**Elite Water Polo Club- Athlete Attendance for Training and Travel Competition**

A successful water polo program requires a serious and sustained commitment from

each athlete. Parents must understand the importance of regular attendance to

the success of the program and assist the athletes in prioritizing this

commitment.

**The following attendance policy has been established to give our athletes the best chance to develop physically, build their technical skills and experience, and achieve their personal best, as individuals and as a team.**

It is important to understand that water polo is a sport where each team requires

Seven (7) players in attendance. If one is absent, people do not get to participate

in practice due to the absence of one person. If the coach cannot adequately

prepare for the absenteeism, it may be to the detriment to other players and

possibly the team. Training groups are established early in the session. Practices can be made unmanageable when players are absent; therefore except for medical emergencies occurring the same day as the practice being missed, it is important to contact the coach a minimum of 48 hours in advance of an absence and to make every effort to schedule appointments during times that are not the week before important tournaments.

**Excused Absences:**

Each athlete must attend every practice unless he/she is ill or injured ( are they available to watch and not participate?), attending a mandatory national team function or on an official college visit for recruitment. All other absences are considered “unexcused.”

**Unexcused Absences:**

Coaches do understand that from time to time a family emergency arises, but it is

anticipated that they are few and far between. Scheduled appointments (dentist,

doctor) or other discretionary activities, those for which you have options as to

when they are scheduled, may be considered unexcused and affect your place

on the team. Absences for family trips, college visits, other than for recruitment, will be considered unexcused. Following three (3) absences, there will/ could be possible disciplinary action. This could possibly include, starting role, playing time, or removal from the competition team. Regular attendance will be taken into account by all coaches in determining the placement of athletes.

**Regular Training:**

Practice begins at the time posted; it is not the time you should arrive at the

pool. As an athlete you should arrive 15 – 20 minutes prior to the

scheduled start time to warm up, stretch, apply sunscreen, get dressed, etc.

If you are:

Absent from practice

Arrive late or miss attendance

Not prepared

Do not demonstrate effort during practice

You will be considered in violation of the attendance policy.

**Other activities:**

Additionally, we understand that high school presents many opportunities for the

students to explore different interests, and we do not wish to impose restrictions

on the exploration of those opportunities. Do be advised however, that if you do

choose to participate in activities that conflict with Elite Water Polo Club

activities, your place on the team will not be held for you and an absence could

be considered an unexcused absence. Every effort should be made to avoid any

activity that prevents you from training and competing with your teammates. If

you have questions concerning the impact of any absence, please ask your

coach beforehand.