



Water Polo Canada Concussion Code of Conduct

Water Polo Referees and Delegates — 2026-2027 Season

Please note: Acceptance as a Registrant or Participant in Water Polo Canada-hosted events and activities is conditional on consent to this Concussion Code of Conduct. Consent is given at the time of registration, when the Registrant or, where the Registrant is a Minor, the Parent/Guardian on the Minor's behalf, accepts Water Polo Canada's Waiver and Consent Form. This Concussion Code of Conduct applies to all referee and delegate Registrants and forms part of the documents incorporated into the Waiver and Consent Form.

I will help players to prevent concussion.

- I will ensure all players wear the proper water polo equipment and wear it correctly.
- I will respect the rules of water polo and ensure all players do as well.
- I will respect other officials, delegates, coaches, trainers, and safety personnel all those involved with my league and event.
- I will ensure players respect others and play fair and safe.

I will take concussions seriously and educate others to help ensure their health and safety.

- I understand a concussion is a serious brain injury that can have both short- and long-term effects.
- I understand that any blow to the head, face, or neck, or a blow to the body that causes a sudden jarring of the head may cause a concussion.
- I understand that a player doesn't need to lose consciousness to have had a concussion.
- If I suspect a player may have a concussion, I will stop them from participating in practice or gameplay immediately. I understand that if I think I have a concussion, I should stop refereeing or delegating immediately.
- I understand continuing to participate in water polo and other physical activity with a suspected concussion increases a player's risk of more severe, longer-lasting symptoms, and increases their risk of other injuries.
- I will make concussion education a priority.
- I will follow and enforce the concussion protocols and policies that have been established by Water Polo Canada, my Province and the National Championship League (NCL).

I will create an environment where players feel safe and can always speak up.

- I will encourage players not to hide any concussion symptoms or continue to participate through the pain.

- I will ensure players know to tell me, another referee or delegate, a coach, parent or other adult they trust if they, or a teammate, experience any concussion symptoms after an impact.
- I will lead by example. I will tell a fellow official, delegate, coach, team trainer, safety person, or healthcare professional if I am experiencing any concussion symptoms.
- I will create opportunities for players to speak with me about any concerns related to concussion before or after each training session, practice, or game.
- I will support all players to take the time they need to recover.
- I understand and respect that any player with a suspected concussion must be removed from the game or practice immediately and not be permitted to return until they undergo a medical assessment by a doctor and have been medically cleared to return to training, practice, or gameplay.
- I understand players will have to follow the Water Polo Return-to-Sport strategy.
- I will respect my fellow officials, delegates, coaches, trainers, safety personnel, parents and medical professionals and any decisions made with regard to health and safety.

Water Polo Canada

Tel | Tél.: (613) 371-4025

1A-1084 Rue Kenaston Street, Ottawa, ON, K1B 3P5

www.waterpolo.ca