



Edmonton Tsunami Water Polo Club  
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## **PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

*Updated & Approved August, 2025*

Children's sports are supposed to be fun and competitive – for the children. Actions by parents, fans and coaches, whether verbal or nonverbal, can have a lasting emotional effect on children. Too many of today's youth are leaving sports activities because the fun is unfairly taken away by adults. The Edmonton Tsunami Water Polo Club strongly believes the essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and our eight core values: Respect, Attitude, Integrity, Dedication, Growth, Passion, Tradition and Team. As a parent or guardian of a player in the Edmonton Tsunami Water Polo Club, your actions reflect not only on you, but your child, their team and the Club.

As a parent and a member of the Edmonton Tsunami Water Polo Club, I understand that it is Club policy to abide by the following Code of Conduct.

- I will address my concerns, complaints, or suggestions **24 hours after a practice or full tournament weekend.**
- All complaints and concerns will be delivered in writing to the Executive Board and the General Manager/Athlete Director - not team coaches. They will be directed in a positive and constructive manner.
- I will never be under the influence of or in possession of illicit drugs, or in possession of weapons of any kind at practices, games, trips or other Club events.
- I understand that the use of foul language towards anyone (coaches, athletes, officials, opponents or spectators) will not be tolerated. I will not engage in any language or actions with the intent to initiate a reaction, hurt, intimidate, or humiliate any player, coach, official or spectator. These acts shall be considered harassment and may result in the immediate removal from the practice, game, or event.
- I will not post on any social media site with the intent to hurt, intimidate, or humiliate any player, coach, official or spectator. The posting of negative, demeaning, or derogatory comments will not be tolerated. These acts shall be considered harassment and may result in the immediate removal from the club. Furthermore, if I see anything of concern from or about an official, an Edmonton Tsunami Water Polo Club coach, player or Club member on a social media site I will immediately contact the Edmonton Tsunami Water Polo Club Board. As a parent, I understand that I am accountable for the actions of my child on social media sites. I will stress to my child the importance of proper conduct on these sites and provide parental oversight to prevent any type of cyber-bullying by my child.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing, taunting or using profane language or gestures. I will maintain self-control at games, practices, and other club events.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and demonstrate positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice, or event.

- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and wellbeing of the athletes.
- I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. I will demand that my child treat all players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect.
- I will not coach my child or other players from the sidelines. If I do, I may confuse, distract, or frustrate the players as well as contradict the coach's instructions.
- I will not complain or become confrontational about penalties or calls made by the officials and I will always respect the referees and their decisions.
- I will de-emphasize winning and focus on my child's development.
- I will support my athlete and help make Water Polo a positive experience.
- I will participate as a volunteer and help in any way that I can.
- I acknowledge that it is the coach's job, not mine, to offer constructive criticism of the players' performance.
- I acknowledge that it is my job as a parent to offer support, recognition, and encouragement to my child/children.
- ***I understand that playing time is the coach's decision and will be determined by the coach.***
- If my child is registered in the competitive program, I agree to allow my child to participate in all regularly scheduled practices and competitions as recommended by the head coach.
- I agree to give the Head Coach at least one (1) months' notice if my family is planning on a vacation that will limit my child's participation in water polo.
- I agree to notify the Head Coach immediately if my child is injured or sick and cannot attend a competition.
- I will review the Edmonton Tsunami Water Polo Club *Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy and Discipline and Complaints Policy* on an annual basis and ensure that my minor child/ (children) understand their role(s) and responsibility/ (responsibilities) as laid out therein.
- I will complete the ***Respect in Sport*** online course for Parents.

### **The 24-Hour Rule**

**Parents should not discuss a game, a game incident or a situation that occurred during the game that has provoked an adverse emotional response or created a hostile situation until at least 24 hours after the completion of a tournament or practice.**

Water Polo can be an emotional sport for parents. It is important to separate game emotions from the best interests of their child's sport development. As parents we will not always agree with a coach's decision. However, it is important to recognize that a coach's role is to make decisions for the best interest of the team. Often, we tend to analyze a coach's decision based on how it impacts our athlete first, before considering the impact on the team. For this reason, our Club has adopted the "24 Hour Rule." This important rule does two things. First, it removes any emotional and confrontational discussion away from the presence of the athletes. Second, it allows all parties to "cool off," compose themselves and put the provoking incident or situation that occurred in the game in perspective before meeting to discuss it. Frequently, the athletes are not aware of any problems until we, as parents, bring it to their attention.

Once the 24-Hour rule has been applied, any Complaints/Concerns are to be directed to the General Manager and President/Vice Presidents who will then facilitate subsequent discussions and/or meetings to discuss next steps if they need to be taken. Please contact your Head Coach with all concerns and/or issues, not WPC and AWPA, these concerns and complaints are to be brought forth by the club.

### Disciplinary Procedure:

Implementation of the *Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy* is the responsibility of the Edmonton Tsunami Water Polo Club's Executive Board. Any contravention of the Code could result in action being taken pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* including the following:

- Written caution to the parent with a full or partial restriction on participation
- A requirement that the parent NOT attend practices or games for a specified period
- Counseling or behavior modification, as directed by the Club, at the members cost
- Suspension of the parent with or without terms of probation
- Expulsion of the parent from the club with no refund provided

### Coach/Parent Conferences

The team head coach and Athletic Director would be happy to discuss your child's progress with you at any time during the season. If you would like to arrange a conference, please contact them via email.

I (we) have read the Edmonton Tsunami Water Polo Club's *Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy* and agree to abide by this code.

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Parent/Guardian #1 Full Name

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Signature

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Date

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Parent/Guardian #2 Full Name

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Signature

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Date