



Code of Conduct 2021

Monash University Water Water Polo Club (MUWPC) and the Ballarat Junior Water Polo Tournament (BJWPT) recognise the importance of ensuring the values of water polo are upheld, and has taken positive steps to ensure the Ballarat Junior Water Polo Tournament community is aware of our athlete protection policy, as well as our desire for all to enjoy the sport and to play in the spirit of the game.

The Ballarat Junior Water Polo Tournament adopts the **Think Act Play** program. 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. They are:

- **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 who encourage sportsmanship get the best from their players. Parents who set a good example help their children enjoy the game. Remember - take responsibility for your actions and play in the spirit of the game.

MUWPC and the BJWPT are committed to the requirements for the protection of the health, safety and well-being of all competing athletes. To achieve that, we have an Athlete Protection Policy, the goal of which is to provide a safe and comfortable environment so that all athletes can compete and enjoy our great sport in a harassment-free environment. A key element of the Member Protection Policy is the Code of Conduct, which applies to all of us.

Athlete Protection Policy

- For the safety of an injured player, the referee may stop the game
- With the referee's permission, the player may leave the water for a three-minute injury timeout. The game is suspended during this time and other players can return to their ends
- If an injured player wishes to submit an injury claim to the WPA insurer, the insurer will require a written report of the incident, and may require any medical reports pertaining to the injury.
- At BALC, the pool life-guards are the primary first responders for any medical emergency and an injured player
- Referees are not primarily responsible for treating the injured player
- Referees are to record the incident details on the game sheet and Incident Report Sheet including Player WPA ID
- Details to include a summary of the incident and the nature of the injuries
- BJWPT has instant ice packs available at the BJWPT Administration Desk near the Exit to the BBQ area.
- The pool also has ice packs available. Ask the life guards
- In the event of an emergency there is a defibrillator located at the south end of the 50m pool near the change rooms
- If there is any doubt with any injured or medically unwell person, CALL 000 to seek ambulance assistance

It is the expectation of the BJWPT that all persons associated with our sport including players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators abide by the Code of Conduct detailed below. Non-compliance with the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Tournament Director for investigation and resolution. Penalties including warnings, pool ejection, games suspensions and tournament suspension may be applied to athletes, coaches, team officials & spectators for breaches of this code of conduct.



Player / Athlete Code of Conduct

1. Play by the rules.
2. Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your coach or manager approach the official after the match.
3. Despite what you may have heard, Water Polo is a physical game, not rough or violent. Play within the spirit of the game.
4. 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.
5. Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
6. Be a good sport. Applaud all good plays whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
7. Treat all participants in your sport as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
8. Cooperate with your coach, team mates and opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
9. Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents and coaches.
10. Respect the rights, dignity & worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
11. Shake hands with the other team at the end of the match.

Parent / Guardian / Spectator Code of Conduct

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. Don't coach your child from the sidelines, it can be confusing for them and acts as a major distraction.
5. Encourage children to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
6. Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
7. Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performances and skillful plays by all participants.
8. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
9. Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
10. Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
11. Feel free to thank them for their efforts but do not approach referees or officials with grievances.
Discuss any issues with the team coach and they will attend to it with the official or the Tournament Director.
12. Respect the rights, dignity & worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Coach Code of Conduct

1. Ensure the athlete's time spent with you is a positive one. All athletes are deserving of equal attention and opportunities.
2. Treat each athlete as an individual. Help each athlete reach their full potential.
3. Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each individual athlete.
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
 - free of 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.
14. Respect the rights, dignity & worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.



Referee / Official Code of Conduct

1. Be professional in your appearance and manner and accept responsibility for all actions taken.
2. Operate within the rules and spirit of water polo.
3. Ensure you make yourself aware of the latest rule changes and interpretations. If unsure ask the other referees..
4. Control the game. Ensure inappropriate behaviour, breach of the rules or this code of conduct from any player, official, parent or spectator is addressed according to the rules and reported where necessary.
5. Refrain from any form of personal abuse or harassment towards athletes, officials, parents and coaches.
6. Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
7. Be impartial.
8. Avoid any situation which may lead to a conflict of interest.
9. Show concern and caution towards sick and injured athletes.
10. Encourage inclusivity and access to all areas of officiating.
11. Be a positive role model for refereeing and officiating.
12. Respect the rights, dignity & worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Administrator and Volunteer Code of Conduct

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