



## State of the Academy – March 2019

Pegasus Water Polo family –

In early 2016, Nikola Zivaljevic brought together a group of water polo enthusiasts to explore the idea of a professionally coached and managed water polo club to serve central Dallas. Realizing that great coaching is the key to developing great players, Nikola and the new board recruited the best to serve as head coach - USA Water Polo National Team player and All-American Spencer Dornin. By November 2016, Pegasus Water Polo Academy was holding practices at Highland Park High School.

Among the Academy's core principles, we are committed to providing the opportunity for every player to develop to her or his highest individual potential. Since those early days at the HPHS pool, we have recruited the best water polo staff in Texas so that we can provide the best coaching for every player at every practice.

Because of the commitment of Nikola, Spencer, the coaches, and the Board of Directors, in just over two years, Pegasus has become one of the most successful and significant clubs in the fastest-growing sport in Texas.

### ***Here are some of our great strides in the past two years -***

- 1 - To improve the opportunities and experience for the players, ***we added practices*** at great facilities at SMU, Oak Point in Plano, and KayCee in Lake Highlands.
- 2 - To allow more flexibility and practice opportunities for all age groups, we provide at ***least 5 practices per week*** for every age group, and up to 6 – 7 practices per week for some age groups.
- 3 - In anticipation of Water Polo becoming a UIL sport, we have worked directly with Highland Park ISD to create and support a ***new High School Water Polo team*** at Highland Park High School.
- 4 - We ***increased the number of coaches*** at each practice. This allows us to provide -
  - More individual attention to every player
  - Specialized training for goalies and other positions
  - Separate practices for girls' teams
- 5 - We created and sought out ***opportunities for significant playing experiences***, including -
  - Hosting local tournaments, game days and scrimmages
  - Participation in USA Water Polo Olympic Development Program
  - Hosting special camps with internationally-renowned coaches
  - Hosting Spring Break camps
  - Hosting summer camps in cooperation with Greenhill
  - Organizing and Sponsoring a summer clinic with Olympic athletes Tony Azevedo and Adam Wright
  - Providing the opportunity for International Summer Water Polo Camp in Montenegro and Italy

We have come a long way, and the evidence is wins for our teams! Since the Academy started, we have had the following successes -

- North Texas Spring Championship 2018 - 2nd place 14U Team
- Texas Age Group State Championship 2018 - 1st place 14U
- Dallas Summer Classic 2018 - 1st Place 14U
- North Texas Summer Championship 2018- 1st place 14U
- 2018 Armadillo Classic: 1st place 14U, 2nd place 16U
- 2018 North Texas Fall Championship - 1st place 14U, 3rd place 12U
- 2018 Thunder Dallas Fall Invite - 1st place 14U, 3rd place 12U

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- 2018 San Diego Invitational - 1st place 14U
- 2019 North Texas Winter Championships - 1st place 14U, 3rd place 12U
- Feb 24 - Spring Game Day - 14U 1st Place, 12U 3rd place

***Our 14U team placed 1st in every major tournament or game day since winning State last spring!***

Along the way, because of their commitment to your kids and to excellence for all of them, Nikola was named 2018 "Volunteer of the Year" and Spencer named "Coach of the Year" for 2018 by the USA Water Polo Southwest Zone.

With all of the success of Pegasus Water Polo Academy, we have had substantial increases in the costs of pool rental, coaching, equipment, and fees. At the same time, we have increased the quality and quantity of opportunities for all members of Pegasus Water Polo Academy.

What you may not know is that among those original water polo enthusiasts, a couple of "Angel Investors" stepped up to partially underwrite club expenses for the first two years. This has allowed Pegasus to operate on fees that were below operating costs, below the fees of comparable clubs across the US, and also well below the fees of other club sports in North Texas. We will be always grateful for their contributions and support, but it is now time for the Academy to become fully self-sustaining.

In recognition of the breadth and quality of our programs, and to fully support the true operating costs of the Academy, ***a new fee structure will be implemented this year.***

***Starting May 1 2019***, there will be a \$200 reinstatement fee if a player temporarily drops his or her membership.

Then, ***starting September 1, 2019***–

- Pegasus will offer the option to pay dues annually at a discounted rate
- The new fees will be:
  - \$200 / month or \$2,100 annually for Full Membership
  - \$150 / month or \$1,500 annually for multi-aquatic program players

As now, the first month is still just \$1 to try out water polo and see if it is a good fit for new players. Also, Pegasus never wants cost to be an impediment to participating, so financial aid options will continue to be available.

We want to thank all of you who have been a part of the Pegasus Water Polo Academy family. Besides bringing your kids to practice, we recognize that many of you have volunteered, donated, planned events, and passed the word about Pegasus to your friends. With your continued support, we look forward to many successful years ahead. Your kids can also look forward to getting stronger, faster, and becoming the best athletes they can be in the "toughest sport in the world," under the guidance of Spencer and the best water polo coaches in Texas.

Thank you again for your support.

On behalf of the Pegasus Water Polo Academy Board of Directors,



Rick Hibbs  
Secretary