



SWIMMING SOUTH AFRICA

WATER POLO | NEWSLETTER

2025 QUARTELY EDITION

United by water – One Pass at a Time

Foreword



As we close the chapter on Nationals 2025, we do so with pride and gratitude.

To every athlete, coach, official, manager, volunteer and family member, thank you! You brought focus, discipline and purpose to the pool.

On behalf of the SSA Exco, I honour your commitment. I also acknowledge the Technical Committee, Selection Committee, High Performance Committee, our sponsors, Southern Sun Hotel Group and the Local Organising Committee for their commitment and the strength of their contribution. Your quiet work matters. It holds the structure that allows our athletes to thrive.

We now turn to the U20 World Championships, the Senior World Championships and the Division II World Cup. These events are not new. What matters now is how we rise to meet them. A step change is needed. We must move beyond participation and take our place with purpose.

As squads are confirmed, let us stand behind those selected and continue to strengthen the systems that carry them. We do this not only for South Africa, but for the continent we represent.

This is a time to move with clarity and stay connected to what we are building. Our athletes, coaches, managers and technical officials continue to show up and do the work.

It is up to all of us to meet that effort with alignment, trust and shared intent.

Legacy is shaped in the choices we make together, one deliberate step at a time.

“We move forward with those who are building for more than the moment. Together, we shape what endures.”

With thanks and continued commitment

Asmeralda Motau

SSA EXCO – Water Polo



The Technical Committee

Dion Willis

CHAIRMAN



Lucky Letshabo

TC MEMBER



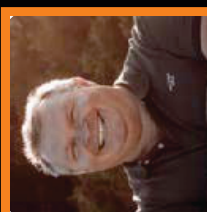
Galidjah Hendricks

TC MEMBER



Vaughn Meecham

TC MEMBER



The Selection Committee

Kagiso Musi

SELECTOR



Jason Sileno

CONVENOR



Rheinaardt van Schoor

SELECTOR





INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION CALENDAR 2025

A Thrilling Start to the Season!

We're excited to share some fantastic developments in our international water polo calendar for 2025.

Last month, six of our national age group teams made history by participating in the inaugural Africa Aquatics Development Water Polo Tournament, hosted by the Zimbabwe Water Polo Board of Control in Harare.

This milestone event gave our selectors and coaching staff valuable insights and a chance to scout emerging talent for our U16 and U18 squads—laying the groundwork for the 2026 World Championships.

Hot off the heels of our Senior National Championships, our under 20 and Senior Men's and Ladies' National Teams have been selected – fierce, focused, and ready to represent South Africa at their respective World Championships in the coming months:

U20 Men's Team – Competing in June at the U20 Men's World Championships in Zagreb, Croatia

- Senior Men's and Women's Teams – In action this July at the Aquatics World Championships in Singapore
- U20 Women's Team – Heading to Salvador, Brazil this August for the U20 Women's World Championships

Over 2,500 athletes are expected to participate at these World Aquatics Championships, representing World Aquatics' 210 national member federations across the six aquatic sports.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all athletes selected to wear the green and gold. Your dedication and hard work continue to inspire, and we wish you every success as you prepare to represent South Africa on the international stage.



SPONSOR

Want to support or sponsor our National Programme?
Email Mafata Modutoane at mafata.modutoane@swimsa.org



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Water polo, under the SSA leadership is growing. It's thriving. And it's evolving.



FEEDBACK?

Send it to
[\[dion.willis@icloud.com\]](mailto:dion.willis@icloud.com)

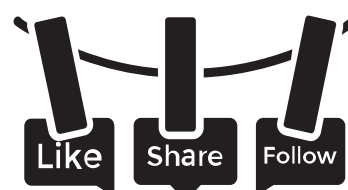
We're on Facebook and Instagram –
and we are celebrating **YOU**, the
community that makes it all possible.



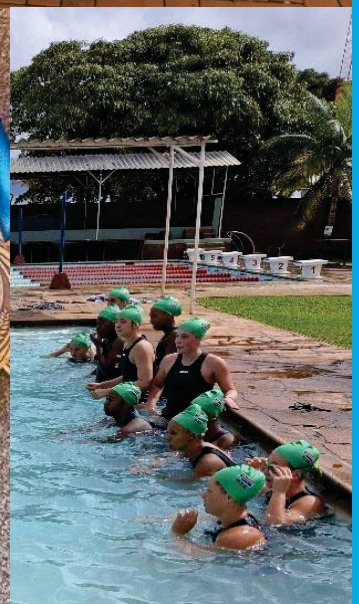
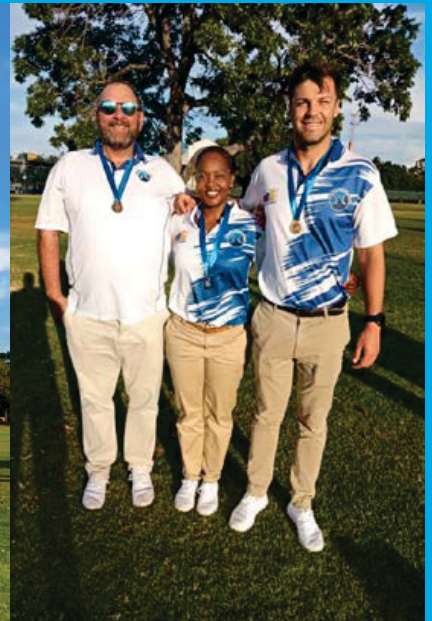
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HIGHLIGHTS



National Currie Cup Water Polo Tournament 2025: Showcasing Mnansi

April 2025 saw **the most successful national tournament** in recent memory.

