

**Information Handbook**

**Introduction**

Welcome to the Melbourne Collegians Water Polo Club. Melbourne Collegians Water Polo Club (MCWPC) was established in 1894 and is one of the oldest, largest and most successful Water Polo Clubs in Victoria, Australia. The MCWPC has around 250 registered players and fields a number of teams from under 12 through to senior men and women that compete in the competitions run by Water Polo Victoria. We also run introductory programs that are fun and skill based for younger players.

MCWPC has a rich and successful history and has fostered the development of junior players who have progressed to playing at State and National levels. The program exposes young players to quality coaching and the opportunity to compete in tournaments, national club championships and international tours.

Our program’s strong reputation is as much about our culture and values as it is about players opportunities and development as well as having fun and forming life- long friendships through water polo. Our community is competitive, team orientated and supportive.

**Mission**

The mission of the Melbourne Collegians Water Polo club is to provide a welcome and mentoring environment for all members, to provide opportunity, to offer the highest quality service, with enthusiasm from coaches who inspire ambition, respect and a competitive spirit at all levels of competition.

**Values**

**Mentoring**

MCWPC aims to provide a pathway to assist all members, starting at an early age, to develop playing, leadership, coaching, refereeing and mentoring skills.

**Opportunity**

MCWPC aims to provide opportunity for members of all abilities, promoting participation and enjoyment at the junior level, skill development at the intermediate level and elite training at the senior level.

**Quality**

MCWPC aims to provide the highest quality Water Polo programme in Victoria.

**Enthusiasm**

MCWPC aims to utilise enthusiastic and experienced coaches dedicated to providing the best instruction available.

**Ambition**

MCWPC aims to provide an environment for members to maximise their potential.

**Respect**

MCWPC aims to create a culture of respect for opponents, game officials and fellow club members. Teaching and demonstrating sportsmanship and infusing the obligation for one to abide by the rules of the game.

**Competitive**

MCWPC aims to be competitive at Club, State and National level water polo events for both men and women of all ages within a culture of team work and a commitment to a team based environment. To perpetuate a legacy of members achieving their goals.

**Information Handbook**

The following document provides an overview of the MCWPC program.

1. **Water Polo Victoria Competitions**

MCWPC fields teams and competes in competitions conducted by Water Polo Victoria.

Water Polo Victoria have a website that all players and families are encourages to view regularly. Information on the website includes fixtures, results and announcements. Registration can also completed via the WPV website.

Water Polo Victoria conduct the following competitions;

**Sub Junior** **Competitions** –12 and under mixed, 14 and under Girls and 14 and under Boys which commences in Term 4 with a break over the Christmas holidays and concludes in Term 1 of the following year.

**Winter Competition** – conducted during Term 2 and is a relatively short season with competitions for Youth Boys and Girls (16 and under), Junior Men and Women (18 and under) and State League Competitions catering for elite and social players.

**State Championships –** conducted during Terms 3 and 4 with competitions for Youth Boys and Girls (16 and under), Junior Men and Women (18 and under) and State League Competitions catering for elite and social players.

Water Polo Victoria determines age group eligibility based on the year the athlete is born.

**Further information can be found at the Water Polo Victoria website at** [**www.vicwaterpolo.com.au**](http://www.vicwaterpolo.com.au)

1. **MCWPC Board**

The MCWPC is managed by a Board consistent with the MCWPC Constitution. The MCWPC Board is responsible for all major administrative activities of the MCWPC, including planning, governance and compliance with all rules, regulations and policies. The term of each MCWPC Board member is 12 months and Board appointments are made at the AGM each year. Information about the Board, including contact information, is available at [www.mcwaterpolo.com](http://www.mcwaterpolo.com)

MCWPC encourages all parents and guardians to become actively involved in the program in some way. If you are interested in becoming a future member of the MCWPC Board, please contact the President Lyn Celotti. If you to become involved as a volunteer (coach, manager, fundraising) please make contact with the MCWPC Secretary.

1. **MCWPC Website**

The MCWPC website includes a range of information including:

* Club News
* Governance and Policy
* Athlete Development
* Training Schedule
* Photo Gallery
* Information Handbook
* Forms
* Merchandise

1. **MCWPC Coaches**

MCWPC Coach profiles can be found on the MCWPC website at [www.mcwaterpolo.com](http://www.mcwaterpolo.com).

1. **MCWPC Teams**

MCWPC has teams playing at all levels of the Water Polo Victoria Competitions. We currently have the following teams registered;

**Sub-Junior – played on a Sunday**

12 and under Mixed –including one all girls team

14 and under Boys A

14 and under Boys B

14 and under Girls

**Winter Competition/State Championships**

**Women – played on a Tuesday evening at MSAC or Melbourne High School**

WSL1

WSL2

Junior Women

Youth Girls

**State Championships**

**Men – played on a Wednesday or Thursday evening at MSAC or Melbourne High School**

MSL1

MSL 2

MSL3

MSL4

MSL5

MSL6

MSL7

Junior Men

Youth Boys A

Youth Boys B

Teams generally have a maximum of 13 players unless in exceptional circumstances where there are more than enough players for one team and not enough for two teams. In this case a squad will be run for each age group and teams are selected on a weekly basis and players may be rostered off. Where possible, Coaches and Team Managers will try and give parents, guardians and players the opportunity to advise in advance any time of unavailability to ensure that any games missed are counted as games rostered off. An accurate record of player selection must be kept, including dates when players were rostered off.

