2027 AYC Information Brief

Dates

- Week 1 | 14&U and 18&U | 30 March - 3 April 2027
- Week 2 | 12&U and 16&U | 5 April - 9 April 2027

Venues

- Brisbane Aquatic Centre (Sleeman)
- Fortitude Valley
- All Hallows
- St Rita's
- Stuartholme
- Somerville House
- Musgrave Park
- Yeronga Park

Age Groups – (As per the National Technical Rules 2026/2027)

- U12's – Born 2015 & 2016
  - Exemption permitted for Born 2015 to play up in U14's Green Division only
- U14's – Born 2013 & 2014
  - Exemption permitted for Born 2013 to play up in U16's Green Division only
- U16's – Born 2011 & 2012
  - Exemption permitted for Born 2011 to play up in U18's Green Division only
- U18's – Born 2009 & 2010

- Age exemptions outside the above are to be requested via the RevSport Link - **2027 AYC Age Exemption Requests - Water Polo Australia - revolutioniseSPORT**. The request will be forward for review by the WPA AYC Competitions Panel, **by Monday 11th January 2027**. No requests will be accepted after this time.
- NAGP identified athletes wishing to play higher age and division are to consult with the WPA Pathways Lead prior to approval, as well as complete the exemption request as per above.

Divisions

- Gold Division – minimum 12 teams, maximum 20 teams
- Green Division – minimum 12 teams, maximum 24 teams
- It is at the discretion of WPA if divisions are to be combined and/or if a Final Series is conducted.

- Every effort will be taken to avoid odd team entry numbers in any age group and division. Teams who finish last in their odd number groupings are not guaranteed of progressing to play-off games this will be subject to team entries.

Teams

Whilst we encourage all teams to have **12 field players and 2 goalkeepers,** as stated in the WPA National Technical Rules, we have listened to feedback and we do understand that sometimes this is not possible, so have pre-approved exemptions, as follows: -

- U12's – 12 field players and 2 goal keepers – minimum 11 field players and 1 goalkeeper.
- U14's – Gold Division – 12 field players and 1 goalkeeper
  Green Division – minimum 11 field players and 1 goalkeeper
- U16's – Gold Division – 12 field players and 1 goalkeeper
  Green Division – minimum 11 field players and 1 goalkeeper
- U18's – Gold Division – 12 field players and 1 goalkeeper
  Green Division – minimum 11 field players and 1 goalkeeper

Teams outside these parameters will not be eligible to progress to finals

Team Entries

- Early Bird Team Entries open Tuesday 1st December 2026
- Early Bird Team Entries close Sunday 3rd January 2027
- Late Entries close Sunday 10th January 2027 – incurring additional fee of $423 per team entry
- Team Fee = $4,143.00 per team including GST
- **Non-refundable Deposit** required at the time of registering online (mandatory) - $423.00 inc gst

Match Times – Gold & Green Divisions

- U12's – 4 quarters of 4-minute actual time – Breaks 1-2-1
- U14's – 4 quarters of 5-minute actual time – Breaks 1-2-1
- U16's – 4 quarters of 6-minute actual time – Breaks 1-2-1
- U18's – 4 quarters of 6-minute actual time (TBC) – Breaks 1-2-1
- Two (2) timeouts per team semi-finals onwards. No time-outs in play-off games 5th and below

Tournament Eligibility

All participants, Coaches, Managers, Players and Table Officials are required to be a member of WPA, registering via their Club to the RevSport membership portal.

  - Players – Platinum membership
  - Coaches/Referees – Gold Membership (if nonplaying)

- Managers/Table Officials – Bronze Volunteer membership

The WPA Tournament Eligibility Regulations have been updated and approved by the WPA Play Committee & WPA Board… There have been some significant changes…

1. Primary & Secondary status is determined **as of 31 December in the relevant season** – Clause 4.4.2 & 4.4.3
2. Secondary State & Club memberships have changed… Refer clause 4.5
    - Evidence will be required for second claim memberships.
    - Registering with a club as a second claim prior, to the cut off, is not a given that you can play for that Club… ie SNB player registering with Drummoyne because SNB are not entering a team… (you can only be active in one club)
    - It is highly **unlikely** that interstate second claim will be approved… ie a NSW primary player second claiming to a Perth/WA Club would not be approved as it is unlikely they would be "fully financial" or "regularly active" in an interstate club…
    - Playing a tournament for an interstate team does not qualify you as a second claim member.
3. School Teams – like last year, with the addition of school teams entering WPA events and competitions, must be school students only… Refer clause 5.7
4. Correct Eligible Team – includes definitions for association teams… Refer clause 5.12.1 (c) & (d). In addition, refer to clause 5.12.1 (g) which has been added along with clause 5.12.3
5. International players, less than 300 days residency, are required to enter the draft. Refer Clause 4.3.1
6. Composite Teams – Refer to Clause 5.6.1
7. State eligibility requirements are different to WPA eligibility requirements
8. If you are unable to meet any of the above, it is suggested to enter the Draft.

