



## **USA WATER POLO, INC. RULES GOVERNING ATHLETES' CONDUCT**

### **Participation is a Privilege**

Membership in USA Water Polo and participation in USA Water Polo sanctioned events are privileges, not rights. Those privileges may be withdrawn, either for a period of time or permanently, in the event that an athlete violates these Rules.

### **Sportsmanship**

Athlete 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: (a) an athlete, (b) a coach, (c) a referee or (d) any person participating in, or conducting, USA Water Polo sanctioned events;
2. Physically or verbally abusing: (a) an athlete, (b) a coach, (c) a referee or (d) any person participating in, or conducting, USA Water Polo sanctioned events including, but not limited to, making derogatory comments about such person's appearance, race, sex, religion, age, disability, national origin or sexual orientation;
3. Using obscene gestures, or profane or unduly provocative language toward: (a) an athlete, (b) a coach, (c) a referee or (d) any person participating in, or conducting, USA Water Polo sanctioned events;
4. Publicly and unduly criticizing: (a) an athlete, (b) a coach, (c) a referee or (d) 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 athlete members are expected to disassociate themselves from others who may be engaged in such conduct.

## **Violent Behavior**

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

## **Drugs and Alcohol**

Athlete members of USA Water Polo shall not: (a) 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.

## **Reporting Rules Violations**

Any person who believes that a violation of USA Water Polo's Rules Governing Athletes' Conduct has occurred may report such violation by submitting a written grievance to USA Water Polo at the following address:

Mai Lam  
USA Water Polo, Inc.  
2124 Main Street, Suite 240  
Huntington Beach, California 92648  
Fax: (714) 960-2431  
E-Mail: [mlam@usawaterpolo.org](mailto:mlam@usawaterpolo.org)

All grievances must: (a) identify the athlete 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 athlete member's membership in USA Water Polo and (d) include 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 Chief Executive Officer of USA Water Polo 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. In the event that the Hearing Panel sustains the grievance, the Hearing Panel may, in its sole and absolute discretion, depending upon the severity of the conduct that led to the filing of the grievance, direct that the \$100.00 filing fee be refunded to the party filing the grievance.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following persons need not pay the filing fee referred to above: (a) 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 (b) 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.

All grievances will administered by USA Water Polo in confidence with the following exceptions: (a) the party against whom the grievance was filed shall be provided with a copy of the grievance and any evidence offered in support of the grievance; and (b) if the grievance is

upheld, the penalty imposed upon the party against whom the grievance was filed may be disclosed as may be necessary or convenient, in USA Water Polo's sole and absolute discretion, to those persons who may need to know of the existence of such penalty in order to enforce such penalty.

### **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 athlete member on probation, suspending the athlete member's membership in USA Water Polo for a period of time, or permanently barring the athlete member from membership in USA Water Polo, depending upon the severity of the violation and the history, if any, of any previous violations of these Rules by the athlete member.