

UTAH HIGH SCHOOL SPRING WATER POLO LEAGUE

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - SCOPE OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws shall govern the operations of the Utah High School Spring League (“Spring League”). This league is administered by the Utah Water Polo Association (“Association”). These Bylaws shall work in conjunction with the UWPA Constitution, the USA Water Polo Mountain Zone Policies and Procedures, and the Mountain Zone Event Sanction Policies, but can not over-ride any item in them. These Bylaws only apply to games recognized by the UWPA Executive Board as part of the Spring League. Tournaments that are open to teams not entered in the Spring League will not be considered part of the Spring League and will need to apply for a separate sanction.

ARTICLE II - DURATION OF SPRING LEAGUE

The Spring League starts following the conclusion of the high school state swimming championships and ends with the State Championship Tournaments.

ARTICLE III - ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

- A. A player must play for the high school in which they attend.
- B. A player must attend the high school for the entire school year in which they plan to play (Any exceptions must be approved by the Executive Board). They may not transfer schools in order to play for a specific team.
- C. If a given player’s high school does not field a team, he/she may play for the team of their choice.
- D. Players 7th through 12th grade are eligible for varsity competition.
- E. All players must be registered with USA Water Polo.
- F. No player shall be eligible to participate who has reached nineteen years of age prior to the first day of September of the school year in which such participation is intended.
- G. No player shall participate in more than six years and not more than three years after entering tenth grade for varsity competition.
- H. It shall be the duty of the coach who has knowledge or information that places in question the eligibility of any player who is likely to participate in any contest, to report such knowledge or information immediately to any of the UWPA officers. Failure to do so shall be an indication of bad faith and the coach not reporting such knowledge shall forfeit the right to protest the result of any contest(s) in which the ineligible contestant participated.
- I. All “grandfathered situations” will be considered by the UWPA Executive Board on an individual basis. Any board member who is affected by any of these situations will note vote on that particular case.

ARTICLE IV - PLAYING RULES

- A. All games in the Spring League shall follow current USA Water Polo Playing Rules with the exception that team areas and defensive ends will change ends every quarter if playing in a shallow/deep pool.
- B. The game host must provide the official scorekeeper.
- C. Prior to the start of each game, the Referees will ensure that the score sheet is properly filled out with each players first and last name.
- D. The host team must mail a copy of the official score sheet to the President within three days.
- E. Results of all games must be emailed to the designated Webmaster within three days.

ARTICLE V – REGISTRATIONS

- A. All players, coaches, teams, and referees must be registered with USA Water Polo before participating in a game. Failure to comply will result in a forfeit by the offending team.
- B. All registrations must be mailed directly to USA Water Polo or may be handled on-line.
- C. If by mail, coaches are encouraged to consolidate their team’s registrations and pay with one team check for ease of processing. Coaches must make sure that their athletes are registered under the correct club/club number with USA Water Polo.
- D. A \$5.00 surcharge per athlete must be paid to the Secretary by March 31. If postmarked after March 31, the surcharge will increase to \$10.00 per athlete.
- E. Team rosters must be submitted to the Secretary by March 31. This roster must also declare the top 35% of total players, not to exceed seven, which will not be eligible for the State Junior Varsity Tournament. Teams that submit their roster postmarked after March 31 will be imposed a \$50 fine. If the roster is not received by April 15, the team will not be eligible to compete in the State Championship Tournaments.
- F. All players must have a Spectator Code of Conduct Form signed by at least one parent/guardian prior to playing in a game. Forms are to be kept on file by the coach.

ARTICLE VI - SCHEDULING

- A. Scheduling of games for the Spring League shall be completed by the coaches within three days following the Spring Meeting. Scheduling of games prior to the Spring Meeting is allowed and encouraged.
- B. There will be a Fall Meeting held on the fourth Saturday of September to plan the upcoming Spring Season. League structure, State Tournament dates, Bylaw changes, game scheduling, etc. will be discussed at this meeting.
- C. The Executive Board will determine the first day games are allowed to be played and the last day that games used for state seeding can be played.
- D. A Master Schedule will be produced and distributed as information to the coaches and for scheduling of referees. Once the Master Schedule is complete, the addition of games does not guarantee that there will be referees available. The best attempt will be made to accommodate any changes in the Master Schedule.
- E. Cancellations of games must occur before 48 hours or the team canceling must pay the cost of referees.
- F. If a team cancels more than two weeks after the scheduling meeting, or stops a game in progress, without the other coach’s consent, it shall be deemed a forfeit and the forfeiting team must pay any of the costs incurred by the other team and referees.
- F. For games played in “tournament style”, the intended game schedule must be given to the Head Referee two weeks prior to the games.

ARTICLE VII - MISCONDUCT PENALTIES

Section I. Player Misconduct.

- A. Referee will eject players in accordance with USA Water Polo Playing Rules.
- B. Any player ejected from a game for brutality or for receiving a red card will be automatically suspended from their next game.
- C. Any contact from a player to a referee will warrant immediate game exclusion and suspension for at least the next five games.
- D. All game exclusions must be documented by the issuing referee and reported to the Head Referee.
- E. The Executive Board may impose more severe penalties depending on the severity of the act and/or repeat offenses.

Section II. Coach Misconduct.

