



2009 LA84 WATER POLO  
RULES & PROCEDURES

PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
CITYWIDE AQUATIC DIVISION  
Walter Tobar: (323) 906-7953



The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual LA84 Foundation Water Polo Program will commence with the coaches workshop on Sunday, June 28, 2009, and conclude with the Water Polo Festival on Saturday, August 30, 2009. The mission of the LA84 Foundation Water Polo Program is to introduce youngsters to the sport of water polo through skills development, coaching education and competition opportunities.

**Summary:**

Currently there are four agencies (program partners) that have committed to the LA84 Water Polo Program this season. Three age groups will be offered which are, Under-10 ( $\leq 10$ ), Under-14 ( $\leq 14$ ) and Under-16 ( $\leq 16$ ).

All program partners will need to make a final declaration of team (pool) participation by age group by July 13, 2009. No changes in team participation will be allowed after the first regular season tournament date.

**Eligibility:**

- Eligibility in the three age groups is based on the youngster's age as of July 1, 2009. **A participant may move up in age group but may not be moved down. Participants may only compete in one age group. A player may only play for one team only for the entire length of the season.** Final date for participants to register shall be July 13, 2009, or one day before the 1st regular season game date starts (for the North Region)
- Only novice athletes are eligible to compete in the program. A novice athlete is defined as one who participates in organized competitive aquatic programs on a seasonal or year round basis and does not hold a U.S. Water Polo membership card.
- Lifesaving employees (lifeguards) may not participate in novice sport programs.
- The LA84 Foundation Water Polo Program is **NOT** intended for youngsters who are at the Junior Olympic level. Youngsters who have competed at Junior Olympics or at the Speedo Cup are not eligible to participate.
- If there is any US Water Polo player that would like to participate in the **LA84 Foundation Novice Water Polo Program**. All Athletes must wait one year grace period after their US Water Polo Card expired before they can participate/register to play.

## General Rules:

- **ALL COACHES MUST POSSESS A CURRENT “ART OF COACHING” TRAINING CERTIFICATE FROM LA84 FOUNDATION SANCTIONED CLINIC IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO COACH, NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED FOR FAILING TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT. TEAMS WITHOUT A QUALIFIED COACH ON DECK WILL BE CHARGED WITH A FORFEIT AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE.**
- **All coaches must conduct a participant’s nail check prior to their games.**
- Each host venue agrees to provide the game table, set-up the venue for competition, provide staff support for the table and staff to function as deck marshals.
- The LA84 Foundation will schedule and provide the game officials for league play and final matches.
- The LA84 Foundation will provide a scorebook for each league. The host venue will be responsible to forward the scoreboard book to the next host venue for use in the following weeks’ matches.
- The host venue agrees to forward all game results to the Water Polo Coordinator, Walter Tobar. All results must be reported one day after each league day to Walter Tobar at the Citywide Aquatics Office. The host venue is responsible for reporting the results to the CWA Office. Walter’s phone number is (323) 906-7953 and Fax number is (323) 906-7963.
- Players shall compete for one team only and may not change teams during the play season.
- A copy of the player’s birth certificate or a valid proof of age shall be submitted to the Pool Staff prior to participation as proof of age. In the event that any said player’s age is questioned then that information shall be made available to the League Coordinators upon request.
- The penalty for violation of any Eligibility rules disqualifies said player for the current season and forfeit of all games in which said participant played.
- Coaches shall submit a completed team roster of all players one week prior to any tournament date. On tournament days all coaches shall also be responsible for providing a separate team roster prior to any game played.
- In the event that a facility is unable to field a complete team then a change may be considered. Provided that a request is placed in writing and submitted to the coordinators for approval prior to the commencement of the first regular season tournament. **No changes in team participation will be allowed after the first regular season tournament date.**

