



**USA Water Polo
2008 National Junior Olympics
Boy's Competition, July 26-29, 2008
Girl's Competition, July 31 – August 3, 2008**

Dear JO Participant,

We are making some exciting changes to the format of this year's 2008 S&R Sport Junior Olympics, and we wanted to share them with you before your summer training begins. Overall, the changes will result in more games, more medal opportunities and the highest level of competition that we have ever offered.

Last fall we convened an event task force that included coaches, club administrators, referees, zone chairs and athletes. The Junior Olympics in particular was the cause of spirited, thoughtful dialogue, including some wonderful ideas from the group that have led us to make some very exciting innovations in this Olympic year.

Under our new competitive model, Day One of the 2008 S&R Junior Olympics will qualify each team for one of two brackets: Platinum or Gold. The Platinum bracket will represent the top 24 teams, and the Gold bracket the second group of 24 teams. This format will allow for a spirited first day of competition, including as many as three games to establish bracketing. Every team will have a chance to play into the top bracket. Day Two, after the brackets have been determined by competition, each team begins competition within their respective bracket with a fresh chance to win. This format will allow us to double the number of JO medal winners and, especially after the first day, better match the competitive level of play. It also means that all of our teams will play more games. To cover officiating of these additional games, entry fees will increase somewhat. In the new format, teams may play up to double the number of games from previous JO's. We believe that all of this added competition will make for a stupendous event.

We also plan to increase the 18U age group to six minute quarters, leaving the other divisions at five minutes. Based on the experience of the 18U coaches, we will consider increasing quarter length for the 16's in 2009. Bear in mind, however, that most teams will play three games on at least two of their competition days—so that everyone's stamina will be tested even at five minutes.

We will also be offering a 10U Co-Ed Exhibition Division during the Girl's JO's from July 31-August 3. Our decision to offer this is in response to our membership wanting more playing opportunities for what has become our fastest growing age group. Understanding that this is a difficult group to travel, we are only offering it as an exhibition. We will consider this age group for future JO's, based on experience and feedback. The maximum teams in this age group will be 24. Allocations will be 2 teams per zone and one additional to SOPAC and Coastal, since they have the most combined girls and boys in this age group.

The allocation tables for the 2008 JO's allow for a maximum of 36 teams in the 12U and under category, 48 teams in the 14U, 16U and 18U. It also shows a minimum of 24 teams in the 12's and 36 teams in the 14's on the entry form as well. If we do not get a maximum of 36 in the 12's or 48 in the 14's, then we will go to the minimum allocation.

Thank you for your participation in the JO's and as a member of USA Water Polo. We are very excited about these new changes, and hope that you will share our enthusiasm and spread the word. We are grateful for your continued contributions to USA Water Polo and the JO's. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. We look forward to another great summer of play.

Preliminary Closing/Zone Qualification Information (Maximum Teams)*									
Zone	12B	14B	16B	18B	12G	14 G	16G	18G	10BG**
Central California	4	5	5	5	4	6	6	6	2
Coastal California	4	8	8	7	4	6	7	7	3
Midwest	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	2
Mountain	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
Northeast	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pacific	4	7	6	6	5	7	7	7	2
Pac. Northwest/Hawaii	3	3	3	4	2	3	4	4	2
Pacific Southwest	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	2
Southeast	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2
Southern Pacific	7	10	10	8	6	9	8	8	3
Southwest	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total	36*	48*	48	48	36*	48*	48	48	24*

* This is if a maximum number enters in this division, if not, we will use the allocation of minimum teams noted below.

**This is an exhibition division of 10 and under co-ed, boys or girls. There is a minimum of 3 girls per team.

Preliminary Closing/Zone Qualification Information (Minimum Teams)*									
Zone	12B	14B	16B	18B	12G	14 G	16G	18G	10BG**
Central California	2	4	5	5	2	4	6	6	2
Coastal California	3	5	8	7	2	4	7	7	3
Midwest	2	3	4	4	2	3	3	3	2
Mountain	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
Northeast	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pacific	2	4	6	6	3	4	7	7	2
Pac. Northwest/Hawaii	2	2	3	4	2	3	4	4	2
Pacific Southwest	2	3	4	4	2	3	4	4	2
Southeast	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	2
Southern Pacific	3	6	10	8	3	5	8	8	3
Southwest	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
Total	24*	36*	48	48	24*	36*	48	48	24*

Teams **MUST** qualify through their zone for the number of slots allotted to their zone. After the Preliminary Closing (May 26 and May 31), a reallocation of unclaimed slots will be made and zones may be awarded additional entries based upon zone membership numbers by December 31, 2007. All Preliminary entries **MUST** be declared to USAWP through your Zone Chair, and the Zone Chair must submit them in ranked order.

Roster Information

All clubs, athletes and team managers must be currently registered with USA Water Polo.

1. *A maximum of fifteen (15) players listed on the Team Roster shall be allowed to compete in each game in the Championship Finals.*
2. *The Final Verified Roster must contain the cap numbers the players will wear throughout the Championship Finals. Cap #1 is the primary goalkeeper; Caps 2-15 are for field players unless there is a substitute goalkeeper who shall wear a red Cap #13, if competing. A player shall not change her cap number during the Championship Finals, except with the permission of a referee and with notification to the secretary. Need caps, [order here](#).*
3. *Players must wear the same cap number designated on the Final Verified Roster throughout the Championships.*
4. *No one is allowed to participate in the Championships unless they are on the Final Verified Roster of up to 15 players, a Head Coach, an Assistant Coach and Team Leader or a second Assistant Coach. These rosters must specify the name of each position for them to sit on the bench during the games.*
5. *Names may be deleted from the Final Verified Roster, but cannot be added after the Final Closing Date.*
6. *If any participant (player, coach, or team manager) has a sanction pending, such information must be provided to USA Water Polo prior to the Final Closing Date.*

The boy's game schedule will be posted on July 18, 2008 and the girl's game schedule will be posted on July 21, 2008. The initial game in this Championship will not start before 8:00AM on the first day, and the final (championship) game will be scheduled to conclude by 8:00PM on the last day. All clubs, athletes and team managers must be currently registered with USA Water Polo; all coaches must be currently registered Coach Members of USA Water Polo.

Equipment

Game balls will be Mikasa W6000 for 18 & U Boys and 16 & U Boys, and Mikasa W6009 for all other divisions. Game balls will be provided, but teams must supply their own warm-up balls and caps (numbered 1-15 per USAWP Playing Rules).

Rules

All games will be played under [USAWP rules](#). Please see the [Conduct of Championships](#) posted at www.usawaterpolo.org for specific information on each National Championship.

All Championships will follow the USA Water Polo Code of Conduct for athletes, coaches and officials.

Please note that a game resulting in a 7 goal lead will result in a running game clock.

Safety

All coaches should have a notebook with medical release forms available at all times for each athlete under the age of 18 on his / her team.