

Patriot Press

Winter 2017

From Our Director, Duje Grubisic

Hello fellow Patriots!

Welcome to the winter session and our first club newsletter! With actively growing water polo and swim programs, Patriot Aquatics has quite a lot going on both in and out of the pool, and it is my desire to keep you informed amidst all the activity. If you are a member of our club, you are already receiving our quarterly update letters at the beginning of each new session; these newsletters will complement those updates and be produced at various times between quarters. In addition to containing news and announcements, *Patriot Press* will include recent competition results, photo features, new coach introductions, player spotlights, upcoming tournament and swim meet information, and other relevant, timely content. Please feel free to share these newsletters with your family and friends!

It is such a privilege to serve as your club president. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last several months of directing our club, as well as being on the pool deck as head coach, involved in all the action! It has been an exciting time of growth for our club, and there is much to look forward to!

I am happy to report that both our water polo and swim programs experienced significant boosts in participation throughout the fall, and are thriving!



The growth experienced by our club brings with it the need for more coaches ... have you noticed the crop of new faces on the pool deck? They are here to further equip and train our Patriot players, and are excited to get to know our athletes!

Thank you to all the water polo and swim parents for your continuous support and time put in to drive our young athletes to and from practice and tournaments, volunteering to time swim meets, and providing snacks, hydration kits and other items that help our athletes recover between games and events. You are a vital backbone to the success of our club!

I hope you all enjoy time with your families over Christmas and New Year's, and come back ready to jump in the pool!

See you on the deck!

-Coach Duje



Happy Winter!

Yes, it's the "winter" season here in southern California ...

Yes, temperatures can drop to a "freezing" 60 degrees ...

You might be thinking that this is the perfect time to take a winter break from the pool ...

But fear not!

We will be heating up the pool to a cozy 80 degrees and will also be using covers to keep it warm for the kids throughout the winter. Your kids will not be cold during practice, so there is no need to take the winter off due to concerns about the pool being too cold. It may be cold outside, but our pool will be nice and warm!

Jump on in!

Meet some of our new Patriot coaches!

TIJMEN EGTBERTS

HIGH SCHOOL WATER POLO & AGE GROUP SWIMMING



Coach Tijmen was born and raised in The Netherlands, and began playing water polo when he was eight years old. He eventually moved to the United States, where his water polo talent got recognized while playing at Santa Rosa Junior College for two years, where he also spent one year coaching. Tijmen continued his education at Concordia University, where he played water polo for one year and was Senior Captain of the swim team his final year. He graduated in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in sports management, and is currently working toward a Master of Science degree in coaching and athletic administration with a focus on aquatics. One of the highlights of Tijmen's eight years of coaching experience took place at the 2017 National Junior Olympics where the 10U team he coached won the gold division while having only one substitute for the entire tournament. The younger athletes are the ones with whom coach Tijmen connects the most, but regardless of age, he enjoys the overall the personal development that water polo brings.

JAKE SNYDER

ASSISTANT COACH – HIGH SCHOOL WATER POLO

Coach Jake's involvement in water polo began at SOCAL Water Polo Club. From there, he went on to play for Foothill High School. He was Knight of the Year his senior year and made first-team all-CIF, and was also All-American. Jake is now a senior at Concordia University in Irvine where he is playing on a water polo scholarship. He began his coaching career two years ago with the Kahuna Water Polo Club, and he is now looking forward to helping the young boys and girls of Patriot Water Polo improve their water polo skills.



RHETT TURVEY

ASSISTANT COACH – HIGH SCHOOL WATER POLO



Coach Rhett was born in Oceanside, California where he attended Vista High School. He began playing water polo and swimming during his sophomore year, achieving school records in both swimming (100 butterfly), and water polo (assists). He went on to play water polo at Palomar Junior College where he was a two-time State Goals and Steals Leader, All-American, First Team SoCal, and First Team All-Conference athlete. He was recruited to play water polo and swim at Concordia University in Irvine, where he later graduated with a bachelor's degree in exercise sport science. Rhett has been coaching for seven years throughout Southern California and is excited to continue teaching young athletes with Patriot Aquatics.

CHRIS DAWSON

SPECIALIZED COACH – GOALIES AND DRIVERS, BOYS AND GIRLS

Chris Dawson started playing water polo his sophomore year at Davis High School in Davis, California. In his senior year, he switched to the position of goalie and was able to make the UC Davis varsity team to start his college career. After freshman year as a goalie, Chris switched back to the field and played alongside fellow Patriot coach Matt Calhoun with the UC Davis Club. After playing through college, Chris started to coach with the Davis Club and specialized in goalies. Chris is very excited to coach with the Patriot Club and specifically with goalies and drivers.