From breathtaking saves to edge-of-your-seat goals, the energy was unmatched.

Buffalo City Aquatics and Swim South Africa proudly hosted both the Senior Men's and Ladies' National Currie Cup tournaments from 26–28 April 2025 at the Joan Harrison Pool Complex in East London.

The event brought together 8 Men's and 6 Ladies' franchise teams, featuring some of the top U20 and senior water polo players from across South Africa.

As a key event on the national calendar, Currie Cup serves as the primary selection platform for our National Teams set to compete in the 2025.

U17 Squads Make a Strong Impression

This year marked an exciting milestone with the inclusion of the South African U17 Boys' and Girls' squads. Despite facing tough

opposition, these young athletes delivered impressive performances and demonstrated strong potential. Their participation provided national selectors with valuable insight into the future of South African water polo and contributed to the long-term vision for the 2028 Olympic cycle.

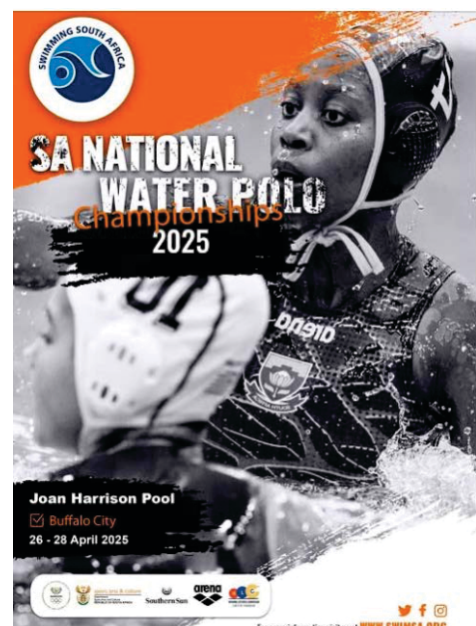
Rule Changes

The tournament kicked off on Friday evening with a well-attended technical meeting for coaches and managers.

- Mr. Lionel Poovan, President of Buffalo City Aquatics, welcomed all participants.
- Mr. Dion Willis, Head Referee and Convenor of the SA Water Polo Technical Committee, introduced newly adopted rule changes that will align South African teams with international standards ahead of the World Championships.

New Developments

- The timing system for previously disadvantaged players was omitted with the aim of promoting fairness and equality organically. We are pleased to report that the change was embraced in the true spirit of the game.



Tournament Results: Ladies Division

Medals were presented by Mr. Lionel Poovan and Mr. Dion Willis..



🥇 *Aqua Titans (Gauteng)* – Gold Medal

🥈 *Elite Stags Eagles (d)* – Silver Medal

🥉 *Eastern Cape Invitational* – Bronze Medal

Tournament Results: Men's Division

Medals were presented by Ms. Sibulelo Ncongo (Local MEC for Sport), Mr. Alan Fritz (President of SSA), and Mr. Dion Willis.



🥇 *KZN A* – Gold Medal

🥈 *Tridents (Gauteng)* – Silver Medal

🥉 *UCT (Western Cape)* – Bronze Medal

 **Missed the action?** Relive the highlights. Link below



WATCH NOW

<https://www.youtube.com/live/u8DGjH7GTZ0>

<https://www.youtube.com/live/HE2xR8FX-Uw>

Acknowledgements and Closing

Our heartfelt thanks go to Swimming S South Africa, the members of the SSA Water Polo Technical Committee, the athletes, coaches, managers, referees, and the broader water polo community for a standout event. With so many promising players emerging, the future of South African water polo is bright.

HIGHLIGHTS





Southern Sun



FORWARD TOGETHER – THE NATIONAL PATHWAY

Yes, there are challenges. Yes, there's noise! But **the game belongs to the players**, and the community that believes in unity, progress, and purpose. We've built a **clear national pathway** with input from top coaches, athletes, parents, and clubs across the country. **This isn't just a program – it's a movement.** And we want *you* in it.



REGISTRATION

Registration with **SSA** for the new season falls due

1st May 2025

**SAVE
THE DATE**

Proposed Dates for Nationals:

2026: Kings Park Durban

Senior Nationals

13 March to 15 March

U16 and U18 Nationals

20th March to 23 March

2027: Kings Park Durban

Senior Nationals

19th March to 22nd March

U16 AND U18 Nationals

18th March to 21st March



THE FINAL WORD

This is **NOT** about sides. It's about **water polo winning**.
It's about **PLAYERS** dreaming bigger, **VETERANS** leading better, and **COMMUNITIES** sticking together.

Let's build the game we all love. Together.