

## **PARENT / ATHLETE INFORMATION (USAWP) – 2024**

*(USA Water Polo activities only – does not apply to the fall high school league)*

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 for most activities (See “Parent / Athlete Information (AWP)” document for those guidelines). However, we also intend to maintain a USA Water Polo (USAWP) membership for participation in tournaments and events which require such membership. Any club activities conducted under our USAWP membership will be indicated in advance, and are subject to their guidelines. In addition to SafeSport regulations, USAWP mandates the institution of a minor-athlete safety program, referred to as a BASS (BOKRIM Abuse Safety System). The BASS document is available to view upon request. In accordance with these requirements, please note the following required disclosures and notes:

1. Please view Our Commitment to Athlete Safety on our team website: (<https://covawaterpolo.org/safety>)
2. All Adults participating with CoVa Water Polo USAWP activities (including **Athletes who are 18 years old** at any point during the season and/or Volunteers who may have regular contact with minor athletes) must review and sign our Adult Behavior Requirements and Expectations and take the required SafeSport Core training. Adults (excluding 18-year-old athletes) must also pass a Background Check. Electronic acknowledgement of the Adult Behavior Requirements and Expectations must be provided via Google Form and is listed 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, and the US Center for 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. 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. SafeSport: (833) 587-7233, <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/>
  - d. CoVa Water Polo Athlete Safety Officer: Karen Bates, [Safety.VBHSWPL@gmail.com](mailto:Safety.VBHSWPL@gmail.com)  
{Additional members of the BASS team include: Katie Tippin ([CoVaWPpresident@gmail.com](mailto:CoVaWPpresident@gmail.com)) and Ellen Pelton ([CoVaWPtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:CoVaWPtreasurer@gmail.com)).} For additional information, see the USAWP website:  
<https://usawaterpolo.org/sports/2018/12/19/rules-ethics.aspx>
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. Additionally, please note that the Masters team is associated with American Water Polo, not USA Water Polo.

6. All communications (in-person or electronic) with Athletes will be in the presence of another Adult (either a CoVa Water Polo club representative, and/or a parent/guardian).
  - 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 (Club representative or parent/guardian) 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.
7. Travel to/from the practices and games is the responsibility of the athletes and their parents/guardians. 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).
8. Activities at our pool locations may have shared locker room facilities with other organizations and patrons 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.
9. 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.