



# Marlborough Water Polo

## Player Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to Marlborough Water Polo players, coaches, referees or supporters, whether they are training or playing in Marlborough or away, representing the club, school, college or any representative or combined teams. Where it states Marlborough Water Polo Club, it will also apply to any team that a Marlborough Water Polo Club member is part of, whether as a player, coach, referee or supporter.

- Marlborough Water Polo acknowledges the effort and commitment of all players, coaches and managers and support crew leading up to competitions.
- This Code of Conduct reinforces that hard work. It applies to all Marlborough Water Polo players whether they are playing socially or away for a tournament.

### **At all times, players must:**

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of your teammates, coaches, managers, opponents, referees, parents and helpers.
- Be fair, considerate and honest in all dealings with others.
- Be professional, and accept responsibility for your actions.
- Be committed to providing quality performance.
- Be aware of, and operate within Marlborough Water Polo's constitution, regulations, policies and procedures.
- Be aware of, and operate within the rules and policies of New Zealand Water Polo and FINA.
- Abide by the policies of Drug-Free Sport NZ.
- Understand the possible consequences of breaching Marlborough Water Polo's Code of Conduct.
- Immediately report any breaches of this Code of Conduct by any Marlborough Water Polo member or person associated with Marlborough Water Polo to an appropriate authority.
- Refrain from any form of abuse towards others.
- Refrain from any form of harassment towards others.
- Refrain from any form of discrimination towards others.
- Refrain from any form of victimisation towards others.
- Refrain from taking and/or posting photos of others on social media without their permission.
- Provide a safe environment for training, playing, competing and travelling with Marlborough Water Polo.
- Show concern and caution towards others who may be sick or injured.
- Be a positive role model.
- Do not provide comments to any media on behalf of Marlborough Water Polo.

- Do not speak to any media in a negative way regarding Marlborough Water Polo.
- Never act in a way that may bring disrepute or disgrace to Marlborough Water Polo, its stakeholders, its sponsors, potential sponsors and/or partners.
- Respect that coaches and managers are responsible for the wellbeing of all players and members and will make decisions for the good of the players and club.

Any player who disregards this code of conduct may have disciplinary action taken against them by the Club Committee.

#### **When travelling away to tournaments:**

- Players must adhere to bedtimes set by their coach or manager.
- Players must not enter the coach's or manager's room unless asked to do so or for team meetings.
- Players must not have other people in their rooms from outside of their team/squad without the permission of team management.
- Players must not enter other people's rooms from outside of their team/squad without the permission of team management.
- Players may take technology (mobile phones, tablets, laptops, etc) on trips, but they may not be used poolside or at team meetings. They will be handed in to the coach/manager at bedtime each night.
- Marlborough Water Polo acknowledges and encourages healthy eating. There will be restricted consumption of soft drinks, sports drinks and lollies.
- No player is to consume alcohol or take drugs. If found with either substance the player will be sent home at their parent(s)' expense.

#### **Any travelling player who disregards this code of conduct may be:**

- Separated from their team or asked to sleep away from other team members.
- Have food confiscated and returned to them after the trip.
- Have their technology temporarily confiscated.
- Stood down from playing the next game.
- Sent home at the expense of their parent(s).

#### **Code of Conduct for referees, pool controllers and officials:**

- Officiate matches in a fair and safe manner.
- Know the rules of the game and their interpretations.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Keep up to date with the latest best practices in officiating.
- Give all people a 'fair go' regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
- Conduct themselves in a way that is ethically and morally beyond reproach.
- Support fellow officials.
- Grant players, coaches and managers dignity and self-respect.

## **Code of Conduct for coaches:**

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every individual player and:
- Treat everyone equally regardless of gender, ability, ethnicity or religion.
- Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each player in order to help them reach their full potential.
- Maintain high standards of integrity.
- Operate within the rules of water polo and in the spirit of fair play, while encouraging players to do the same.
- Advocate a sporting environment free of drugs and other performance enhancing substances within the guidelines of New Zealand Water Polo and the New Zealand Sports Drug Agency.
- Not disclose any confidential information relating to players without prior consent.
- Provide all players with equal attention and opportunities they deserve.
- Be fair, considerate and honest with players.
- Encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle – refrain from smoking, drinking alcohol and engaging in poor lifestyle choices around players.
- Be a positive role model for the sport and the players.

## **Show professional responsibility:**

- Display high standards in language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation.
- Display control, courtesy, respect, honesty, dignity and professionalism to all involved within the sport - this includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, parents and spectators.
- Be professional and accept responsibility for their actions.
- Refrain from initiating a personal relationship with a player and also discourage any attempt by a player to initiate a sexual relationship with them, explaining the ethical basis of the refusal.
- Accurately represent personal coaching qualifications, experience, competence and affiliations.
- Refrain from criticism of other coaches.

## **Make a commitment to providing a quality service to their players:**

- Seek continual improvement through ongoing coach education and other personal and professional development opportunities.
- Provide players with planned and structured training programmes appropriate to their needs and goals.
- Seek advice and assistance from professionals when additional expertise is required.

## **Provide a safe environment for training and competition:**

- Adopt appropriate risk management strategies to ensure that the training and/or competition environment is safe.

- Ensure equipment and facilities meet safety standards.
- Ensure equipment, rules, training and the environment are appropriate for the age, physical and emotional maturity, experience and ability of the players.
- Show concern and caution toward sick and injured players and only allow further participation in training and competition when appropriate.
- Encourage and assist players to seek medical advice when required.
- Provide a modified training programme where appropriate. Maintain the same interest and support toward sick and injured players.

#### **Protect players from any form of personal abuse:**

- Refrain from any form of verbal, physical and emotional abuse towards players.
- Refrain from any form of sexual and racial harassment, racial vilification and harassment on the grounds of ability.
- Ensure that any physical contact with players is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the player's skill development.
- Be alert to any forms of abuse directed towards players from other sources while in their care.

#### **Parent/Guardian:**

- Agree to abide by the Code of Conduct.
- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment.
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Encourage children to always compete according to the rules.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation for all volunteers who give up their time to the game of water polo and make the opportunities available to your child including but not limited to the coaches, officials and administrators.
- Ensure that you have a positive attitude whilst watching games.
- Ensure all water polo fees are paid on time. Where cases of financial hardship exist, the Treasurer should be approached.
- Ensure that club uniform requirements are met.
- Marlborough Water Polo Club values the support from parents and we look forward to seeing you poolside.

#### **Consequences:**

Any disciplinary action taken is at the discretion of the coach and/or manager and further action may be taken by the Club Committee.

Marlborough Water Polo Club expects all volunteers, members, officials, players, parents or guardians to understand the possible consequences of breaching the Code of Conduct and

ensure that they abide by the Code. Any serious breaches of this Code of Conduct or persistent violations of any aspect of the Code of Conduct, by any of the above may result in any of the following being imposed:

- Loss of game time
- Suspension
- Good behavior bond
- Notification to New Zealand Water Polo
- Termination of club membership

Updated by Committee April 2023