered, available pool time and level of competition.

7. Tie Breaking Procedures

POINTS AND STANDINGS

The standings for each round in each division will be based on each team's win-loss-tie record. Points will be assigned as follows: 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss.

TIE-BREAKER PROCESS FOR DETERMINING END-OF-ROUND STANDINGS

(The following tie-breaker process will apply to all age groups and all rounds of play.)

In the event that teams are tied at the end of a given round where the standings of that round will be used to determine seeding for the next round, or for the final tournament standings, the following tie-breakers will be used, in order of precedence:

1. Head-to-head competition - The results of head-to-head competition between the tied teams during that given round will be used as the first method of breaking the tie. The team winning the head-to-head competition in that round will win the tie-breaker.
2. Total Goal Differential - If head-to-head competition between the tied teams cannot resolve the tie, the total goal differential will be calculated between goals scored and goals allowed for each of the tied teams, for games in the given round only. This is a cumulative total based on all the games played by each team in that round. The maximum goal differential for any given game, for the purposes of this calculation, will be five (e.g. Team A defeats Team B by a score of 15 – 5. For the purposes of calculating the goal differential, a differential of 5 will be recorded, not 10.) The total goals scored by each team for a given round will still be recorded, but not used in this calculation. The team with the greatest goal differential for that given round will win the tie-breaker.
3. Fewest Goals Allowed - If the first two tie-breaker methods cannot resolve the tie, then the total goals allowed by each tied team in a given round will be used. The team allowing the fewest goals will win the tie-breaker.
4. Most Goals Scored - If the first three tie-breaker methods do not resolve the tie, then the total goals scored by each tied team in that given round will be used. The team scoring the most total goals in that round will win the tie-breaker.

All ties which cannot be resolved through the four methods, or levels, noted above will be resolved in one of two ways, depending on the tournament round involved:

5. For any round which will determine the final tournament standings, the tied teams will engage in a shoot-out, following FINA rules.

Tie-breaker process to determine Final Standings will be as per FINA which includes overtime and shootouts.

8. Vetoes

No vetoes, pertaining to officials, shall be permitted during any PEL events.

9. Protests

- i) Tournament Committee: (All decisions of this committee are final)
A Tournament Committee shall be formed prior to the commencement of the competition. The Tournament Committee shall consist of three (3) persons, one of whom shall be present at all games, and shall be responsible for ruling on all protests.

The structure of the committee shall be as follows:

- Tournament Referee-In-Chief or Evaluator
- WPS Rep

- ii) Submission of Protests

All protests must be submitted to a member of the Tournament Committee, up to (30) minutes following the final game time signed by the referees, on the protested game sheet. A fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00), in cash, must accompany the protest (the fee shall be refunded if the protest is successful). All monies will be collected by the WPS rep. Protests must be in writing, clearly indicating the nature of the protest, and the following information must be included:

- what action or person is believed to be at fault
- in what time frame the action occurred
- names of witnesses (if possible)
- team/game number (provide a copy of the game sheet)
- diagram (if applicable)
- signature of complainant

10. Conduct/Discipline

The Tournament Committee must review the incident in all cases where a tournament participant has been guilty of gross misconduct, disrespect or brutality.

A referee who has ejected a participant from a game must provide the Tournament Committee with a written report of the incident within thirty (30) minutes following the game. A decision will be made immediately following review of the report.

All findings of this Committee are final and no appeal or protest of its decision may be made. The Tournament Committee has the authority to prevent a participant from further competition in that specific tournament or a portion thereof.

The Tournament Committee must make a written report of all incidents and the WPS rep will forward it to the WPS Executive Director within forty eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the tournament. Serious matters will be referred to the Discipline Committee.

The WPS Rep will also submit a full written report to Water Polo Saskatchewan within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the tournament.

