

## **PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

SOCAL Water Polo Foundation, Inc. (SOCAL) is a double goal program. SOCAL's first goal is to win. SOCAL's second goal is to build character so that our players can develop into successful contributing members of society. Parents have a very important role to play: ensuring their children take away from sports lessons that will help them be successful in life. Our Parents are called "Second Goal Parents" because they are SOCAL's partners in helping us meet SOCAL's second goal. Parents let coaches and athletes worry about the scoreboard while encouraging their players to master life. To that end, SOCAL has created the following code of conduct for parents:

1. Parents may view practices and are encouraged to attend games. However, Parents shall stay off the immediate pool deck and away from coaches during practices and games unless they are assisting with administration or function of the club or events.

2. Parents support the players, coaches, and other parents with positive communication and actions and do not participate in idle gossip. Parents use Targeted Cheering and No-Directions Cheering from the deck such as "Great Effort! Nice teamwork! Get'em next time! Way to Go!" when at games.

3. Parents praise their children for their efforts and learning. Parents do not chastise their children, teammates, 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.

4. Parents Honor the Game by respecting the Rules, considering opponents to be worthy, respecting officials, encouraging teammates, and respecting themselves and their players.

5. Parents are role models who resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. Parents seize upon teachable moments, build the culture of SOCAL and develop self-control routines to ensure calm on the sidelines.

6. Parents and their Guests maintain self control and Honor the Game by refraining from making disparaging remarks about or directed SOCAL's players, coaches, opponents, other parents, or officials. Parents do not participate in physical and/or verbal confrontations.

7. 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.

8. 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 parent -- not coach, official or player. Parents respect the coaches and refrain from coaching their children or other players during competitions and practices because it may conflict with the

coaches' plans or strategies. Parents have a very important role to play: ensuring their children take away from sports lessons that will help them be successful in life.

9. Parents understand that SOCAL's second goal, besides winning, is 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. Players' communications directly with coaches is critically important for parents to encourage and players to do as they mature into high school and beyond. Parent-player appointments can be made with coaches in advance. Head coaches of each program are available to discuss program issues with parents by schedule in advance.

10. 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.

11. Parents promote the emotional and physical well-being of athletes ahead of any personal desire Parents may have for their child to win.

12. Parents inform coaches of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of their children or the safety of others.

13. Parents arrange transportation for their children to and from SOCAL events unless an "away event" dictates otherwise. SOCAL is grateful for parents who help others arrange transportation and carpool.

14. Parents ensure punctuality of their children at practices and at meets. If a player cannot be on time, be early!

15. 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 SOCAL. Except for newcomers and exceptions made by SOCAL's Board of Directors, all club dues must be paid in full in order for a player to be allowed to participate in any SOCAL events. Parents recognize their players are subject to the Codes of Conduct of USA Water Polo.

16. Parents understand that SOCAL is a community that extends beyond their own children's narrow involvement. Parents use their best efforts to share the burden among parents by volunteering in the areas of pool set-up, event planning, travel team logistics or other areas. SOCAL is grateful for parents who build up our community.

17. Parents appreciate and recognize the importance of volunteers and SOCAL officials.

18. Parents understand that direct contributions to the club for specific purposes such as hats, sports equipment, scholarships, and defraying travel costs will be gratefully accepted and recognized.

19. Parents understand that children who may not be able to participate in SOCAL or SOCAL events for personal financial reasons may contact a coach or administrator discreetly to request financial assistance. All financial assistance matters are decided by the Board of Directors. SOCAL does not intend to deny participation for true financial need.

20. Parents assist everyone at SOCAL in providing a sports environment for their children that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol. Parents do not attend any SOCAL competitions or practices while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

21. Parents will handle all issues with the Level 1 Coaching Staff. Only if the Level 1 Coaching Staff is non-responsive or does not resolve a situation shall the President/General Manager of the Club be engaged to resolve issues.

22. Parents uphold the ideals and image of SOCAL in their behavior and appearance to Honor the Game.

23. Parents recognize that Membership in SOCAL is a privilege that may be altered or revoked by the President and/or Board of Directors at anytime.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

By signing below, each parent agrees to comply with and support the foregoing rules that constitute the SOCAL 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 SOCAL, 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 SOCAL.
- Written warning by official, head coach, and/or officers of SOCAL.
- 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 SOCAL privileges.

- In the case of suspensions or revocation, loss of all deposits or payments made to SOCAL.
- A filing by SOCAL of a formal grievance to USAWP that endangers membership or participation by the Parent or their play in water polo events.

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: \_\_\_\_\_