

PARENT / ATHLETE INFORMATION – 2023-2024

Virginia Beach High School Water Polo League (including the Kraken Youth Travel Team) is a member of American Water Polo. *(Please note that our Kraken youth travel team may also be involved in USA Water Polo activities, which includes additional administrative requirements. Please see the Parent / Athlete Information (USAWP) document for additional information.)*

Please note the following disclosures and notes regarding our club: (including the Kraken Youth Travel Team)

1. Please view Our Commitment to Athlete Safety on our team website:
(<https://www.virginiabeachwaterpolo.com/safety.html>)
2. All Adults participating with the VBHSWPL (including Volunteers who may have regular contact with minor athletes) must review and sign our Adult Behavior Requirements and Expectations and take the required Protecting Students from Abuse training. Electronic acknowledgement of the Adult Behavior Requirements and Expectations must be provided via Google Form and is listed on the Safety page of our website (*see #1 for website link or follow Google form link directly:*
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfa_A2lr5VzduwG4oIB-OtadxGluEQHUjOtzV8H_NmF5qO4ZA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0).
3. We encourage all parents/guardians to take the free SafeSport training for parents. We also encourage all parents/guardians to consider the free age-appropriate training for their minor athletes. Training options are available here: <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/training-andeducation/safesport-courses-for-all/>.
4. All VBHSWPL representatives, and many of our adult guests are mandatory reporters. They are required to notify Law Enforcement or Child Protective Services, and the US Center for SafeSport as soon as they develop reasonable suspicion that SAM may have, may be, or may be in danger of happening to a minor or vulnerable adult. Even if you are not a mandatory reporter, any athlete safety concerns, including sexual abuse or misconduct concerns, should be reported to:
 - a. Local Child Protective Services: (757) 385-3400 (Local Child Abuse / Neglect Hotline)
<https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/human-services/socialservices/Pages/child-protective-services.aspx>
 - b. Local Police: (757) 385-5000 (non-emergency line)
<https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/police/Pages/contact-us.aspx>
 - c. SafeSport: (833) 587-7233, <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/>
 - d. VBHSWPL Athlete Safety Officer: Karen Bates, Safety.VBHSWPL@gmail.com
5. Any mention of additional opportunities to play water polo outside of the VBHSWPL/Kraken team is informational only. This includes the local Master's Team (Hampton Roads Water Polo). VBHSWPL is not affiliated with this organization and our policies do not apply to that group or their activities. Any participation in these activities is at your discretion.
6. All communications (in-person or electronic) with Athletes will be in the presence of another Adult (either a VBHSWPL representative, and/or a parent/guardian).
 - a. One-to-one in-person interactions are prohibited, always and everywhere, unless the interaction is easily observable and at a distance from at least one other adult (VBHSWPL representative or parent/guardian) such that the interaction is easily interruptible by the other adult.
 - b. Coaches will be utilizing group messaging for the team which will include, at minimum, another VBHSWPL adult representative on the communication. Parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to join the messaging group.
 - c. If an Athlete needs to message a coach privately for any reason, they must cc their parent/guardian. In the event an Athlete forgets to cc their parent/guardian, the coach's reply will cc the parent/guardian with a reminder to please include them on future messages.

7. As a Club Sport, travel to/from the practices and games is the responsibility of the athletes and their parents/guardians. Coaches are not able to provide transportation for athletes. If your athlete carools with other athletes and/or families, it is at the discretion of the parents/guardians.
8. Activities at the Virginia Beach Recreation Centers are held during operating hours at a facility which is open to the members of the Recreation Centers, including the locker rooms. For this reason, athletes will be asked to use the buddy system in the locker rooms at all times, or use the single-use changing rooms, or change at home.
9. If there are any persons with whom the Athlete is not permitted to leave from the VBHSWPL activities, the parent/guardians must provide written documentation to the VBHSWPL.