



President's Report

2023 MWPA Annual Meeting – October 6, 2024 at Pan Am Pool

Our board accomplished many tasks in 2023-2024. We have updated a number of policies and have continued to work towards Safe Sport for all.

The MWPA Board of Directors has shown continued professionalism, care, and commitment. Thank you to Jon Kovacs and Yanxing (Stella) Niu for their continued dedication and to our three newest Board members Carolee Buckler, Craig Swanson and Brett Papineau who were elected in July. We have already had some great discussions about the future of water polo in Manitoba.

A huge welcome to our new Executive Director Nicolle Moskven who started in July. She has been working very hard to get things up and running for the new season.

With a new Executive Director, it is a bittersweet moment as we say goodbye to our longtime friend Bruce Rose, who of course has continued to go above and beyond during this time of transition. We will miss you!

Safe Sport and Water Polo Canada

Safe Sport continues to be a top priority to Water Polo Canada and the MWPA. For all members to have positive experiences, their safety must be a top priority.

To that end the Board determined that for 2024, all families with an athlete registered in any membership category must have at least one parent/guardian/caregiver complete the Respect In Sport (RIS) course and become RIS certified. This certification must be completed by September 30, 2024. For those who have completed RIS certification through a different sport, the certification is transferrable.

School League

With sixteen schools participating, we had 100 middle school and 134 high school students playing Water Polo 4s in 2023. Congratulations to the Kelvin girls and the Vincent Massey boys teams for winning first place in the high school league as well as to the Grant Park team who won the middle school co-ed league.

A special shout out to Coach James Villa and the St. Mary's Academy squad who entered the league for the first time, had three teams entered, and came in second overall in the middle school league! Watch out for them in the pool next season!!

It was exciting to see the Winnipeg Free Press attend the final games and write a column about us: <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/special/sports-editors-picks/2023/11/26/clippers-win-one-lose-one-in-the-pool>



New Programs Offered by MWPA

Swim Like a Dolphin

Started by Alberta Water Polo and Water Polo Canada as a replacement for the “I Love Water Polo” program, Swim Like a Dolphin is a fantastic opportunity to grow grassroots water polo. It makes learning to swim fun and develops a love for water polo at a young age. The goal of the program is to prepare children to learn to swim and play water polo while having fun. Once completing a program, they should feel confident in their swimming skills and be prepared to play water polo if they chose to continue with a club in a recreational or competitive environment.

Swim Like a Dolphin has two different levels: Beginner (ages 4-7) and Junior (ages 8-12).

This program had a successful pilot program with 19 participants at the East-Kildonan YMCA. The plan is to expand to other locations in 2024/25.

Adult Learn to Water Polo

An enthusiastic group of adults who have never played water polo before gathered every Friday night for three sessions (Fall/Winter/Spring) with approximately 20 people registered each time. A highlight of the year was a game versus their own kids followed by pizza!

Winnipeg Foundation Endowment Fund

When Bushido Water Polo was dissolved, a dormant account was used to set up a permanent legacy fund. The Winnipeg Foundation matched the original gift and the fund is now open to accept additional donations. This fund will be available for scholarships, safe sport initiatives, and more in perpetuity.

To make a donation: <https://www.mycharitytools.com/gift/wpgfdn/donate?fund=5729>



Visibility of Water Polo

We are thankful to La Liberté for featuring our sport in their magazine *Les as de l'action: les indispensables du sport jeunesse* (Game Changers: Some of Youth Sports' most indispensable players). This feature magazine shines a spotlight on the coaches, referees and volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to make a difference in community sports in Manitoba.

French version: https://www.lalibertemagazine.ca/accueil_sport/

English version: <https://www.lalibertemagazine.ca/en/>

We are excited to see where the next year takes us!

Respectfully submitted by

Lisa Cupples
President MWPA