Dr. Bartolo Consolo, FINA Honorary Member
The FINA World Water Polo Conference drew various conclusions:

1. The need to evaluate the status of Water Polo in the International market
2. The need to work in fundamental areas of marketing, communication and promotion
3. The Water Polo rules revision
4. The need to propose new strategies for the oldest Olympic team sport including its further grassroots development.
Targeting the Grassroots Development

The strategy:

• To motivate and assist Continental and member National Federations to develop grassroots programs and initiative at the Club/School level

• To enrich the community of Water Polo

• To assist NFs to develop instructors able to teach fundamental skills to “swim and play with the ball”

• To promote and disseminate good practices that encourages initiatives by the NFs and Clubs to organize grassroots events

• To assist NFs to ensure their Clubs secures adequate pool time for the development of the program
Swim and play with the ball

Project to be confirmed
Project: “Swim and play with the ball”

Description

- It is addressed to Swimming Clubs or Schools to create awareness and attract boys and girls aged from 7 to 11 years old to know and practice Water Polo.

- Aims to encourage all Clubs to organize Water Polo courses by initiating a Water Polo program within their aquatic activities.

- Limited water space is required within the swimming pools, considering that lessons could take place even in a single swimming lane (25,00 m X 2,50 m).

- The induction to water polo should be carried out by qualified instructors able to teach both swimming and the basic fundamentals of Water Polo, techniques, skills in a fun, safe and progressive way.
HaBaWaBa project
an example of grassroots initiative

HaBaWaBa in the world
Happy Baby Water Ball

HaBaWaBa is the acronym for Happy Baby Water Ball. The HaBaWaBa International Festival is an event established in 2008, following an initiative of the non-profit Association Waterpolo Development (WPD).

The event today is supported by the International Aquatic Institutions namely, FINA (World Aquatics Federation), LEN (European Aquatics Federation), COMEN (Mediterranean Aquatics Federation) and several National Federations.

The competition runs with a set of simplified FINA rules, tailored to meet the needs of the U09, U11 and the U13 categories.
THE OBJECTIVES

To develop the game of Water Polo

The event takes place within a festive and safe environment offering to all kids, their coaches and the parents a unique and unforgettable experience.

The event introduces Water Polo at early ages and provides a great incentive to all Clubs to attract boys and girls from 7 to 11 years old.
Partecipants:
- BRAZIL
- EGYPT
- FRANCE
- GREECE
- HUNGARY
- ITALY
- MONTENEGRO
- RUSSIA
- SPAIN
- SWITZERLAND
- ROMANIA
- USA
- MONACO

PAST EDITIONS
Partecipants:
- AUSTRALIA
- BULGARIA
- CROATIA
- GERMANY
- FYROM
- PORTUGAL
- SERBIA

2018
185 Teams
4,800 partecipants
Thanks for your attention