MCWPC reserves the right to organise teams and players to the best of its ability to provide an environment in which they can be competitive and continue to develop skills.

The total number of teams in each of the competitions will be determined season to season based on the availability of coaches and the number of available players at the appropriate age and ability level.

1. **MCWPC Team Selection and Rotation Policy**

The MCWPC Team Selection policy for Water Polo Victoria competitions, tournaments and National Club Championships can be found on the MCWPC website at www.mcwaterpolo.com

Game time is at the discretion of the coach based on training attendance, attitude, playing ability, swim fitness and team balance. Further information about the MCWPC Rotation policy can be found at [www.mcwaterpolo.com](http://www.mcwaterpolo.com).

1. **Training**

Training attendance is expected. The training schedule is available on the MCWPC website and will also be communicated by email and other social media.

MCWPC uses the following venues for training;

Xavier College

135 Barkers Road Kew

Trinity College

40 Charles Street Kew

Melbourne High School

Forrest Hill, South Yarra

Wesley College

577 St Kilda Road, Melbourne

1. **Travel and Tournaments**

MCWPC has regularly entered teams and has supported the following events;

* Water Polo Australia National Club Championships
* Canberra Cup
* Tri-State Tournament, Geelong
* Ballarat Junior Water Polo Tournament
* Training camps with UWA City Beach (Perth), Adelaide Jets (SA), Hunter Hurricanes (Newcastle, NSW), Cronulla (NSW), Brisbane Barracudas (QLD) and Mermaids (QLD)
* Water Polo Tours to Montenegro (boys) and Greece (girls)

1. **Player and Family Commitment**

MCWPC encourages all players to strive for personal improvement as well as contributing to team performance. We aim to foster a strong commitment to the values of respect, sportsmanship, team spirit and fair play. Commitment to our program and to our values by players, with the support of their parent and guardians, is essential to the success of the MCWPC program.

Parents, guardians and players are encouraged to understand and accept the commitment expected as a valued member of a team. The key principles of this commitment are:

* Adherence to Codes of Conduct
* Coaching decisions are to be respected; any communication from parents/guardians must follow prescribed guidelines and procedures. Further information can be found at [www.mcwaterpolo.com](http://www.mcwaterpolo.com)
* Policies regarding player selections will not be compromised
* Registration and payment of fees is compulsory
* Players are expected to arrive at least 20 minutes before games so that warm up drills, coach briefing and player sign in can take place
* Players are requested to advise Coaches and Team Managers if they will not be attending training or games.
* Players are expected to wear MCWPC official bathers when playing in official games
* It is a condition of registration that parents and guardians agree to undertake specific volunteer activities such as table duty or Team Management on a rostered basis.

1. **Code of Conduct**

MCWPC is committed to the highest standards of behaviour from players, coaches, officials, parents and supporters. Every coach, players, official must sign and accept the MCWPC’s Code of Conduct at the time of registration. The MCWPC Code of Conduct is consistent with the Water Polo Victoria and Water Polo Australia Code of Conduct’s which are available at the following websites.

Melbourne Collegians Water Polo Club www.mcwaterpolo.com

Water Polo Victoria www.vicwaterpolo.com.au

Water Polo Australia [www.waterpoloaustralia.com.au](http://www.waterpoloaustralia.com.au)

1. **Grievance Procedure**

At times parents/guardians or players may have issues of concern. The MCWPC Board has addressed a number of issues that they believe are significant in the coaching and management of players. This has resulted in the production of policies and procedures associated with team selection, player rotation, Code of Conduct and Travelling Team guidelines. These policies and guidelines are available on the MCWPC website and www.mcwaterpolo.com

1. **Player Registration and Registration Fees**

**How do I register?**

**Please contact club registrar Lisa Tadgell for details**

**How much does it cost?**

**Fees are currently set for the year 1st July to 30 June and include one training session per week, game fees and pool entry. There is also a compulsory WPV fee that is part of the registration.**

**Other programs such as holiday programs, MCAD (Melbourne Collegians Athlete Development Program), player trips and competitions (other than the sub junior, Winter comp and State Championships) are an additional cost.**

All new and returning players are expected to register for the new season on or before the first game. This includes payment of the Registration fees on or before the first game. Priority in team allocation will be given to those who register by the nominated day.

Players who register after the nominated day will go onto a waiting list where they will only be added to a team is there is a position available. Players will be prioritised on the waiting list in order of registration forms and payment being received.

1. **Uniform**

Wearing the MCWPC with pride is an important part of presenting a professional club image in and out of the pool and maintaining a strong sense of club identity.

MCWPC will hold a series of uniform sizing and order days. These days will be communicated by email and social media and included in our calendar of events on the MCWPC website.

The MCWPC Uniform comprises:

Compulsory items

* MCWPC Bathers – men’s and women’s
* MCWPC Hoodie
* MCWPC Surf T-shirt – yellow or white
* MCWPC silicon swim caps – blue, yellow, red
* Mouthguard

Optional Items

* MCWPC Long Sleeve T-shirt – white
* MCWPC cap
* MCWPC Backpack