

## Australian Water Polo Competitions Calendar - Summary Notes

### Background and Context

The Competitions Advisory Panel (CAP) as part of its charter, has identified the need for Water Polo in Australia to have an aligned and sequenced calendar which ensures that participants (players, coaches and officials) have **affordable access** to the **appropriate** levels of competition to maximise participant development while also driving retention of players, coaches and officials.

The attached National Competition Calendar (NCC) and Framework (NCF) has been developed through consultation with the 18 member CAP, as well as the Executive Officers of each of the State Associations.

It is important to note that this calendar is developed to provide clarity and consistency for the majority of participants in Australia. The International program, at both an Age Group and Senior level involve a relatively small number of athletes and coaches and while those programs are very important to the sustainable success and growth of the sport, the calendar is designed to enable those players to move in and out of this schedule without it causing significant disruption to the majority of participants.

Given the recent disruption brought about by the COVID19 pandemic, the NCC and NCF will come into effective when activities re-commence. It is hoped that this may be from January 1, 2021 however Water Polo is at the mercy of the various State and Federal Government travel restrictions.

### Circular Calendar Model

The Circular Calendar Model (CCM) is designed to illustrate the relationship between Intrastate, National and International competitions, as well as the continuous cyclical nature of the competition framework and player movement through the framework over multiple years. The multi-year approach is also reflected in the National Performance Framework which will be finalised in the coming months. The first stages of this are reflected in the recently released National Age Group Program information.

Members will be aware of numerous other competitions that are conducted, however only competitions managed by the Water Polo Australia (WPA) and/or those that are part of the Performance Pathway have been included in the National Competitions Calendar. The National Competition Framework does also include a small number of other events that are not managed directly by WPA, to ensure parents and participants understand how those competitions fit into the broader framework. It is anticipated that this enables parents and players to make informed decisions about which events they attend, to assist with affordability.

## National Competition Calendar 2021

2021 Event Dates	Dates	Location/s	Attendees
<b>Australian Youth Water Polo Championships</b>	11-23 January	Brisbane	12U, 14U, 16U, 18U
<b>Australian Waterpolo League</b>	Jan-Apr	Various	Open
<b>AWL Finals</b>	9-11 April	TBC	Open
<b>WPNSW State Championships</b>	10-18 April (TBC)	SOPAC	12U, 14U, 16U, 18U, 22U
<b>WPQ State Championships</b>	TBC		
<b>Australian Open Championships</b>	May	TBC	Open
<b>National Championships (15U, 17U)</b>	23-26 September	Adelaide	15U, 17U
<b>National Championships (19U)</b>	December	TBC	19U
FINA International Events	Dates	Location/s	Attendees
<b>2019/20 World League Intercontinental</b>	27 April – May 2	Indianapolis, USA	Aussie Sharks & Stingers
<b>World League Super Final Women</b>	14 June - 20 June	TBC	Aussie Stingers
<b>World League Super Final Men</b>	26 June - 2 July	TBC	Aussie Sharks
<b>Olympic Games</b>	23 July - 8 August	Tokyo, JPN	Aussie Sharks & Stingers
<b>World Junior (20U) Championships Men</b>	28 August - 5 September	TBC	20U Men
<b>World Junior (20U) Championships Women</b>	10 September - 18 September	TBC	20U Women

## National Competition Framework Summary

Competition	Purpose	Measures of Success	Awards	Operating Principles	Selection Status	Financial
<b>Australian Youth Water Polo Championships (AYWPC)</b>	18&U Div 1 – Performance 18&U Div 2 – Competitive Participation  16&U Div 1 – Performance 16&U Div 2 – Competitive Participation  12&U and 14&U – Competitive Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of Eligible Clubs attending</li> <li>• % of junior participants</li> <li>• Number of Teams</li> <li>• Number of attendees</li> <li>• Number of viewers online</li> <li>• Economic return to sport</li> <li>• Attendee satisfaction</li> <li>• Partner Satisfaction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winning Teams</li> <li>• Club Championship (M/F/Overall)</li> <li>• Club Championships (Points per Member)</li> <li>• Milestones for Referees/Officials</li> <li>• Spirit of the Game Award</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open to International teams</li> <li>• Closed to Import Players</li> <li>• 13 per Team (FINA)</li> <li>• Modified 12&amp;U Rules</li> <li>• Two Divisions</li> <li>• Draft Process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State TID Event,</li> <li>• WPA TID Event</li> </ul>	User Pays
<b>Country Championships</b> (Part of the Open Championships)	Competitive Participation to Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Teams</li> <li>• Number of Attendees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winning Teams</li> <li>• Individual awards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WPA Selection Event – Australian Country</li> <li>• WPA TID Event for National Age Group Squads</li> </ul>	User Pays
<b>Masters' Championships</b> (Part of the Open Championships)	Competitive Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of Teams</li> <li>• Number of Attendees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winning Teams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Masters Teams</li> </ul>	User Pays
<b>14U Carnival</b> (Hosted by WPTAS)	Competitive Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of States Attending</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winning Team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No</li> </ul>	User Pays
<b>National State Championships (NSC)</b>	Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avg game margin</li> <li>• Australian Teams Performances</li> <li>• Achievement of Team KPI's (part of coach development project)</li> <li>• Best players attend the event.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winning Teams per Division/Gender</li> <li>• Champion State across age groups (only points from 1 team contribute to Champion State Award)</li> <li>• Champion State per Registered Member Award.</li> <li>• Individual Awards (selected by National Selectors)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15U, 17U, 19U</li> <li>• Closed to Imports</li> <li>• Open to strong O/S team</li> <li>• FINA regulations</li> <li>• Draft Used</li> <li>• Max 2 teams per state</li> <li>• Combo of experienced and emerging referees and coaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WPA Selection Event for National Age Group Squads</li> </ul>	Flights Cost Equalised – User Pays
<b>Australian Water Polo League (AWL)</b>	High Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avg Margin of Games</li> <li>• Avg Games Exp/Team</li> <li>• League Sponsorship</li> <li>• Game Attendances</li> <li>• Online Viewers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winning Teams (M/F)</li> <li>• Club Championship (M+F Results)</li> <li>• Individual Awards (M/F)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open</li> <li>• FINA Regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WPA Selection Event for National Senior and Age Group Squads</li> </ul>	User/Club Pays  Travel cost equalised across Clubs

