



**Water Polo**  
ACT

**JUNIOR  
REPRESENTATIVE  
PROGRAM  
FRAMEWORK**

Version 3 - 2024



**Water Polo**  
ACT

## **Junior Representative Program Framework Aim & Purpose**

*BRING CLARITY TO ATHLETES AND PARENTS*

This handbook provides information and support to both current and aspiring Athletes and Coaches affiliated with Water Polo ACT (WPACT), the governing body for Water Polo in the ACT. It's main aims are to:

- Outline the representative programs objectives, ensuring it aligns with the National Performance Framework.
- Player Identification, support, grading, and development pathways within ACT.
- Summarise the program focuses and purpose.
- Outline the touring structure.



## **1. Overview**

### **1.1 Objectives**

- Provide equal opportunities for athletes.
- Increase athlete participation and retention.
- Develop athletes to achieve their goals.

### **1.2 Background**

Water Polo ACT is classed as a small state based on size and participation rates, however regular performs above standard at many events due to its access to pool space, quality of coaching and level of organisation. As an organisation WPACT aims to create equal development opportunities for athletes, develop national athletes and grow the sport through utilising the above opportunities.

### **1.3 Summary**

The WPACT representative program structure allows each age group to train and play together throughout the year, with selection based on areas identified in the WPACT selection policy. Opportunities will also arise for our athletes to train and play with players in surrounding regions for specifically identified events to ensure teams are competitive and exposed to competitions at their level.

### **1.4 Benefits**

- Increased junior athlete base, creating more depth across ACT Water Polo
- Retain more athletes
- More opportunities to athletes
- A clear pathway for athlete progression
- Assists Club development and retention, as the representative program provides more incentives for athletes to stay involved.



## **2. Age Group Focuses**

### **2.1 12&U/14&U Boys and Girls**

The focus on 12&U and 14&U age groups is player recruitment and retention. Often players in this age group are exposed to selection/non-selection in the early stages of their Water Polo involvement which can influence a player's confidence and motivation to continue in the sport.

This age group will now have a focus on developing club programs to support athletes at this age group and increase participation at events outside of the ACT. Water Polo ACT will not send state teams to events in the 12&U and 14&U age groups and instead clubs will look to send teams to events that are attractive to them and at the level of their cohort.

### **2.2 15&U/17&U Boys and Girls**

The focus for the 15&U and 17&U is retention and development of players to be able to play at a standard of their choosing. This may be to only play locally, a state level or be a part of a National Age Group Program (NAGP) squad.

This age group will look to attend state vs state-based events. Water Polo ACT encourages clubs to participate in as many club events as possible to give exposure and development opportunities to more athletes.

Water Polo ACT will send ACT Dolphins teams to the East Coast Challenge (ECC), Inter-state Challenge (ISC) and National State Water Polo Championships (NSC).

Where possible multiple teams will be selected to attend championships or other tours to provide opportunities to as many athletes as possible.

The Water Polo ACT representative program will be responsible to preparing athletes in the 15&U and 17&U age groups.

### **2.3 19&U Men and Women**

The focus for the 19&U is retention and development of players to be able to play at a standard of their choosing. This may be to only play locally, a state level or be a part of a National Age Group Program (NAGP) squad.

Water Polo ACT will send ACT Dolphins teams to the National State Water Polo Championships.

The Water Polo ACT representative program will be responsible to preparing athletes in the 19&U age groups.

Water Polo ACT has established a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canberra Kraken to help establish more pathway opportunities for athletes aged 18 and over.

### **3. Representative Program**

#### **3.1 Objectives**

- To provide a consistent, year-round (appendix 1), development opportunity for Water Polo ACT representative players.
- Create a pathway aligned with the National Talent Framework (appendix 2) for players and coaches.
- Ensure pathway programs are cost-effective and sustainable.

#### **3.2 Structure**

Water Polo ACT will provide Water Polo specific training during the winter period for their representative teams. These programs will be led by appointed head and assistant coaches and will typically involve 2 sessions per week along with more intensive training periods during “down periods” for clubs and competitions.

Teams may also decide to participate in NSW Metro Competitions if there is extensive commitment from the squad. This will be organised by the age group coordinators, not Water Polo ACT staff.