11. Misconduct/Disrespect/Brutality

For the PEL the following FINA bench control interpretation will apply:

- The Head Coach can speak and pass instructions to their team, but can not shout as if they are a radio commentator
- The Head Coach can stand and advance to their five meters line ONLY when their team is on the attack
- The Head Coach is responsible for the behavior of all staff and players on the bench
- The Head Coach can not comment or make any gestures to the game referees
- It is forbidden for the coaches, staff and players to go on the referees platform during the game

- All persons who are authorized to sit on the bench, are obligated to stay seated and not to intervene verbally, with the exception of the Head Coach
- In all cases the referee must sanction all persons that do not respect these rules by issuing a yellow (Head Coach only) or red card

The “Yellow card / Red card system” has been adopted for the control of the water polo bench by the referees. FINA rules will apply:

- The issuing (signaling) of the yellow card to the Head Coach by the referee, is an “official” warning and does not result in a loss of privileges
- The subsequent issuing (signaling) of the red card to the Head Coach by the referee is the signal that the offender must retire to the public area or to such a designated place as determined by the event technical committee
- Once the offender (team staff, player and or head coach) receives a red card, he/she must retire to the public area or to such a designated place as determined by the event technical committee and they will also receive an automatic 1 game suspension (which may be carried from one Championship to another), with review for possible imposition of greater sanction depending on the severity of the incident; a second red card is an automatic 3 game suspension (which may carry from one Championship to another)
- It should be noted, that should the actions of the Head Coach warrant, then the referee may issue (signal) with the red card without having issued (signaled) with the yellow card which in normal circumstances is really an initial warning
- If the offender is a team staff or player, it is an automatic red card....if the referee can not determine whom the offender was, a yellow card may be issued to the Head Coach
- Please note: play does not have to be stopped to award a yellow card to the Head Coach, but the referee must ensure that the offender, the officials bench and the other game referee are aware that the card has been awarded
- Any red card will automatically be sanctioned by 1 game of suspension to the offender. The suspension will have to be realized for the next game of the same team. Offender will not be allowed to sit on the bench for any other game before the suspension is served.
- Red card will be recorded in the offender’s file for 1 year. A second red card during this year will automatically be sanctioned by 3 games of suspension to the offender, which will have to be realized the same way than above.

- **A player sanctioned for Brutality will receive automatically one (1) game suspension.** The Tournament Committee must also review the incident, in all cases where a tournament participant has been guilty of gross misconduct, disrespect or brutality to determine if any additional action is required. The decision of the Committee is final.
- **Brutality will be recorded in the offender's file for 1 year. A second act of brutality sanctioned during this year will automatically be sanctioned by 3 games of suspension to the offender, which will have to be realized the same way than above. The suspension will have to be realized for the next game of the same team. Offender will not be allowed to participate to any other team's game before the suspension is served.**
- **All suspension should be carried to the next season if applicable.**

Water Polo Sask will not tolerate any physical or verbal abuse toward the officials, coaches, PSO staff/representatives, or the tournament organizers for the duration of any event sanctioned by PSO (as defined in this document).

The Tournament Committee **will automatically warrant a tournament suspension to the offender** guilty of any physical or verbal abuse. **Further sanctions could apply pending review of the incident by the Incident Review Sub-Committee. Serious matters will be referred to the Discipline Committee.**

12. Forfeits/Defaults

Any team which forfeits a game will lose by a score of 7-0. Additional action will be based on a review of the circumstances by the Tournament Committee. A forfeit is defined as a "no-show". A default is defined as a team withdrawing.

13. Selection of Referees

The PSO and Officials WG rep will confirm what referees are eligible for selection. All PEL referees must sign a Code of Conduct with Water Polo Sask prior to the Championships.

* If a referee has to be replaced, then the replacement will be the next available referee, and/or the identified substitute referee for the event.

***WPS will assign where possible, a Championship evaluator whose job it is to evaluate and provide feedback to all Championship referees.**

All referees intending to referee at the Championships are required to take a referee

refresher clinic organized by the Officials WG rep. Club coaches should be invited to attend. Clinic guide to be provided by the Officials WG.

