



02 September 2026

SSA WATER POLO HIGH-PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

World Aquatics 2026/2027 Schedule Confirmed

The World Aquatics Water Polo competition schedule for this part of the cycle is confirmed for all divisions. The World Cup Division 1 and Division 2 fixtures, the World Aquatics Championships in Budapest, and the U20 World Championships are also confirmed on the international calendar for this cycle. This builds on the momentum of steady improvement in competitiveness across all age-group squads, as demonstrated by their performances at various World Aquatics events this year. This progress reflects the coaching staff's work in providing adequate preparation and conditioning, which continues to show in the squads' steady improvement. This document sets out the confirmed dates and the planning implications for the High-Performance Programme.

Overview

The National Squad Selection Camps in September 2026 are part of the ongoing implementation of the High-Performance Programme pathway, during which the Senior and U20 Women and Men's squads are selected ahead of the World Cup season. The women's programme departs first, with a pre-departure training camp against Russian U20 Women scheduled a week before travel. The men's programme follows in January, with Division 1 and Division 2 scheduled in close succession. The men's pre-departure training camp against Russian U20 Men runs concurrently with Division 1 Men, as the men's team competes in Division 2.

Beyond the World Cup cycle, the World Aquatics Championships in Budapest will host water polo from 26 June to 9 July 2027, as part of the wider Championships, which run from 26 June to 18 July 2027. The U20 World Championships are confirmed on the World Aquatics calendar.

The schedule reflects the planning approach the High-Performance Programme has adopted for this cycle: training partnerships with established water polo nations, camps scheduled to precede competition, and continuity between preparation and tournament play.

Partnership with the Russian Federation

Both pre-departure training camps will be held against the Russian Federation's U20 Women's and Men's squads, with the Russian teams travelling to South Africa for each camp. This arrangement provides our women's and men's squads with direct preparation

against high-level opposition on home soil in the week before departure, and marks a significant step in the High-Performance Programme's international training relationships.

Confirmed Schedule

Event	Dates	Notes
National Squad Selection Camp – Ladies (Senior/U20)	11 – 13 September 2026	St David's Marist Inanda, Sandton
National Squad Selection Camp – Men (Senior/U20)	18 – 20 September 2026	Clifton School, Morningside, Durban
Pre-departure Training Camp – Russian U20 Women	27 November – 4 December 2026	One week ahead of departure for Division 2 Women
Division 2 Women	6 – 13 December 2026	
Division 1 Women	14 – 20 December 2026	
Pre-departure Training Camp – Russian U20 Men	8 – 15 January 2027	Runs concurrently with Division 1 Men. Men compete in Division 2
Division 1 Men	11 – 17 January 2027	
Division 2 Men	18 – 24 January 2027	
World Cup Finals	24 – 28 February 2027	Venues to be confirmed
World Aquatics Championships, Budapest 2027 (Water Polo)	26 June – 9 July 2027	Part of the wider Championships, 26 June to 18 July 2027, Budapest, Hungary
U20 World Championships	Dates to be confirmed	Confirmed on the World Aquatics calendar. Dates and host to follow

President: Z Molusi (Acting)
Vice Presidents: J. Naidoo, Z Molusi & E. Van Veenhuysen
Treasurer: J. Ellis
Members: L. Blignaut, L. Coetzee, A. Motau, C. Ho
Hon. Life Member: R. Andrews
Hon. Life Presidents: S. Ramsamy & G. Sam

Planning Implications

Coaches, players, and support staff now have a fixed calendar to plan against. Selection, conditioning, and travel logistics can be finalised accordingly. Venues for the World Cup Finals and dates for the U20 World Championships remain to be confirmed and will be communicated once confirmed. This schedule forms the operational basis for the High-Performance Programme's preparation through to Budapest 2027 and beyond.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Z. Molusi', written in a cursive style.

On Behalf of The Members of the Executive Committee