#### **3.3 Program Fees**

The cost of the representative program will be \$250 per term. These will be paid at the start of the program through the Water Polo ACT website. Training fees cover the cost of pool hire, equipment, admin costs, coach and age group coordinator payments. All ACT athletes attending training sessions will contribute the same amount to ensure program costs are split evenly and to promote training attendance. If the \$250 does not cover the cost of the training cycle, additional fees may be applied to tour invoices to cover these costs.

#### **3.4 Eligibility of Program**

In line with the Water Polo ACT Financial and Membership Policy, players must list WPACT or one of its affiliated clubs, as their primary club to be eligible to participate in the representative program.

Athletes may commence participation in the representative program at the start of each training cycle by completing the online registration.

Once an athlete is selected into a WPACT Representative Program Squad, they will be invoiced for the cost of the program. This payment is due within 2 weeks otherwise athletes will not be eligible for team selection.

Athletes can conclude training at any point however refunds on representative program training costs will not be made.



## 4. Tour Organisation

### 4.1 Objectives

- To provide a coordinated approach to team travel.
- To make tour travel affordable.

### 4.2 Target Tournaments

Team	June/July	Sept/Oct	December
15&U Boys & Girls	East Coast Challenge 2-3 teams	National State Championships 1 team	
17&U Boys & Girls	Interstate Challenge 1-2 teams	National State Championships 1 team	
19&U Men & Women			National State Championships 1 team

\*WPA plans to set performance criteria for NSC events from 2024. This may mean that WPACT athletes will trial for a combined team if WPACT does not meet criteria set for a standalone team.

Parents and athletes are encouraged to continually check the National Calendar which is available on the **Water Polo Australia** website to stay up to date with upcoming events.

### 4.3 Structure

The tour organisation will be broken up to ensure all responsibilities are covered and executed as best as possible.

#### 4.3.1 WPACT appointed staff

WPACT will appoint staff on an annual basis as per the WPACT selection policy. Appointed staff will hold a 6-month term. The below staff have the following responsibilities in relation to WPACT tours.



a) Tour Manager

Held by: Chief Executive Officer or appointed staff

Responsibilities:

- Overall coordination of the tour
- Liaison with WPACT partners – Uniform, travel, WPA
- Setting of budget and collection of fees
- Coordination of equipment
- Booking of training sessions
- Manage the team selection process – as per selection policy

The work of the tour manager will be recovered through an admin fee attached to each touring team.

b) Age Group Coordinator

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for team specific logistics
- Responsible for delegated program logistics (coordinated with other age group coordinators)
- Responsible for team communications including fielding questions
- On tour management of team including itinerary
- Other responsibilities outlined in Manager Handbook

c) Team Coach/es

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for running training sessions
- Coordinate the team selection process – as per selection policy
- Responsible for on tour conduct of team

#### **4.3.2 Partners**

Partners are sourced to ensure the tours are organised as effectively as possible as well as providing a revenue stream to Water Polo ACT through sponsorship. The below partners have the following responsibilities in relation to WPACT tours.

a) Travel Partner

Current Partner: Travel Associates Gungahlin

Responsibilities:

- Coordination of team travel – flights or otherwise
- Coordination of team accommodation
- Coordination of team ground transport



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The Travel partner will work with suppliers to ensure the cheapest, fit for purpose, option for WPACT teams is found. This includes making booking when locations are set based on anticipation numbers.

b) Uniform & Equipment Partner

Current Partner: Delfina Sport

Responsibilities:

- Coordination of team uniforms
- Coordination of WPACT team equipment

**Useful links**

1. [Water Polo Australia – National Performance Framework](#)
2. [Water Polo Australia – National Talent Framework](#)
3. [Water Polo Australia – Codes of Conduct](#)
4. [Water Polo Australia – Insurance Information](#)
5. [National Water Polo Calendar](#)
6. [Water Polo ACT - ACT Programs Website](#)
7. [Water Polo ACT – Selection Policy](#)
8. [Water Polo ACT – Travel Policy](#)
9. [Water Polo ACT – Coach and Manager Appointments](#)
10. [Water Polo ACT – Coaches Handbook](#)
11. [Water Polo ACT – Managers Handbook](#)





