



## GAME TIME

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Dear Parents,

The Hutt Water Polo Club committee feels that it is important that all parents are aware of how pool time is allocated for players in tournament teams.

Through its coaching and development systems the Club endeavours to introduce water polo to your players, teach them a variety of skills and give them the opportunity to apply these skills in a game situation.

As players develop and skills are learned, the next phase is to be selected for competition or tournament teams if the coaches feel the players are ready.

Where player availability determines, coaches select teams for tournaments on the basis of ability, attitude and potential. In the real world of trying to win tournaments, ability has to be the main criteria.

Some players may get little pool time at tournaments but a team ethic of total support is essential. Young or developing players learn a lot from being part of the tournament environment. The starting players need a bench that is supportive and can take their place in the water when required. Water polo is no different to any other competitive sport in this regard.

If parents are concerned that their son / daughter may receive little pool time at the tournament, talk to the coach or manager well in advance of the tournament. Be aware though, it is impossible for a coach to promise equitable pool time for all. Again, this is a reality of competitive sport.

### **Summary:**

- 1. A starting seven is selected on the basis of ability and/or team plan for a specific game.**
- 2. Player rotation is the sole responsibility of the coach.**
- 3. Pool time is not equitable for all members of the team.**
- 4. Support for the coach and manager should be total, from all the players and parents.**

*As parents we need to be aware of these issues and that our coaches and managers are not taken to task after games or tournaments because of decisions they made. Our coaches are unpaid volunteers; they put a lot of personal time into the Club. If we are happy to entrust the coaching of our players to the designated people on a weekly basis, then we must accept decisions they make on behalf of the team at tournament time.*