

OVSC Water Polo FAQ's

Updated June 22, 2009

Q: What are the skill requirements for the water polo team?

A: The players should be able to tread water for 5 minutes and swim at least 100 yards.

Q: How old do you have to be to play?

A: We recommend 9-18. The date for determining a player's age group is their age as of June 15th. That means that June 15th is the worst possible birthday, while June 16th is the best. On the older end, the league is open to all players through the summer after they graduate from high school as long as they are not older than 19.

Q: Do the players have to tread water during the entire match? Is it illegal to touch or stand on the bottom of the pool in the shallow end?

A: Players can touch the bottom at will unless they are in direct play of the game (i.e., touching the ball or being passed to, or on defense) then they must tread water (we will practice this religiously). If they can't tread very well, they can plan on learning

Q: Who is eligible to join the team?

A: Boys and girls who are members in good standing at OVSC (dues paid in full) or at NPSC are all welcome. Non-members are welcome to join as space is available. The league rule is that members must play at their pool if there is a team. If not, they are eligible to join another team at the discretion of that pool. (Note that GSSC started a team in 2008.)

Q: Do players need any special equipment or team suits?

A: No, we provide the equipment and team caps. Any swim team suit will do.

Q: What is the league?

A: The league started about 10 years ago to bring the exciting sport of water polo to the area. It is comprised of six teams from the northern section of the summer swim league and five teams from the south end. The emphasis of the league is strictly on having fun, teaching skills and providing opportunities for enjoyable competition.

Q: Will there be pre-season games before the final tournament?

A: Yes, there will be a number of games against the Southern Swim Clubs prior to the tournament. The practice games will always be on Saturdays, and are to be determined based upon what age-groups the other teams around will be fielding. It will be locked down when we get closer to the season actually beginning and the other teams can actually commit to a date and pool location.

Q: Do the regular season games determine who makes the playoffs?

A: No, playoffs are open to all teams. The only requirement is that each team must compete at least twice during the regular season. To meet this requirement, a team fielded in a division (10 & under, 12 & under, etc.) must have at least six players for the game. Fewer players will count as a forfeit and will not be counted towards the two-game requirement. The purpose of this rule is to encourage participation and prevent the entry into the championships of teams that have not really been a part of the league. A forfeit, however, does not mean the game will not be played. Usually, players from other teams fill the holes so that everyone gets a chance to compete. The regular season record will be used to determine seeding in the playoffs.

Q: What age groups can a player compete in?

A: Because numbers are sometimes low, many players end up playing in their own age group and sometimes in the older groups as well (for example, a 10-year-old playing in the 12 & under or even 14 & under). Unfortunately, this is often necessary so that games can be played. The league encourages players to only play up one division, but recognizes that sometimes this is impossible. During championship week, however, this is a requirement. This is not to punish younger players but to improve the quality of the play for the older age groups and to make sure that smaller, younger players are not hurt.

Q: What divisions are there?

A: Each year, it seems to expand. Currently, there are coed divisions for 10 & under, 12 & under, 14 & under and 18 & under. There are also girls-only divisions for all of these except the 10 & under. We do play a limited number of games for the 8 & under and 10 & under girls.

Q: How is the games schedule determined?

A: Generally, the older age-groups (14 & under, 18 & under) play Thursday evenings and the younger groups on Friday morning in the north and Saturday morning in the south.

Q: Is there an All City Champion or other awards?

A: Ribbons are provided during championships for the top four teams. Individual trophies go to the winner of each division. Additionally, there is a large, rotating trophy for the winner of each division. New this year, we will crown an All City Champion. This will be determined by assigning points to the first through fourth place teams in each division (kind of like a swim meet). Then, we will total them up and crown a champion.

Q: How are the games officiated?

A: First off, realize that the game of water polo is probably the most difficult game on the planet to referee because it is a contact sport in which nearly all the contact takes place below the surface of the water. That said, we do our best to create a safe, controlled game. For the younger divisions, we use a combination of coaches and high school players to officiate the games and call them tightly. In the older divisions, we hire some high school referees as the schedule permits and supplement that with coaches.