

1. Eligibility

- 1.1. Only athletes registered and in good standing with Swimming South Africa (SSA) will be considered for selection.
- 1.2. Only athletes born in the year 2010 are eligible for selection.
- 1.3. Selected athletes must be in possession of a valid South African passport, valid until October 2025, and have chosen South Africa as their sports nationality.
- 1.4. Members selected to the team(s) must abide by the SSA Code of Conduct as appended to the SSA Constitution. In addition, team members must agree to and sign the SSA Athlete / Official Agreement for the African Aquatics Development Tournament 2025.
- 1.5. The selection process is open to all eligible athletes within the designated age groups.
- 1.6. Athletes must be available to travel and compete at the African Aquatics Development Tournament 2025 (10th to 14th April 2025).
- 1.7. The team selection process will be in accordance with the SSA Transformation Policy, promoting demographic and gender equity where applicable.
- 1.8. The SSA Executive Committee reserves the right to amend these criteria and will ensure circulation of such amended criteria.
- 1.9. The final team(s) selection is subject to approval by the SSA Executive Committee.

2. Funding

- 2.1. This tour will be self-funded.
- 2.2. The final tour cost will be communicated after the final team(s) selection.

3. Conditions of Selection

- 3.1. The selected team(s) will be required to attend and participate in all the training camps as directed by the Head Coach.
- 3.2. Each team member must follow and complete the training programme as directed by the Head Coach.
- 3.3. Each team member must complete and pass fitness/flexibility and swim tests as directed by the Head Coach.



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- 3.4. Each team member must submit fitness tests to the Head Coach on the stipulated dates.
- 3.5. In the event of a player's injury or withdrawal after the announcement of the team(s), the National Water Polo Selection Committee may consider an athlete from the selected team reserves, based on their overall performance, commitment, and attendance at the training camps.
- 3.6. Athletes may be excluded from the team if the weekly fitness test results are not satisfactory and if progress or attitude is not up to standard.
- 3.7. Decisions regarding a team members' exclusion will be made at the discretion of SSA and in consultation with the Head Coach and Convenor of Selection.

4. Player Identification Process

- 4.1. Each coach from the top 5 placed teams in the current water polo season (U14 Age Group) will be asked to assist with the identification process by submitting Prospective Athletes from all participating provinces in a 2-stage process.
- 4.2. Stage 1, the top 5 coaches will identify prospects from teams other than their own team.
- 4.3. Stage 2, the top 5 coaches will identify prospects from their own team.

This process will encourage fairness and equity in identifying Prospective Athletes.

5. Selection Process

- 5.1. The submitted Prospective Athletes will be ranked on the number of votes they have received from the top 5 coaches.
- 5.2. From this list the National Water Polo Selection Committee led by Convenor of Selectors will determine the final team(s) to be selected. The relevant coach may have input but does not have a final say nor a voting right.
- 5.3. Two U15 teams will be selected to participate at the African Aquatics Development Tournament 2025.
- 5.4. Players will be divided into two equal-strength teams to create healthy competition during preparation and as well as during the tournament.



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5.5. The two teams will be selected with the intent to develop depth within the 'Born 2010' age group as part of a strategy to prepare for the U16 World Championships in 2026.

6. Squad System

6.1. After the completion of the African Aquatics Development Tournament 2025, both selected teams and the non-travelling reserves will form part of the wider training squad for the strategy to prepare for the U16 World Championships in 2026.

6.2. Players in the 'Born 2011' age group may also be invited to join the wider training squad. This will be at the discretion of the National Water Polo Selection Committee in conjunction with the Convenor of Selectors, and relevant Head Coach.

7. Training Camps, Preparation and Plans

7.1. This will be communicated and distributed by the Director of Coaching and the relevant Head Coach

