



# Guidelines

Encouraging the core values, reputation, positive behaviours and attitudes of water polo



**Water Polo**  
AUSTRALIA



## Think.Act.Play.

Water Polo is a game steeped in tradition and a wonderful sport to play. It can have a positive influence that enriches the lives of all involved.

Providing a safe, fair and inclusive environment for everyone involved in our sport, and ensuring that our core values, good reputation and positive behaviours are maintained is a priority of Water Polo Australia.

**Think.Act.Play.** is designed to promote positive behaviours by players, coaches, managers, officials and spectators that uphold the values, reputation and spirit of Water Polo.

**Think.Act.Play.** is delivered through numerous initiatives including:

- **Event briefings** – discussion and reminders to coaches and officials at national events to reinforce the behavior expectations and highlight opportunities to further engage with Think.Act.Play. at that event.
- **Athlete engagement** – athletes participating in events are encouraged to share the message and their take on the values of teamwork and respect through social media and the campaign hashtag #ThinkActPlay.
- **Positive messaging** - key messages encouraging fair play and positive sporting behavior will be displayed around event venues, on clothing and signage and via social media to continually remind the water polo community.
- **Post-game handshake** – encouraged following all games at all levels to take place poolside and involve players, coaches, managers from both teams and referees.
- **Pool Marshalls** – will play a vital role in encouraging good behaviour amongst spectators at events.
- **Good sport award** – will be awarded for displays of exemplary sporting behaviour throughout national tournaments.
- **Champions** – Water Polo role models will be utilised in promotional initiatives and competitions from time to time.
- **Education Modules** – within all new accreditation courses a dedicated module to Think.Act.Play. explores how individuals can embody the principles of Think.Act.Play. and strategies to act as role models within the wider water polo community.



## Key messages:

The target groups for **Think.Act.Play.** include players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators; essentially the entire Water Polo community.

There are three slogans that underpin the **Think.Act.Play.** program aimed at promoting positive behaviour and respect. Each slogan is relevant to everyone involved in the game.

**Think before you speak:** What you say and do shapes the culture of our sport. Your words can influence the way people are seen and treated by others, and the way in which people feel about themselves. It can also impact the way the community perceives our sport. *Remember - what you say matters.*

**Act with respect:** Showing respect and treating everyone fairly is just as important as the game. No matter who you are or where you come from, treating each other with respect and dignity ensures everyone can enjoy the game. Whether you're playing, coaching or cheering from the sidelines - respect the referee's decision. *Remember - to earn respect you must give it.*

**Play in the spirit of the game:** The way you play, coach and support says a lot about your character. Playing in the **spirit** of the game is more than just the rules. Players that keep their cool under pressure, even when things are not going their way, have a better chance of winning the game. Coaches that encourage sportsmanship get the best from their players. Parents that set a good example help their children enjoy the game. *Remember - take responsibility for your actions and play in the spirit of the game.*

## WPA Member Protection Policy

The WPA [National Member Protection Policy](#) underpins the **Think.Act.Play.** campaign. For references to dispute/incident procedures and processes please refer to this policy on the WPA website.

## Codes of conduct:

The WPA Codes of conduct are listed within the WPA National Member Protection Policy and are to be adhered to under all circumstances. There are specific codes of conduct for various segments of individuals involved in water polo including players, coaches, officials parents, spectators and anyone employed, or recruited in any capacity by Water Polo Australia and its affiliates.



## IMAGES OF CHILDREN

### WATER POLO AUSTRALIA'S POSITION ON TAKING IMAGES OF CHILDREN

Images of children can be used inappropriately or illegally. Water Polo Australia requires that individuals and associations, wherever possible, obtain permission from a child's parent/guardian before taking an image of a child that is not their own. They should also make sure the parent/guardian understands how the image will be used.

To respect people's privacy, we do not allow camera phones, videos and cameras to be used inside changing areas, showers and toilets.

When using a photo of a child, we will not name or identify the child or publish personal information, such as residential address, email address or telephone number, without the consent of the parent/guardian. We will not provide information about a child's hobbies, interests, school or the like, as this can be used by pedophiles or other persons to "groom" a child.

We will only use images of children that are relevant to our sport and we will ensure that they are suitably clothed in a manner that promotes participation in the sport. We will seek permission from the parents/guardians of the children before using the images. We require our member state and territory associations and clubs to do likewise.

For further information on "grooming" or other types of child abuse and their indicators please visit [PlayByTheRules.net.au](http://PlayByTheRules.net.au).

## Event Conditions of Entry:

Upon entering a Water Polo Australia affiliated event or a venue that is hosting a Water Polo event, you are agreeing to recognize and abide to the Conditions of Entry.

Example conditions of entry sign: -->

## Event Incidents:

Incidents or complaints from conduct at WPA events are handled under the WPA Member Protection and Disciplinary policies – refer to the WPA website for more.

**THINK. ACT. PLAY.**

**CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

By entering this venue, all persons agree to be bound by the following terms and conditions:

- They will adhere to Centre Management's Conditions of Entry.
- They will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and in accordance with the Water Polo Australia (WPA) Member Protection Policy and Codes of Conduct.
- Comply with any reasonable direction from the Pool Marshall, Tournament Director, or any other official of WPA or affiliated member.
- Present themselves to the WPA or affiliated members' Disciplinary Tribunal if so required.

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