

## **Lamorinda Water Polo Update**

Welcome to the 12<sup>th</sup> summer season for Lamorinda Water Polo. As many of you know, the summer sessions are busy times in our sport with many significant tournaments and functions culminating in US Water Polo's National Junior Olympics. This summer is no different. We have initiated new programs such as Splash Ball and the Beginner/Novice group as well as a girls program that is thriving under Head Coach Trevor Rose. Our competitive teams will once again be busy at select tournaments like the US Club Championships and Junior Olympics as well as local tournaments in Livermore and West Valley for select age groups. We are looking at hosting a Tuesday night series against local teams to augment tournament play to better prepare our club for the qualification and championship season. To help us climb the ladder of success, LWP is proud to have enlisted senior coaches who have many years of experience with our kids and in the sport. Led by Executive Head Coach Boyd Lachance and Director of Age Group Development Derek Schaufler, we welcome back Boys coaches Trevor Wagner (12's), Eldad Hazor (14's), Clarke Tamariki (16's), and Kevin Witt (18's) as head coaches. Also returning this summer are Joey Estrada (18's) and Dan Reyes (16's). We also welcome 7 LWP Alumni and current collegiate players as asst. coaches. Once again anchoring the depth of talent and teaching our most critical program is Bill Brown, who will head up the Novice/Beginner group, assist in the development of Splash Ball, and again offer the Bill Brown Water Polo Camps in June. Bill also manages the numerous junior coaches we have helping our younger age groups. All told, we have aligned our club with the deepest and most experienced group of coaches in our history.

The Board of LWP has been challenged with offering the best program possible while keeping costs under control. We have had successful, targeted fundraising events led by Chris Watson that allowed us to purchase our storage shed at Soda Center and to develop our new website, incredibly managed by Chris McCracken. However with the growth of our programs, it has become necessary to increase pool time, purchase more equipment, hire more coaching staff and increase our tournament options. While the Board has attempted to keep fees at levels of years past, these additional costs necessitate an increase in seasonal fees for all age groups this summer. We have instituted Paypal to facilitate record keeping and tax preparation and reduce the need for a full time bookkeeper, but fees for professional services and web management add to our expenses more each year. Our treasurer, Angie Ferrif, has been terrific managing our finances, but with over 30 coaches sending in time sheets, the job has become incredibly challenging. She has recently provided the Board with a 3 year plan that attempts to maintain fees at constant levels while continuing the outstanding growth we've seen in the last 12 years, but many hurdles lie ahead. As an all volunteer Board, we have tried to direct the club in a fiscally prudent fashion while continuing to offer the highest quality water polo programs in all age groups. We are constantly entertaining ideas to help finance our growth and offer all our kids the best opportunity to achieve success in and out of the pool while maintaining a fee structure that we can all support in these difficult times. With all those issues pressuring our financial structure, when we compare local age group programs, we find our value proposition is intact.

680 Water Polo	\$9.50-\$10 per hour of practice
Diablo Water Polo	\$10.50-\$12 per hour of practice
Stanford Water Polo	\$9.25-10.50 per hour of practice
LWP	\$9.40-\$11.00 per hour of practice.

We constantly monitor our competition to determine where we can improve and Executive Head Coach Boyd Lachance, as one of US Water Polo's National Team coaches, is at the forefront of coach and player development in our country. Our senior team sponsorship enables Lamorinda Water Polo to be internationally recognized as a Super Club. Our junior coach program has offered younger players invaluable in-the-water instruction with older peers while providing our older players a chance to earn some money and grow as individuals. These characteristics set us apart from our local competitors.

Finally, as we enter the most competitive of our 4 seasons of club water polo, I would like to ask for your help in maintaining LWP's high standing in our sport. Please volunteer when we ask for help hosting tournaments as the experience that visiting parents and clubs have while at one of our events reflects on our club as a whole. We have two major events this summer which our club is responsible for managing. The inaugural State Cup for 16 and 18 boys, which will be held on Memorial Day weekend and the US Club Championships for 12 and 14 boys which will be held July 1-3. These two high quality tournaments will be hosted at our local pools and we want to offer the best experience for the teams participating as we can. Chris McCracken has diligently worked to put together an on-line, sign up document that will be sent out very soon. Please do your part to help support our efforts in managing these critical tournaments.

In conclusion, I want to thank all our hardworking AGCs; Noel Murphy, Bill Bush, Leann Foster, Rob Fuller and Jeanne Barker, who keep our age groups informed and functioning throughout the water polo seasons. I am sure they would welcome additional help and/ or a successor, so please consider helping out. Also, please utilize our website, [www.lamorindawaterpolo.org](http://www.lamorindawaterpolo.org) to stay abreast of all that's happening with LWP.

Thank you all for your continued support of Lamorinda Water Polo and I look forward to following the successes of our teams this summer.

John Schnugg  
On behalf of the Board of Directors