

29. Provincial Team

Type: Governance

Policy Number: 29

Authority: Board of Directors

Date Approved: May 9, 2012

Goal: The goal of the Provincial Team (PT) is to develop the competition skills of water polo athletes who are committed to high performance following the Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Model, "Train to Compete".

This Policy applies to membership with the Manitoba Water Polo Association (MWPA) including athletes, coaches, chaperones and parents of athletes and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Athletes

- Must be a member of MWPA, a water polo club*, and demonstrate a commitment to the sport
- Complete the required registration form and return in the MWPA office. Athletes under the age of 18 must have the form signed by a parent or guardian
- Are selected based on their current skill, potential for development and work ethic
- Are expected to attend all Provincial Team training sessions and competitions
- Are expected to attend all of their club training sessions and competitions where there is not a direct conflict
- Number of weekly training sessions will vary at different times of the season and from one season to the next
- Must have paid set Club and PT fees before travel to water polo events
- Communicate individual and team concerns directly to the Coach
- Conduct self in a manner as outlined in the Code of Conduct and Ethics, including sportsmanlike behavior, obeying the rules of competition, and demonstrating respectful behavior towards athletes, coaches, officials and spectators
- Athletes who are not able to resolve concerns with the Coach or Officials or have not complied with the Code of Behavior and Ethics may be referred to the Provincial Team Management Committee for review
- May play up in the next age category at the discretion of the Coach
- At the discretion of the head coach, athletes are expected to wear Provincial Team uniform at all Provincial Team events which includes all training sessions and competitions.

*Athletes who do not have a Water Polo Club in their city/town may be permitted to join the Provincial Team with special caveats. Manitoba Water Polo Provincial Team Chair and Committee will consider/approve special caveats on a per case basis. Example: Said athlete may be required to perform additional training on their own or with a complementary sport.

Coaches

- Select athletes based on their skill, potential, character and work ethic to compete at national and international events. Athlete selection for tournament play, distribution of players, and playing time is solely the responsibility and at the discretion of the Head Coach
- Establish team rules and supervises team play
- The PT Coach will be paid according to the Provincial Team Coaches Pay Schedule. The schedule is reviewed by the MWPA Board of Directors prior to October 1st every year

- Assistant Coaches will receive an honorarium, 50% paid in January and 50% in May
- The PT will cover transportation, accommodation and meal expenses for PT Coaches and required Referees, traveling as members of the PT
- Submit an annual report in June each year of PT activities evaluating the activities, budget reviews and plans for the next year
- A current Child Abuse Registry Check (CARC) must be on file with the MWPA office for all coaches
- Coaches will communicate with athletes in person (face to face) about water polo activities. Other methods may be used where expedient, when face to face communication is not possible, including the Provincial Team web Page.
- Social contact with athletes is limited to water polo related activities
- Coaches will be provided with feedback, based on the Annual Report, on an annual basis by the Provincial Team committee chair and the Board of Directors
- Assistant Coaches demonstrate commitment to acquiring coaching qualifications appropriate to the Coaching level
- The Head Coach will supervise the conduct and performance of the Assistant Coaches

Chaperones

- Chaperones will travel with all PT participating in out-of-province tournaments. Chaperones will be reimbursed for transportation, accommodation and meals on a per diem basis
- Chaperones are responsible for the athletes when not under the direct supervision of the coach for the duration of the trip and until the athletes are released to the parents care
- A same gender parent of a traveling player will be the first choice in selection for chaperoning responsibilities. Chaperones will be selected on a rotational basis
- A current Child Abuse Registry Check (CARC) must be on file with the MWPA office for all chaperones
- Chaperones will provide, or arrange for, nutritious meals keeping cost as a priority
- Chaperones will promote an experience that is positive, supporting the athletes and team performance

Travel

- All out of town travel must be sanctioned and coordinated by the MWPA
- Athletes will be selected by the PT coach for travel
- All PT team travel costs must be paid in advance of departure. In the event an athlete is unable to travel, based on medical reasons, a Doctors certificate is required. Refunds of deposits and travel fees will be at the discretion of the MWPA Board of Directors.
- Athletes will not be reimbursed for paid costs if they withdraw prior to travel to a tournament.
- Some athlete travel expenses may be covered by monies left over from annual athlete fees as determined on an annual basis

Parents

- Are a very important part of the Provincial Team Program
- Play a positive and respectful role supporting participating athletes and coaches
- Have the responsibility to get their child to practice and competitions on time
- Respect and support Coach decisions in practice and tournament play
- Must be willing to participate in PT fundraising activities to financially support the PT
- Direct concerns to the Provincial Team Head Coach

Addendum to Provincial Team Policy # 29 Section - Chaperones

- Chaperones are chosen from a pool of qualified volunteers, over the age of 21, by the Executive Director of MWPA and the Provincial Team Chair in consultation with the Provincial Team Coach. Chaperones must comply with the Code of Conduct and Ethical Behaviour (2012) policy #32. The Chaperone is responsible to the Head Coach.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Check that each athlete has the appropriate travel documents for identification (passport or Drivers Licence) and the signed Code of Conduct and Ethical Behaviour: Declaration of Understanding
- Travel with the team to and from the water polo event
- Supervise athletes during travel
- Obtain medical forms. Forms are to be retained by the chaperone during travel and are to be returned to MWPA at the end of travel.
- Maintain records of any illness, injury or incidents involving athletes, and action taken.
- Accompany an injured player to the hospital if such action is needed and arrange to have other team members supervised by designated coach
- In conjunction with the Head Coach plan for appropriate timing of meals
- Communicate directly with the Head Coach if any issues or concerns arise during travel or during the duration of the trip
- Provide a written summary of the trip within one week of return and submit to the Executive Director, MWPA
- When the team travels, athletes engage in all activities as a team
- There is a minimum of one chaperone per team