

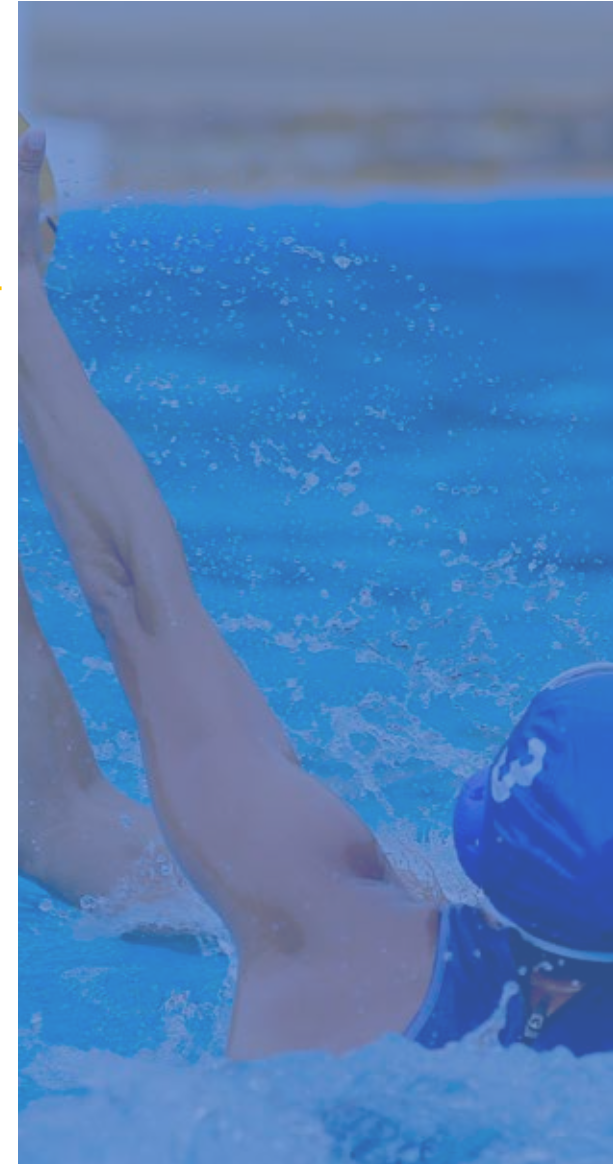


 Water Polo
WEST

Strategic Plan
2023-2027

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LAND.

Acknowledgment.

Water Polo West and its members gratefully acknowledge that we live, work, and play water polo on the traditional and unceded territories of Indigenous Peoples across all regions of British Columbia.

History of Water Polo in BC

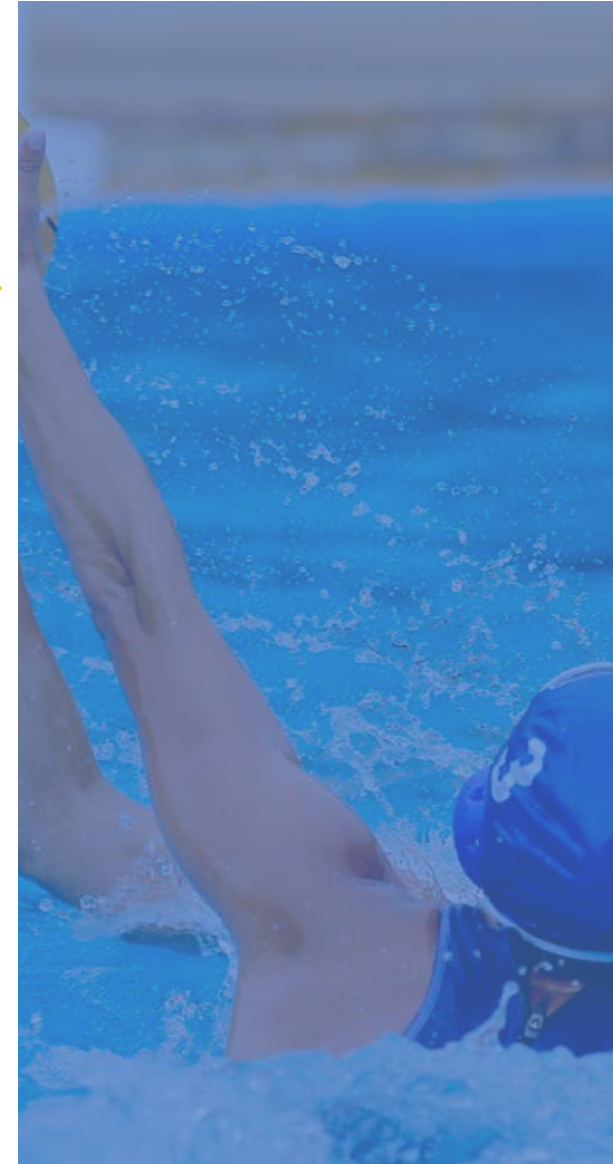
Water polo was first introduced in Canada in 1886 at Lachine Quebec near Montreal in the St. Lawrence River. Canadian men's championships were first held in the Montreal area in the late 1890's. In 1964, the Canadian Water Polo Association was officially founded and had as its first president Frank Medek of Montreal. That year Canada hosted its first truly national club championship, which featured teams from Vancouver, Calgary, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

2018 – Water Polo West is incorporated

2019 – Water Polo Canada acknowledges Water Polo West as the governing body in BC

2019 - ViaSport recognizes Water Polo West as the Provincial Sport Organization

2022 – Team BC enters its first National Championship under the governance of Water Polo West





Our Mission.

To support and grow the sport of water polo across British Columbia.

A photograph of several water polo players in blue caps and swimsuits, looking towards the right. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text 'Our Vision.' is written in yellow, and the vision statement is in white.

