



## WATER POLO RISK ASSESSMENT. TRAINING & MATCHES at Hartham Pool, Hertford. COACH TRANSPORT

Potential Hazard	Who is at risk?	Existing Precautions	Risk with precautions		Personnel Responsible
			Severity of injury	Likelihood	
<b>ACCIDENTS, INCIDENTS &amp; EMERGENCIES</b> Eg Specific incidents as detailed below	Players, officials and spectators	Everyone should be aware of the Club 'Accident & Incident Procedures', & guidance for Club Incident Reporting (eg as on prompt cards), and follow these if an incident occurs. These documents are on Club website.		L	Lead coach, match referee, senior players.
<b>POOLSIDE HAZARDS</b> Wet, Slippery surfaces causing slips.	Players & Officials	Clear instructions to all members never to run on poolside. Valid NPLQ-qualified lifeguards present at all training & matches & will enforce facility NOP.	L/M	L	W Polo session leaders. Facility Lifeguards.
Obstructions poolside causing trips or falls.	Players & Officials	Players' own kit & bags, not to be in walking poolside areas during session. W polo equipment to be stored in & returned to secure area away from poolside.	L/M	L	W Polo session leaders. Facility Lifeguards
<b>EQUIPMENT HAZARDS</b> <b>Goals/Goalposts</b>	Players	Goals and their securing devices checked before use and by referee before matches. Not used if hazardous. Goalposts supported by floats so low risk.	L/M	L	Training session leaders, match referee. Water Polo committee (for procuring repairs)
W Polo balls & protective headgear. If faulty could result in injury during play.	Players	Balls & headgear must comply with British Water Polo & BUCS standards, be appropriate for the age & ability group of player and be in good repair. W Polo committee replace defective equipment as required.	L	L	Session leaders. Water polo committee for procuring new equipment as required and informing centre manager if action is needed by them.
<b>ACTIVITY HAZARDS</b> Injury from jewellery & long finger-nails.	Players	Session leaders insist that jewellery is not worn during sessions and that players' nails are kept shorter than their fingers. Referee checks these before matches.	L	L	Players for complying with the requirement. Session leaders and match referees for checking their compliance.
Muscle injuries	Players	Time given for adequate warm up before training & matches and for cool down afterwards. Lifeguard with valid NPLQ present to deal with injury.	L	L	Session leaders. Players.
Shallow water Diving in causing serious head, neck or back injuries. Jumping in causing back or leg injuries.	Players	Supervision by session leaders & qualified coach always present. Players are reminded of water depth. Only players competent to competitive start (shallow dive) standard to dive in into min. water depth 1.5m. If diving blocks present they should comply with Swim England Technical Rules.. Lifeguard with valid NPLQ always present during session.	L/M	L	Session leaders & w polo coach & lifeguards for ensuring players act in a responsible way appropriate to their ability. Players for behaving sensibly.

Potential Hazard	Who is at risk?	Existing Precautions	Risk with precautions		Personnel Responsible
			Severity of injury	Likelihood	
Injuries from w polo ball impact	Players	Players ensure as best they can that the receiving player is ready to receive the ball. The ball complies with British Water polo standards for size & weight and the regulation water polo hats with protective ear flaps is worn at all times during play. For juniors the ball must be of a weight and composition appropriate for their age/size and skill level.	L	L	Water polo committee for ensuring the correct equipment is available, in good order and replaced when worn. Session leaders and coach for checking before each session or match that equipment is safe and kit in good repair. Players to report any problems with kit to w polo session leader.
Injuries from 'rough' play	Players	Players are made aware of the Rules of the game & reminded to play 'in the spirit of the game'. In games Team Captains are responsible for behaviour of their side's members. Captains communicate with any player who appears to be behaving in a manner that puts others at risk. All players to abide by the referee's decision.  In matches the referee must be qualified & act under British Water Polo and BUCS guidelines.  Lifeguard with a valid NPLQ qualification is present for each match and training session.  Senior players (over 18's) should not be in the water with youngsters. Where there are over 18's playing with U18's care is taken to keep out of arms reach. All sessions closely supervised from poolside at all times.	L/M	L	In the event of injury W polo session leader to file a facility accident report. They should also file a Hertford SC Club accident Report & inform the Club Accident log holder. For this they should follow Hertford SC's Accident & Incident Procedures.
<b>MEDICAL EMERGENCY</b> arising from pre-existing medical condition	Player with medical condition	Players O18y declare medical conditions on their joining forms when they become Club members and are responsible for having their own medication with them and for updating the club & w polo staff with any changes in their condition or medication. For under 18's the responsibility for these matters lies with the parent/guardian.	L	L	Players O18y and parent/guardian of under 18's.
<b>COACH TRANSPORT</b> (not requiring overnight stay) Risk of road accident, accident within coach or incident arising from unexpected delays.	Travelling players & staff	Adhere to Hertford SC's coach travel Risk Assessment Guidelines (as on Club website). Ensure coach & driver comply with required legal regulations & that Club staff accompanying team are DBS checked & attended Safeguarding & one holds Team Manager L1. TM's to be aware of travel route and players' medical status.	L	L	Water Polo staff for maintaining their DBS checks, and Safeguarding & TM attendance requirements. Players O18y for taking with them own medication & updating staff about changes in medical status. Parent/guardian for these responsibilities wrt U18's.
<b>SPREAD OF COVID-19 OR FUTURE PANDEMIC ILLNESS</b>	Players, Coaches & Spectators	Strict adherence to current Government, Swim England, & local guidelines & to Hertford SC's Risk Assessment recommendations in respect of wp training, matches, coach travel, social distancing, the wearing of face-masks, not using changing rooms etc. Any requests for exceptions to be agreed in advance by HSC Welfare Officer.	L/M	L	Hertford SC Pandemic Risk assessors/Welfare officers & water polo officers for preparing RA and implementing recommendations. Session Leaders &/ or water polo coach for ensuring compliance.