# NATIONAL TALENT FRAMEWORK

FOR PLAYERS, COACHES & REFEREES  
AS AT AUGUST 2022



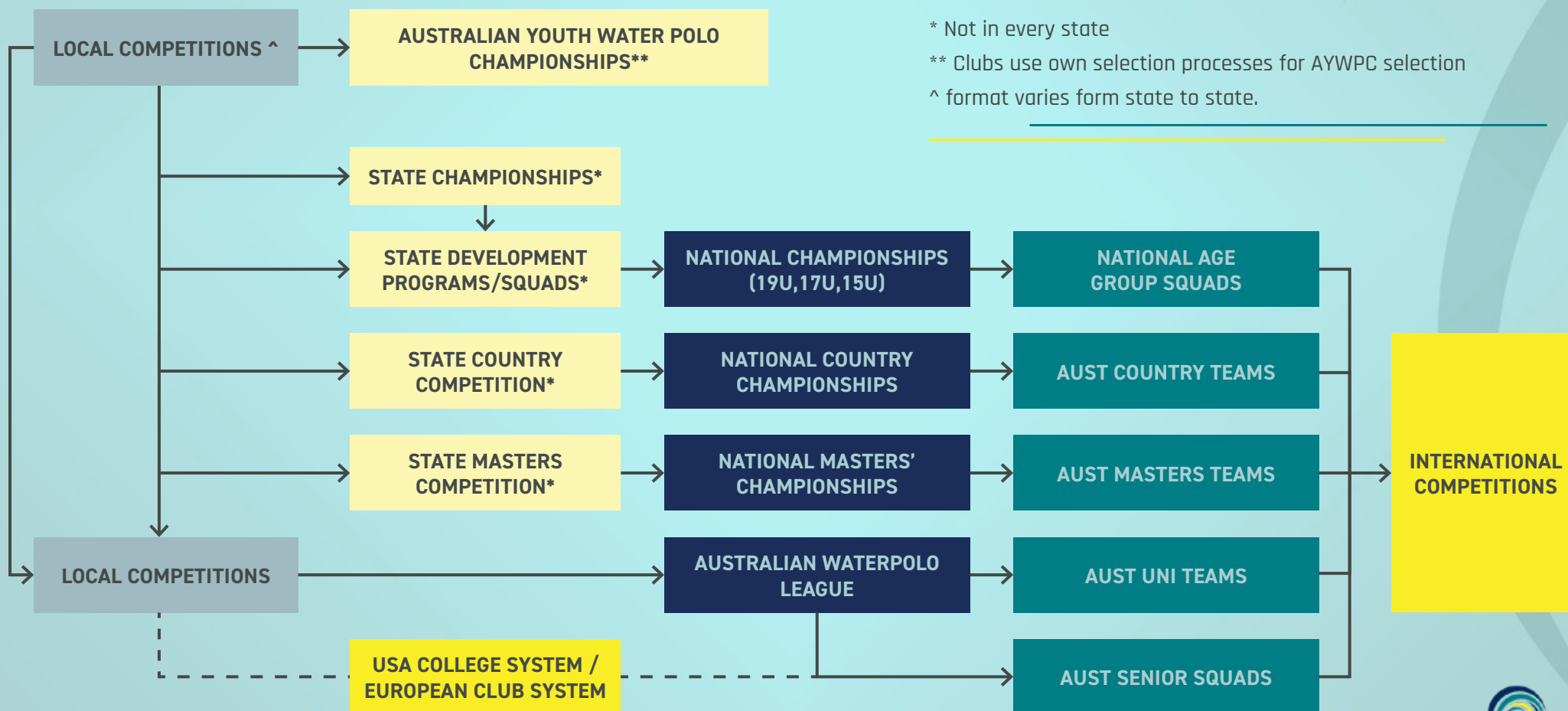
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# NATIONAL OVERVIEW

- The following National slide provides a high level summary of the framework for aspiring players, coaches and referees in terms of the competitions and programs they can be involved with.
- This summary does not represent all of the subtle differences in competition structures from state to state, but these are captured in later slides
- Please click [here](#) for a link to National Competition Framework which provides more information on each Competition conducted by WPA.

