

# Utah Water Polo Association

## BYLAWS

As Amended January 24, 2024

### **ARTICLE I: PURPOSE & SCOPE OF BYLAWS**

1.1: The purpose of this document is to establish the policies and procedures for the operation of a Spring Water Polo League, as specified in the Utah High School Water Polo Association Constitution, and to follow the legal requirements of federal and state financial, organizational, and club purposes and laws. The Name of this league will be the Utah Water Polo Club League. These Bylaws shall work in conjunction with the Utah High School Water Polo Constitution and the USA Water Polo Mountain Zone Policies and Procedures. These Bylaws only apply to league approved games and Tournaments recognized by the Association's Executive Board as part of the League.

### **ARTICLE II: Structure and Powers of the Executive Board**

2.1: The Executive Board shall be structured and function under the guidance of the UHSWPA Constitution

2.2: The Executive board has the power to act on behalf of Utah Water Polo to amend bylaws and enact policy and procedures as they see fit. Executive Board positions will continue to change over every two years according to the constitution. At the Fall meeting the membership will take a vote of confidence. Each team will have one vote. If a majority rule of confidence is not achieved, the board will dissolve and a new board will be put in its place at the Fall meeting. Bylaw changes may be submitted for the board review prior to the beginning of the season.

### **Article IIIA: League Costs**

3.1: A \$14.00 surcharge per athlete must be paid to the Treasurer by the last business day in March by each member Club. If payment is received after that date, or postmarked after that date, there will be a \$100 late fee fine charged to the Club.

3.2: The entry fee for each State Championship Tournament will be determined according to tournament hosting costs, not to exceed \$600.

## **Article III B: Referee Assignment and Expenses**

3.3: Referees at League games shall conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner as prescribed by, USA Water Polo.

3.4: Referee Fees and reimbursements will be paid via Arbiter, the League will bill each team for referee payments and handle the payment of referees through the Arbiter System.

3.5: Assignor fees: There will be a \$4 assignor fee attributed to each game. The individual responsible for assigning games to an event will receive \$2 per game. \$1 will be held for the referee development fund and \$1 will be used for arbiter fees.

3.6: Game fee schedule: Procedures for referee pay will follow USA Water Polo protocols and fee schedule.

3.7: Two referees should be used on all games whenever possible except for special or unique circumstances.

3.8: Referees will be paid for 2 games minimum even if only 1 game is scheduled.

3.9: Out of town referees shall receive the following: \$.50 per mile over 50 miles round trip or 25 miles one way. Hotel expenses (if needed). Transportation (if needed). Airfare reimbursement not to exceed \$300.

3.10: The UWPA will pay the Head Referee Assignor Fees and the mileage reimbursement for scheduled games involving four games or less.

## **ARTICLE IV: League Duration And Championship Dates**

4.1: League Play can begin as early as February 1st and ends with the Utah Water Polo Club Championships for each age group. The start date for each age group will be announced by the executive board at the earliest possible time and no later than the Pre-Season Meeting.

4.2: League State Championship Dates will be announced by the Executive Board at the earliest possible time.

## **ARTICLE V: ELIGIBILITY**

5.1: All athletes, coaches and administrators must be registered with USA Water Polo.

5.2: Athletes may only play for one Club in all age groups (with bylaw 5.3 being an exception) and one team in each age group for which they are eligible (no exceptions). Athletes can play up as needed.(Example: A 14u player can play on their declared clubs 14u team, 16u team and 18u team. If their declared club has multiple teams within the same age group: A, B, C teams, the player can only play on one team within the age group, regardless of what divisions the different teams are in.)

\*\* If a team fields 2 teams in a single age group, initial rosters must be submitted to the League with no double rostered athletes. If under extenuating circumstances, a team must move athletes between the two teams (aka moving an athlete from the B team to the A team or vice versa), this request can be made to the Executive Board who will use their judgment to facilitate the best combination of common sense and league integrity.

5.3: In the interest of sport growth, clubs may formally combine in an age group to form a team that otherwise would not have existed in an age group. In the interest of transparency, this combination must be submitted to the league and approved by the executive board.

5.4: Athletes' age will be considered the age they are on May 1 of each calendar year. Athletes who are seniors in high school will be allowed to play on an 18u team regardless of their age their senior year on May 1 of the calendar year. Athletes who are older than the age cut off cannot play down (i.e. 15-year-old as of May 1, 2024. cannot play 14 & under).

5.5: An athlete participating in the league must meet one of the following eligibility rules.

