

BY-LAWS of Halifax Wavecutters Aquatic Club (HWAC)

Article I: Name and Purpose

1. The Halifax Wavecutters Aquatic Club is a private club.
2. The purpose of the club is to promote the development of competitive swimming, water polo, and stroke improvement through high-quality training and coaching services.

Article II: Governing Structure

1. **President & Head Coach:** The President is the owner of the club and has the ultimate authority over all club activities. The Head Coach is responsible for overseeing coaching and training activities.
2. **Executive Council:** The executive shall consist of:
 - o Vice President
 - o Manager/Secretary
 - o Other voluntary members as deemed necessary by the President.
3. **Executive Terms:** Executive members are appointed by invitation from the President and serve a minimum term of two (2) years. Their roles are strictly advisory, and they have no control over the club's finances.
4. **Decision Making:** The President retains final decision-making authority, including hiring, finances, and program decisions.

Article III: Membership

1. **Eligibility:** Membership is open to individuals who are reviewed and accepted by the President/Head Coach.
2. **Good Standing:** Members must maintain an active membership with the governing bodies, such as the Provincial Water Polo Association of Nova Scotia or Swim Nova Scotia.
3. **Rights:** Membership grants access to club programs and events, as long as the individual adheres to club rules and maintains good financial standing.
4. **Termination of Membership:** Membership can be revoked without refund for behavior deemed detrimental to the club, including unsportsmanlike conduct, disrespectful behavior, or failure to comply with governing body regulations.

Article IV: Programs and Focus

1. **Competitive Swimming Program:** Focused on training and developing swimmers to compete at various levels, emphasizing endurance, speed, and technique.
2. **Water Polo Program:** Designed to train athletes in the sport of water polo with a focus on team dynamics, strategy, and skill development.
3. **Stroke Improvement Program:** Aimed at helping swimmers of all levels enhance their swimming techniques and improve their strokes.

4. **Goals:** The primary goal of the club is to develop athletes to their highest potential, promoting both water polo and swimming in the province of Nova Scotia.

Article V: Conduct and Discipline

1. Code of Conduct for Athletes:

- All athletes must maintain a high standard of behavior, respect, and sportsmanship.
- Disrespectful behavior toward coaches, teammates, or officials will not be tolerated and can result in disciplinary action.

2. Parent Code of Conduct:

- Parents are expected to support their child's participation in a positive and respectful manner.
- Parents are not allowed on the pool deck during practices unless approved by the Head Coach.
- Negative behavior toward other athletes, coaches, or officials will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action against the parent or their child.

3. Disciplinary Action for Athletes and Parents:

- Warnings, suspensions, or membership revocation can result from:
 - Repeated unsportsmanlike behavior.
 - Disrespect toward coaches or officials.
 - Breaching the Parent Code of Conduct.
- Any serious misconduct may result in immediate suspension, pending investigation.

Article VI: Complaints and Dispute Resolution

1. Complaints Process:

- Complaints regarding club operations, coaching, or member behavior must be submitted in writing to the Manager/Secretary.
- The complaint will be reviewed by the Executive Council and Head Coach, who will investigate the matter and propose a resolution.

2. Dispute Resolution:

- In cases where disputes arise between members, parents, or coaching staff, a mediation meeting will be arranged by the President or Vice President.

Article VII: Appeals

1. Right to Appeal:

- Members have the right to appeal disciplinary decisions, such as suspensions or membership terminations.

- Appeals must be submitted in writing within 14 days of the disciplinary action.
2. **Appeal Process:**
- The Executive Council will review the appeal, gather relevant information, and make a recommendation to the President.
 - The President's final decision will be communicated to the appellant in writing. The decision is final and binding.

Article VIII: Fees and Refund Policy

1. **Payment of Fees:** All membership and program fees are due within 30 days of joining the club. Installment payment plans can be arranged at the discretion of the President.
2. **Refunds:** Refunds will only be issued within 30 days of program commencement. Refunds outside this window may be considered for significant medical or logistical issues. Certain fees (e.g., association membership and tournament fees) are non-refundable.
3. **Non-Sufficient Funds:** The President reserves the right to request payment in cash if there is a history of non-sufficient funds.

Article IX: Meetings

1. **Annual Meeting:** An annual meeting will be held to discuss the state of the club, upcoming events, and any major decisions regarding programs.
2. **Special Meetings:** The President may call special meetings as needed.

Article X: Amendments

1. **By-Law Amendments:** These By-Laws may be amended at any time by the President, with input from the executive council, to ensure the smooth running of the club.