**Welcome to Oregon High School Water Polo**

The Oregon High School Water Polo Committee has been developed to assist coaches and athletic directors in the operation and the development of their respective high school water polo teams. The manual covers the guidelines of the regular season, playoffs, and eligibility, and should be helpful to coaches, athletic directors, players and parents interested in HS water polo. If you have any questions during the water polo season, please contact any member of the Committee's Board of Directors as listed on the OHSWPC website.

The Oregon High School Water Polo Committee (OHSWPC) operates under the guidelines/rues of the Oregon Scholastic Athletic Association (OSAA) and the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) current rule book, unless otherwise noted below. This booklet is merely a summary of the rules and regulations. It is not meant to provide an exhaustive coverage of every question or situation, but works in conjunction with the OSAA Handbook, the OAOA Handbook and the NFHS Rulebook. OSAA guidelines/rules can be found at their website OSSA.org.

**Statement of Purpose:**

The purpose of the Oregon High School Water Polo Committee is to promote, oversee and safely regulate high school water polo in Oregon. The committee is responsible for a championship tournament, for defining rules of eligibility and participation, to resolve conflicts, and provide additional instructional opportunities for coaches and athletes.

**Related Organizations:**

* **Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA)**
* **Officials' Association (OWPOA):** The Oregon Water Polo Officials' Association (OWPOA) is a separate organization of U.S. Water Polo registered referees. The OWPOA sets its own fees.

**Official Rulebook:**

The official rules and rulebook used for Oregon High School Water Polo will be the National Federation of State High School Associations; Rules. This set of rules, with yearly updates, shall govern OHSWPC rules each season. Any proposed clarifications to individual rules shall be submitted to the Board of Directors.

**OSAA Rules & Regulations:**

The Oregon High School Water Polo Committee has adopted the Oregon Schools Activities Association rules and regulations to govern water polo. The Metro league and Mt. Hood league teams are required by their leagues to follow the OSAA rules and regulations/ Exceptions to the OSAA Constitution rules and regulations should be included in this manual. Any exception not specifically addressed by this manual should be brought immediately to the Board of Directors for timely ruling.

**Rule of 2:**

OHSWPC does not follow the Rule of 2 as listed in the OSAA Handbook. Moratorium week, as stated in OSAA Handbook, is still recognized and followed by the OHSWPC. (*Adopted 8/21/13)*

**Athletes who don't attend school they play for:**

If a student is a member of a private school which is not OSAA approved and their private school does not have a water polo team, that student may play for the public school in which geographical boundaries they reside.

*See Inclusivity Program Guidelines (2017-2019 Pilot Program)*

**Combined Teams:**

Two neighboring schools who have not previously participated in OHSWPC water polo may combine their athletes to field a league team. These combined teams are restricted to two (2) years, or less of combined participation, at which time they must separate and represent their respective schools. These new combined teams will be eligible to participate in the state playoffs and championship. OHSWPC functions under this combined team rule in conjunction with the OSAA Co-op rule. *(Adopted 8/26/10)*

**Length of Season:**

The OHSWPC season will follow OSAA guidelines. The season shall end with the State Tournament on the second weekend of November. The high school teams are limited to eighteen (18) dual contests outside of playoffs and tournaments. Only three (3) regular season tournaments are allowed per team. As per OSAA rules, jamborees are not considered tournaments.

**Game Time:**

All District and State Playoffs and Championships will be seven (7) -minute quarters. League varsity games must have at least six (6) -minute quarters and junior varsity should have five (5) -minute quarters. All games shall follow shallow/deep specifications for overtime purposes. Local high school tournaments, other than playoffs, may choose their own time and overtime limitations, not exceeding rule limits.

