



Afghanistan Water Polo History

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In June, 2008, the Pol-e-Charki Garrison Swim and Water Polo Team was created, the first ever water polo program and second swim program in Afghanistan. Daily team practices would attract hundreds of spectators and resulted in athletes on the team teaching their fellow Afghans how to swim in their off hours at the pool. In turn, dozens of Afghans, who never saw a pool, learned how to swim.

This defined the beginning of successes of this program. In September 2008, the Pol-e-Charki Garrison Swim and Water Polo Team competed in the first ever Afghanistan National Swim Competition held in Kabul, Afghanistan. Athletes from all over Afghanistan attended the event to include athletes from the Afghanistan National Swim Team. In each event, at least two athletes of the Pol-e-Charki Garrison Swim and Water Polo Team placed in the top three places in every single event, even winning some of the events. The Afghanistan National Olympic Committee was very pleased with the results of this event.

When Rohullah Nikpai of Afghanistan won Afghanistan’s first ever Olympic medal at the 2008 Summer games hosted by the People’s Republic of China, history was made. .



The top U.N. official in Afghanistan, Kai Eide, said the Olympic win shows that Afghanistan can compete on the global stage against the world’s best athletes. “Afghanistan has demonstrated that it can and will succeed in the face of adversity with the determination, commitment and hard work of its most precious resource...the young people of Afghanistan.”

In the wake of Olympic success, the Afghanistan Olympic Committee has sanctioned water polo as a new national sport, naming Jeremy Piasecki, of Fallbrook, California, USA, Director and head coach of Afghanistan Water Polo, the governing body of water polo in Afghanistan.



In addition to the Pol-e-Charki Garrison Swim and Water Polo Team and the Afghanistan National Water Polo Team, and third program was created in Afghanistan. In March, 2010, Shorabak Garrison Swim and Water Polo Team was created in Helmand Province, where some of the most fierce fighting and one of the strongest Taliban presence can be found in the entire country of Afghanistan can be found. Volunteers from the United States Marine Corps and British Army currently run the program eight months per year in Shorabak with great success.