



Sopac Zone Repeat Offender/Sportsmanship Policy

The Sopac Zone Repeat Offender/Sportsmanship Policy (“the Policy”) is in place to insure the integrity of our game and the good reputation of our coaches, players and parents as they travel throughout the zone playing the game of water polo. The policy is designed to be an integral part of the backbone of our philosophy of sportsmanship, providing that proper action is taken by SOPAC when that philosophy is repeatedly violated. Our policy is in step with the policy of USA Water Polo Rules Governing Conduct of Coaches, Players and Officials. The USA Water Polo Rules Governing Conduct is clear on issues of un-sportsmanlike conduct, violence and inappropriate conduct, for violation of the policy. A formal grievance procedure is in place with USA Water Polo if any member believes that these policies have been violated by another member, including the implementation of this Policy. The USA Water Polo Rule Book, which is based on FINA Rules and Interpretations, provides for removal from a game with possible game suspension for misconduct during a game. With this Policy, the Sopac Zone will take internal review and disciplinary measures regarding repeat offenders of either the Rules Governing Conduct or Misconducts (including brutality).

PROCEDURES FOR IMPOSING SANCTIONS

Working with our local referee association and the USA Water Polo referee structure, “incidents” will be recorded in an online reporting system and be retained by zone officials. An incident may be a red card, game misconduct, brutality or any other report the committee deems serious enough to record. The zone will monitor this database to evaluate whether a review of an individual’s conduct is warranted. In addition, the zone will monitor any grievances filed with USA Water Polo or directly with the zone about an individual’s conduct. The zone will create a Performance Review Committee made up of a representative of the zone board, a representative from the coach membership, athlete membership, a referee, and a general member (5). The zone board member will serve as chair and solicit participation through an open invitation process to the zone subject to zone board final approval.

For coaches and players:

1. Depending on the severity, a first incident will generally be reviewed by the Performance Review Committee and recorded. A notice will be sent to the individual to advise him/her of the situation.
2. A second incident, again depending on the severity and proximity to the first incident, will be reviewed by the Performance Review Committee and then discussed with the offender. This may be via conference call with members of the Performance Review Committee. The intention is to gather facts and educate the offender about the consequences of any further incidents, including the possibility of suspension.
3. If a member is involved in a third incident he/she will be required to attend a formal hearing of the Performance Review Committee. Suspension could be the outcome from this hearing, with the length and terms to be decided by the Committee.
4. Additional incidents could result in more lengthy suspension terms or a more significant penalty. The Zone reserves its right to file a formal grievance with USAWP against any member who is in violation of this Policy.

For Parents and referees:

The zone will record reports of inappropriate conduct among parents, coaches, and clubs. The zone, via the Performance Review Committee, will determine if there is a pattern of behavior that is irregular and may, at the discretion of the Committee, recommend an intervention. This is determined at the discretion of the committee.