

## Water Polo Report at the 2018 Kickoff FCSL League Meeting

We are hoping for another successful and fun season for our kids again this year. Here are a few things to keep in mind.

1. Water Polo Schedules. It looks like most of the regular season games are scheduled (please see the FCSL Website). If changes need to be made, they need to be agreed by both teams water polo chairs and then have them send the changes to Pat Griffis so she can update the master schedule. This is vital since we use this schedule to assign the referees. No regular season games should be scheduled after 8/2.

2. Unlike Swimming, Paul Ramaley (Water Polo Coaches Rep) assigns all of the referees at each contest. Both teams are responsible for paying 50% of the referees at each contest. It is preferable to pay the referees at the time the games are being played and not to send them checks weeks later. If you can plan to do this it would be greatly appreciated. Referee payment schedule can be found on the website. We are looking for more officials, please let folks that are interested know to contact Paul Ramaley asap.

3. It is important to pay every team in your division. The divisional standings are used to determine who is invited to play in the end of season championship tournaments. At the Midget and junior age groups, the top 4 teams are invited to the end of the season tournaments. If one of these teams declines to participate due to conflicts etc., we will reach out to the 5<sup>th</sup> team and so on. We would prefer to have 4 team tournaments at all age groups/divisions if possible. The process to determine the Senior Tournament is more complicated. I will stress again, it is very important to play all of your senior games and do well in these games. Standings determine the invites and seeds for the tournament. We do not take into consideration that the record was worse because our best player didn't play etc.

4. We will have a referee and water polo chair meeting at 7:30pm on Thursday June 21<sup>st</sup> at Burning Tree CC. This meeting is mandatory if you want to be a referee and is very important for water polo chairs to attend. We will share more information at this event to make sure everyone is on the same page.

5. End of Season Tournaments: Looks like we will have all the Midget and Junior Tournaments between Monday 8/6 and Wednesday 8/8. I wanted to try to schedule a few of these earlier (Wed 8/1 or Thurs 8/2) but in looking at the regular season schedules there are games scheduled on those dates which make having the tournaments on these dates impossible. Let's pray we don't have significant rain/storms the week of 8/6

6. We need hosts for the end of the season tournaments. At this point I reached out to two clubs related to hosting D1 tournaments. We will reach out to D2 and D3 shortly. In the meantime if you can and/or want to host please let us know. That would make all of our lives easier. Any questions related to this please let us know.

7. Information on the website: As most people here realize, many parents watching summer water polo do not know many of the rules. Because of this we have a few items on the website that can help parents learn more about the game and the rules. We have a parents guide to water polo that is very helpful for newer parents/players to become familiar with. We also have a list of referees signals which is helpful to know while watching the game. I would highly encourage to have these available to all your parents. Maybe even attaching a copy to the bulletin boards at the club pools so folks can look at, at their convenience.

8. Behavior: It is vital each year for me to mention this. This is not the Olympics or the NCAA Championships! This is an age group developmental, fun summer league sport. With that in mind positive behavior by players, coaches, parents and fans are required at all times. The referees in almost all cases are not professional water polo referees. They are doing their best and they will make mistakes. Cut them some slack and keep a positive attitude at all times. It is the parents responsibility to behave accordingly and to emphasize to their players and coaches to behave accordingly. The last thing the board wants to do in the summer is to discipline players, coaches or parents related to behavior at water polo events but we will if necessary.