

July 12, 2011

Dear USCC Coaches, Athletes and Parents:

It was brought to our attention that two teams participating in the 2011 United States Club Water Polo Championship event this past weekend violated the competition's rules by playing athletes who were ineligible for this grade-based event. Because these actions caused distress among players and parents, we wanted to let you know how the problems were handled.



These rules' violations resulted in a review of the circumstances. After all of the facts were determined, the following decisions were made by the US Club Water Polo Governing Board. Significant sanctions have been imposed on the teams involved that include exclusion from next year's championship events. Fines have been levied, and the monies received will be redistributed to those teams who were affected by the contravention of grade-based eligibility. The teams involved in the violation have had their standings removed. In addition, finishes for all other teams involved have been re-determined as fairly as possible.

We understand that nothing we do can eliminate the fact that the championship tournament in which you participated has been negatively impacted. We believe that involvement in sports is much more than improving athletic abilities but also includes developing integrity, building character, and demonstrating good sportsmanship. We can only hope that, by sharing the manner in which we have dealt with the rules' violations, you will take away with you the understanding that justice has replaced unfairness and that behaving with integrity is always the correct action.

We are saddened that we have had to deal with these unfortunate events. However, lessons come in all shapes and sizes. We hope that we can put these unpleasant events behind us, remembering that we must all strive always to do the right thing, even when it is difficult.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these difficult incidents.

Respectfully,

US Club Championships Committee