

**CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
AQUATICS UNIT WATER POLO LEAGUE BYLAWS**

This information covers the bylaws for Introductory Water Polo League. If you have any further questions, please contact the Aquatics unit at the appropriate facility.

<i>BAYSIDE</i>	<i>4500 FIRST COURT ROAD</i>	<i>385-5930</i>
<i>GREAT NECK</i>	<i>2521 SHOREHAVEN DRIVE</i>	<i>385-5940</i>
<i>KEMPSVILLE</i>	<i>800 MONMOUTH LANE</i>	<i>385-5970</i>
<i>PRINCESS ANNE</i>	<i>1400 NIMMO PARKWAY</i>	<i>385-5950</i>

LEAGUE PHILOSOPHY

The Water Polo League offers an introduction to competitive water polo for boys and girls, ages 9-12 and 13-18. The league places emphasis on learning the different aspects of treading water, strategy and ball handling skills. It is designed for youth at various levels of skill and experience.

Each polo player experiences improvement in speed, strength, and endurance by the end of the season. Each player will improve their knowledge of rules, teamwork, communication, and treading water skills.

Coaches expose polo players to basic competitive water polo skills and to a team environment. This is not a high-pressure polo team. Your support and enthusiasm will make the Water Polo League fun for all.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

The minimum age requirement for participation is 9 years of age, while the maximum allowable age is 18. 18 year-olds must still be enrolled in high school in order to be eligible to participate. Proof of enrollment is required. The age of the polo player for the entire season is determined by his or her age on March 15, 2023. Polo players must have a valid Membership Card throughout the season to participate.

During the eligibility swim, participants age 9-12 must swim two lengths of the pool (50 meters) using the front crawl stroke with head above the water and tread water for 5 minutes. While treading water both hands must be out of the water for at least one minute and must be able to move forward, backward, side to side while treading water. Participants age 13-18 must swim four lengths of the pool (100 meters) using the crawl stroke with head above the water and tread water for 5 minutes. While treading water both hands out of water for at least two minutes of the tread and must be able to move forwards, backwards, side to side while treading water.

REGISTRATION

Registration is held on a first come first served basis. Bayside, Great Neck, Kempsville, and Princess Anne will have a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 20 spaces available in the 9-12 age group. Participants in the 13-18 year old age group will have a separate male and female registration, 12 spaces available for females and 15 for males. Registration minimums must be met by February 15, 2023. In the event that all of the spaces on a team are filled, polo players are placed on a waiting list. If dropouts occur, the spaces are filled from the waiting list. Registration for polo players continues until April 1, 2023.

Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Transgender policy is available upon request.

CANCELLATIONS

In the event of center closure, due to inclement weather or emergencies, the meet will be canceled. We will:

- send out a media release to WTKR (Television - Channel 3), WVEC (Television-Channel 13), WAVY (Television-Channel 10); and the Virginian-Pilot for center closings and cancellations.
- post the information on VBgov.com/news and to Facebook.com/VBParksRec.
- e-mail information
- attempt to call if no e-mail contact
- option on information card to text to your cell phone for cancellations only.

REFUNDS

- Refunds will be provided if participant is unable to meet minimum qualifications during eligibility swim.
- Full refunds will be given up to through the first week of practice.
- 50% refund will be given after the first week of practice until the scrimmage.
- Under extenuating circumstances, a prorated refund may be determined on a case-by-case basis based on the number of practices left of the season.

RULES GOVERNING PRACTICE

1. Amount of time for any individual or practice group will not exceed 1 hour of coach led practice or instructional time.
2. Coaches will also use practice time for strategy planning, watching videos and dryland material with league participants in the aquatic classroom or other authorized area of the building.

RULES GOVERNING THE MATCH

1. Any rules not covered under the Recreation Center Water Polo League Rules will be governed by the USA Water Polo Rules.
2. All polo players will play at least an equivalent of one quarter of the game with the following exceptions: players who do not attend at least one practice the week before a match, players who misbehave or demonstrate poor sportsmanship during a practice or match, players who are physically unable to play the minimum due to injury or exhaustion, players who request not to play, players who are prohibited from continuing to play based on official water polo rules (three personal fouls, red card, etc.).

3. When a team does not have the required number of players, the match will continue as scheduled with the following accommodations at the discretion of the Referee:
 - a. Match may use a running clock and include an extra timeout for each team.
 - b. Player numbers may be reduced so that teams are even.
4. In case of a tie when time is reached, there will be no tie breaker.

RULES GOVERNING THE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

At the conclusion of the regular season, all teams will participate in the Championship Tournament.

1. Tournament seeding will be based on each teams' win/loss record for the regular season.
2. In case of a seeding tie, goal differential will be used to determine the higher seed. Goal differential will be calculated and capped at 10 goals.
 - a. 1st tiebreaker: Season matches
 - b. 2nd tiebreaker: Head to Head matches
3. Semifinals: 1 v 4 and 2 v 3
 - a. In the case of only 3 teams being registered: 2vs 3. First place receives a bye.
4. Finals: Winners of semifinal matches will play each other.

In case of a tie at the end of regulation play, the following overtime procedures will be followed until a winner is decided:

1. One 5-minute overtime period will be played with each team allowed one timeout.
2. If still tied, the teams shall shoot penalty shots to determine a winner. First team determined by coin flip. Each team shall nominate five (5) players and a goalkeeper who will participate in the penalty shootout. The teams shall shoot five (5) penalty shots at the goal of the other team, alternating shots. If a tie exists after each team has taken five (5) shots, then teams shall take sets of alternate shots until one team scores and the other does not to determine the winner.

FACILITY CLOSURE

In case of facility closure during match play:

- Teams will wait 30 minutes to continue match play.
- If after 30 minutes the facility remains closed, the remainder of the match will be cancelled. If the match is in the first half of the match, the match will stand as a draw. If the match ends in the second half, the score will stand as final.
 - If a game ends in a draw, both teams will receive the same differential for the match.

GUIDELINES

In accordance with USA Water Polo and FINA 2019 – 2022 Technical Rules.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Shall be in accordance with USA Water Polo rules and regulations, including unsportsmanlike conduct.

SCORING

Judges will determine the authenticity of each goal. Score will be kept and posted throughout the game.

OFFICIATING OF WATER POLO COMPETITION

JUDGES:

1. Shall have full authority over the operations of the game.
2. Oversee the general running of the game.
3. Responsible for the assignment of all personnel to their respective positions.
4. It is recommended that 2 judges be used for all games.