



SOPAC Zone Update

It's been a busy fall season for waterpolo in the Sopac Zone. Here's a quick recap

SPA League

Our fall age group league is well underway and we are planning for the championships to be held at Woollett Aquatics complex the last weekend of October and first weekend of November. New this year is the southern California championships to be held November 22-23. The top 6 teams in sopac will face off against the top 6 from the coastal zone for the Socal age group championships.

Speedo Cup Update

The annual Speedo Cup will be held in early November in Ann Arbor Michigan. The zone held its qualifying tournament this weekend at Newport Harbor High School. Congratulations to our teams that qualified and will be representing our zone. On the boy's side, Orange County Water Polo Club qualified, as our entrant and SET Water Polo Club will go as a wild card. For the ladies, Newport Water Polo Foundation was the winner and Laguna Beach Water Polo will be the wild card. Congratulations to our teams who are advancing and to all who entered. We had many close games, two shoot-outs and a lot of fun in the pool. A special thanks to Ed Reynolds who coordinated the tournament, George Ratkovic for the bracketing and a special thanks to Newport Water Polo for hosting for the weekend.

Holiday Camp

The annual holiday training camp will be held at the US Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs from December 18-22 2008. This is an amazing opportunity for coaches and age group athletes to train and spend time at the USOC Center. Our

zone has 9 athlete and 3 coaching slots open to fill. Coaches must be 21 years or older and athletes must be 13-14 and in age group and have not attended the camp before. If you would be interested in attending, contact your coach for further info. We need both coaches and athletes to participate in the camp. We will be accepting entries for consideration until 11/5/08.

Men's Champions League

We are beginning the planning process for the Southern California Men's Champions League. Over the past few years, we have run a combined league with the coastal zone as part of the premier league of the Men's national team. This has been called the zone premier league. Due to changes in the Premier program and NCAA compliance, the zone premier will not be continued. Due to the overwhelming demand and popularity, we will be continuing the program under zone auspices. While we are planning now, the rough guidelines will be 12 teams in two divisions (north and south). Games will likely be held on Friday nights ("Friday Night Lights"!) where the teams will compete against all teams in their division for the final championship tournament. We are trying to make this a "fan friendly" event and a way to watch high level water polo on a fun filled setting. The league will run from January to April. Stay tuned!

Camp and Events

Fullerton College is hosting a Christmas Girls Mini camp on December 19-21 for girls aged 13-17. See the enclosed flyer for more info

Don't forget to check the zone calendar for upcoming tournaments and leagues to participate in. We are revising our sanctioning procedures and will be beginning the planning process for 2009 this fall. The goal will be to reduce conflicts and the sometimes chaos that can occur with so many play opportunities among our age group and high school aged athletes.

As mentioned, we are in the planning process for revising and revamping our zone web site, which will include our calendar, links to clubs and news and updates to keep our membership, informed of water polo in our area.

See you on the deck!