

## Proposed age requirement for California Cup and USCC'S revised February 18<sup>th</sup> 2010

In the spirit of equal and fair competition for the league known as the California Cup Water Polo league and the tournament known as United States Club WP Championships.

Below are the new proposed age requirements for participation in both of these competitions:

The new age requirement will be based on a year beginning September 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on August 31<sup>st</sup>. We will only accept athletes into said age groupings or tournament brackets who have not moved up in grade and fit the new age requirements.

The reason for this change is that in the past athletes with birthdays late in the year who started school a year late based mostly upon birthday, have been excluded from playing with their classmates. In some cases athletes have been left behind and in other cases forced to move up and compete at the next age level above which they might not be physically prepared for.

As coaches we have been faced with this dilemma for years about 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders who have been forced to play up in age. In the case of 12<sup>th</sup> graders who choose not to participate in your spring and summer programs after their senior year as there are no available opportunities for them to play because they will be turning 19 years old in the fall.

This will also give the future 19 year old high school athletes who do not live within 50 miles of their future college a place to play and participate over the summer. We understand that this will adversely affect some who have birthdays that still do not fit with in these criteria. The rule will read and be adhered to as such.

Any athlete in the 12 and under division boys and girls, born within the above stated age requirement but still in 6<sup>th</sup> grade is eligible to participate in said league or championship in the 12 and under division. This age group would start and consist of any athlete born after September 1<sup>st</sup>1997 and include all athletes who are born after in years such as 1998, 1999 and so on going lower in age.

Any athlete in the 14 and under division boys and girls, born within the above stated age requirement but still in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade is eligible to participate in said league or championship in the 14 and under division. This age group would start and consist of any athlete born after September 1<sup>st</sup>1995 and include all athletes who are born after in years such as 1996, 1997 and so on going lower in age.

Any athlete in the 16 and under division boys and girls, born within the above stated age requirement but is still in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade of high school is eligible to participate in said league or championship in the 16 and under division. This age group would start and consist of any athlete born after September 1<sup>st</sup>1993 and include all athletes who are born after in year such as 1994, 1995 and so on going lower in age.

Any athlete in the 18 and under division boys and girls, born within the above stated age requirement having just completed the 12<sup>th</sup> grade of high school is eligible to participate in said league or championship in the 18 and under division. This age group would start and consist of any athlete born after September 1<sup>st</sup> 1991 and include all athletes who are born after in year such years as 1992, 1993 and so on going lower in age.

Governing the rule and punishment for breaking the rules:

We will need to be self governing as clubs and possess enough integrity and honesty throughout our own organizations to uphold these rules. Each athlete that falls outside the current USWP roster verification must retain a school grade verification form and or supply birth certificates. Since this should not be many, please just staple that info to the back of the USWP roster. We do believe strongly that the age rules written above are in the best interest of our athletes and clubs and are what we should adhere to moving forward with our events.

For purposely breaking the rule of age and grade the penalties will be as follows:

- The offending club will forfeit all games that were played by the ineligible player and return all awards or recognition they may have received.
- The offending club will also be suspended from future Cal Cup and United States Club Championships until further notice.

Please review this proposal and get back to me with any comments or questions. Please know that in this state this is not a legal or binding document. We will review your input as we move forward to ratify this decision as our age requirement rules for the future.

Thanks,

United States Club Water Polo Championships and California Cup committees