

GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION

The Swimming South Africa National Under 16 Water Polo Championships are the country's premier age-group event, serving as the primary platform for identifying and selecting players for the World Aquatics under 16 Men and Women World Water Polo Championships. The tournament carries significant national prestige and responsibility.

The 2026 Swimming South Africa National Aquatic Championships for Water Polo (hereafter "the Championship") for Under 16 Men and Women will be held at the venues as stated below in Point 1.3 from **Friday 13th to Sunday 15th March 2026**.

1. TEAM ENTRY CRITERIA

1.1 The Teams in the respective Men's and Women's Under 16 sections will be representative of club/franchise/district/ provincial teams or individual entries.

1.2 Entries are limited to **registered SSA members**. SSA Registration can be verified on the SSA Website. Registration facilities will be available on Day 1 of the tournament for any officials or players or technical officials, who wish to participate but have not yet completed the required SSA registration process. All such individuals are required to ensure compliance prior to taking part in the event. All payments must be made via the Speedpoint card facilities that will be available at the tournament. Cash payments will not be accepted.

1.3 Tournament Venues:

- a) Clifton School, Durban (Boys)
- b) Durban Girls College (Girls)

2. ENTRY PROCEDURES

2.1. All SSA Affiliates, who have water polo players, coaches, managers and technical officials fully registered with SSA for the current season are invited to compete at the championship.

2.2. Interested foreign-based water polo players would be permitted to participate in the



championship, provided they have clearance from their respective Federations.

Clearance from the respective federation must be submitted to SSA and the LOC.

- 2.3. All athletes that wish to compete in this tournament must complete the Intention to participate form as attached and send details via their Affiliate to SSA ghakazile.nzama@swimsa.org / daphne.bird@swimsa.org on or before **1st March 2026**.
- 2.4. All costs for the athletes participation and accommodation will be the responsibility of the athlete.
- 2.5. The Entry Fee for the Championship is **R 1100.00** per registered member or **R15000.00** per team entered.

3. ATHLETE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Players must be registered with SSA for the current season 2025/2026 and be in good standing.

The following criteria will guide the composition of teams:

3.1 Team Numbers

Each team will consist of fourteen **(14)** players in total:

twelve **(12)** outfield players and two **(2)** goalkeepers, A team must start the game with not more than seven players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper and who shall wear the goalkeeper's cap.

3.2 After the game has started, teams are **not required** to have a designated goalkeeper. They may play with **seven (7) outfield players**, none of whom will have goalkeeper privileges.

3.3 Each team must have at least **one (1) coach** and **one (1) team manager**.

3.4 Inclusivity

At least three (3) players and one (1) team staff must be Black.



3.5 The closing date for payment into the following bank account is **5th March 2026**.

Bank Details:

Bank: ABSA

Account Number:1003790807

Branch Code: 508005

Reference: SAWP26 (Team Name or Ind & Affiliate eg TridentsAG or JSmithAG)

Proof of payment must be sent to SSA through the affiliate

4. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

- 4.1. Only technical officials registered with SSA for the current season will be eligible to officiate.
- 4.2. Referees will be invited by the LOC to officiate at the Championships. All teams/players will contribute equally to the cost of these referees (travel, meals and accommodation).
- 4.3. Referees must be correctly attired, in black shorts, black closed shoes and a tournament shirt.
- 4.4. To enforce the rules, the referees shall be in absolute control of the game and their authority over players, team officials and spectators shall be effective from the moment they enter until they leave the venue of the match.
- 4.5. Referees' Workshops will be held one day before the commencement of the tournament. Attendance at the workshop is compulsory for all participating Referees.

5. TEAM OFFICIALS

- 5.1. Only team officials registered with SSA for the current season will be eligible to coach and manage teams.
- 5.2. Team Officials (Managers and Coaches) must be correctly attired, with long trousers, closed shoes, and identical shirts. Failure to comply will result in the exclusion of the official for that game.



- 5.3. Team Manager meetings will be held at the venue on the evening **of the 12th of March 2026 at the Clifton Aquatic Centre** before the commencement of the championship. Attendance at this meeting is compulsory for all coaches and managers.
6. Swimming South Africa has secured preferential accommodation rates for participants and their families at the following hotels:

Southern Sun Elangeni, Maharani, The Edward Hotel, Garden Court Marine Parade, and Garden Court South Beach.

Website: <https://www.southernsun.com/southern-sun-elangeni-maharani>,
<https://www.southernsun.com/the-edward>, <https://www.southernsun.com/garden-court-marine-parade>, <https://www.southernsun.com/garden-court-south-beach>;

Dedicated Point of Contact: Katelynn Larche - (031) 337 3341 or
Katelynn.Larche@southernsun.com

In addition, a 10% discount on leisure rates has been arranged with **Bluu Car Rental** for tournament attendees.

7. COMPETITION RULES

World Aquatics Water Polo Rules enforced on 1st July 2025 will apply to all sections. Specific competition By-Laws are detailed below. For further information, refer to World Aquatics Competition Regulations.

8. CAP COLOURS AND GAME START POSITIONS

- 8.1 The first team listed in the official programme must wear white (light-coloured) caps and start the game on the left side of the jury table.
- 8.2 The second team must wear blue (dark coloured) caps and start on the right side of the jury table.
- 8.3 LOC is responsible for providing the caps.



9. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- 9.1 Before participating in a game, players must remove any articles that could cause injury.
- 9.2 Fingernails must be kept short.

10. FIELD OF PLAY

Field of play is 25 m x 20 m for both men and women.

11. MATCH TIME

- 11.1 The duration of the game shall be four periods each of eight minutes actual play.
- 11.2 Time shall commence at the start of each period when a player touches the ball.
- 11.3 At all signals for stoppages, the time shall be stopped until the ball is put back into play by the ball leaving the hand of the player taking the appropriate throw or until the ball is touched by a player following a neutral throw.
- 11.4 The maximum ball possession time on attack has been reduced from 30 to **28** seconds whilst all corner throws, rebounds and exclusion times have been reduced from 20 to **18** seconds.
- 11.5 There shall be a two-minute interval between the first and second quarters and between the third and fourth quarters and a three-minute interval between the second and third quarters.
- 11.6 The teams, including the players, coaches and officials, shall change ends before starting the third quarter.

12. SELECTORS

All National Selectors must be present at the championships for the full duration of the event.

SSA reserves the right to co-opt additional selectors if required.



13. RESULTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Medals will be awarded to **1st, 2nd, 3rd place**.

Once the competitions have been completed, the official results will be posted on the Swimming South Africa website as soon as practically possible following the completion of the tournaments. The Medal Presentation will be held at the venue once the results have been ratified and published.

Disclaimer:

Swimming South Africa and any other event organizers will not be held liable for any costs and expenses incurred by any person following cancellation of an event outlined in this Event Information Notice. The limitation of liability includes, but is not limited to, any costs and expenses incurred by any members, participants, coaches, and administrative personnel or medical staff of Provincial Affiliates or individual clubs in respect of the cancellation of the event. Swimming South Africa reserves the right to amend the above entry conditions as required.