



USA WATER POLO, INC. RULES GOVERNING COACHES' CONDUCT

General Statement

Membership in USA Water Polo as a coach, including participation in USA Water Polo sanctioned events, is a privilege, not a right. Due to the influence of coaches upon athletes, and their position as spokespersons for the teams that they coach, the role of coaches is particularly important to USA Water Polo's fulfillment of its goals and mission. Accordingly, coaches are expected to adhere to the highest standards of conduct on their own part and also to insist that the athletes under their supervision observe the rules applicable to those athletes.

Sportsmanship

Coach members of USA Water Polo are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship. This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding the following conduct:

1. Hazing or taunting an athlete, coach, referee or any person participating in, or conducting, USA Water Polo sanctioned events;
2. Physically or verbally abusing an athlete, coach, referee or any person participating in, or conducting, USA Water Polo sanctioned events including, but not limited to, making derogatory comments about such person's race, sex, religion, age, disability, national origin or sexual orientation;
3. Using obscene gestures, or profane or unduly provocative language toward an athlete, coach, referee or any person participating in, or conducting, USA Water Polo sanctioned events;
4. Publicly and unduly criticizing an athlete, coach, referee or any person participating in, or conducting, USA Water Polo sanctioned events including, but not limited to, inciting others to engage in conduct in violation of these Rules; and
5. Negative recruiting by making unduly derogatory statements about the members or coaches of another team.

In addition to not engaging in the foregoing types of conduct themselves, USA Water Polo coach members are expected to disassociate themselves from others who may be engaged in such conduct and are responsible for ensuring that athlete members under their supervision do not engage in the foregoing conduct.

Violent Behavior

Although water polo is a physical sport, coach members of USA Water Polo are expected to refrain from encouraging athlete members from engaging in any act with the intent of causing injury to another athlete.

Drugs and Alcohol

Coach members of USA Water Polo shall not: (a) encourage an athlete to commit a doping violation as defined by the International Olympic Committee, the World Anti-Doping Agency, The United States Anti-Doping Agency, the United States Olympic Committee or the Federation International de Natation or (b) use or provide alcohol or drugs in violation of local, state, or national laws.

Relationship with Athletes

Coaches shall not engage in any financial or sexual relationship with athletes. Coaches shall actively promote the good health and well-being of athletes, deferring to the judgment of medical advisors and, in the case of athletes who are minors, the parents of such athletes, regarding an athlete's ability to participate in any athletic activity. Coaches shall not discriminate against athletes based upon their race, sex, religion, age, disability (except where such disability affects an athlete's ability to perform), national origin or sexual orientation.

Reporting Rules Violations

Coach members are expected to report any violation of USA Water Polo's Rules Governing Coaches' Conduct and Rules Governing Athletes' Conduct, which is not minor in nature, to USA Water Polo, in writing, as follows:

Susan Warner Hopkins,
Director of Events Production and Promotion
USA Water Polo, Inc.
2124 Main Street Suite 200
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
E-Mail swarner@usawaterpolo.org
(562) 799-8506
Fax: (562) 799-8508

The failure to file such a report constitutes a violation of these Rules subject to enforcement as provided below.

Any person who believes that a violation of USA Water Polo's Rules Governing Coaches' Conduct has occurred may report such violation by submitting a written grievance to USA Water Polo at the foregoing address, together with a filing fee in the sum of \$100.00. All grievances must: (a) identify the coach against whom the grievance is being filed, (b) provide the details of the complained of conduct, (c) request the imposition of a specific sanction, such as the suspension of the coach member's membership in USA Water Polo and (d) either a filing fee in the sum of \$100.00 or a request that the filing fee be waived for reasons of financial hardship. Any request for a waiver of the filing fee will be acted upon by the Judicial Committee of the Board of Directors and, if the requested waiver is not approved, the filing fee must be paid prior to the time that the Hearing Panel appointed to hear the grievance acts with respect to the grievance.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following persons need not pay the filing fee referred to above: (a) coaches submitting a report pursuant to these Rules, (b) a referee with respect to any Rule violation that is alleged to have occurred during, or in close proximity to, any game officiated by that referee, or (c) any official of a tournament with respect to any Rule violation that is alleged to have occurred during, or in close proximity to, the tournament for which that official was responsible

Enforcement

Alleged violations of these Rules may be brought to the attention of USA Water Polo as provided in Article 15 of the Bylaws of USA Water Polo, Inc. and shall be addressed by a Hearing Panel appointed as provided therein. That Hearing Panel may impose such sanctions as the Hearing Panel deems appropriate including, but not limited to, placing the offending coach member on probation, suspending the coach member's membership in USA Water Polo for a period of time, or permanently barring the coach member from membership in USA Water Polo, depending upon the severity of the violation and the history, if any, of previous violations of these Rules, or the Rules Governing Athletes' Conduct, by the coach member.