

FCSL Water Polo Report

June 17, 2026

For those who weren't able to attend or for a summary of the Zoom meeting yesterday (June 17, 2026) please see below. If anyone has any questions about anything water polo related please feel free to reach out to Ed Mendelsohn or Paul Ramaley anytime throughout the summer.

Best Regards,

Paul Ramaley
FCSL Water Polo Coaches Rep

FCSL Coaches Meeting Wednesday, June 17th, 7pm via Zoom

- FCSL Water Polo has been around for about 40 years. One of the few recreation water polo leagues in the country. Feeder into the local year round clubs

Things to do:

- Update Contact Information on website (you can use your club management login and update directly or you can contact Pat Griffis at pat.f.griffis@gmail.com)
- Check your club calendar to confirm dates, times, and venues are the same as the website (referees will be assigned based on the website)
- If your club decided to opt for changing the order of games from mini/jr/sr to sr/mini/jr (or any other order) then you must make sure to get it changed on the website.
- Changes to website must get email confirmation from both clubs pool chairs with confirmation emails sent to pat.f.griffis@gmail.com; if games are postponed or delayed, coaches cannot just reschedule
- Check your equipment at pool if you are hosting games
- Check login information for your club; the home team is responsible for inputting scores after each set of games. Very important for the post season or for Paul and Ed and to follow if games have been played or are postponed, forfeited, or cancelled.

Paul assigns referees based on website, so information must be up to date

- Both clubs are responsible for paying referees, because of the inconsistent number of home/away games. One club's fees are \$30/\$20/\$20 and then \$30 for a second referee. If you are playing a full set of games each club should be prepared to pay \$100.
- Paul will try to assign two referees for senior games, but in some cases he will settle for one experienced referee to control the game.
- If your club decides to change the order of games then there is a good chance there will only be 1 referee, but still expect to pay two
- Referees should expect to get \$140 for a set of 3 games, \$100 for 2 games, \$60 for 1 game.
- Clubs please have payment on site, with either cash, or most referees have Venmo, and if not, please follow up with the referees to pay promptly. The referee schedule changes often in water polo so it is hard to plan ahead. Every year at least one referee is not paid and it gets increasingly difficult to track payment down. Referees are traveling to venues that aren't always close and should be paid appropriately or we lose refs.
- If a club forfeits any of their games and does not give at least 24 hours notice to the league then they will be responsible for paying **both** clubs' referee fees for the forfeited games.

General Conduct:

- We are a developmental league, patience needs to be shown to players, coaches, and referees. That includes coaches and clubs showing good sportsmanship in 1 sided games and good behavior overall. This is very hard to do with young players, but do your best to substitute or put limits on shooting by adding in tasks like only playing with off hand, at least 3-4 passes before a shot) or in some cases giving the ball to the other team with an easy shot or dump.
- Parents need to be held in check. We have had incidents where Ed or I have received complaints about coach and parent behavior. Pool, swim, or water polo chairs should be responsible for handling parent behavior, do not expect the referee (who is usually younger and in some cases inexperienced) to police the parents.
- Code of conduct should be read before each game, but it is really up to aquatics chairs and coaches to help keep parents in check, coaches will try to keep players in check, pool directors or other senior staff keep coaches in check.
- Senior games - there should be a parent on the bench unless you have a coach who is out of college or an appropriate age. This was implemented to help control the bench and conduct of players and parents in the senior age group.

Rules: all rules posted on the website

- Ball sizes; Minis use size 2 (not size 3), juniors use size 4, seniors use size 5 balls.
- Running time: minis 6 min, jrs 7 min, srs 8 min. The clock stops after goals and out of bounds.
- If games are tied at the end of regulation, teams can proceed to overtime (2 2 min periods for minis/jrs, 2 3 min periods for srs) if both clubs agree. Otherwise the game ends in a tie.
- Certain rules are unique to FCSL; no shot clock, goalies can only go to half court, no shooting off of corner throws, direct shot and putting in play for a shot outside of 6m is only possible for seniors
- At least 2 girls must be in the water at all times for minis and juniors, at least 1 girl must be in the water at all times for seniors
- Players must participate in 1 game in order to be eligible for any post season tournament

New Rules Regarding Forfeits

1. For Water Polo Divisions 2 and 3, 6 players (5 field, 1 goalie) are the standard number for each game. If both coaches agree to use 7 players, that is OK as well. For Division 1, 7 players is standard, 6 can be used upon agreement of both clubs.
2. In the final standings which determine moving up or moving down a division, forfeits will be included in the winning percentage. The same point system for forfeits will be used to determine which teams are invited to the post season tournaments.
3. If there is a tie between two teams based on winning percentage which determines advancing or moving down a division or for seeding for a tournament, the number of forfeits will be considered.

End of year Tournaments

- Ed will be reaching out throughout the summer to try to secure venues and dates for the post season tournaments. Tournaments will be taking place the week of 8/3; Minis and Junior tournaments will take place anytime from Monday, August 3 - Wednesday, August 5, seniors are set for Thursday, 8/6 @ the Rocky Point Club
- If your club seems to be headed for a tournament and would like to host please reach out to Ed and you can choose what day/time would be best. Typically times are 3:00 - 7:00pm
- Post season tournaments for Minis and Juniors will be with the top 4 teams in each age group in each division. Very important for home team to post scores so we can figure out teams as early as possible
- Senior tournament is an 8 team all division tournament, with teams determined by overall record, player availability for that day, and ultimately from Ed. This is the only all day aquatic event of the year, so we want to have a competitive tournament throughout the whole day. We have the option to cut the tournament down to 6 or 7 teams if we don't think it will be competitive or if we expect forfeits

Division Ranking and Moving Up/Down

- At the end of the year we will look at the overall winning percentage of each club across all of its age groups to determine which club moves up or down in division.
- Teams moving up/down will be notified prior to the scheduling meeting in August.

Referees

- We need as many referees as possible so if anyone is interested in refereeing or knows someone who might be interested please reach out to Paul at pauljramaley@gmail.com
- No experience refereeing is necessary, Paul will typically assign the least experienced referees with experienced coaches so they can help the referees develop.

The formal wording of the newly proposed Rules changes will be linked here!