# WATER POLO AUSTRALIA TALENT FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

COMPETITION FRAMEWORK FOR TALENT DEVELOPMENT  
(PLAYERS, COACHES, REFEREES)



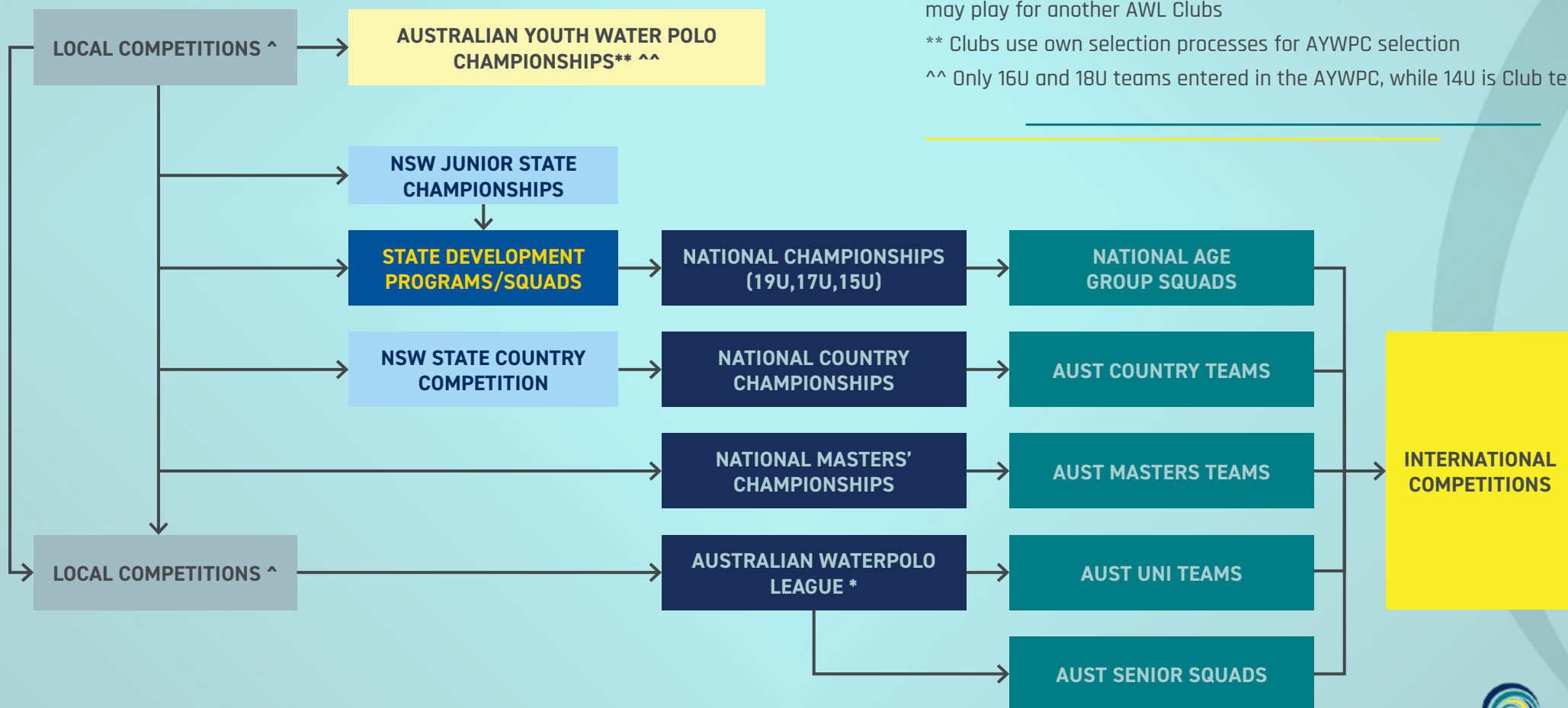
\* Not in every state

\*\* Clubs use own selection processes for AYWPC selection

^ format varies form state to state.

# WATER POLO AUSTRALIA TALENT FRAMEWORK - ACT

COMPETITION FRAMEWORK FOR TALENT DEVELOPMENT  
(PLAYERS, COACHES, REFEREES)



ACT doesn't currently have an AWL team so players may play for another AWL Clubs

\*\* Clubs use own selection processes for AYWPC selection

^^ Only 16U and 18U teams entered in the AYWPC, while 14U is Club teams.