## Game Rules:

- Maximum of 16 players per team, minimum of 7 players per team
- Five minute running quarters for  $\leq 10$ , 5 minute running quarters for  $\leq 14$  and five minute running quarters for  $\leq 16$
- Two girls must be present and listed on the roster for all games. With a minimum of one female in the water at all times.
- Each player must participate at least one quarter per game
- There is a ten-minute grace period to allow late team the opportunity to play. Beyond grace period, late team is charged an automatic forfeit.
- **During round robin and league play, each win is worth three (3) points, a tie is worth two (2) points, a loss is worth one (1) point and a no-show or forfeit is worth zero (0) points.**

- One time out is permitted per half. Time outs cannot be carried over. Requesting team must be in possession of the ball for time out to be granted.
- No overtime, ties stand during round robin play.
- First team listed wears dark caps.
- Each team is responsible for two sets of caps.
- For bronze through gold medal games ending in a tie, two three minute quarters will immediately be conducted to break the tie. Should the scores remain tied at the end of these two quarters, a golden goal overtime will be conducted.
- Current USWP rules will be used during the game.
- At referee's discretion, a player may be disqualified from play for violating any grooming compliance or health code requirements.
- Final date for new participants to register shall be prior to the third regular season game date

### **Considerations:**

It is agreed that the majority of the participants will be in the  $\leq 14$  age group. The  $\leq 10$  and  $\leq 16$  age group will be offered and supported through league play. The format for the league finals and LA84 Foundation Festival Championship in the  $\leq 10$  and  $\leq 16$  divisions is to be determined and will be based on participation throughout the season.

### **Proper Conduct:**

It is imperative to the vitality and the success of this program that everyone involved address each other with the utmost respect and refrain from committing acts of brutality, misconduct or disrespect.

Team coaches are responsible for maintaining control over their team members during game play or while on the deck. Failure to maintain control over a player(s) may result in the ejection of the coach from the game or the deck and the forfeit of the game should there not be an additional staff member available to supervise the team.

Any coach who is ejected for misconduct or disrespect shall leave the premises immediately; failure to do so may result in that coach not allowed to participate in LA84 Foundation sponsored programs. Two ejections within the season will automatically remove that coach from the program. The employing agency and the coach will be sanctioned by an ad hoc committee consisting by the Program coordinator and at least one other third-party member. Sanctions against the coach will follow the coach regardless of any employing agency status changes.

Acts of brutality, misconduct and or disrespect shall not be tolerated. Players who commit an act of brutality shall be ejected for the remainder of the game without substitution and in addition to USWP rules may also lose participation privileges for the remainder of the season.

Should an act of brutality, misconduct or disrespect occur and a player be ejected from the field of play, that player must comply with the official's instructions without hesitation. If the incident incites other teammates to react with continued acts of brutality, misconduct or disrespect, a forfeit will be awarded to the offending team and the game will cease to continue. Any continued acts of the mentioned offenses by anyone in the field or on the deck will result in the forfeiture of their team's next scheduled game.

## **Protests:**

- Discretionary calls by the referee may not be protested. Protests are accepted on the grounds of violating governing rules of the league only.
- Protests shall be entered in writing by the disputing coach and accepted by the Coordinator on the day of the game only.
- A committee shall be formed within (3) working days of protestation for the purpose of review. The committee shall consist of the Coordinator, Meet Manager and at least one non-disputing Program Coordinator.
- The Coordinator, acting as the spokesperson for the committee, shall report back to the protestor by no later than the fourth day after lodging of original protest with its finding.
- Where protests involve issuance of awards, no award shall not be distributed until all protests have cleared.

For up to date league results, visit the LA84 Foundation website:  
<http://www.la84foundation.org/> "Summer Swim"

For information, rules and forms visit [www.colawp.airset.com](http://www.colawp.airset.com)

For more information about the sport of water polo: rules. National and world competition, and FAQ's visit: <http://www.usawaterpolo.com/>

For more information about coaching water polo visit:  
[http://www.srsport.com/polo\\_coachs\\_clinic.php](http://www.srsport.com/polo_coachs_clinic.php)

For more information about water polo officiating, referees and rules visit:  
<http://www.scafwp.org/rules.htm>