

## **REFEREE CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

*To ensure a safe environment for all Water Polo participants, Referees have been given special responsibilities and are therefore expected to act with professionalism and courtesy at all times.*

### **Code of Conduct**

Referees Shall:

1. Conduct themselves with dignity both on and off the field of play and shall, by example, endeavour to inspire the true principles of fair play and earn the respect of those whom they serve.
2. Not cause the Association to become involved in any controversial matters and shall abide by the rules and regulations of the jurisdiction in which they officiate.
3. Adhere to all standards and directives set forth by OWP.
4. Study the Rules of the game, be aware of all changes, and shall enforce all said Rules and changes.
5. Perform their designated responsibilities, including attending organized clinics and lectures, etc., and shall assist their colleagues in upgrading and improving their standards of officiating, instructing and assessing.
6. Honour any appointments made for and accepted by them unless unable to do so by virtue of illness or personal emergency. In case of illness or personal injury to contact the assignor or association at the earliest possible time.
7. Always be neat in appearance and maintain a high level of physical and mental fitness.
8. Not publicly criticize other officials, any water polo club or association.
9. Be subject to disciplinary action for not complying with this Code of Conduct.

### **Responsibilities towards the Players and Coaches**

1. Do everything in his/her power to provide a safe environment for all participants.
2. Ensure the powers of a referee must be used with wise judgement and care. Authority and a firm approach must be combined with respect.
3. In reports, a referee should set out the true facts and not attempt to justify any decisions.

### **Responsibilities towards the Game**

1. Be honest and completely impartial at all times, irrespective of the teams, players or team officials involved in the match.
2. Show respect towards players, coaches and team officials.
3. Not to be afraid to make decisions. A referee should be fair and firm and must resist any possible influence from protests on the part of players, team officials or spectators.
4. Make every effort to prepare fully for a match, both physically and mentally.
5. Not make any statements to the media related to any game in which they were involved.
6. Always have regard to the best interest of the game.
7. Not tolerate inappropriate language from players and/or officials.



# Officials Code of Conduct Policy

## Responsibilities towards other Referees

1. Not publicly criticize other officials or any Water Polo club or Association.
2. A referee should assist with the development of less experienced referees and minor officials.

Referees active in any OWP sanctioned event (this includes club workouts) must be registered with OWP. A referee may register as an Unattached OWP member or with an OWP member club. Only referees that are members and have registered as a referee as a primary or secondary member type can be active in any OWP/WPC sanctioned event.

Referees can view what classification level they should be registered as by visiting [www.ontariowaterpolo.ca/officials.aspx](http://www.ontariowaterpolo.ca/officials.aspx)

Every year the official must submit a signed copy of the OWP, or their clubs, Membership Application form.

On the Membership Application form the Official must initial that he/she has read, understands and follow the OWP Official Code of Conduct and Responsibilities.

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Name – please print

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Date

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Signature