

PARENT / ATHLETE INFORMATION – 2023-2024

(USA Water Polo activities only – does not apply to the fall high school league)

The Virginia Beach High School Water Polo League's Kraken Youth Travel Team is a member of American Water Polo for most activities (See Parent / Athlete Information (AWP) document for those guidelines). However, we also intend to maintain a USA Water Polo membership for participation in tournaments and events which require such membership. Any club activities conducted under our USAWP membership will be indicated in advance, and are subject to their guidelines. In addition to SafeSport regulations, USAWP mandates the institution of a minor-athlete safety program, referred to as a BASS (BOKRIM Abuse Safety System). The BASS document is available to view upon request. In accordance with these requirements, please note the following required disclosures and notes:

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 **Athletes who are 18 years old** at any point during the season and/or Volunteers who may have regular contact with minor athletes) must review and sign our Adult Behavior Requirements and Expectations and take the required SafeSport 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.
Additional members of the BASS team include: Jess Lindsey and Ellen Pelton. For additional information, see the USAWP website: <https://usawaterpolo.org/sports/2018/12/19/rules-ethics.aspx>.
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. Additionally, please note that the Masters team is associated with American Water Polo, not USA Water Polo.
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. Travel to/from the practices and games is the responsibility of the athletes and their parents/guardians. If your athlete carools with other athletes and/or families, or coaches, it is at the discretion of the parents/guardians and all parties should follow the Adult Behavior guidelines. Exceptions to the guidelines are limited and require written consent from parent/guardian on an annual (calendar year) basis.
8. 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.