

BAKERSFIELD WATER POLO CLUB BACK TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL BWPC ATHLETES ON AN AWESOME SUMMER OF WATER POLO!

This summer we had a record 4 teams, qualify and compete in the National Junior Olympics. Throughout the summer, we fielded teams in 7 different age groups and genders.

JO's RESULTS

All teams played their way into the GOLD division!

10U Coed- 4th place (2 wins, first time at JO's)

12U Boys- 8th place (2 wins, finished last in 2009)

14U Girls- 6th place (2 wins, and lost 3 games by 1 goal)

14U Boys- 6th place (2 wins, tied 1, lost 2 games by 1 and 2 goals)



Having been at most of the BWPC games at the JO's in Los Angeles, I am proud to say that our kids competed hard in every contest. Every athlete played to the best of their ability and it was obvious that we as a club have come a long way in just 3 years. It's easy to look at the close games and wonder why we didn't win, but the real story is that we made every game a close game. No team had an "easy win" against Bakersfield. This is truly a first for our young club.

The wins and losses make the games exciting and it gives us something to cheer for but the real goal and measure of success of this club is to give the kids in the Bakersfield area an opportunity to play water polo and learn life skills such as team work, discipline, dedication, sacrifice, time management and how to deal with success and failure.

I see these goals being met at all of our age groups. In addition, our athletes are improving at their sport and this is reflected in team performance.

WHAT DID WE DO TO GET HERE?

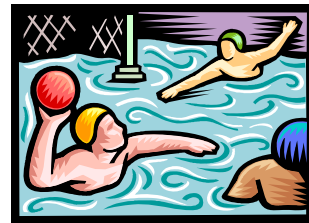
Some of the things we did this year that were different from the past:

- ✓ **Participated in 2 leagues.** 1) Coastal CA Fall age group league. 2) Cal Cup winter/spring Club league. Joining these leagues afforded us the opportunity to play in an increased number of quality games during the school year.
- ✓ **Entered more tournaments** for all of our age groups this summer. Gave our kids valuable game experience which is difficult to come by given where we live and the lack of water polo in the surrounding area.
- ✓ **Increased practice opportunities** this summer to 5 practice/week for our 14U's and older and 4 practices/week for our 12U's and younger. Other clubs in other parts of the state offer between 2-5 practices/week but they have the ability to play games against other clubs every weekend. In order for us to "keep up" and "catch up" we need to practice 4 days/week.
- ✓ **Fundraised-** BWPC had 3 successful fundraisers which raised a combined total of \$5500 for the year.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO, MOVING FORWARD?

- **Participate in Leagues-** We will participate in both the Coastal League and Cal Cup League. We need all athletes to participate. Most of our age groups have 10-15 athletes participating in practices, however, we have gone to quite a few tournaments with only 7 or 8 players. We don't have a lot of opportunities to compete, it is critical that we make the most of the opportunities that we do have.
- **Enter more tournaments-** Some of our age groups could not have played in more tournaments this summer. Often times it is a matter of not having enough coaches to coach all of our teams. We just need the athletes to get as close to 100% participation as possible in all of the competition opportunities.
- **Increase practice opportunities-** Beginning this fall, we will have 4 practices per week for all of our age group kids. 3 practices will be water polo and 1 will be conditioning. If we want to continue to improve upon our results (which I think we all do) we need to put the time in now. Of course we will still have programs available for new kids that don't know if they are ready to make the 4 day/week commitment.
- **Fundraise-** Support our fundraisers throughout the year. Entry fees are collected for every tournament we enter, however we always seem to fall short of "breaking even". Seasonal dues and fundraised dollars help offset tournament costs and pay for equipment upgrades.

FALL SESSION



August 30 - November 11

Athletes will practice in their summer 2010 age groups.

12U+10U Boys and Girls

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 5:00-6:45 Polo practice

Tuesday: 6:00-7:30. Conditioning

14U Boys and Girls, HS Boys and Girls

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 6:30-8:30 Polo practice

Tuesday: 6:00-7:30. Conditioning

Seasonal Dues

(Fall 2010 - Summer 2011)

Increase in Dues:

If you remember, last fall and winter, we offered 2 nights of polo with the option of 2 nights of conditioning for an additional \$75. Many of you took me up on this offer. In the Spring, we offered 3 nights/week and did not raise the dues. In the summer, we added 2 or 3 extra practices, and did not raise the dues.

In order to meet operational costs of using more pool time, it is necessary to raise the dues. The fee structure is below. Anyone returning athlete that wishes to participate in the leagues and competition against other clubs, must commit to 4 nights per week.

| Age bracket | Fall dues |
|-------------------------|------------|
| 10U | \$200 |
| 12U | \$250 |
| 14U | \$275 |
| 16U, 18U | \$300 |
| Sibling discount: | |
| 1 st athlete | Full price |
| 2 nd athlete | \$50 off |
| 3 rd athlete | \$75 off |

- ✓ Make checks payable to: BWPC
- ✓ Due the first week of the Session.

Special offer - first time players!

sign up for any 2 nights/week at \$50 off the listed prices!

**BAKERSFIELD
WATER POLO CLUB**