



Tamiami Titans Water Polo Club Team
Players & Parents Handbook.
(2010)
[Http://www.TamiamiTitans.com](http://www.TamiamiTitans.com)

1. Purpose of the Handbook.

This handbook provides some critical information to help parents and players enjoy the water polo team of the Tamiami Titans Water Polo Club Team.

2. Mission of TTWPCT.

The mission of TTWPCT is to provide athletes with a program that will develop their skills to enable them to participate in water polo at the middle school, high school, and college level.

All members are expected to support the following priorities.

- Academics- success in the classroom equals success in the pool.
The discipline of aquatic sports equals success in the classroom.
The coaching staff supports all academic endeavors and works to help athletes balance both scholastics and athletics.
- Sportsmanship- This is the guiding principle of the Club Team.
An individual's behavior reflects on the team and the coaches.
The coaches teach how to win with class and lose with dignity, how to try your hardest and fail without the loss of self respect, and how to find room to improve and help others to improve.
- Growth as a Water Polo Player- Water polo is the fastest growing sport at the college level, and the fastest growing high school sport in Florida. Water Polo provides team play and friendships that will last a lifetime. All members are expected to advance their water polo skills and participate in water polo competitions to allow themselves to grow as teammates and as athletes.

3. United States Water Polo.

TTWPCT is a member of the United States Water Polo Inc. USWP is the national water polo organization from which the United States National and Olympic teams are selected and developed. Every TTWPC member must be a registered USWP player for the entire calendar year (do not register as a trial athlete). You may register online at www.usawaterpolo.com

You must be registered as a member of the Tamiami Titans Polo Club Team.

4. Club Communications.

It is our sincere desire to keep each player and family well informed. When you register, your email will be added to the team mailing list. It is important that you make sure that the emails are not blocked as junk mail. In addition most email will be posted on the web page. E-mail and web pages should be checked often, especially before traveling to an event, as time changes or cancellations will be posted here. If practice is to be canceled, an email will be set out.

5. Volunteering and Participation.

One of the Keys to the success of any team or club is the amount of parental support, involvement, and volunteering. As part of TTWPC it is understood and required that each family contribute some time in assisting the team.

This can include:

- Fundraisers / Sponsorships
- Management of meets, Games and Tournaments
- Travel Research and Arrangements
- Team Apparel
- Transportation

6. Registration.

Members are required to maintain a current USWP membership at all times. In addition, each member must fill out a Registration and Release Form.

7. Team Membership.

As a member of the TTWPCT players must maintain a respectable distance between themselves and other water polo teams and coaches while at events. Many teams do not have the same respect of fair play and sportsmanship, and altercations can sometimes develop. In addition, coaches from other teams do not always act

in an honorable fashion. To avoid problems, the team has a very strict policy dealing with interactions at events. Players may not sit away from the group and are expected to keep interactions with other coaches, referees and players to an absolute minimum. The coaches of TTWPCT cannot be responsible for the actions of these other groups. We understand that this can include friends from other teams, and we encourage you to maintain these friendships outside the event.

8. Recruitment.

The coaches of TTWPCT maintain a very strict non- recruitment policy. We do not actively recruit players to leave their team and join ours. In addition we do not allow our members to play for other teams at any time except in extraordinary situations. Members of TTWPCT are never permitted to attend a practice or competition with another team for any reason. Failure to abide with this rule will result in immediate and presumably permanent removal from the team, and the member will not be release by USWP to play with any other team unless they requested to leave the program before they participated in another team's activity.

9. Team Dues.

Team dues are required at the beginning of each month. The monthly due is based on the cost of the facilities, equipment costs, and other general operating costs. In addition, each member will be invited to tournaments and meets based on age and skill level. Players will be required to pay for the additional cost of these events well in advance. The coaches are not collection agents. Parents and players are asked to pay dues on time, promptly, at the very beginning of the month or they may be asked to leave the club.

10. Fundraising.

Fundraising can be an effective way of raising money to defer the cost of travel trips and to help club purchase items not covered under the general budget. Coaches are always open to any fundraising ideas.

11. Team Trips - Away.

- General Information – TTWPCT travels to a number of tournaments throughout the year. They are by invitation only and are open only to members that show consistent dedication to the sport and the program. Age and skill level can be used to determine who will be invited.
- Curfew - The coaching staff will set a curfew for the players to be in their room with lights and TV off. Any player found violating curfew would meet with swift repercussions.
- Hotel Rooms – Players will be assigned two to a bed. Players may pay double and get their own bed. Coaches or parents will maintain control of all room keys.