1. Attend a school physically located in the state of Utah.
2. Be a legal resident of the state of Utah.
3. Common sense exceptions can be made by unanimous and undebated vote by the Executive Board. The board shall focus on the intent of the proposed exception when voting. If there is any doubt that the motive of the proposed exception is to undermine the integrity of the league by creating a competitive imbalance, then the board shall decline the proposed exception.

5.6: Teams who play games with an ineligible player on the roster, whether they enter the water or not, will be retroactively forfeited. Teams playing with an ineligible player will also be

responsible for reimbursing the game referee and/or pool rental cost to the other team(s) impacted by the forfeit.

5.7: A USAWP Verified Roster is due prior to each team's first game in the Division in which they are competing. These Rosters will be made public via google drive. New athletes can be added to the roster during the season provided all eligibility requirements are met and an updated roster is submitted to the League. Athletes must meet league eligibility guidelines to be rostered. A USAWP verified roster must be at the score table prior to the game and or upon request from the league or host.

## **ARTICLE VI: Tournament Approval And State Tournament Seeding**

6.1: A "Approved Game" counting towards League play must be played in accordance with the eligibility rules prescribed above in Article V and the playing rules prescribed here in Article VI.

6.2: In order to be eligible for State Tournament Competition, Teams must play a minimum of 6 approved games. Tournament Games can count towards these 6 games provided the tournament is approved by the League.

6.3: A tournament will be considered approved by the League provided it meets the following requirements:

1: All league eligibility rules provided in Article V are followed by the League Member teams entered in the tournament.

2: Tournament Games played against Teams not entered in the League or teams not following league eligibility rules will not count towards the 6 game approved game minimum.

3: The tournament uses USAWP playing rules with flexibility on administrative rules such as length of quarters, timeouts, and quarter breaks. All effort should be made to avoid 5 min quarters for 16U and 18U play.

6.5: The Executive Board will publish final seeding rankings for each age group two weeks prior to the start of the championship tournament for that respective age group. Seed will be based upon sanctioned game results and using the following criteria:

1: Head to Head Game Results

2: Common Opponents

3: Strength of Schedule

6.6: When ties cannot clearly be decided using the above three criteria, the tiebreaker will be decided using the FINA tiebreaker rules as outlined in the USA Water Polo rulebook.

## **ARTICLE VII: League Playing Rules**

7.1: The League will follow current FINA/USA Water Polo Playing Rules.

- A USAWP verified roster must be at the score table prior to the game and or upon request from the league or host.
- USAWP rules will apply and all ties will go to shoot out. Tournament overtime rules may vary.
- Each team will have two 1-minute time-outs and one 30-second time-out any time during the game.
- Each club is expected to host games at their facilities with their own staff to manage the desk and report the scores to the league. Results must be turned in within 24 hours to the executive board secretary.

7.2: Equipment for all games and league sanctioned tournaments is defined below: (KAP7 is the Preferred Ball)

- 10 & U Coed will use size 2 balls for competition.
- 12 boys & 12 girls use size 3 balls for competition.
- 14 & U Mixed and 14/16/18 & U Girls will use women's size 4 balls for competition.
- 16/18 & U Boys will use men's size 5 balls for competition.

7.3: Game Duration and Course Layout:

- The 10 & U Coed will play 5 min quarters at 20 yards, 10u goals preferred.
- The 12 & U Boys and Girls will play 5 min quarters at 25 yards.
- The 14 & U Mixed and Girls will play 6 min quarters at 25 yards.
- The 16/18 & U Boys and Girls will play 7 min quarters at 25 yards

\*\*\* The quarter length for regular season games and tournaments may be changed to facilitate the schedule of games for the day. Every effort should be made to avoid 16U or 18U games playing quarters shorter than 6 min.

## **ARTICLE VIII: Utah Club State Tournament**

8.1: There will be a Utah Club State Championship Tournament held for each age group.

8.2: All eligible teams will qualify for the State Tournament.

8.3: The best available site and format will be used for each Championship Tournament. This will be decided by the Executive Board by March 1st.

8.4: Each team participating in the State Championship will be guaranteed three (3) games provided there are 4 or more teams entered in the tournament.

8.5: The Executive Board will select a Tournament Director for each Championship Tournament. Best attempts will be made to select an impartial person for this position. This person may request a \$100 stipend from the Association.

8.6: Financial arrangements for the Championship Tournaments will be made each year between the Executive Board and the host team/facility.

8.7: The following Format will be used for each age group of the State Tournament provided there are 10 or more total teams entered in the age group:

Division 1: A 6 team tournament with the following Round 1 Games: 1v6, 2v5, 3v4. The winners of each first round game will advance to the Semi Finals with the 1,2,and 3 seeds respectively. The fourth semi final seed will be occupied by the winner of a round robin playing group with the three first round losers. The remaining two teams from this group will play in the 5th place game. USAWP Tiebreakers will be used should there be a tie in the playing group. The semi finals will be 1v4 and 2v3 with the winners playing in the Championship Game and the losers in the 3rd place game.

