

**BOYS & GIRLS WATER POLO BY-LAWS**

**I. OFFICIAL RULES**

- A. The National Federation of State School Association (NFHS) Rules for Boys and Girls Competition shall be followed.
- B. The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) rules for Boys and Girls competition shall be followed.
- C. The Central Coast Section (CCS) rules for Boys and Girls Competition shall be followed.
- D. The Blossom Valley Athletic League (BVAL) rules for Boys and Girls shall be followed.

**II. STARTING DATE AND PRACTICE**

- A. Organized practice shall not begin prior to the starting date assigned to all teams by the Central Coast Section (CCS).
- B. Organized practice shall be defined as a practice which is attended by the coach and players at which the coach directs, instructs and drills the player, players and/or the team.
- C. Days of the week that practice may be held will follow the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) rules and the general by-laws of the Blossom Valley Athletic League. Saturday practices are allowed. (11/28/07)

**III. OFFICIAL COMPETITION**

- A. Official competition shall be conducted in the Varsity and Junior Varsity classifications for girls and Varsity and Junior Varsity for boys. (11/17/06)
- B. A Junior Varsity team may be composed of athletes that are freshmen, sophomores or juniors. No seniors will be allowed on the Junior Varsity team.
- C. For LEAGUE PLAY, once an athlete has competed in a LEAGUE GAME at the VARSITY LEVEL, he/she CAN NO LONGER compete at the JV LEVEL in a LEAGUE GAME.
- D. For TOURNAMENT PLAY, a JV ATHLETE may participate at the VARSITY LEVEL and return to the JV LEVEL for either TOURNAMENT PLAY or a LEAGUE GAME. All VARSITY ATHLETES may participate in JV TOURNAMENT play as long as they are NOT seniors.
- E. As per CCS by laws governing water polo, no player may exceed 24 games and two scrimmages, NOT including the league tournament and CCS championship tournament, during the water polo season.
- F. Any player who receives a misconduct ejection shall be excluded from participating in the next game following the misconduct ejection.
  - 1. After an athlete receives his/her first misconduct ejection of the season, each subsequent misconduct ejection will result in the athlete being excluded from participating in the next three (3) games.
  - 2. The three games the athlete is excluded from may occur during tournament play and / or league play, but MUST be the next three games after the game in which the misconduct ejection was earned. Scrimmages DO NOT count towards the

three game exclusion.

- a. According to the NFHS rules, misconduct includes the following actions
    - i. obscene, abusive and/or threatening language or gestures
    - ii. persistent foul play and/or overly aggressive fouls
    - iii. to refuse obedience or to show disrespect to a referee or official (NFHS 21.10.1 p. 133-135)
- G. Any player who receives his/her second brutality ejection (Flagrant Misconduct NFHS 21.11.1–21.11.10 pp. 137-138) of the season, shall be excluded from participating in the remainder of that sport season, through the conclusion of all C.C.S play.
1. Any player ejected from any CCS Play-off contest for misconduct or flagrant misconduct shall be excluded from participating in the remainder of the playoff contests in that sport during that season and his/her team shall be subject to further sanctions, as deemed appropriate by the CCS Commissioner.
  2. If the CCS Playoff contest from which the player was ejected is the last contest of the year for that team, the disqualified player shall also be ineligible for at least his/her team's first (1st) regularly scheduled league contest the following year.
  3. Official (s) ejecting the player will automatically be required to submit a written report to the CCS Commissioner.
  4. Any school principal may appeal the disqualification to the CCS Commissioner if they believe that the student was ejected due to an error in identification or do not believe the student was ejected as a result of flagrant misconduct or unsportsmanlike behavior. The CCS Commissioner, in conjunction with the League Commissioner for that school, shall review the case and make a final determination or does. (CCS VII.2.A p.2)
- H. Deck changing is *NOT* allowed at the competition venue. This will be considered *Unsportsmanlike Conduct* (a misconduct ejection) and the athlete(s) shall be awarded a misconduct ejection and subject to the punishments outlined in the BVAL bylaws section III F. Changing should be done in the designated areas. (11/02/07)

#### **IV. MEET LIMITATIONS**

- A. No team or player, Varsity or Junior Varsity shall exceed 24 contests and 2 scrimmages per season prior to the League Championships. (scrimmages per CCS by-laws) (12/2009)
- B. A scrimmage is defined as a practice or athletic exhibition wherein teams from different schools participate and compete without the benefit of officials and without regard to score and /or time period.
- C. Each team is allowed by C.C.S. two scrimmages that do not count against the 24-game limit. After using those scrimmages, all additional scrimmages shall count as a game and shall be included in a team's game limit. (11/20/07)
- D. Tournament play: The game count in each tournament will follow the guidelines established by the C.C.S by-laws.

#### **V. DUAL MEET REGULATIONS**

- A. The Varsity will play 7-minute quarters and the girls' JV & boys' JV will play 6-minute quarters. (12/02/11)

- B. The recommended game ball is any regulation size ball that is recommended by the National Federation and CIF – CCS.
- C. CAPS: There will be no forfeit of games for the improper color or construction of caps, including numbering, without prior approval of the BVAL Executive Board.
- D. Swim Caps: There will be no forfeit of games for the improper color or construction of swim caps without prior approval of the BVAL Executive Board.
- E. *Admission can be charged for league matches.*
  - 1. *Each school is permitted up to three (3) desk workers, admission free, for each scheduled league contest for the purpose of running the desk. (11/17/16)*

**VI. SCHEDULE**

- A. A round robin schedule will be played by both the Varsity and Junior Varsity teams in Mt. Hamilton division for boys and girls. A double round robin will be played for Santa Teresa division for both boys and girls. (5/26/05)
- ~~B. Double round robin will be played for all divisions, both boys and girls, at all levels (JV/VARSITY) Saturday games are acceptable. (11/17/16) (11/8/17)~~

