



Supplementary Guidelines for the selection of athletes to U16 & U18 National Squads and Program Activity

- These Guidelines provide parameters through which athletes can be identified and invited to participate in Nationally defined, often state-administered activities.
- The selection to U16 & U18 National Teams is handled specifically and separately through **“WPA Selection Policy for U16 and U18 National Teams”**
- The National State Championships remain a priority event for athletes to make themselves available to compete in.
- Following the National State Championships (NSC) a preliminary squad may be selected to help define and direct athletes towards future activity – in particular to help direct athlete engagement into relevant State talent programs.
- The selection of preliminary squads has no finality, or direct association with the “eligibility” of athletes to the **“WPA Selection Policy for U16 and U18 National Teams”**. Athletes can be added to (and subsequently removed from) preliminary squads and program activity at any time.
- Transition considerations for any preliminary squad selected following the 2025 NSC:
 - Any athlete that was selected into an U16 or U18 NAGP Squad following the 2024 NSC will be included in any 2025 U16 or U18 NAGP preliminary squad or be invited to talent camps in their state subject to:
 - That athlete remaining active with their club and/or state programs
 - That athlete not holding debt with WPA without an agreed payment plan
 - That athlete remaining eligible for the respective age group program
 - Additional athletes not previously selected to an U16 or U18 NAGP Squad following the 2024 NSC can be considered and selected to any preliminary squad without restriction.
- Water Polo Australia will invest into State Talent Lead coaches (or variable name) and provide other value in kind to support State Associations (and/or their clubs) to drive the best possible talent programs that provide an enhanced foundation from which National activity can build from.
- State Talent Lead (or variable name) coaches, along with appointed U16 & U18 National Team coaches will all be included in any panel discussion around the identification or selection of athletes to preliminary squads. These coaches would form what was historically referred to as a **National Squad Selection Panel**.
- For both the Male and Female U16 & U18 National Program, the **National Squad Selection Panel** is responsible for selecting any squad for a Selection Camp associated with the **“WPA Selection Policy for U16 and U18 National Teams”**. Athlete identification for Selection Camps will be based on:
 - performances at activities such as the National State Championships, State Title Championships, nominated competitions for non–State Title based States, and State-Based Camps
 - ADF-informed Player Matrix assessments
 - Individual athlete growth, development and potential



- Alignment with the overall National Strategy for WPA High Performance
- The State Talent Lead coaches would be the primary coach in support of any individual athlete performance planning conversations of Pathways program athletes in their State.
- The responsibilities of the pool of State Talent Lead and U16 and U18 National program coaches include:
 - Ensuring that all eligible players are viewed across the National State Championship, State Title Championships, nominated competitions for non-State Title based States, and State-Based Camps, with the ADF-informed player matrix applied to support any National selection process.
 - Identifying and supporting the development needs of identified athletes in their Daily Performance Environments.
 - Building a clear understanding of individual athlete role(s) as well as capabilities within or across specific or multiple positions and their respective strengths and weaknesses.

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