



# 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: April 13, 2023**

### 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will be conducted according to the rules of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Association, to be superseded by the CIF, NCS, and DAL rules and guidelines.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 tiebreaker.
- 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.

**9. ALL LEAGUE SELECTIONS**

- 9.1 The coaches from each Division will select an all-league boys and girls team at the end of the season during the postseason.
- 9.2 Coaches may not vote for their own players.
- 9.3 The Water Polo All League Teams for each Division will consist of:
  - 1 MVP;
  - 1 Goalkeeper;
  - Up to 9 first team players;
  - 9 second team players plus 1 goalkeeper;
  - 1 Honorable Mention per School.
- 9.4 Any athlete who is deemed academically or behaviorally ineligible at their school will not be eligible for all-league consideration. Athletes who are ejected twice during the season under the NCS ejection policy will not be eligible for all-league consideration.