



Murray Spartan Water Polo Bylaws and Board

MISSION STATEMENT

Spartan Water Polo is organized under the direction of Utah Water Polo and USA Water Polo to promote the sport of water polo in the city of Murray. It is not affiliated with Murray High School and therefore is run by an elected parent board. The goal of Spartan Water Polo is to teach youth the game of water polo and eventually develop a Murray Water Polo League in cooperation with Murray Parks and Recreation. Spartan Water Polo will also emphasize sportsmanship, respect, education, teamwork, and life skills within the framework of the sport.

TEAM RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

Spartan Water Polo players must attend Murray schools or attend a school in a city, which does not have a polo program available.

Players will play in their respective age group and will not be allowed to play in a younger age group but may play in an older age group with the coach's approval. Organized teams will include Elementary Coed, Junior High Coed, J.V. Girls, J.V. Boys, Varsity Girls, and Varsity Boys. Players must demonstrate advanced swimming skills to the coaching staff in order to participate on the team.

All Spartan Water Polo players must register with USA Water Polo (www.usawaterpolo.org) and Utah Water Polo in order to participate. Utah Water Polo registration will be taken care of by the board and coaches, but each player must register for USA Water Polo on their own before the season begins. Each year, players will need to register for the US Leagues or bronze level of membership unless planning to participate with the Olympic Development Program (ODP) and sanctioned events, in which they will need to register for the higher levels – silver for Regional play or gold for National play.

All Players, coaches, and parents must sign and uphold the Spartan Water Polo Code of Conduct statement and turn it in to the coaches before the season begins. Violation of the Code of Conduct will be subject to action recommended by the Board.

All players must pay the team fee required for payment of coaches, referees, equipment, and tournaments before being allowed to play. Exceptions to this fee may be voted on by the board based on financial need. Team fees are determined on a yearly basis by in the board.

Players must attend and be on time to all practices and games except in the case of illness or school activities. In these cases, the coach must be notified ahead of time. Missing a practice or game for any reason will result in loss of playing time at the game or tournament immediately following the unexcused absence or tardy.

Players will maintain high standards of sportsmanship and respect at all games and practices by refraining from drug, alcohol, and tobacco use, using proper language at all times (no profanity or vulgarity), and respecting coaches, referees, and other players. Severe infractions of team rules will result in discipline, such as loss of playing time or dismissal from the team.

The day before every game and or tournament the coach will post a Varsity and JV Roster in the office window. The varsity team will be selected on a tryout basis – depending on club size and board vote. Current coaching staff and Board selected advisor will make the final roster decision. The coach will balance the amount of playing time on either team to the best of his or her ability. Playing time will be based on attendance, punctuality hard work, attitude, skill, and the level of the play of our competitors. Varsity starters will be determined after warm up for a game. The position of a varsity starter will be determined based on attendance, attitude, and skill. (Having the players earn their position will create competition and it will push our JV players to earn a position on the varsity team.)

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents are responsible for staffing the Spartan Water Polo Board.

Parents will refrain from improper language and behavior during polo practices and games.

Parents are allowed to attend practices and observe; however, any concerns should be addressed to the coach in a private setting. If issues are not resolved to the parents' satisfaction, they should be expressed to the President of the Board so that further action can be determined by the board.

Parents are not allowed on the deck during games unless he/she is a member of the board who is directly involved in running the games.

Parents are requested to support team fundraisers and other team activities.

COACHING STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Coaches will maintain open communication with the Spartan Water Polo Board and will conduct all team business according to the Spartan Water Polo Board Bylaws as set forth by the board.

Coaches will uphold the "Teams Rules and Requirements" as set forth above.

Coaches will understand that it is the Board's responsibility to evaluate on a yearly basis and rehire or dismiss members of the coaching staff.

Coaches' salaries will be negotiated by the board and coaching staff.

Coaches will determine equipment and team needs and address those needs to the Board.

Coaches will determine seasons schedule with the Park Center, Spartan Polo Board and other state polo coaches and coordinate the Spartan Shootout Tournament, and all other tournaments with the Park Center.

Coaches will direct the choosing of team captains based equitable criteria and input from the players. Coaches will work with the team captains in helping to build team leadership and unity.

Coaches will research and present to the Board other tournament opportunities for the team, such as the Summer Olympic Games in Cedar City.

In dealing with players, parents, and/or referees, coaches will refrain from profanity and vulgarity, demeaning negative or abusive language and behavior.

Coaches will determine the signs of concussion in the case of an injury and take the steps necessary to prevent further injury

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

Serve for a minimum period of two years with the exception of the Vice President – which is a permanent position.

Hold regular meetings with the board and coaches.

Select and vote on new board members.

Review, approve and amend club bylaws and make sure coaches, team members, and parents are aware of club bylaws.

Establish, approve and distribute the "Spartan Water Polo Code of Conduct", and make sure coaches, players, and parents receive a copy, sign it, and turn it in to the board.

Set annual fees, and coaches' salaries.

Pay referees, coaches and tournament fees.

Appoint and remove coaches as necessary.

Make sure the team is current with USA Water Polo and Utah Water Polo.

Coordinate games and practices with the coaches and Park Center

Keep website forms and information current.

Work with Murray Parks and Recreation in building up a sustainable polo program and league.

BOARD MEMBERS

President (two year): Directs the club within the guidelines of the bylaws. Conducts all board meetings. Determines the necessity and frequency of board meetings. Sets the agenda for the meetings. Trains the President-elect. Works with the coach and board in order to determine changes to bylaws. Directs and follows up with the board in all of their responsibilities. Has the ability to sign checks and approves purchases. Maintains communication with parents, coaches, and aquatics manager throughout seasons. Also help with sending emails with updates and team information.

Vice President (Permanent position): This position is to be held by a representative of the Park Center – (i.e. Aquatics Manager or appointed by the aquatics manager.) To be a liaison between the Park Center and Polo Board, to maintain continuity between the recreation programs and the HS League. May conduct meetings in the President's absence.

Treasurer (two year): Maintains all Spartan Water Polo funds and frequently balances the Spartan Polo account. Pays referees, coaches, payments to Utah Water Polo and USA water Polo, and tournament fees. Establishes a yearly budget based on fees and costs of running the team. Determines fundraising needs. Provides financial reports to the Board. Oversees necessary tax

Communications/Publicity Director (two year): Keeps the Murray Spartan Water Polo website updated, post team pictures on the website. Publishes season calendars, sends emails out with updates and team information. Maintains a list of team members and board members and their contact information. Takes minutes at meetings.

Fundraising Co-Coordinator (two year): With the board, determines the need for fundraising, Presents fundraising ideas to the Board, and coordinates all fundraising activities. Works with a photographer on taking and purchasing team photos. Oversees the coordination of team pictures and photos and the year-end DVD shown at the year-end party.

Equipment and Uniform Coordinator (two year): In charge of team suit sizing and ordering. Determines with the coach and the approval of the President the necessary equipment, researches, and orders equipment with the approval of the Treasurer and President. Coordinates and orders team t-shirts with the approval of the board.

(Last modified 11/25/2014)