SPORT GUIDELINES
BOYS & GIRLS WATER POLO

Acalanes, Alhambra, Benicia, Berean Christian, Campolindo, Clayton Valley Charter, College Park, Concord, Las Lomas, Miramonte, Mt. Diablo, Northgate, Ygnacio Valley

Approved: January 25, 2024

1. **SEASON**
   - 1.1 Girls and Boys Water Polo are both Fall Sports, as defined by NCS.
   - 1.2 Starting dates for practice will be determined by NCS.

2. **CONTEST INFORMATION**
   - 2.1 Matches will be played on Wednesdays.
     - 2.1.1 Junior Varsity Girls 4:00, Varsity Girls 5:00, Varsity Boys 6:00, and Junior Varsity Boys at 7:00
   - 2.2 Per NCS By-Laws; Maximum number of contests: 24 for both Varsity and JV.
   - 2.3 Per NCS By-Laws; Maximum number of scrimmages: 2.
   - 2.4 League games will not be played when school is not in session, unless agreed upon by AD's and Principals of both schools.
   - 2.5 League games take precedence over any tournament or pre-season postponed games.
   - 2.6 A roster of both teams will be presented to the desk 15 minutes before the start of each game.

3. **RULES**
   - 3.1 Contests will be conducted according to the rules of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Association, to be superseded by the CIF, NCS, and DAL rules and guidelines.
   - 3.2 Coaches have the option of moving eligible players up and or down between the JV and Varsity levels on the day of a game allowing athletes to play only one level per day
   - 3.3 Seniors are prohibited from playing at the JV level unless there is approval from the Principals Council or their designees.
   - 3.4 In the event of an injury or concussion, the school's athletic trainer or the opponent's athletic trainer, if he/she is the only athletic trainer at the contest, has the authority to determine if a player may continue to play or practice.

4. **EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS**
   - 4.1 As determined by the National Federation of State High School Athletic Association Rule Book
   - 4.2 Ear guards are mandatory.

5. **OFFICIALS**
   - 5.1 The official's association under contract with the DAL shall be used exclusively by all DAL Schools for all home games.
   - 5.2 The host school is responsible for paying the officials.

6. DETERMINATION OF LEAGUE OR DIVISION CHAMPIONS
   - 6.1 League or Division Champion:
     - 6.1.2 The League or Division Champion will be the team with the best overall record over the course of the league or division schedule.
     - 6.1.3 If there is a tie for first place, the tied teams will be Co-Champions.
     - 6.1.4 Ties, for the purposes of NCS qualification and DAL Tournament Seeding (If Applicable), will be resolved using the tie-breaking criteria. (See 6.2)
   - 6.2 Criteria used to break ties:
     1. Head to Head.
     2. Ladder Finish. Which is defined as comparing each team's record against the other teams in the league based on the league schedule, starting with the highest ranked team and continuing down the ladder until the tie is broken.
     3. In a 3 way tie (or more) once the initial tie is broken, it will revert back to the 1st tiebreaker with the remaining schools.
     4. Lottery. If the coach or designee is not present at the pre-season coaches meeting, that school will receive the last number. If there are more than one coach or designee absent, the commissioner will draw numbers for the absentees after the initial lottery.

7. NCS QUALIFYING AND AT LARGE REPRESENTATION

7.1 The automatic representative to NCS will be the League/Division Champion OR the winner of the end of season league tournament if the division has one..

7.2 Any other qualified team may apply for an NCS At-Large Berth.

8. DAL DIVISION TOURNAMENTS

8.1 At the option of the coaches, and with approval from the Principals Council, one or both divisions may hold Division Tournaments, which will not count towards the total games played. If the division has a tournament the winner will be the automatic representative to NCS.

9. MVP AND ALL LEAGUE SELECTION PROCESS

9.1. There will be 1 Most Valuable Player and 1 Most Valuable Goalkeeper selected from each division.

9.1.1. These votes will be done first.

9.1.2. Coaches **CAN** nominate their own player for MVP. Each coach will receive an opportunity to explain their nomination.

9.1.3 Coaches **CAN** vote for their own player for MVP.

9.1.4. If there is a tie in MVP voting, the tie is attempted to be broken once. If then still a tie, Co-MVPs will be named. If there are Co-MVPS, one spot will be taken away from the 1st Team All-League.

9.1.5. MVP is **SEPARATE** from 1st Team All-League, the MVP(s) will not be on the 1st Team All-League list.

9.2. Coaches will receive a number of All-League Nominations based upon their finish in league play. Ties in order of finish will result in that amount of nominations being split between the tied teams.

9.2.1. 1st Place = 7 Nominations
2nd Place = 6 Nominations
3rd-4th Place = 5 Nominations
5th-6th Place = 3 Nominations

9.3. Nominations must be submitted digitally **BEFORE** the postseason meeting.

9.4. Each All-League team will consist of 8 players total. The teams will be composed of the top players in the league as voted on by the coaches, regardless of position. The voting process for the teams will take place as follows:

9.4.1. Coaches will receive 8 votes for each All-League Team. Coaches **CANNOT** vote for their own players. Coaches **MUST** use all of their votes.

9.4.2. Coaches will vote for 1st Team All-League, this will be done by a secret ballot process. Once the results are tabulated, the 8 athletes who receive the most votes will be taken off of the nomination list and be placed on 1st Team All-League. Coaches will then conduct a new vote for 2nd Team All-League based on the remaining names, none of the votes from the first round of voting will carry over towards the second round.

9.4.3. If there is a two-way tie for the last spot of an All-League Team, an additional selection will be added to that team. If there is a three-way or more tie for the last spot, the coaches will revote between those tied players for the last spot.

9.4.4. If an athlete receives at least one vote throughout this process, they will be placed on the Honorable Mention List.

9.4.5. After the voting process has been completed, If they choose to, each coach can also add one more athlete to the Honorable Mention List. The Honorable Mention List is not published by the DAL.

9.4.6. If a school is not represented at the postseason meeting, their nominations will be taken off of the list for voting. However, the present schools can have a roundtable discussion BEFORE the voting process begins and elect any member of that school's nominations to an All DAL team. This is up to the discretion of the schools present and would require a majority vote. These elections are **NOT** in addition to the maximum number for each All-League Team, they would be taking a spot that could have been given to another athlete from a school that is present at the meeting.

9.5. Any athlete who cannot finish the season because they are deemed academically or behaviorally ineligible at their school will not be eligible for All-League consideration.