The Officials WG will use the following formula when calculating the minimum number of referees required at each game: 2

Referees assignments **(to also include referees assigned to the 30 second shot clock for ALL Championship games)**, shall be appointed by the Referee-In-Chief and /or Evaluator. The Referee-In-Chief and /or Evaluator will ensure that the most qualified referees are assigned to the respective games, weighing such issues as referee qualifications, ranking, neutrality (by club) and availability in the assignment decision.

Referees for medal-round games shall be selected by the Referee-In-Chief and / or Evaluator.

14. Water Polo Caps

If a bathing cap is worn under a water polo cap, it **must be the same colour/darkness** as the water polo cap. For example a black cap under a blue hat but not a white cap under a blue hat. Participating teams are required to bring their own water polo caps for games

15. Articles Causing Injury

W.P. Rule 6.4 (FINA) "Prior to taking part in a match, the players must discard all articles likely to cause injury." The following objects are not permitted:

- i) rings,
- ii) necklaces,
- iii) earrings, (including visible body piercings)
- iv) bracelets
- v) eye-glasses,
- vi) long finger or toe nails.
- vii) swimming goggles, including prescription goggles.

Soft, safety and prescription glasses are permitted.

Other objects not listed here will be examined by the RIC and /or Evaluator before the tournament begins.

16. Appeals

Any appeals related to: Player transfers/eligibility
 Administrative errors/omissions
 Team eligibility

will be referred to the WPS Executive Director. Appeals must be received in writing by WPS a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the start of the event in question. All appeal decisions will be circulated to those involved.

SECTION C

General Information

1. Pre-Competition Technical Meeting (time to be decided by Host)

PSO reps:

- Introduction and role of the Tournament Committee
- Verification of team reps in attendance
- Verification of team rosters: Head Coach, Chaperone, cap numbers and captain
- Tournament procedures: facility, scoreboard, 30 second clocks, minor officials bench, kick out board, team benches, schedule, other
- Review significant PCC Handbook items
- Verification of pre-game roster procedure
- Review coaches concerns
- Host rep to provide additional host information

Ref-In-Chief / Evaluator:

- Competition rules and interpretations
- First round of referee assignments

2. Championship Awards

- i) PEL Development and Open:
 - WPS will provide medals for the players on the gold, silver and bronze medal teams.

SECTION D

Responsibilities

1. PSO Obligations

1.1 To delegate an official representative (PSO Reps) for the duration of the competition

1.2 **To provide (Provincial championship):**

i) Sixteen each gold, silver and bronze medals.

ii) Merchandise (host club to negotiate with Water Polo Sask)

1.3 To collect the entry fee.

1.4 Notify the Host of the number of entries per respective event a maximum of seven (7) days after the final roster deadline. Send all the relative information (team roster, mailing list) 7 days after the entry deadline.

Confirm with the respective clubs that their Championship entries have been received and accepted.

1.5 To ensure a sufficient number of referees are present at the event.

1.6 Assign a Referee-in-Chief / Evaluator.

1.7 **Designate a Tournament Committee to be composed of three persons:**

1. Referee in Chief or Evaluator.

2. WPS Rep.

This committee will rule on any protest or disciplinary problem involving a participant in the competition. The decisions of this Committee will not extend beyond the dates of the competition and may be referred to the Discipline Review Committee if required.

1.8 Publish the tournament results once received from the Host on the WPS website.

1.9 Provide information booklet for event.

1.10 Provide post-event evaluations along with the PSO Reps and Ref-in-Chief /Evaluator reports

1.11 Approve a tournament schedule (with the facility host), and provide this information to all participating teams a minimum of 14 days prior to the start of competition.