**Point Differential Rule:**

Teams are required to abide by the 20-point differential rule. If, at any point during a game, a team scores beyond a 20-point difference, that team shall be fined by OHSWPC in the amount of $50. *(Adopted 1/3/10)*

**Hybrid Leagues:**

If a 5A team competes in a league with 6A teams, their wins/losses against each other will not count for or against their league seeding into the state tournament. *(Adopted 2/25/09)*

**Accidents & Injuries:**

In case of accident, injury or extenuating circumstances, at the discretion of the referee, the game may be stopped and the incident addressed or the injured player replaced immediately. Aggressive treatment of open wounds or lesions should be followed. In particular, whenever a player suffers a laceration or wound where oozing or bleeding occurs, a game should be stopped at the earliest possible time, and the player should leave the field of play and given appropriate medical treatment.

**Junior Varsity/Varsity:**

Seniors may not play in Junior Varsity matches unless it is their first year of competition; exceptions can be made for special needs. Separate girls and boys junior varsity quarters are encouraged. The opposing coaches must agree to any mixture of girls and boys during any junior varsity contest.

**State Fees:**

A ~~$50~~ $100 fee for each varsity team will be required of all member schools participating in Oregon High School Water Polo. The Board of Directors shall set a due date and any subsequent penalties.

New programs will pay a reduced fee of 50% per year for the first two (2) years of there program.

**State Tournament Rules & Regulations**

**Tournament Committee:**

The tournament committee is a standing committee governed by the Board of Directors. The tournament committee shall be comprised of nine (9) members as follows:

 1) Vice-President, Committee Chair

 2) Officials' Representative

 3) Board of Directors member

 4) Tournament Director

 5-6) Appointed by the OWPOA

 7-9) Appointed by the Board of Directors

Three (3) members shall be free of conflicts of interest in the girls and boys tournament (not necessarily the same members). At least three (3) members, without a conflict of interest in a particular game, shall be witnesses to said game. The Tournament Committee shall rule on questions, disputes, or protests at the State Tournament.

**Rules Committee:**

The Rules Committee will be compromised of the Table Official and one member of the voting Board of OHSWPC & the Head Official or his representative. (Added by Board 6/25/96)

**Competition Format:**

As shown in appendix. The order of games may change yearly based on the site of the tournament. The first team listed shall wear dark caps and be the home team for that game.

**Team Information:**

Only the head coach, one assistant coach, a team statistician or manager, A medical trainer is permitted at any time. Teams and coaches must remain in the team area during play.

State roster consists of eighteen (18) players, no alternates. Each player is assigned a cap number. A complete roster is due to Executive Director by date/time specified on roster form.

**Conduct and Discipline:**

a) A referee who has ejected a player for brutality shall provide the tournament committee with a written report of the incident within fifteen (15) minutes following the game.

b) The tournament committee has the authority to prevent a player or coach from further competition in the tournament or a portion thereof.

c) All findings of this committee shall be handled timely and considered final and without appeal, due to the immediacy of necessary action. A full report shall be made to the Board of Directors by the chair of the tournament committee.

1. The Oregon High School Water Polo Committee will not tolerate any physical or verbal abuse toward officials, staff, or tournament organizers before, during or after any part of the tournament. Any physical or verbal abuse reported to the Tournament Committee may automatically warrant a tournament suspension to the offender. Further sanctions may apply pending review of the incident.
2. Flash photography is not allowed during competition.
3. Balloons, noisemakers, and banners, (other than those approved tournament sponsors) are allowed in the tournament facility
4. The high school principal, coach and other responsible officials of each member school shall take all reasonable measures to ensure that the school’s students and supporters maintain a sportsmanlike attitude toward events so that events may be conducted without unreasonable danger or disorder.

When the students, staff or supporters of any member school engage in un-sportsmanlike conduct, disorder or infliction of damage to persons or property in connection with any festival, meet, contests or tournament sponsored by the OHSWSP Committee, the Executive Board may treat such acts as a violation by the school/club of the Rule of the Association. Any school/club whose students, supporters, rooters, or partisans take part in riots, fights, pilfering, painting, jumping in the pool or any other un-sportsmanlike conduct shall be subject to penalty.

h) The Tournament Committee may remove any athlete, coach, or spectator from the tournament facility for violations of the "Conduct and Discipline" section. For any other reason the Committee feels is necessary to ensure that the tournament is not disrupted or the safety of athletes and fans is not jeopardized.