



we know you will love it!
WATER POLO
un sport du coeur!

ILWP Volume #13 – DECEMBER 2011
(New Quarterly format)

What is I Love Water Polo (ILWP)?

ILWP is an *introductory, grass-roots water polo program for boys and girls ages 8-12* (also adaptable for younger and older athletes, including adults). In a *learn-to-play environment*, similar to swimming lessons, participants *discover the game of water polo*. **No prior water polo experience is required!** The only pre-requisite is that participants should be able to swim one width of the pool. Deep water isn't required, and the pool can be shared with other activities going on. There is no affiliate fee. This is a community-based program (rather than club-based), making it an excellent programming option *for municipalities, boys and girls clubs, YMCAs and private aquatic facilities*. Give Water Polo a Shot!

ILWP Instructor Training

At a low cost of \$40 per person, it's inexpensive and candidates get NCCP certification *right in your facility* through an 8-hour clinic- **no water polo experience is required to get certified!** There is no recertification process. If you meet the criteria, funding is available to cover the cost of the trainer. This is a great time to get staff trained in anticipation of starting a program in winter or spring of 2012.

In September 2011 at WPCs 4th annual Growth and Leadership Summit, Learning Facilitators from across the country attended a professional development session that focused on new facilitation tools and how to be more effective LTAD facilitators. The LFs are now ready to train staff in your facility.

ILWP Website- Find It All Here!

Click on the link below to find out what 'I Love Water Polo' is all about, equipment and supplies available for purchase, how to start up a program in your community, funding opportunities to help you get started, FAQs, and events happening across the country. <https://www.waterpolo.ca/ilwpinfo.aspx>

It's Trade Show Time!

National and PSO water polo staff have been participating in trade shows across the country as part of provincial parks and recreation conferences. What great opportunities to showcase and promote our program directly to recreation and aquatic programming staff, not to mention a chance to chat with these staff face-to-face. In recent months, ILWP was a part of trade shows in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Nova Scotia. Manitoba will happen in March. Feedback has been phenomenal and we are working hard to follow up on leads from communities interested in introducing ILWP to their facilities.

Special thanks to the following PSO staff and volunteers who gave their time to help staff the trade show booths: *Dayna Christmas*, Executive Director, Alberta Water Polo Association; *David Soul*, Executive Director, and *Andrea Devitt*, Director of Development (Lower Mainland), both BC Water Polo Association.

BC Water Polo Association Initiates ILWP

Staff at the Kamloops municipal pool gave very positive feedback following an ILWP Instructor clinic run there recently by Learning Facilitator Angela Johnson. As regular hosts of the Evergreen 14U Tournament, water polo has already been introduced to their community. They hope to build on this with a brand new ILWP program to start in the new year.

There is interest from both the East and West Kootenays, who will run combined ILWP training for municipalities in those areas.

The North Surrey Indoor pool and the Surrey Boys and Girls Club will be training staff very soon- the municipality will offer ILWP to children in the Boys and Girls Club and the BGC staff will be able assist with the teaching, making this a true partnership.

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ILWP Is Taking Off in Alberta

The combined communities of Okotoks and High River completed ILWP training and are now planning for a program launch in the New Year.

Pincher Creek has training scheduled in December.

St. Albert has training dates booked in February.

The Talisman Centre is scheduling training for their school group aquatic instructors.

As a result of the 2012 Men's Olympic Qualification Tournament being held in April in Edmonton (an 8-day tournament with twelve countries participating, and the last chance to secure one of four remaining berths in the Olympic Games), we are confident that water polo will get additional publicity and that we will see a boost in program interest in at least the Edmonton area.

YM-YWHA of Montreal Hosts ILWP Clinic

As part of a Health Fair, the YM-YWHA recently hosted a free ILWP clinic to introduce members to the sport. Interest is evident and planning is underway for a possible program launch in winter 2012.

Looking East to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia

The YMCA of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, has ILWP training booked this month. We look forward to having them become ILWP program providers very soon.

We welcome success stories, best practices and ideas that might help our program continue to grow!

Contact Deanna Barry, ILWP Coordinator

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