The schedule will be confirmed by the WPS Executive Director in conjunction with the Facility Host and no further changes will be allowed. (Exceptional circumstances will be

considered)

2. Obligations of the Facility Host

- 2.1 Assure the availability of the pool for tournament play by booking required pool time, which will include an adequate swimming area for warm-ups or a designated 15 minute period prior to each game is provided in the competition pool. (as approved by W.P.S.). To send to WPS a written confirmation of the preliminary rental agreement along with the signed contract. WPS will only accept the terms of this contract once the host provides to WPS written proof of the pool time availability.
- 2.2 Supply all the following equipment where available:
- i) one game clock visible
 - ii) two 30-second clocks visible
 - iii) penalty clock (Provincial Championship)
 - iv) stop watches or other back-up timing devices
 - v) sound system for announcing scores and penalties
 - vi) secretary flags (1 red/1 blue/1 white)
 - vii) Mikasa/Kap7 water polo balls (min. four game balls)
 - viii) two team benches
 - ix) penalty and time out board, visible to both team benches
 - x) Electronic score sheets that include a laptop on each Minor Official table
 - xi) minor officials table
 - xii) six chairs
 - xiii) field of play markings:
 - a) four red flags or markings, (2m)
 - b) four yellow flags or markings, (4m)
 - c) six white flags or markings, (centre and goal line)
 - d) four green flags or markings, (7m)
 - xiv) whistles for the minor officials
- 2.3 Organize an awards ceremony immediately after the conclusion of the tournament. (if required)
- 2.4 To acknowledge WPS, Sask Lotteries, Sask Sport.
- 2.5 **Return to WPS** *within 7 days of the completion of the event, including the following
- i) all electronic game sheets,
 - ii) copy minor officials schedule
 - iii) any unused medals and all sponsorship banners.

3. Obligations of the Players

Players attending a PEL event shall ensure the following:

- i) That the entry fee is paid to WPS by the specific deadline.
- ii) That the player is registered with their respective Provincial Association.
- iii) That a completed Entry Form is submitted to the WPS prior to the appropriate entry deadline.
- iv) That all Provincial rules and regulations are maintained and adhered to and that the player is in good standing with both the appropriate provincial association and Water Polo Saskatchewan.
- v) That all persons attending a PEL event adhere to the Code of Conduct (Section F).

4. PSO Sanctions that may apply if the above rules are not adhered to:

- i)
 - i) Removal from the area of competition
 - ii) Loss of game(s) 7-0
 - iii) Non-acceptance of entry
 - iv) Probation as a member in good standing
 - v) Forfeit of entry fee
 - vi) Declared a member in bad standing
 - vii) Ineligible for participation in the medal round
 - viii) Other sanctions

- ii) A player which drops out, after the deadline. The following sanctions must apply:
 - Forfeit entry fee

- iii) A participant fails to abide by any sanction imposed by Water Polo Sask; the following sanction must apply:
 - The individual participant will be denied access to further Water Polo Sask activities until the complaint is rectified.

- v) If a participant commits any infraction with the intention of gaining an advantage (e.g. use of non registered, illegal participants; forfeiting a game for the purpose of gaining or making another team gain a better ranking), the following sanction will apply:
 - The player cannot take part in the medal round.

SECTION E

Safety

All parties involved in the management and co-ordination of a WPS event have a responsibility to ensure the safety of the participants. Therefore, in order to maintain a safe competition, the following guide should be used to develop a plan of action in the case of an emergency or an accident.

1. Team coaches should maintain a file containing all relevant information on their athletes such as height, weight and general health status (Player Information Card); address and telephone number of each athlete and a contact person; the name, address and telephone number of athletes' family physicians and each athlete's hospitalization number. This file should be up-to-date at all times and be brought with the coach when traveling.
2. Coaches must be N.C.C.P. fully certified (evaluated) the Competition: introduction or equivalent water polo or The Community Coach with Making Ethical Decisions Evaluated. In addition, all coaches must be certified through the Respect in Sport coaching module. The first question a court would pose, in the event of an accident for which a suit was filed, might well be "was there any opportunity to obtain adequate training and certification."
3. The competition site should be inspected prior to the event for any equipment problems and/or objects which may cause injury. Qualified lifeguards must be on location at all times throughout the competition.
4. ALL Participants must sign a Release and Code of Conduct form releasing all parties from all responsibility for injury or harm suffered during the competition. These forms serve mainly to alert parents and participants of any risk involved in participating in competition. Parents must sign for athletes under the age of majority. (See Appendices)
5. Ensure pools are adequately supplied with first aid equipment, including a spinal board.
6. All athletes must wear water polo caps with protective ear guards. It is also strongly recommended that athletes wear a mouth guard.
7. Referees must check all athletes, prior to the start of each game, for long finger and toe nails and any articles which may cause injury.
8. Coaches and chaperones are responsible for the actions of the athletes at all times.
9. An emergency action plan should be developed by the host prior to the start of the competition.