**1. Characteristics of a “Competitive Participation” Event**

- a. There is no restriction on the number of teams that can enter, or the number of teams that can be entered by a single entity.
- b. The event may contain multiple divisions to cater for a broader range of ability levels and participants (ie. Division 1 & Division 2). Full details around the Divisions will be contained in the relevant Competition Manuals.
- c. All coaches will require Working with Children checks relevant to their state .
- d. While these competitions are competitive and teams are trying to win, the priority is on fun and enjoyment rather than purely focused on winning. This categorization is reflective of the level of, preparation and training rather than the competitiveness during the games.
- e. Some of these events may be used as a Talent Identification event, so non-attendance does not preclude player from future selection.

**2. Characteristics of a “Performance Event”**

- a. There may be a limit on the number of teams that can enter this competition.
- b. There may only be one Division per age group.
- c. All coaches will require Working with Children checks relevant to their state.
- d. It is expected that teams have been selected via a transparent selection process.
- e. It is expected that teams will have a formalised preparation phase prior to the event.
- f. While this is not considered a High Performance event there is a focus on performing well.

**3. Characteristics of a “High Performance” Competition**

- a. It is expected that teams have been selected via a transparent selection/contracting process.
- b. All coaches will require Working with Children checks relevant to their state.
- c. All coaches are formally appointed to the role and in some cases may be remunerated.
- d. There are licenses or qualification standards in order for teams to be able to compete at this level.
- e. The competition is designed to have the best talent compete against each other at high level of competition and subsequently used as a Selection Event.
- f. There are standards applied to the Daily Training Environment to maximise the quality of the preparation.

- 4. **Open Event:** An Open Event is open to international teams, international players and international referees and officials.
- 5. **Closed Event:** A Closed event is only open to players and referees who are eligible to represent Australia at FINA events or who meet other criteria outlined in the relevant eligibility rules
- 6. **Talent Identification (Id) Event:** means an event that players may be talent identified at, however no squad or team will be selected from this event and players who do not participate in these events are not excluded from future selection. Players who are identified are unlikely to be notified but talent scouts or selectors, but they will have noticed them and will monitor their performances at future events. *Parents and players should assume that regardless of where they are playing, there is someone watching their performance.*
- 7. **Selection Event:** A Selection Event is designed to bring the best players together and provide strong platform for selectors to assess players. Squads will be selected following a selection event. Players who do not participate in this event but wish to be considered for selection will need to have sought special exemption prior to the event.



8. **Awards:** The details of awards provided at each event reflect the purpose of the event. Full details of each award will be contained in the relevant competition manual. Below is a brief summary only.

- a. **Winning Team** – is the team who wins the respective Competition
- b. **Champion Club** recognises the Club that performs the best across all of their teams at a particular event. This award will have three categories – Male, Female and Overall Champion Club
- c. **Champion State** recognises the State that performs the best across all of their teams at a particular event. This award will have three categories – Male, Female and Overall Champion State
- d. **“Points per Player” Club Award** – recognises the Club who performs the best across all teams relative to the number of members in the 12U to 18U age group.
- e. **Milestone Awards** – these awards will recognise referees and officials for duration of service or games officiated
- f. **Spirit of the Game Award** will recognise the Club or organization at an event, depending on the format of the event who in the opinion of the match officials demonstrate the Think.Act.Play values throughout the competition.
- g. **Individual Awards** – will only be awarded at selected events and will be judged by the National Selection Panel members

## AFFORDABILITY

Affordability of the representative programs have been identified as a significant factor in developing and managing the pool of players moving through the system to ensure the long-term standard of the AWL and the National teams. A number of initiatives have been applied in the development of the National Competitions Calendar to support the strategy to improve affordability for representative players and their parents and guardians.

1. Clarifying which events are considered Selection Events and which are considered Talent Identification events. Players wishing to pursue higher honours must attend Selection events but do not need to attend all Talent Identification events.
2. Scheduling events concurrently, so that the “right” players and coaches are participating at the appropriate level for their development, ensuring a broader base of participants are exposed to their appropriate level of competition. Currently there are examples where the same participants, attend multiple events, increasing their costs, and reducing overall opportunities for others.
3. Selection Events will have travel costs equalized to reduce the risk of location and cost being an inhibitor to appropriately talented players being able to access the competition.
4. Events will also be moved around from State to State to ensure the same teams are not always travelling.