



## WPSWP Selection Criteria

### Rationale:

- Provide a selection process for the players under the auspices of Western Province Schools Waterpolo (WPSWP) who wish to be selected to represent WPSWP;
- Provide an opportunity for WPSWP players to represent their province;
- Provide high level training and competitive opportunities for WPSWP players;
- Provide an opportunity for WPSWP age eligible players to be scouted as potential players for the Youth Men's & Women's National Teams; and
- Continue to support Schools Water Polo South Africa (SWPSA) and Swim South Africa (SSA) programme initiatives.

### Eligibility and Availability:

- To be eligible for selection to Western Province (WP) Provincial Team representing WPSWP:
  - A player must be a registered competitive member in good standing with Western Province Schools Waterpolo Association (WPSWA), WP Aquatics and SSA;
  - Players must be capitated through WP Aquatics to SSA by 31 October;
  - Players, parents or guardians must sign the necessary consent forms and codes of conduct prior to taking part in the tournament in which they have been selected;
  - Players wishing to be considered for selection must attend the WPSWP trials and be eligible for the age group in question:
    - Should a player not be able to attend the trials based on medical reasons, such reasons and motivating medically endorsed documentation (this needs to include the extent of the injury and probable rehabilitation period) must be provided to the selection convenor of the age group in question by no later than 2 days prior to the trials; with the exception of injuries occurring after this date;
    - Players unable to attend the trials due to clashing other school commitments (e.g. recognised exchange programmes) needs to notify the selection convenor no later than 2 days prior to the trials. In these instances the level of player commitment, the player's fitness and length of absence will determine the player's eligibility;

- Upon the team(s) being selected, players must attend all practices and training and all other events designated by the provincial team coaches and WPSWP (kit hand-outs, capping ceremony etc). Exception will be made for school-sanctioned events clashing with pre-tournament training; and
- Team selection will be in accordance with SSA transformation policies in relation to demographic equity where applicable.

**Process:**

- Athletes will attend the selection trials;
- Athletes will be evaluated according to enclosed criteria;
- Selection criteria, player agreements and communication will be circulated via associated schools, associated websites and social media; and
- Final team selections will be made once ratified either immediately after, or no later than 2 days, after the trials being held.

**Selection Criteria:**

*Water Polo is a team sport. It is difficult to base selection strictly on player performance at the trials alone and therefore some subjective judgment may be required (e.g. previous school, tournament and provincial experience) when making decisions regarding selections. The selection criteria outlined below, will be the primary tool used by the provincial selectors, coach(s), to select the provincial teams. Consultation with any other coaches (including but not limited to) of the player in question in an effort to form an opinion on the players competencies with regard to the criteria below.*

When selecting a player for a provincial team, the selectors/coach(s) will base decisions on the following criteria:

- Individual/team play characteristics;
- Individual ball handling;
- Application of skills to the game situation;
- Passing ability when under pressure;
- Ability to maintain possession in confined area;
- Ability to make and execute correct decisions under pressure; and
- Game clock and shot clock awareness.
- Technical abilities, skills and positions
- Drivers
  - Ability to shoot / score;
  - Ability to create a passing option and
  - Ability to earn an advantage or exclusion.

- Centre back (hole guard)
  - Ability to read the game
  - Ability to neutralize the opponent
  - Ability to counter attack
- Centre Forward
  - Ability to control their position
  - Ability to control the ball and pose a scoring threat
  - Ability to effectively pass to shooters
  - Ability to earn an exclusion
- Outside shooters
  - Ability to score from outside five/seven meters
  - Diversity of shots
- Goalkeepers
  - Ability to block
  - Ability to perform accurate long passes
  - Ability to read the game
  - Ability to anticipate shots
  - Ability to steal balls
  - Ability to communicate to team-mates
- Team Work
  - Work effectively with the team
  - Ability to play and to cooperate within the team
  - Ability to be involved and to communicate effectively with other players during the game, in and out of the water
  - Ability to adhere to the game plan
  - Ability to display leadership qualities, in and out of the pool
  - Ability to fit into the overall team chemistry
- Needs of the team to perform at the national level:
  - Physical
    - Height
    - Weight
    - Strength/power
    - Speed
    - Aerobic standard
    - Anaerobic standard
    - Flexibility
    - Endurance
  - Tactical knowledge
    - Previous Team experience
    - Offensive system

- Defensive system
- Counter attack system
- Extra player system
- Personal characteristics
  - Goal-oriented
  - Confident
  - Leadership qualities
  - Self-motivated
  - Determined
  - Hard worker
  - Team player
  - Coachability
  - Commitment

***NOTE: WPSWP Committee reserves the right to amend these criteria and circulate such amended criteria.***