

**Selection Criteria, 7th World Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming
Championships 2026, Sante Fe, Argentina
3rd – 6th September 2026**

These criteria must be read in conjunction with the published SSA Policies and General Rules.

1. Eligibility

- 1.1. Only athletes registered with and in good standing with SSA will be considered for selection.
- 1.2. To be eligible for selection an athlete must participate at the 2026 SA National Open Water Swimming Championships, 6th, 7th, and 8th March 2026.
- 1.3. The times and placing achieved by swimmers at the above competition will be considered for selection.
- 1.4. Athletes must be available to travel to and compete at the 7th World Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships 2026, Sante Fe, Argentina from 3rd – 6th September 2026.
- 1.5. Team selection will be in accordance with the SSA Transformation Policy in relation to demographic and gender equity where applicable.
- 1.6. Selected athletes must be in possession of a valid South African passport and have chosen South Africa as their Sport Nationality.
- 1.7. Selected Team Members must abide by the SSA Code of Conduct as appended to the SSA Constitution and agree to and sign the SSA Athlete / Official Agreement for the 7th World Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships 2026.
- 1.8. The SSA Executive reserves the right to amend these criteria and circulate such amended criteria.



2. Criteria

- 2.1. Participating and attaining times only makes athletes eligible for selection and does not guarantee selection for the final team.
- 2.2. Athletes placed first and second in the 5km, 7.5km of the 10km events for the relevant age group may be considered.
- 2.3. Athletes for the 4 x 1.5km team relay event will be nominated from athletes selected for the team.
- 2.4. Selection will be done in accordance athlete's work ethic, physical readiness, and suitability regarding team dynamics and compatibility.
- 2.5. SSA reserves the right to approve or hold additional qualifying competitions (due to inclement weather etc.) if determined necessary.

2.6. Team Size and Age Groups

2.6.1. Age Groups as of 31st December of the year of the competition

2.6.2. Group 1 (Born in 2011 and 2012)

- 2.6.2.1. 14 - 15 years
- 2.6.2.2. 2 Boys and 2 Girls

2.6.3. Group 2 (Born in 2010 and 2009)

- 2.6.3.1. 16 – 17 years
- 2.6.3.2. 2 Boys and 2 Girls

2.6.4. Group 3 (Born in 2007 and 2008)

- 2.6.4.1. 18 - 19 years
- 2.6.4.2. 2 Boys and 2 Girls

2.7. Events

2.7.1. Individual Events:

- 2.7.1.1. Group 1 – 5km Boys and 5km Girls
- 2.7.1.2. Group 2 – 7.5km Boys and 7.5km Girls
- 2.7.1.3. Group 3 – 10km Boys and 10km Girls
- 2.7.1.4. Open19&u – 3km Knock Out Sprint



2.7.2. Team Events

- 2.7.2.1. Swimmers 14-15-16 – 4 x 1.5km: 4 swimmers –2 Boys and 2 Girls
- 2.7.2.2. Swimmers 19&U – 4 x 1.5 km: 4 swimmers – 2 Boys and 2 Girls
- 2.7.2.3. Swimmers may only swim in one team event

3. Funding

- 3.1.1. This will be self-funded.