

Water Polo Blast to all Water Polo Chairs and Coaches

From: Jim Lewis, FCSL VP of Water Polo.

I want to send out a reminder to everyone that the purpose of the Fairfield County Swim League is to have fun, compete, show sportsmanship etc. in a friendly laid back atmosphere. With that in mind, I want to point out a few things related to the Water Polo portion of the FCSL:

1. In the last 10 days the FCSL Board has given 1 game suspensions to two players for showing misconduct and disrespect to the officials. This conduct will continue to warrant suspensions. The FCSL Board will not tolerate players disrespecting the officials in FCSL sanctioned events. I suggest you remind the players of this.
2. Some coaches are coming real close to crossing the line when it comes to the way they are treating the officials during the water polo games. The FCSL Board will not tolerate this behavior and suspensions will be levied to any coach that the Board feels crosses the line with any official.
3. I also want to remind everyone that there is an FCSL rule that states that if the coaches are college students or younger, a parent must be sitting on the bench during Senior games. This parent needs to know what their responsibility is and must take this responsibility seriously. To remind you all, the parents job is to keep the bench under control so players and/or coaches don't show disrespect to referees or taunt players from the opposing team. A parent sitting on the bench doing nothing when misconduct takes place is unacceptable and this lack of taking this role seriously will most likely lead to the suspension of the player showing the misconduct. This would be a shame because if the parent took this role seriously, the suspension/situation may have been prevented.
4. There have been a few cases during games when parents are coming very close to crossing the line with officials. As Water Polo Chairs I ask that you remind parents if necessary that this behavior is unacceptable and the official has the right to remove any parent from the facility and/or abandon the game if necessary.

This is supposed to be a friendly, laid back league. This isn't the NCAA Championships or the Olympic Games. The officials being used are doing their best and they are not Fina Rated officials. In many cases they are college age young men/women that have participated in the FCSL in the past. Cut them some slack and even thank them for their service to the league. One of the problems that we have is we don't have enough officials. Part of the reason for this is that some of these young men/women don't want the stress of being verbally abused by players and/or coaches.

If anyone has any questions or comments, please feel free to give me a call.

Warmest regards,
Jim Lewis
VP Water Polo - FCSL