Division 2 and 3: The format for Division 2 and Division 3 (if necessary) will be determined by the Executive Board once the number of teams entered in the age group is finalized. In order for there to be a Divison 3, there must be at least 6 teams in Divisions 1 and 2.

8.8: Should there be less than 10 teams entered in an age group, the following structures will be used:

Less than 6 Teams: Only a Division 1 tournament with the Executive Board deciding on how to best format the tournament based on the number of teams. The Board may disregard the 3 game minimum if there are fewer than 4 teams to avoid unnecessary rematches and reduce costs.

6 Teams: One Division 1 tournament with the 6 team format detailed in article 8.7.

7 teams: One Division 1 tournament with a single elimination bracket with the 1 seed receiving a bye. The losers of the first round games (2v7,3v6,4v5) will play a round robin for places 5-7, the remaining 4 teams will play a semi final and final.

8 teams: One Division 1 tournament with a single elimination 8 team bracket with a consolation bracket played to place.

9 teams: One Division 1 tournament with a single elimination 8 team bracket with a play-in game between the 8 and 9 seeds. The winner of the Playin game will occupy the 8 seed in the bracket while the loser will occupy one of the consolation round robin spots. The bracket will be played to place with a complete consolation bracket, and round robin group play between the losers of the consolation semifinals and the loser of the “play-in game” for places 7,8,and 9.

## **ARTICLE IX: Regular Season Games and Tournament Scheduling**

9.1: Scheduling of tournaments for the league needs to be completed no later than January 15th.

9.2: Teams are responsible for scheduling their own games. Sanctioned League games for the League Master Schedule shall be completed and submitted to a designated member of the board one week prior to the first day of allowed competitions for each respective age group.

9.3: Scheduling of games prior to the Spring Meeting is allowed and encouraged. The Executive Board will determine the first day games can be played for each age group. The last day that games used for championship seeding can be played is the Saturday prior to the start of the State Tournament in each respective age group.

9.4: A Master Schedule will be produced and distributed as information to the coaches and for scheduling of referees. This schedule shall be made public to all teams participating in the League.

9.5: Scores of Sanctioned Regular Season and Tournament Games shall be reported by the Host Team to a board member “score reporter” who shall enter them in a public document. This score reporter can be any board member and shall be announced at the League Pre-Season Meeting.

9.6: Once the Master Schedule is complete, the addition of games must be given to a designated member of the board and the Head Referee two weeks prior to said games and does not guarantee that there will be referees available. The best attempt will be made to accommodate any changes in the Master Schedule.

9.7: Cancellations of games must occur before 48 hours or the team canceling must pay the cost of referees. If a team cancels more than two weeks after the Master Schedule is presented as final, 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.

## **ARTICLE X: Awards And All State**

10.1: Team Trophies: A 1 st place Utah Club Championship Trophy or Banner will be awarded with medals for 1 st , 2 nd , and 3 rd place for athletes up to 18 athletes in each age group and championship tournament. You can purchase more for \$5 a piece if you have more players on your roster.

10.2: Utah High School All-Team: Each 18U Division Championship (Girls & Boys) will recognize approximately 18 field players and 2 goalies. There will be 2 Teams - 1st Team and 2nd Team, Head Coaches will submit names from their team as nominations to the Tournament Director prior to the tournament. The Tournament Director will compile the nominations and create a ballot for each Head Coach to use for voting. Head Coaches may not vote for more than three players per team from their own team. The Tournament Director will compile the votes from the ballots and announce the selections. Points are as follows: MVP=5, 1st Team=3, 2nd Team=1. Coaches voting should be based primarily on the player’s performance during the tournament. The player receiving the most points will be recognized as the Most Valuable Player (MVP) for that tournament. This player will receive a plaque. The goalie with the most points among goalies is the 1st Team Goalie. The goalie with the second highest points among goalies is the 2nd Team Goalie. The 9 field players with the most points are on the 1st Team. The field players with the 10th-18th most points among field players are on the 2nd Team. Certificates will be made by the Tournament Director and given to the player’s coach within three weeks of the tournament. Incomplete or incorrect ballots will not be added into the point system.



Utah High School Coach of the Year for each division: Coach of the Year for boys and girls will be selected for each State tournament. The Head Coaches at the respective tournaments will vote to determine these winners. The selected coaches will receive a certificate.