**VII. VARSITY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP (A League champion shall be determined by the following point system)**

- A. Points for round robin competition wins.
  - 1. One (1) point for each round robin win in both the MH & ST divisions. 11/17/06
- B. League champion shall be determined by results from the round robin play and the results of the league tournament for the Mt. Hamilton Division. (11/12/10)
- C. Points for league playoff wins. Points will be adjusted by the number of teams in the league for the Santa Teresa Division. (11/12/10)
  - 1. Six (6) points for first place
  - Five (5) points for second place
  - Four (4) points for third place
  - Three (3) points for fourth place
  - Two (2) points for fifth place
  - One (1) point for sixth place (11/17/06)
- D. If there is a tie, the team placing highest in the League tournament will be the league champion. (11/17/06)
- E. In the second round of the tournament the highest Santa Teresa Division team plays the lowest Mt. Hamilton Division team. The top four (4) teams from this tournament will advance and receive the automatic CCS qualifying berths. (12/02/11)

**VIII. JUNIOR VARSITY JUNIOR VARSITY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP**

- A. League championship shall be determined by the results of the dual meet season. (11/06)

**IX. CCS LEAGUE PLACEMENT**

- A. The order of seeding placement for the CCS post-season tournament shall be based on the system established by CCS.

**X. AWARDS / ALL-LEAGUE SELECTION**

- A. Championship certificates shall be given to each member of the championship team at both the Varsity and Junior Varsity levels provided four (4) schools or more participated. (12/1/05)
  
- B. In addition, the Varsity will receive five (5) special recognition awards: MVP, SR. , JR., Soph, Freshman of the year and coach of the year.
  - 1. All coaches present at the all-league meeting will vote on the 5 special awards. (11/17/06)
  - 2. Special awards are limited to 5 (MVP, SR, JR, SO and FR of the year) and are considered over and above the all-league team and are automatically considered to be on the 1<sup>st</sup> team all-league and do not need to be listed.
  - 3. In the case of a tie in the league standings, extra certificates will be provided to equal the exact finish amount.
    - a. i.e.: if 2 teams tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, both teams will receive the number of all-league certificates that the formula states the 2<sup>nd</sup> place should receive.
  - 4. Honorable mention awards will be pre-printed (with “Honorable Mention”) and be limited to 2 per school TOTAL (these will not be recorded by the BVAL)
  - 5. If Co-MVP, Co-SR, etc., you must give up one of your remaining special awards.
    - a. You may not give up an all-league spot for a Co-spot.
  
- C. Water Polo (Boys’ & Girls’) - 9 All-League certificates (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> team)

	<b>First Team</b>	<b>Second Team</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> place</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> place</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> place</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> place</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> place</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> place</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 (12/02/11)</b>

**XI. VARSITY PLAYOFFS**

- A. At the pre-season meeting, ONE school will be selected to run the league championship tournament for both boys and girls divisions. This entails removing lane lines, setting up lines, providing working clocks, timers, providing cages if necessary, concessions and workers, tear down and putting everything away, gate personell for the duration of the trials/final. These coaches will coordinate with the super-site host schools athletic director. This responsibility will rotate every year just like the wrestling finals. (11/17/14)
  
- B. The playoffs shall normally be scheduled one week after the last regular season game.
  
- C. There will be an elimination BVAL finals tournament. The following teams will participate:
  - 1) ***ALL Mt. Hamilton Division members, seeded by order of finish***
  - 2) ***Santa Teresa Division champion, seeded after the Mt. Hamilton teams***
  - 3) ***If there is not 8 teams seeded, the Santa Teresa Division teams will fill in the remaining seeds, in order of finish. (8/15/18)***
  
- D. Mt. Hamilton and Santa Teresa Divisions seeding and tiebreakers (12/09)
  - 1. Head to head
  - 2. Goals allowed differential in games between tied teams
  - 3. Win and loss records between any league teams and then CCS common opponents
  - 4. In all tie cases the year - end tournament’s higher placer will move on as the entry

to the MH tournament or as the CCS qualifiers.

E. **GAME TEAMS**

<b>1</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> seed</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> seed</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> seed</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> seed</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> seed</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> seed</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> seed</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> seed</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> seed</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>lowest seeded team that advances</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> seed</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>lowest seeded team that advances</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> seed</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>second lowest seeded team that advances</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> seed</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>second lowest seeded team that advances</b>

F. In the 1st round the winners will advance and the losers will be eliminated.

G. In the semi finals the winner will advance to the championship game and the losers will advance to the playoff games for third (3rd) and fourth (4th) place in the tournament in order to determine which teams advance to the CCS tournament. (11/17/06)

H. If a STAL teams wins it's games in the MHAL tournament their place in the tournament does not count in point totals for the MHAL placing. Everyone in the MHAL would just move up into the place they finish. However, if the STAL League team finishes in one of the top four spots in the MHAL League Championship Tournament, then that STAL team has qualified for the CCS Championship Tournament. (11/17/06)

I. Admission will be charged for League Finals - Please see constitution for fees. (4-99)

**XII. METHOD FOR BREAKING TIES IN ROUND ROBIN STANDINGS**

A. Head to head

B. Goals allowed differential in games between tied teams

C. Goals allowed in league competition.

D. In all cases the year-end tournaments higher placer will move on as the entry to the MH division tournament

E. In all cases the MHAL year-end tournaments higher placer will move on as the entry as the CCS qualifiers. (11/17/06)

F. More than two teams tied for the same place see XII A- C.