HEIDI WALKER

ASSISTANT COACH – SWIMMING



Coach Heidi Walker started swimming at the age of 13 for a recreational summer team and continues to swim with the Mission Viejo Nadadores masters team. Heidi played basketball and swam all four years of high school and continued both sports in junior college. After college, Heidi began the sport of triathlon and is currently on the Ferrari of Newport Beach Multisport Racing Team. Heidi is a PE teacher at Beckman High School. She finds teaching and coaching to be very rewarding.

Please stop by and say hello to our new coaches!

Coach Duje Invited to Coach Orange County All-Star Team

After leading the Beckman High School Patriot water polo team to the Division 3 playoffs during his first season coaching them, our very own director, Duje Grubisic, was recently bestowed the honor of coaching the Orange County All-Star boys' water polo team. He was chosen to coach the South team, while Servite coach Andy Coffman led the North team. The teams competed against each other on December 3, and also played in a Southern California tournament on December 10. Coach Duje's team won all three games against the North Orange County All-Stars, ultimately gaining a 15-14 victory in double overtime.

Patriot Aquatics' Board of Directors Has Changing of the Guard

Behind the scenes, the Patriot Aquatics Board of Directors works hard to keep our club running smoothly and efficiently. During our first fall session, three new members were elected to the board. Please welcome Treasurer Pascal Tran, Secretary Kora Youngblood, and Marketing Officer Chris Ruoff. And a tremendous thank you to our outgoing board members, Treasurer Roger Reynoso and Secretary Judy Kim, for all the past work they have done on behalf of the Patriot community! We appreciate you!

Small Start Leads to Great Growth and Sweet Success

Patriot Athletes Bring Home Ribbons and Medals

SWIM



Congrats Patriot Swim ribbon winners from the SOCAL BRW meet held Nov. 11-12!

(L-R) Mika Mukogawa, Thibaut Guiol, Luke Hsing, Ashley Vashi, and Naoemi Lemaitre



Congrats Patriot Swim medal winners from the AZOT BRW meet held Dec. 2-3!

(L-R): Remal Kaur, Amie Lemaitre, Ashley Vashi, Sheldon Vo, Mika Mukogawa. Not pictured: Thibaut Guiol and Luke Hsing

Despite being the “new kid on the block,” Patriot Aquatics Club and its athletes are excelling!

Our swimming and water polo programs both started out small at the start of the fall session and have grown, both in terms of numbers and in competitive successes.

By the close of our fall session, our swim

program counted a total of 51 age group (age 5-14) and 22 high school swimmers. These athletes competed in two swim meets held at our Beckman pool, totaling 86 swimmers competing in the 100-yard freestyle, 25- and 50-yard butterfly, 25- and 50-yard breaststroke, and the 25- and 50-yard freestyle.

We are in the process of obtaining flags for our pool,

which will enable us to add backstroke and IM events to upcoming meets.

Thank you to all the parents who helped out with timing our hosted meets, and for making them run so smoothly with more than 100 athletes on the pool deck. Your efforts are invaluable and greatly appreciated!



PATRIOT AQUATICS IS PLANNING TO HOST MORE SWIM MEETS IN JANUARY!

STAY TUNED FOR DATES!

WATER POLO

Our age group water polo program swelled from a handful of participants at the end of last summer to a total of 45 players in our first fall session. These 10U, 12U and 14U athletes competed in three tournaments as well as the SPA League games all over Orange County. These teams are continuing to experience significant growth as we head into the winter session.

Our High School Girls' Elite water polo program counted 21 players who competed in two tournaments as well as the developmental SPA League throughout the fall session.

Because Splash Ball is more than just splashing around – it's where young kids actually learn how to play the game in a fun way – we have renamed the program. It is now the School of Water Polo!



Congrats to the 2017 SPA Champions – our 12U Coed team!

High School Elite Program Transitions from Girls' to Boys'

The winter session marks the beginning of our High School Boys' Elite program, which runs during the off season for high school water polo players. We are expecting a high number of players to be joining us from all parts of Tustin and Irvine, and anticipate having a nice, competitive group of young athletes. Coach Tijmen and Coach Jake will be working with this group. The Girls' Elite program took place in the fall and will resume in the spring.



Remember to renew your USA Water Polo membership before the end of the year!!

WINTER WATER POLO TOURNAMENTS

<u>TOURNAMENT</u>	<u>DATES</u>
HOLIDAY CUP	DECEMBER 16-17
DARE TO DREAM **10U ONLY**	JANUARY 13-15
SANTA BARBARA	JANUARY 21-22
SPA WINTER LEAGUE	10U: 1/28, 2/25 12U, 14U: 1/14, 1/28, 2/25 16U, 18U: 1/13, 1/27, 2/24
KAP 7 INTERNATIONAL	FEBRUARY 10-11



Winter session began November 27 and runs through February 22.

Visit us on the web at www.patriotaquatics.org