

Titans Water Polo Executive Team Special Meeting

February 23, 2005

Nepean Sportsplex

The Titans Executive met to discuss findings and rulings related to an incident of misconduct by two Titans athletes.

Under consideration:

Admissions by the two athletes that they consumed marijuana on February 18, 2005 at the Ontario Cadet Provincial Championships in Kitchener-Waterloo, which they were attending as tournament officials

Testimony from Titans chaperones

Letters of apology from the two athletes to the OWPA, the Ontario Cadet Championship Tournament Director, the Titans Head Coach and the Titans Executive

A supplementary written statement from the two athletes

Written statements from both athletes' parents

Sanctions from the OWPA Discipline Committee

Correspondence with Water Polo Canada, including indication of their support of OWPA sanctions

Statements from Head Coach David Hart, youth coach Jerry Tesanovic, and youth boys manager Guy Tanguay

Recommendations from the Discipline Committee (Pierre Tremblay and David Hart)

The athletes and their parents attended to hear the findings of the Executive, namely: that the athletes' actions were pre-meditated and constituted a clear violation of the Titans Code of Conduct, the OWPA and WPC codes of conduct, and the OWPA Officials' Responsibilities Agreement.

The two athletes apologized verbally to club members present at the meeting. Their apologies were accepted.

The following rulings were conveyed verbally and in writing to both athletes:

1. The Titans Executive supports the sanctions imposed by the OWPA on both athletes:
 - Suspension from all OWPA, WPC or any member Provincial association of WPC sanctioned event (whether as a player, coach, official or otherwise) until Monday June 6th 2005; and
 - Ban as an official at all OWPA, WPC or any member Provincial association of WPC with the right to apply for re-instatement as an official anytime after Monday June 6th 2005.

2. The two athletes are jointly responsible for ensuring that no Titans athlete or the Titans Water Polo Association suffer financially as a result of their misconduct.

3. Both athletes are on probation immediately and until the end of the 2005-2006 water polo season.
4. Both athletes are expected to make further apologies, including
 - A letter to all families in the Titans competitive program
 - Meeting in person with the youth boys team
 - Meeting in person with the Head Coach and the youth boys team coach
5. Both athletes are expected to perform “community service” within the club during the remainder of the current season under the direction and supervision of the Executive Team and the Head Coach. They will also be expected to participate in open discussions with each competitive Titans team to ensure that all our athletes learn from their mistake and realize the significance of the Code of Conduct and the serious ramifications of marijuana consumption.

The Titans Executive, the Head Coach, the youth team coach and the youth team manager confirmed their willingness to help both athletes cope with the ramifications of their misconduct, as well as their support for their continuing careers as water polo athletes. The athletes retain full access to all their team practices and to mentoring services from their team coach and the Head Coach. They may participate in OWPL games with the Titans team.

The Executive acknowledged its concern about the duration of the OWPA sanctions on the two athletes as players. Subject to their progress on the expectations outlined above and their success in making amends within the Titans community, the Executive will consider providing official club support, should either or both athletes choose to exercise their right to appeal the OWPA sanctions. The nature of this support will be a matter of future Executive discussion.