SECTION F

Water Polo Sask PARTICIPANT Code of Conduct

1. Participant Responsibilities

A PARTICIPANT ATTENDING A WATER POLO SASK EVENT SHALL AGREE THAT:

- i) There will be no possession or use of any illegal substances and/or performance enhancing drugs.
- ii) If under the age of majority in the province of the competition, there will be no possession or use of alcohol.
- iii) If over the age of majority, there will be no supplying of alcohol to minors (as defined by the laws of the province of the competition).
- iv) Any physical damage occurring, or cost arising from missing items in a room, is the responsibility of the registered occupant(s) unless some other person(s) are proven responsible. If more than one person is sharing a room, cost will be shared equally, if there is no admission of guilt. The club involved shall be responsible for collecting any such costs.
- v) Any contravention is sufficient grounds for a participant to be sent home at his/her own expense.
- vi) Any contravention of the above will be dealt with by the club involved. If the club fails to act responsibly, Water Polo Saskatchewan has the obligation to impose sanction and to collect any money outstanding.

NOTE:

- vii) Unacceptable behavior shall include:
 - a) Committing any act which would be considered an offence under federal, provincial or municipal laws, or the rules of the facility. An offender shall immediately be sent home. When this is not possible, the offender shall, at their own expense, be sent home as soon as possible, disqualified from further games within the tournament, and the home provincial body shall be informed by telephone or wire.
 - b) Gross misbehavior.
 - c) Lack of sportsman like conduct.
 - d) A participant reporting for a game in an impaired condition.

Punishment for unacceptable behavior, as described in vii) b) to d), and depending upon the circumstances, could vary from the above (as the extreme) to a written caution to the offender, with full or partial restriction on movement or participation in the event. A report must be submitted on each individual incident, major or minor, so that the governing body (national/provincial/club) may decide what further action may be taken.
- viii) All clubs shall be sent a set of these rules and regulations.
- ix) Since all clubs come under the jurisdiction of Water Polo Saskatchewan, clubs which send teams outside of their province are bound to supervise their teams in much the same way and complaints which may arise from such teams shall be dealt with by the Discipline Committee.

2. Chaperone Responsibilities

Chaperones Shall:

- i) Be responsible for the safety and well-being in conjunction with the team coach, be responsible for behavior of players during the times they are not under the control of the coaching staff or manager.
- ii) Report to the coach any sickness or injury and any incidents likely to bring discredit to the team, provincial association or country. Together with the coach, decide upon disciplinary action to be taken.

3. Coaches' Responsibilities

Coaches Shall:

- i) Handle practice times and places.
- ii) Determine curfew times.
- iii) Determine team meeting times and places.
- iv) Control athletes during practices and games.
- v) Assume duties of chaperone when chaperone is unavailable.

4. Referees' Responsibilities

Referees Shall:

- i) Be responsible for the safety and well-being in conjunction with the team coach, be responsible for behavior of players during warm up, game time and post activity on the pool deck
- ii) Represent yourself to the best of your ability in a neutral manner as a referee of WPS
- iii) Represent yourself to the best of your ability in a professional manner as a representative of WPS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CODE OF CONDUCT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH PARTICIPATING CLUB

Any contravention of the above will be dealt with by the club involved. If the club fails to act responsibly, Water Polo Sask has the right and the obligation to impose sanction.

Participation in a WPS event commences when the participant leaves her/his home at the beginning of the event, and ends when the participant arrives home at the conclusion of the event.

A copy of this Participant Code of Conduct is included in this document. (See Appendices) A signed copy for each participant must be provided to the Provincial Association Office with the roster for proper sanctioning.