

PARENT / ATHLETE INFORMATION (AWP) – 2024

Coastal Virginia Water Polo (including the Virginia Beach High School Water Polo League, the CoVa Fall High School Team, and the Kraken Youth Travel Team) is a member of American Water Polo. *(Please note that our Kraken youth travel team may also be involved in USA Water Polo activities, which includes additional administrative requirements. Please see the “Parent / Athlete Information (USAWP)” document for additional information.)*

Please note the following disclosures and notes regarding our club: (including the Kraken Youth Travel Team)

1. Please view Our Commitment to Athlete Safety on our team website: (<https://covawaterpolo.org/safety>)
2. All Adults participating with CoVa Water Polo (including Volunteers who may have regular contact with minor athletes) must review and sign our Adult Behavior Requirements and Expectations and take the required Protecting Students from Abuse training (or SafeSport training). Electronic acknowledgement of the Adult Behavior Requirements and Expectations must be provided via Google Form and is posted on the Safety page of our website (*see #1 for website link or follow Google form link directly*): [Acknowledgement Google Form](#)
3. We encourage all parents/guardians to take the free SafeSport training for parents. We also encourage all parents/guardians to consider the free age-appropriate training for their minor athletes. Training options are available here: <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/training-andeducation/safesport-courses-for-all/>.
4. All CoVa Water Polo representatives, and many of our adult guests are mandatory reporters. They are required to notify Law Enforcement and/or Child Protective Services, American Water Polo, and in some cases SafeSport, as soon as they develop reasonable suspicion that SAM may have, may be, or may be in danger of happening to a minor or vulnerable adult. Our VBHSWPL activities operate as a club sport through VB high schools, and additionally require notification of the associated VB High School. Even if you are not a mandatory reporter, any athlete safety concerns, including sexual abuse or misconduct concerns, should be reported to:
 - a. Local Child Protective Services:
 - Virginia Beach: (757) 385-3400 (Local Child Abuse / Neglect Hotline)
<https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/human-services/socialservices/Pages/child-protective-services.aspx>
 - Norfolk: (757) 664-6022 / (800) 552-7096 (24-hour hotline)
<https://www.norfolk.gov/350/Childrens-Services>
 - b. Local Police:
 - Virginia Beach: (757) 385-5000 (non-emergency line)
<https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/police/Pages/contact-us.aspx>
 - Norfolk: (757) 441-5610 (non-emergency line)
<https://www.norfolk.gov/3253/Calling-the-Non-Emergency-Number>
 - c. American Water Polo: (610) 277-6787, <https://americanwaterpolo.org/>
 - d. SafeSport: (833) 587-7233, <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/>
 - e. Student Activities Coordinator (SAC) at the associated VB High School (*only applies to VBHSWPL activities): <https://www.vbschools.com/>
 - f. CoVa Water Polo Athlete Safety Officer: Karen Bates, Safety.VBHSWPL@gmail.com
5. Any mention of additional opportunities to play water polo outside of CoVa Water Polo (VBHSWPL, Fall CoVa High School Team, Kraken team) is informational only. This includes the local Master’s Team (Hampton Roads Water Polo). CoVa Water Polo is not affiliated with this organization and our policies do not apply to that group or their activities. Any participation in these activities is at your discretion.

6. VBHSWPL activities are subject to the Beach District Athletic Manual for Parents and Students (posted on our website, or obtain from your school). Note that Water Polo is considered a “Club Sport” by the District, not a “VHSL Sport”, so some differences may apply (contact VBCPS for details), but the expectations, conduct requirements, and VBCPS rules govern our League.
7. All communications (in-person or electronic) with Athletes will be in the presence of another Adult (a CoVa Water Polo club representative, a parent/guardian, and/or other adult as appropriate: ie. facility or school employee).
 - a. One-to-one in-person interactions are prohibited, always and everywhere, unless the interaction is easily observable and at a distance from at least one other adult such that the interaction is easily interruptible by the other adult.
 - b. Coaches will be utilizing group messaging for the team which will include, at minimum, another Club adult representative on the communication. Parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to join the messaging group.
 - c. If an Athlete needs to message a coach privately for any reason, they must cc their parent/guardian and/or another Club representative. In the event an Athlete forgets to cc their parent/guardian, the coach’s reply will cc the parent/guardian and/or another Club representative with a reminder to please include them on future messages.
8. Travel to/from the practices and games is the responsibility of the athletes and their parents/guardians.
 - a. *For VBHSWPL activities only:* If your athlete carools with other athletes and/or families, or coaches, it is at the discretion of the parents/guardians and all parties should follow the Adult Behavior guidelines and the VBCPS rules. For travel with Coaches or School Representatives, exceptions to the guidelines are limited and require the appropriate VBCPS forms (Form 2: Athletic Travel Permission Form, Form 3: Private Vehicle Transportation Certification Form, and Form 4: Release, Waiver, and Indemnification) to be filed with the School in advance, and a CoVa Water Polo Release, Waiver, and Indemnification to be provided in advance. (Waivers are posted on our website).
 - b. *For non-VBHSWPL activities only:* If your athlete carools with other athletes and/or families, or coaches, it is at the discretion of the parents/guardians and all parties should follow the Adult Behavior guidelines. Exceptions to the guidelines are limited and require written consent from parent/guardian on an annual (calendar year) basis (Waivers are posted on our website).
9. Activities at the Virginia Beach Recreation Centers are held during operating hours at a facility which is open to the members of the Recreation Centers, including the locker rooms. Other pool locations may also have shared locker room facilities at some times. For this reason, athletes will be asked to use the buddy system in the locker rooms at all times, or use the single-use changing rooms, or change at home.
10. If there are any persons with whom the Athlete is not permitted to leave from the CoVa Water Polo activities, the parent/guardians must provide written documentation to CoVa Water Polo.