12. Player's Rules of Conduct.

- Sportsmanship – Water polo is a tough and competitive sport with some physical contact. Therefore, good sportsmanship is an essential part of the game. Un-sportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated, i.e. the use of foul language, degrading comments, ridiculing others, or physical contact not part of the normal game play.
- Focus and Dedication – TTWPCT is not a babysitting service. Players who do not come to improve themselves and work hard will be asked to leave the pool. Use of cell phones is not permitted during practices or games. Inattention to coaches, talking back to the coaches, failure to assist in running or failure to help with cleaning up after an event can result in immediate expulsion from the team.
- Attendance – Our program is built upon the build of strength and skills to build better players. Missing practice or coming late can result in inadequate warm-up and loss of strengthening or instruction that would make continued participation unsafe. Players are expected to be ready to get in the pool at the expected start time.
- Communication – If an athlete is not going to a game, meet or scrimmage, please inform the coaching staff at least 2-3 days in advance. This will give coaches time to adjust entries. If an

athlete is interested in participating in an event, they must inform the coaches weeks in advance, as entries are often due over a month in advance.

- Signed Forms – Players and parents must have signed a Code of Conduct and Release Form before beginning practices. This states that smoking, drinking alcohol, use of illegal drug, leaving the group without permission, or other inappropriate and/or illegal behavior, at any time, may result in expulsion from the team and, if on a travel trip, will result in them being sent home at parent's expense. Players are never permitted to participate in activities that are considered illegal. Even if not during a team event.

Pool Safety.

- Pool Conduct - Most injuries occur outside the realm of the sport. Players are never permitted to horseplay or to be performing any action not directed and supervised by the coaches. This includes unorganized shooting. Diving of diving boards or starting blocks, running, etc. Under no circumstances any player of the TTWPCT is to change before or after practice or games in the pool deck. The locker room is the changing area not the pool decks no exceptions.
- Respect of the Coaches- Players and parents are to treat coaches with respect at all times. While the coach is talking to players are to remain quiet and attentive. Players are not allowed to leave and event or team meeting until excused by the coach. In addition, only the coaches should be coaching at any time.
- Respect Referees and Officials- Never argue with a referee or an official about a call or ruling.
- Team Building- All players are expected to maintain an atmosphere to unity and friendship and to welcome new players to team, regardless of skill or experience.

13. Parent's Code of Conduct.

As a parent your support of the program will be the single most important thing you can do to assure that your child receives the most out of the team.

- Volunteer and Attend Team Events- We have often found that parents that never attend, only show up at big events, can cause their children anxiety. Participate at as many competitions as possible. If you are afraid your child doesn't want you there, please come talk to the coaches. Water polo games require a lot of help to put on, and the more the coaches have to do themselves, the less time they have to coach your children.
- Speak to Coaches in Private- If you wish to discuss anything with a coach, please pick a time when they are not in the middle of a game or practice, and they will be happy to help you in any way possible. Each coach wants what is best for you and your child.
- Attendance- Please insure that your player is on time for all games and practices.
- Learning and Fun- These are the two most important reasons for you child to participate on a team.
- Competitions- The team will participate in a variety of levels of competitions. Please understand that when choosing, entries and line-ups, coaches weight the benefit to the team and to the player. Local events are often designed to get players experience, and winning may be sacrificed to the benefit of increasing playing time for all players. Travel trips are often open to the highest level of players, and are designed to give the players a competitive experience. Players are not guaranteed a set amount of playing time or positions at scrimmage or games.

14. Coaching Staff and Volunteers.

- Kristopher Perez - Head Coach (18 & under Boys and Girls)

Overall director of the water polo program for the entire club. Will arrange and collect payments, keep track of who has paid, create and maintain registration forms, write Rules handbook, oversee program. Will also check USWP membership and maintain paperwork for water polo tournaments and maintain team calendar.

Coach - Will direct the 14-under program and all new Players.

Coaching Bio

- Head Coach - Sunset High School Swimming and Waterpolo (2010 - Present)

- Assistant coach of the Braddock High School Swimming & Waterpolo Team.
(2008 – 2010)

Marketing Director

As Marketing Director be responsible for arrangement for all team gear including team suits, team hats, team shirts, team logo and so on; Will be responsible for arranging for payments, order forms and distribution of team gear; Will also be in charge of team recruitment, contacting papers for articles and results, pamphlets and so on.

- Anthony Zayas

Head Coach (Open) - Arrange and schedule water polo games and arrange Water Polo practices; act as tournament director for all tournaments.

Coaching Bio

- Two Time All-American Goalie.
(1992 - 1994)
- Coach Coronado (Navy) Women's Club.
(1999)
- National Champions.
(2000 –2001)
- Braddock High School Swimming Coach.
(2003 – Present)

- Braddock High School Waterpolo Coach.
(2003-Present)
- Florida International University Womens Waterpolo Coach.
(2004 – Present)