



# Shadow Water Polo Club

## Policy on Sports Conduct

### **Introduction:**

Our mission at Shadow Water Polo Club is to create the opportunity for successful experiences in recreational and competitive water polo. We strongly believe in the fun of learning, the fun of participating, the fun of competing, and the fun of improving.

Shadow Water Polo Club strives to ensure a safe environment for its members and endeavors to foster healthy relationships among its athletes.

### **Purpose:**

The main objective of our Policy on Sports Conduct (“policy”) is to maintain responsible behaviour by the participants in this club in accordance with the Shadow Water Polo Code of Conduct and the Ontario Water Polo Code of Conduct.

### **Who our policy applies to:**

Our policy applies to everyone involved in the club including committee members, administrators, coaches, officials (ie. referees/judges), players, parents and spectators.

### **Extent of our policy:**

Our policy covers breaches of our codes of conduct and behaviour that occurs at practice, in the locker rooms, at social events organized or sanctioned by the club (or our sport), and on away and overnight trips. It also covers private behaviour where that behaviour brings our club or sport into disrepute or there is suspicion of harm towards a child or young person, including but not limited to social media posts and cyber bullying.

### **Code of Conduct:**

The majority of water polo experiences happen in the pool, involving only athletes and coaches. Because of this, we cannot ask parents to maintain a constant watch to ensure proper behavior from their children. As an organization with abiding responsibilities for the growth, development, safety and competitive success of dozens of young athletes, Shadow Water Polo Club has adopted the Ontario Water Polo Code of Conduct. Our Code of Conduct applies to everyone associated with the Club, including swimmers, coaches, parents, officials, and volunteers.

Shadow Water polo strives to ensure a safe environment for its members and endeavors to foster healthy relationships among its athletes. For these reasons, the Club has adopted a zero-tolerance policy. The rules of Shadow Water Polo Club are in effect at all functions, training sessions and tournaments where athletes are acting as representatives of the Club.

### **Expectations:**

- Courtesy, good sportsmanship, co-operation with coaches and respect for the rules they set out for tournaments, trips and training sessions;
- Respect for the needs and sensitivities of teammates and fellow competitors;
- Respect for public and private property, including pool decks, change rooms, and on trips, buses or other vehicles of transportation, hotel rooms, lobbies and other facilities.

**Prohibitions:**

- No drinking or transporting of alcoholic beverages;
- No smoking or chewing tobacco;
- No illegal drugs (which if found will be turned over to the appropriate authorities);
- No sexual harassment or other discriminatory behavior;
- No sexual fraternization on trips;
- No entertaining of outside guests in hotel rooms;
- No bullying or cyberbullying.

**Responsibility of Swimmer:**

- Attend practices as required;
- Be on time for practices and tournaments;
- Acquire and use the proper attire/equipment including official Shadow swimwear at tournaments;
- Help set up and take down all training equipment (nets/balls etc.);
- Leave pool facilities promptly at the end of each practice;
- Ensure all Shadow communications are delivered to parents.

**Responsibility of Parents:**

- Ensure you child gets to practices and tournaments on time and in case of practices ensure they leave facilities promptly;
- Communicate with coaches as the need arises;
- Ensure that children have the proper equipment;
- Most importantly, supply athletes with emotional support and encouragement.

**Disciplinary Penalties and Violations:**

While some behavior is much more acceptable than others, any breach of a rule may result in some form of disciplinary action up to and including a temporary suspension, or with the approval of the Board of directors, dismissal from the Club.

**I. Class I Violations**

Class I violations carry a penalty of up to one (1) week suspension from all practices, games, and/or any team activity. The suspension begins when coaches determine a violation has occurred and when they have reached a decision on the issue; however, the coach has the authority to immediately suspend the offender. This time will count towards the overall suspension period.

At their discretion, a coach may take immediate action against a player for Class I violations. A coach may bench the offending player during a game, or even ask them to leave the pool for the remaining duration of a practice or game. After the practice or game ends, the coach will discuss the incident with the player and the parents. The coach will be required to document the incident and provide a copy to the Shadow Water Polo Board within 5 days of the occurrence.

Class I violations include, but are not limited to:

- Use of obscene or vulgar language or gestures to anyone at anytime;
- Use of abusive or disrespectful language (toward players, coaches, parents, officials, other players, and spectators);
- Taunting of players, coaches, officials, or spectators by means of baiting, or ridiculing;
- Addressing a coach, official, player or volunteer in an unsportsmanlike, discourteous, or threatening manner;
- Active or passive refusal of a player to follow a direct, reasonable instruction from the coach with regard to games and practices;
- Questioning the coach(s) coaching during or after practices or games;
- Questioning the referees during or after games;
- Approaching a coach or referee immediately following a game to voice a complaint.

## **II. Class II Violations**

Class II violations carry a penalty of up to a thirty (30) day suspension from all practices, games, and/or any team activity. The suspension begins when the Disciplinary Committee has reached a decision on the issue; however, the Disciplinary Committee has the authority to immediately suspend the offender until the investigation is complete. This time will count towards the overall suspension period.

Class II violations include, but are not limited to:

- Threats of physical violence towards any player, coach, parent, official, volunteer, or spectator;
- Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, pool area, in the locker room, that in any manner creates a safety hazard;
- Intentionally shoving or striking a player, coach, or official during any Shadow Water Polo function, whether in the locker room, in the pool, or at any time the team is getting together;
- Bullying, cyber bullying or harassment of other members;
- Second class I violation of the same offense or third or subsequent class I violations.

## **III. Class III Violations**

Class III violations carry a penalty of up to one (1) year suspension from the program to permanent termination from the Shadow Water Polo club organization. The suspension begins when the Disciplinary Committee has reached a decision on the issue; however, the Disciplinary Committee has the authority to immediately suspend the offender until the investigation is complete. For Class III violations penalties will require ratification by a 2/3 majority of the Board of Directors, at a meeting where there is a quorum of the Board.

Class III violations include, but are not limited to:

- Use of alcohol (by persons under the legal age of 19 or where otherwise prohibited) or drugs at the pool facility or official team function;
- Physical abuse of a player, coach, parent, official, volunteer, or spectator;
- Activities that violate Local, Provincial or Federal Laws which create a safety risk to any member of the organization;
- Second class II violation of the same offense or third or subsequent class II violations.

**Disciplinary Committee:**

In the event of a Class II or Class III violation, a Disciplinary Committee shall be immediately convened by the Shadow Water Polo Board, consisting of (5) current club members, in good standing, made up of parents, coaches and/or Board members. Those chosen for the Disciplinary Committee shall not be in any conflict with the individual(s) involved.

**Parent Notification:**

Parents will be informed of this Policy on Sports Conduct before the beginning of the season. Parents/guardians are required to acknowledge (by signature) that they received a copy of the Policy before their child may participate in Shadow Water Polo tournaments or events.

**Right to Appeal:**

Any parent has the right to appeal a decision of the Disciplinary Committee. The appeal is to be made in writing to the Shadow Water Polo Board within 10 days of the decision rendered by the Disciplinary Committee. The Board of Directors (elected and appointed) will render a decision regarding the appeal, and once rendered, is final.

**Reporting:**

The President of the Shadow Water Polo club will deliver an annual report to the organization at the Annual Meeting stating such particulars as the number of Policy incidents, sanctions levied, and policies pursued.

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I have read, understand and agree to abide by the Shadow Water Polo Club Policy on Sports Conduct and Code of Conduct.

Athlete Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_