

Water Polo West Concussion Policy

Date of Approval: August 11, 2025

Policy Statement

Water Polo West (WPW) recognizes that participation in the sport of water polo includes some inherent risk of head injuries and concussions. WPW is dedicated to increasing concussion awareness among our Member Clubs and Registrants, as a measure to both prevent the occurrence of concussions and mitigate the short-term and long-term consequences of concussions. We are fully committed to ensuring the health, safety and well-being of water polo participants in British Columbia (BC).

Definitions

The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:

- **“Activity”** means all WPW or Member Club business and/or activities;
- **“Board”** means the Board of Directors for WPW
- **“Suspected Concussion”** means the recognition that an individual appears to have either experienced an injury or impact that may result in a concussion or who is exhibiting unusual behaviour that may be the result of a concussion.
- **“Sport-Related Concussion (SRC)”** means a traumatic brain injury induced by biomechanical forces. Several common features that may be used to define the nature of a SRC may include:
 - i. Caused either by a direct blow to the head, face, neck or elsewhere on the body with an impulsive force transmitted to the head.
 - ii. Typically results in the rapid onset of short-lived impairment of neurological function that resolves spontaneously. However, in some cases, signs and symptoms evolve over a number of minutes to hours.
 - iii. May result in neuropathological changes, but the acute clinical signs and symptoms largely reflect a functional disturbance rather than a structural injury and, as such, no abnormality may be visibly apparent.
 - iv. Results in a range of clinical signs and symptoms that may or may not involve loss of consciousness. Resolution of the clinical and cognitive features typically follows a sequential course. However, in some case symptoms may be prolonged.
- **“Date of Approval”** means as stated on Page 1 of this Policy;
- **“including”** means including but not limited to;
- **“Policy”** means this Concussion Policy;
- **“Member Clubs”** refers to a Club affiliated with WPW that is responsible for the management of water polo within the Province of BC
- **“Registrants”** means athletes, coaches, officials, clubs, administrative staff, and volunteers who are registered with WPW

- “**Responsible Subcommittee**” means as stated on Page 1 of the Policy;
- “**WPW**” means Water Polo West Association
- “**WPC**” means Water Polo Canada

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to contribute to a safe and positive environment in the sport of water polo through awareness and application of [WPCs concussion protocol](#) and evidence-based resources to recognize, prevent, monitor and manage concussion injuries.

Application

This Policy applies to all Registrants. Failure to abide by WPC’s concussion protocol may result in disciplinary action in accordance with WPW’s *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

WPW’s staff, in conjunction with Water Polo Canada (WPC) and industry experts, including Parachute Canada, will maintain a suite of concussion resources that are regularly updated based on emerging evidence and best practices.

WPC’s concussion protocol will be communicated, implemented and enforced in WPW’s workplaces, external locations in BC at events and activities sanctioned by WPW.

References and Resources

The following references were consulted and incorporated into WPW’s Concussion Policy:

- [WPC’s Concussion Policy](#)
- [WPC’s Concussion Protocol](#) *Note additional resources within this document.

Communication

WPW will ensure a current version of the Policy is publicized on its organization’s website within a reasonable time following the Date of Approval, and WPW will use reasonable efforts to ensure that this Policy is communicated to those who will be responsible for upholding it as well as those who will be responsible for its implementation.

Protocol documents will be updated regularly and made available as resources on WPW’s website. WPW will also distribute its Concussion Protocol to Member Clubs each time a new version is released.

Review and Approval

This Policy will be effective as of the Date of Approval following approval by the WPW Board and will be reviewed by the Responsible Subcommittee every two years.