Draft

The Player Draft will be managed by WPA

- **Individual Nominations**
    - All players who wish to enter the draft are to complete their registration via the link on the WPA Website
    - A **non-refundable** payment of $10 admin fee, per age group and division, is due at the time of registration
    - Players will have the option of registering for Gold division or Green division or both
    - Players can nominate if they wish to be selected for a team in their own State or if they wish to enter the draft Nationally.
    - International players are required to register for the draft

- **Team Nominations**
    - If a team requires 5 or more players, they are encouraged to form a composite team within their State or interstate, prior to entering the draft
    - Teams who require players from the individual draft nominations must register via the link on WPA website
    - Teams with less than the minimum number of players approved, are required to enter the draft, or will be allocated players from the individual draft registrations
- **Draft Process**
    - On close of the draft nominations, the list will be circulated to teams requiring players
    - The State draft will be conducted first, Gold division followed by Green Division
    - The lowest seeded team/s will have the first pick of athletes
    - One athlete at a time will be selected by teams who entered the draft, until all positions are filled.
    - Teams are unable to "pass" on a player selection
    - If a player declines their selection from the draft. They cannot be allocated to another team and are ineligible to play at the event
    - WPA will endeavour to ensure that all athletes are successful, however cannot guarantee the number of positions available.

Accommodation and Travel

If you require assistance organising your accommodation and travel arrangements to and from the tournament in Brisbane, please reach out to the WPA Travel provider **Sportslink Travel** - see the attached flyer...

Links

- **2027 AYWPC Team Entries - Water Polo Australia - revolutioniseSPORT** – Opens Tuesday 1 December 2026
- **2026-2027 Composite Team Entry Request - Water Polo Australia - revolutioniseSPORT**
- **2027 AYC Age Exemption Requests - Water Polo Australia - revolutioniseSPORT**
- **EOI - 2027 AYC Referees & Delegates - Water Polo Australia - revolutioniseSPORT**
- **EOI - 2027 AYC Pool Controller - Water Polo Australia - revolutioniseSPORT**
- **2026 - 2027 Water Polo Australia Photographers Pass - Water Polo Australia - revolutioniseSPORT**

2027 AYC Timelines

As you are all aware, this is an extremely busy time in preparing for this event, therefore we do request that all Clubs meet the timelines set out in the below table for the 2027 AYC Event.

2027 AYC Timelines	
EOI - Referees & Delegates Open	Friday 16th October 2026
EOI - Pool Controllers Open	Friday 16th October 2026
Early Bird Team Entries Open - (AU$423.00 **non- refundable** deposit due per team entry)	Tuesday 1st December 2026
Early Bird Team Entries Close including deposit payment	Sunday 3rd January 2027
Draft Opens	Monday 4th January 2027
Late Team Entries (incur $423.00 per team late fee) close	Sunday 10th January 2027
Age exemptions requests to be submitted by	Monday 11th January 2027
Teams who withdraw from the competition after 15 January 2027 are required to pay team entry in full.	Friday 15th January 2027
Clubs Invoiced - Balance of Team Entry fee	Monday 18th January 2027
Age exemption requests outcomes to be communicated	Monday 18th January 2027
Draft Closes	Monday 25th January 2027
EOI - Referes & Delegates Closes	Friday 29th January 2027
EOI - Pool Controllers Closes	Friday 29th January 2027
State Draft	Monday 8th February 2027
National Draft	Monday 15th February 2027
Clubs' payment of invoices	Monday 15th February 2027
Team Lists Due	Monday 22nd February 2027
Draw Release 14's & 18's Age Groups	Monday 1st March 2027
Draw Release 12's & 16's Age Groups	Monday 8th March 2027
Club Representatives Information Sessions - online	Wednesday 10th March 2027
WPA Bump in	Thursday 25th March 2027
WPA Bump in	Saturday 27th March 2027
WPA Bump in	Monday 29th March 2027
Week 1 - Parent Education Session + Coach and Referee Forum	Monday 29th March 2027
Day 1 - 14's & 18's competition	Tuesday 30th March 2027
Day 2 - 14's & 18's competition	Wednesday 31st March 2027
Day 3 - 14's & 18's competition	Thursday 1st April 2027
Day 1 - AWL Final Series	Thursday 1st April 2027
Day 4 - 14's & 18's competition	Friday 2nd April 2027
Day 2 - AWL Final Series	Friday 2nd April 2027
Day 5 - 14's & 18's competition	Saturday 3rd April 2027
Day 3 - AWL Final Series	Saturday 3rd April 2027
Day 4 - AWL Final Series	Sunday 4th April 2027
Week 2 - Parent Education Session + Coach and Referee Forum	Sunday 4th April 2027
Day 1 - U12's & U16's	Monday 5th April 2027
Day 2 - U12's & U16's	Tuesday 6th April 2027
Day 3 - U12's & U16's	Wednesday 7th April 2027
Day 4 - U12's & U16's	Thursday 8th April 2027
Day 5 - U12's & U16's	Friday 9th April 2027
Bump out	Friday 9th/Saturday 10th April 2027