

Texas Oklahoma Louisiana Arkansas
Water Polo Officials Association
Code of Ethics

Preamble:

Water polo officials must be independent, impartial and responsible to the people with whom they interact, including fellow officials, water polo coaches, water polo administrators, water polo athletes, and the general public. The purpose of the Code of Ethics is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all officials. The Code of Ethics does not exhaust the moral and ethical considerations of professional behavior and attitude. Compliance with this Code of Ethics depends primarily upon understanding and voluntary compliance, secondarily upon reinforcement by peer and public opinion, and finally, when necessary, upon enforcement through disciplinary proceedings.

Ethical Standards:

1. Referees must be free of obligation to any interest other than the impartial and fair judging of competitions. Without equivocation, game decisions that are slanted by personal bias are dishonest and unacceptable.
2. Referees recognize that anything that may lead to a conflict of interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided. Gifts, favors, special treatment, privileges, employment or a personal relationship with a team, coach, or athlete that can compromise the perceived impartiality of officiating must be avoided.
3. Referees have an obligation to treat other officials with professional dignity and courtesy and recognize that it is inappropriate to criticize other officials.
4. Referees have a responsibility to continuously seek self-improvement through study of the game, rules, mechanics and the techniques of game management. They have a responsibility to accurately represent their qualifications and abilities when requesting or accepting officiating assignments.
5. Referees shall protect the public (fans, administrators, coaches, players, and others) from inappropriate conduct and shall attempt to eliminate from the officiating avocation/profession all practices which bring discredit to it.
6. Sports officials shall not be party to actions designed to unfairly limit or restrain access to officiating, officiating assignments or association membership. This includes selection for positions of leadership based upon economic factors, race, creed, color, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical handicap, country or national origin.

Referee Affirmations:

1. I shall devote time, thought and study to maintain the highest standards of our sport. I strive to perform in as professional a manner as possible:
 - A. by acting within the governing rules and mechanics of competition;
 - B. by acting in a spirit of good sportsmanship;
 - C. by having a protective rather than punitive attitude toward enforcement of the rules;
 - D. by being impartial;
 - E. by maintaining my focus on observation, not expectation, not anticipation, not preference;
 - F. by insuring the conditions of a competition are fair and equitable for all participants.
2. I shall strive to work with fellow officials in a spirit of harmony and cooperation. I shall be respectful and courteous of others, cognizant that differences of opinion and interpretation may occur. I shall critically evaluate my performance after each competitive session as a step toward improvement and growth.
3. I shall resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as an official to benefit myself. Under all circumstances, I shall avoid promoting the special interests of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve. I recognize that it is important to honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss.
4. I shall do nothing before or during any competition session that will impair my ability to referee.
5. I have not engaged nor shall I ever engage in any behavior that utilizes the influence of my position to encourage inappropriate sexual intimacy with any minor, any athlete, any coaching staff or any facility staff.
6. I agree to abide by all aspects of this Code of Ethics. Further, I acknowledge that I am an independent contractor and TOLA Water Polo nor its partner associations have no responsibility to guarantee employment as a result of training received.
7. I shall comply with all Policies and Procedures set by TOLA Water Polo.

Name: _____ Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____