

SLOWPC

Parent Code of Conduct

The mission of the San Luis Obispo Water Polo Club (SLOWPC) is to grow the sport of water polo on the California Central Coast by providing elite instruction and competitive opportunities in a positive environment. We strive to develop not only exceptional athletes but also individuals of strong character, integrity, and sportsmanship. Our comprehensive programs serve youth of all ages across the greater San Luis Obispo County, emphasizing skill development, teamwork, and promoting a healthy lifestyle. We are committed to creating a positive, inclusive, and supportive environment where every athlete can thrive, form lasting friendships, and achieve their full potential both in and out of the water, while fostering a lifelong passion for water polo. is to promote prioritize promotion of the sport of water polo in the San Luis Obispo Area, to develop SLOWPC character traits in our members and athletes and to achieve competitive excellence.

Parents have a very important role to play within the SLOWPC community. The SLOWPC views parents as indispensable partners on and off the pool deck. Primarily, parents help to ensure their athletes learn from participation in sports the lessons that will help them be successful in life. To achieve these goals, the SLOWPC asks and expects all parents abide to the following code of conduct:

Practice:

- Parents are welcome to attend and view all practices (unless otherwise indicated by the coach). However, parents shall stay off the active pool deck and away from coaches and athletes during practice.
- Parents should refrain from yelling, shouting or speaking loudly during practices.
- Parent inquiries should be directed to coaches after practice has concluded or by email to the coach.
- As mandated by USAWP SafeSport, Parents must refrain from using restrooms on the pool deck, unless designated with signage 'for parents'.

Games and Tournaments:

- Parents are encouraged to attend games & tournaments. These events are all about community, sharing, cheering and having safe fun.
- Parents must stay off the active pool deck and away from coaches and athletes during games and tournaments unless they are directly assisting the coach, assisting with administration for the club or event.
- Parents shall sit in designated seating (generally pool bleachers) and shall refrain from standing within, behind or near the team benches during games and tournaments.
- Parents recognize they are not coaches. They recognize that players receive water polo instruction from the coaching staff, not from parents. Parents understand that their role is as parent -- not coach, official or player. Parents respect the coaches

and refrain from coaching their children or other players during competitions and practices.

- Parents will let the coach do the coaching. Parents will refrain from shouting directions to the team or to a specific athlete.
- Parents support the players, coaches, and other parents with positive communication and actions and do not participate in idle gossip.
- Parents are encouraged to cheer for their team and their athlete (such as “Go SLO! Great Effort! Nice Teamwork! Get’em next time! Way to Go!”) but shall refrain from using any profanities or explicit language.
- Parents praise their children for their efforts. Parents do not chastise their children, teammates, coaches or opponents in public. Parents develop mistake rituals so their children know mistakes are made in sports and can be learned from. Parents fill their players’ emotional tanks. Parents provide truthful and specific praise, express appreciation, listen, and are attentive to their own nonverbal cues with their children. Criticism, sarcasm, ignoring and nonverbal negative cues are not necessary.
- Parents Honor the Game by respecting the Rules, considering opponents to be worthy, respecting officials and coaches, encouraging teammates, and respecting themselves and their players.
- Parents are role models who resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. Parents seize upon teachable moments, build the culture of SLOWPC and develop self control routines to ensure calm on the sidelines.
- Parents promote the emotional and physical well-being of athletes ahead of any personal desire Parents may have for their child to win.
- Parents and their Guests maintain self control and honor the Game by refraining from making disparaging remarks about or directed at players, coaches, opponents, other parents, or officials.
- Parents do not participate in physical and/or verbal confrontations.
- Parents do not engage in behaviors that endanger the health, safety or well being of any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
- Parents understand that SLOWPC strives to help water polo players learn the life lessons of youth sports. Players (not the parents) are responsible to communicate directly with coaches when issues arise and it is critically important for parents to encourage this. This will serve our athletes as they mature into high school & collegiate athletes.
- Parent-player appointments can be made with coaches in advance. Head coaches of each program are available to discuss program issues with parents by scheduling a meeting in advance.
- Parents understand that decisions about playing time, travel teams, and all other water polo related matters are made exclusively by the coaching staff and are not open to debate, discussion, or negotiation with parents. A player should feel free to discuss his/her status with the coaches at an appropriate time. Playing time and travel teams are not distributed on an equal basis and are not guaranteed by club membership.
- Parents shall inform coaches of any potential issues that may affect the safety of their children or the safety of others.

- Parents arrange transportation for their children to and from SLOWPC events unless an “away event” dictates otherwise. SLOWPC is grateful for parents who help others arrange transportation and carpool.
- Parents ensure attendance and punctuality of their children at practices and at events. If a player cannot be on time, be early!
- We understand that scheduling conflicts and emergencies do arise. Parents are expected to ensure their athlete notifies the coach if he or she will not be able to attend a practice or meet.
- Parents recognize that no player is allowed to participate in any practice or game unless he/she is registered with United States Water Polo, Inc. (USAWP) and SLOWPC. Except for newcomers and exceptions made by SLOWPC's Board of Directors, all club dues must be paid in full in order for a player to be allowed to participate in any SLOWPC events. Parents recognize their players are subject to the Codes of Conduct of USA Water Polo.
- Parents understand that SLOWPC is a community that extends beyond their own children's narrow involvement. Parents use their best efforts to share the burden of carrying out events by volunteering in the areas of pool set-up, event planning, travel team logistics or other areas. SLOWPC is grateful for parents who build up our community.
- Parents understand that direct contributions to the club for specific purposes such as gear, sports equipment, scholarships, and defraying travel costs will be gratefully accepted and recognized.
- Parents understand that children who may not be able to participate in SLOWPC or SLOWPC events for personal financial reasons may contact the scholarship committee discreetly to request financial assistance. All financial assistance matters are decided by the Board of Directors. SLOWPC does not intend to deny participation for true financial need.
- Parents assist everyone at SLOWPC in providing a sports environment for their children that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol. Parents do not attend any SLOWPC competitions or practices while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Parents uphold the ideals and image of SLOWPC in their behavior and appearance to Honor the Game.
- Parents recognize that Membership in SLOWPC is a privilege that may be altered or revoked by the President and/or Board of Directors at any time.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing below, each parent agrees to comply with and support the foregoing rules that constitute the SLOWPC Parent's Code of Conduct. Parents acknowledge that failure to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines subjects the Parent to disciplinary action. If a parent's conduct brings discredit or discord to SLOWPC, then the

parent voluntarily subjects himself or herself to disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning by official, coach, and/or officers of SLOWPC.
- Written warning by official, head coach, and/or officers of SLOWPC.
- Parental or player game suspension with written documentation of incident kept on file by organizations involved.
- Game forfeit through the official or coach.
- Suspension from the pool deck for a specified period of time.
- Parental or player season suspension.
- Revocation of any or all of SLOWPC privileges. In the case of suspensions or revocation, loss of all deposits or pay.

I will direct any concerns as follows:

1. My group coach
2. If the issue is not resolved at Step 1, contact Technical Director/Head Coach (john.g.marsh4@gmail.com)
3. If the issue is not resolved at Step 2, please contact the Board of directors at admin@slowaterpolo.org.

This acknowledgement will be in full force in perpetuity.

Players' Name(s) Printed: _____

Parent's name(s) Printed: _____

Parent's signature: _____ Today's date: _____

Parent's signature: _____ Today's date: _____