



POOL DECK DEPUTY Program

BACKGROUND:

Across Canada there is a growing awareness of the negative impact abuse directed towards officials is having on all participants in minor sports. At the local, regional and National level, sports organizations are increasingly promoting programs that ensure Ethical conduct is observed by all those involved in community sports activities. AWPA has identified the need to implement a specific program targeting the unruly and disrespectful behaviour that occasionally takes place during events.

The abuse of minor officials and referees, who are for the most part volunteers and young athletes, makes it increasingly difficult to adequately staff and run competitions. If our sport is to continue to grow, it is a **PRIORITY** that all those involved feel as though they can participate in an environment free from harassment and abuse of any kind.

The **Pool Deck Deputy** program is designed to empower one representative from each participating team to speak up on behalf of the referees and officials in order to ensure that parents/spectators contribute to promoting a positive atmosphere during all AWPA sanctioned events.

POOL DECK DEPUTY GUIDELINES:

- All teams participating in a AWPA sanctioned event must designate an individual at each game to act as a **Pool Deck Deputy(PDD)**. It is the member club's responsibility to ensure that all of their teams provide a **PDD**.
- The individuals acting as **PDD** for each team must be named on the official score sheet.
- The **PDD** of each team must be introduced to the minor officials table prior to the start of the first game.
- The **PDD** is to wear the arm band provided by AWPA as identification for the duration of the game.
- All clubs must contact the AWPA office a minimum of 24 hours prior to a scheduled game if they are concerned that they will be unable to fill the **PDD** position. Any club that fails to provide a **PDD** at 3 or more games during a given season will be subject to disciplinary action.
- In the event that a participating team does not provide a **PDD** or adequate notice as noted above, the member club will be subject to sanctions/disciplinary actions.



POOL DECK DEPUTY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- to locate themselves on the spectator side of the pool/spectator area
- to monitor the behaviour of **THEIR** teams' parents/spectators
- to act on behalf of the referee by reminding parents/spectators to keep negative/abusive comments to themselves and to refrain from vocalizing negative comments during/after the game.
- to monitor potential problems and intervene before they escalate either by being visible or by calmly reminding the individual(s) involved of the AWPA associations ZERO TOLERANCE Policy towards Abuse/Harassment.
- to inform parents/spectators with questions/complaints/compliments in regards to the officiating that they can direct their comments to the AWPA at office@albertawaterpolo.ca
- to offer one warning for questionable behaviour, if individuals persist with negative/abusive comments or actions, the **PDD** is required to make written notes on the incident and gather as much information as they can during the game, and to fill out the provided incident report during or immediately following the game.
- to avoid escalating confrontation(s), the **PDD** is **NOT** expected to put themselves in a situation which may compromise their safety.
- Any and all incident reports are to be submitted to the AWPA office for review by the AWPA office within 48 hours of the incident.

REFEREE AND COMMISSIONER:

The PDD is a part of the success of our league and athletes learning this sport.

The following process will take place if there is a parent/spectator that is disrupting through negative/abusive comments to the referee/coach/opposing team:

- The PDD will try and ask/remind the person to stop
- If it continues and the behavior is heard by the referee/commissioner
- the commissioner or referee will stop the game and ask this behavior to stop
- If the behavior continues the referee/commissioner will stop the game and ask the person to leave, if they will not leave
- The game will end with the opposing team winning the game
- There will be a report written and recorded with potential additional action taken to the individual and/or club



POOL DECK DEPUTY INCIDENT REPORT

“An individual is considered to be displaying unacceptable behaviour if they are verbally or physically harassing and/or abusing a game participant (player, coach, official or spectator).”

This incident report form is to be completed when you consider that an individual has displayed an unacceptable behaviour and that this display is significant enough to warrant investigation and possible discipline by the Alberta Water Polo Association. Please submit the completed form to the AWPA:

Alberta Water Polo Association Office:

Email: office@albertawaterpolo.ca

Any complaints about referee’s calls are not considered “Pool Deck Deputy” incidents. Complaints about referees or other major officials’ conduct by coaches, managers, players, parents or spectators must be sent to the appropriate AWPA member club for review and further delivery to the AWPA Technical Director if necessary.

You can expect that the AWPA office will investigate the incident report and initiate an investigation if warranted. All disciplinary actions will take place in following with the Dispute Resolution section of the AWPA Operational Policies (articles 3.11-3.28).

Once submitted to the AWPA, a copy of this report will be sent to your member club.

Thank you for your concern for our children and the game of Water Polo.

Please type or print in black ink- illegible reports will not be reviewed.	
Name: :	Date: ____ / ____ / ____.
Member Club: :	Category/Division: :
Location: :	Time of incident: :
Day Phone: :	Evening Phone: :
E-Mail: :	Fax: :



Please provide a detailed description of the incident in the space provided at the back.