- A. Referee will show yellow and/or red cards in accordance with USA Water Polo Playing Rules and Interpretations.
- B. If a team has only one coach on deck during a game and that coach is ejected for misconduct, the game is to be considered a forfeit by the ejected coach's team.
- C. Any coach ejected from a game for misconduct will be automatically suspended from their next game. The suspended game is for the next game of the gender's team that they were ejected.
- D. All yellow and red cards issued must be documented by the issuing referee and reported to the Head Referee.
- E. The Executive Board may impose more severe penalties depending on the severity of the act and/or repeat offenses.

Section III. Referee Misconduct.

- A. Any acts viewed as misconduct by a referee shall be reported to the Head Referee and reviewed by the Executive Board.
- B. A referee not showing up for a game without 24 hours notice will be fined what they would have been paid.

Section IV. Spectator Misconduct

- A. The referees are directed to stop the game when a parent or spectator exhibits inappropriate and/or disruptive behavior. The referee will issue a yellow card to the coach and identify the violator(s) to the coaches who are obliged to see to it that the violator(s) leave the field area. Play will resume only when the violator(s) are removed.
- B. Repeated offenses or especially severe violations may result in loss of spectator privileges.

ARTICLE VIII – DIVISIONS

- A. There are two divisions for competition – Varsity and Junior Varsity.
- B. Junior Varsity may not include the top 35% of their total players, not to exceed seven, for competition at the State Junior Varsity Championships.

ARTICLE IX - STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

- A. The best available site and format will be used for each Division's State Tournament. This will be decided by the coaches and Head Referee prior to the conclusion of the Spring Meeting.
- B. The Executive Board will select a Tournament Director for each division. Best attempts will be made

to select an impartial person for this position. This person may request a \$100 stipend from the Association.

- C. Seeding for each State Tournament will be completed by the State Tournament Seeding Committee and distributed with a schedule of games at least seven days prior to the start of the tournament. The Seeding Committee will be five people; three current coaches, one Executive Board member, and one active referee.
- D. Financial arrangements for the tournaments will be made each year between the Executive Board and the host team/facility.
- E. One person from each team is required to help run the table during their team's games.

ARTICLE X - AWARDS

Section I. All State Selections.

- A. The All State Water Polo Team shall be the seven most proficient players, boys and girls. A Second Team (8-14) and an Honorable Mention Team (15-21) will also be selected.

Section II. Most Valuable Player Award.

- A. The Most Valuable Player shall be the player who has done the most outstanding work in girls and boys water polo to make their team successful.

Section III. UWPA Appreciation Awards

- A. Appreciation Awards may be awarded to those whom the membership votes as having contributed beyond the call of duty toward the sport in the state of Utah.

- B. Nominations shall be submitted to the President of the Association with a resume of contributions.

Section IV. Team Trophies.

- A. Team trophies will be awarded to the top three teams of each State Tournament, boys and girls.

Section V. Voting for Awards.

- A. Each regular member team shall have one vote, and shall submit it to the Tournament Director of their respective State Tournament prior to the first half of the championship game of the State Tournament. Voting will be done by secret ballot.

Section VI. Notification of Awards.

- A. All State, MVP, and team awards will be recognized in the awards ceremony following the championship games. Team trophies and MVP plaques will be given at that time. All State Certificates will be mailed to the player's coach within two weeks.

ARTICLE XI - REFEREES

- A. Referees at Spring League games shall conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner, as prescribed by USA Water Polo.
- B. Referee fees and reimbursements will be paid in accordance with the following
 1. **ASSIGNOR FEES.** The individual that is responsible for assigning games to an event will receive \$2 per game and shall not exceed \$50 per day for that specific event. However, since all events are different, the assignor and the event director have the discretion to negotiate referee expenses based on abnormal circumstances. The host of the event is responsible for paying the assignor.
 2. **GAME FEE SCHEDULE.** The following chart will be used to determine referee pay, per referee, per game:

	5 min. quarters	6 min. quarters	7 min. quarters	8 min. quarters
14 & U	\$19	\$21	\$23	\$25
16 & U / JV	\$21	\$23	\$25	\$27
18 & U / Var.	\$23	\$25	\$27	\$29

- a. Two referees should be used on all games, except under unusual circumstances. The above fee schedule is based on two referees working each game. If there is only one official, they will receive 1.5 times the amount of the above game fees.
 - b. An extra \$4 per referee, per game shall be paid to each official refereeing the 1st and 3rd place games of an event.
3. OUT OF TOWN REFEREES. They shall receive the following:
- a. \$.40 per mile over 50 miles round trip.
 - b. \$25 per day per diem.
 - c. Hotel expenses (if needed).
 - d. Transportation (if needed).
 - e. Airfare reimbursement not to exceed \$300.
- C. The Association will pay the Head Referee assignor fees and the mileage reimbursement for games involving four games or less, if requested.
- D. The host team for games or tournaments involving four games or more will be responsible for paying the other applicable expenses under “Out of Town Referees”. The Head Referee will use their best efforts to use local referees to minimize these costs.
- E. For games played in a “double header” format, referees are to be paid prior to the start of the games, each team pays one referee. For games played in tournament style, the host team must collect the referee fees from each team and pay the referee game fees in sum including any other applicable referee reimbursements, preferably at the conclusion of each referees final game, or mailed within seven days (exceptions must be agreed on in advance with the Head Referee).

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority of the regular members, one vote per team maximum, in addition to members of the Executive Board if not representing a team, present and voting at a regular meeting, or by a mail vote, directed by the Executive Board. Mail ballots must be received within two weeks of issue.