Our Vision.

To facilitate a world-class and collaborative water polo community in British Columbia.



Our Values.

- Fair Play: To promote a culture of respect and integrity that elevates the enjoyment and safety of water polo in BC.
- Inclusion: To foster an inclusive and welcoming water polo community in British Columbia that is a safe space for all.
- Accountability: To hold ourselves and our club members, coaches, officials, parents, and everyone involved in the sport accountable for our words and actions in the best interest of the sport.
- Excellence: To champion a standard of organizational and athletic excellence across British Columbia.

Our Role in the Water Polo Community

**Athlete
Development**

**Coach
Development**

**Officials
Development**

**Capacity
Development**

Athlete Development

**Prioritize
Wellbeing**

**Increase
Participation**

**Build
Performance**

**Grow
Diversity**

Athlete Development

Prioritize Wellbeing

- Require concussion training for all parents/guardians (2025/26)
- Require renewal of concussion training for coaches every 2 years (2025/26)
- Perform an audit of Club Criminal Record Checks (2025)
- Require completion of Safe Sport Module by all coaches/volunteers (2025/26)
- Require each club to appoint a volunteer to oversee athlete wellbeing (2026/27)
- Develop Athlete Wellbeing standards for clubs (2025)
- Require Club Directors to complete Commit to Kids training

Athlete Development

Increase Participation

- Incubate new clubs in:
 - Kamloops (2026)
 - Prince George (2026)
 - Nanaimo (2025/26)
 - Victoria (2025/26)
- Track athlete retention rates in existing clubs (2025/26)
- Conduct bi-annual stakeholder survey (2024)

Athlete Development

Build Performance

- Launch Regional Development Centres
 - Kelowna (2025)
 - Victoria (2026/27)
- Update athlete selection policy to ensure transparency in formation of Team BC (2025)
- Hire a full time Technical Director (2025/26)
- Promote Long Term Athlete Development principles to clubs/ community (2025)
- Include advanced coach development sessions at annual coach conference

Athlete Development

Grow Diversity

- Develop and approve Diversity, Equality & Inclusion (DEI) policy (2025)
- Conduct demographics analysis of all registered coaches (2025)
- Develop a strategy for inclusive Water Polo for neurodivergent athletes (2025/26)
- Establish a DEI working group (2025)

Coach Development

**Recruit , Retain
& Train
New Coaches**

**Certify
All Coaches**

**Lead the
Development
of Coaches**

Coach Development

Recruit, Retain & Train New Coaches

- Require new coaches to complete BC Novice Coach Coach Certification or NCCP Intro to Coach (2025)
- Offer novice coach development sessions through NDC-BC (2025/26)
- Offer novice development session through annual coach conference (2025)
- Require clubs to certify a “Technical Lead” using the newly developed Technical Lead Certification (see next page) (2026)

Coach Development

**Certify
All Coaches**

- Appoint Master Coach Educator residing in lower mainland (2025/26)
- Complete development of BC Novice Coach curriculum (spring 2025)
- Form working group to lead technical development (2025/26)
- Deliver “beta” BC Novice Coach Certification (2024)
- Align content of BC Novice Certification wherever possible to NCCP certification
- Approve BC Novice Coach minimum standard for all coaches (2025)
- Make NCCP modules mandatory for all coaches (2025):
 - Safe Sport
 - Practice Planning
 - Making Headway for Sport
- Develop “Technical Lead” certification
- Train/Certify a NCCP Master Coach Educator for each Region (2025/26)

Coach Development

Lead the Development of Coaches

- Host an annual coach conference (2025)
- Develop coach mentors to lead
- Promote benefits of quality coaching to clubs/community (2022)
- Prioritize the development of female coaches for provincial team programs (2024)
- Secure coach development funding through community gaming grants (2024)

Develop Referees & Minor Officials

**Recruit New
Referees &
Minor Officials**

**Certify Referees
& Train Minor
Officials**

**Develop
Referees**

Develop Referees & Minor Officials

Recruit New Referees & Minor Officials

- Develop Minor Officials Instructor Manual (2025)
- Deliver at least one Minor Officials Clinic in all regions each year (2025)
- Development promotional materials for becoming an official (2025)
- Require clubs to appoint a liaison for referee development (2025)

Develop Referees & Minor Officials

Certify Referees & Train Minor Officials

- Require all officials to register in National Database (2024)
- Develop Provincial Referee Certification (2025)
- Recruit/Train/Develop Master Referee Developer (2025/26)

Develop Referees & Minor Officials

Develop Referees

- Develop provincial database for referees and minor officials (2025)
- Establish provincial network of mentors (2026)
- Develop new referee mentorship program (2026)

Capacity Development



**Grow
Funding**

**Incubate
New Clubs &
Leagues**

**Advocate for
New Facilities**

Capacity Development

Grow Funding

- Advocate for equitable funding from the core grant program (2025-26)
- Advocate for Excellence funding from CSI Pacific
- Grow gaming grant to \$100,000 (2027/28)
- Develop sponsorship strategy (2025/26)
 - Secure presenting sponsor for Provincial Championships (2026)
 - Secure multiple category sponsors for Provincial Championships (2026)
- Develop donation development strategy (2025/26)

Capacity Development

Incubate New Clubs & Leagues

- Incubate clubs in Prince George, Kamloops, Nanaimo, & Victoria (2026/27)
- Develop Club Charter Program (2026)
- Require all clubs to adopt new Club Charter Program (2026)
- Facilitate “new league” dialogue between stakeholders/clubs (2025)

Capacity Development

Advocate for New Facilities

- Develop Rationale for New Facilities (2026)
- Develop strategic partnerships with other user groups (2025)
- Support local lobby for 50M Pools Deep/Deep and/or Dive Tanks

Affiliations

