



President's Report

2022 MWPA AGM – September 13, 2023

Our board accomplished many tasks in 2022-2023. We have updated a number of policies and continued to work towards Safe Sport for all.

The MWPA Board of Directors has shown continued professionalism, care, and commitment. A big thank you to Nancy Smith, for your guidance as Past President, to Heather Carson for your diligence as Technical Director and to Kyrstin Stephenson for your continued role as School League Director (even when 9 months pregnant!). All three are completing their terms on the Board and starting new chapters in their lives. I thank them for their many years of dedication to water polo. Thank you also to Jon Kovacs and Yanxing (Stella) Niu who are new to the board and bring with them new ideas as we move forward.

A huge thank you to Bruce Rose, our Executive Director who continues to go above and beyond in time, effort, and detail in the most professional manner to ensure water polo in Manitoba continues to thrive. We could not operate without you!

Safe Sport and Water Polo Canada

Safe Sport is a top priority to Water Polo Canada. I appreciated the opportunity to sit on a national safe sport committee this past year along with several other PSO Presidents and Executive Directors. Although our piece for study was just a small part of the larger picture, we also gained the opportunity to discuss the issues and how other provinces were dealing with ensuring that water polo was a safe environment. For all members to have positive experiences, their safety must be a top priority. The President's Council monthly meetings have also been an invaluable way to connect and share ideas.

OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFE SPORT

"Water Polo Canada is committed to offer to all of its athletes and all individuals involved in the sport an environment free of all forms of abuse, harassment, bullying or discrimination."



School League

This year we were excited to bring back the middle school portion of School League post-Covid19. With sixteen schools participating, we had ninety-four middle school and one hundred and forty-three high school students playing Water Polo 4s. There were some nail-biter gold medal games!

It was exciting to see the Fort Richmond team featured on CTV's "Sports Star of the Week" <https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2590775&jwsourc=cl>



Update on Sport Manitoba Funding

While we have ongoing funding support from Sport Manitoba, a disadvantage of the two competitive clubs in Manitoba deciding to merge is that Sport Manitoba has reduced our funding for 2023/24.

Winnipeg Foundation Endowment Fund

We are excited to announce a new endowment fund through the Winnipeg Foundation. When Bushido Water Polo was dissolved, a dormant account was used to set up a permanent legacy fund. Thanks to Eileen Gaynor for all of her work in setting this up. The Winnipeg Foundation matched the original gift from Bushido Water Polo and the fund is now open to accept additional donations. This fund will be available for scholarships, safe sport initiatives, and more!

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

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

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Cupples, President MWPA