

GENERAL EVENT INFORMATION

The 2025 Swimming South Africa Senior National Aquatic Championships for Water Polo (hereafter “the Championship”) for Men and Women will be held at the venues as stated below in Point 1.3 from **Saturday 26th April to Monday 28th April (Freedom Day) 2025.**

1. TEAM ENTRY CRITERIA

1.1 The Teams in the Senior Men and Women’s sections will be representative of Provincial teams.

1.2 Entries are limited to a maximum of 10 Women’s teams and 10 Men’s teams.

1.3 Tournament Venues:

- a) Senior Men Joan Harrison Aquatic Centre (East Pool)
Buffalo City (East London)
- b) Senior Women Joan Harrison Aquatic Centre (West Pool)
Buffalo City (East London)

2. ENTRY PROCEDURES

2.1. All SSA Affiliates, who have water polo players, coaches, managers and technical officials fully registered with SSA for the current season are invited to compete at the championship.

2.2. Interested foreign based water polo players would be permitted to participate in the championship, provided they have clearance from their respective Federations. clearance from the respective federation must be submitted to SSA and the LOC.

2.3. All teams that wish to compete in this tournament must complete the Intention to participate form as attached and send details via their Affiliate to SSA _

daphne.bird@swimsa.org ; Lizwi.mbonambi@swimsa.org and or
buffalocitypolo@gmail.com on or before **Monday 3rd March 2025.**



- 2.4. All costs for the team's participation and accommodation will be the responsibility of the Affiliate.
- 2.5. The Entry Fee for the Championship is **R12, 000.00** per team entered.
- 2.6. Affiliates that require invoices for payment purposes must request from daphne.bird@swimsa.org ; Lizwi.mbonambi@swimsa.org or buffalocitypolo@gmail.com by latest **Monday 17th March 2025.**

3. TEAM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Players must be registered with SSA for the current season.

The following criteria will guide the composition of our team:

3.1 Team Numbers

Each team will consist of fourteen **(14)** players in total: twelve **(12)** outfield players and two **(2)** goalkeepers,

Each team will consist of one coach and one team manager.

3.2 Inclusivity

at least three (3) players and one (1) team staff must be persons of colour.

3.3 The closing date for payment into the following bank account is Wednesday **26th March 2025.**

Bank Details:

Bank: ABSA

Account Number:1003790807

Branch Code: 508005

Reference: SAWP24 (Team Name & Affiliate)

Proof of payment must be sent to SSA through the affiliate.



3.4 The relevant team manager must produce a copy of proof of payment and proof of registration of team staff and players at registration.

3.5 The deadline for the final named entries for teams, including athletes, coaches, managers, and referees, is **Monday 7th April 2025**. The Provincial President must sign off these entries. Affiliates are responsible for confirming that participants are fully registered with SSA.

4. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

- 4.1. Only technical officials registered with SSA for the current season will be eligible to officiate.
- 4.2. Referees will be invited by the LOC to officiate at the Championships. All teams will contribute equally to the cost of these referees (travel, meals and accommodation).
- 4.3. Referees must be correctly attired, in navy shorts, closed shoes and a tournament shirt.
- 4.4. To enforce the rules, the referees shall be in absolute control of the game and their authority over players, team officials and spectators shall be effective from the moment they enter until they leave the venue of the match.
- 4.5. Referees' Workshops will be held one day before the commencement of the tournament. Attendance at the workshop is compulsory for all participating Referees.

5. TEAM OFFICIALS

- 5.1. Only team officials registered with SSA for the current season will be eligible to coach and manage teams.



5.2. Team Officials must be correctly attired, with long trousers, closed shoes, and identical shirts. Failure to comply will result in the exclusion of the official for that game.

5.3. Team Manager meetings will be held at the venue on the evening of the **25th April 2025 at 18h30 at the Old Selbornian Club** before the commencement of the championship. Attendance at this meeting is compulsory for all coaches and managers.

6. COMPETITION RULES

World Aquatics Water Polo Rules enforced on 1 January 2025 will apply to all sections. Specific competition By-Laws are detailed below. For further information, refer to World Aquatics Competition Regulations.

7. CAPTITATION

Players, coaches, managers, and officials must be fully capitated to SSA through their affiliate.

8. TEAM COMPOSITION

8.1 Each team must consist of a maximum of fourteen (14) players: twelve (12) outfield players and two (2) goalkeepers. A team must start the game with not more than seven players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper and who shall wear the goalkeeper's cap.

8.2 After the game has started, teams are **not required** to have a designated goalkeeper. They may play with **seven (7) outfield players**, none of whom will have goalkeeper privileges.



8.3 Each team must have at least **one (1) coach** and **one (1) team manager**.

Coaches and team managers **may not** coach or manage any other team in the tournament.

8.4 Players **may only compete for one team** throughout the tournament.

8.5 **U20 teams (born 2005 or after)** entering the competition will compete in the **senior section**.

8.6 The Men's and Women's sections will compete as Provincial Teams affiliated to SSA through their provincial affiliate.

8.7 Where a provincial team is not strong enough to compete at the championship, an affiliate invitation team (a combination of capitated provincial players) may be entered.

8.8 Players registered with one affiliate may request permission from **SSA** to be released and play for another provincial team in a different affiliated region. Requests for **player transfers** must be submitted to SSA no later than **Monday 7th April 2025**.

9. TEAM DRESS CODE

9.1 All players on a team must wear costumes of the same design and colour.

9.2 Team managers and coaches must wear matching shirts and bottoms with closed shoes.

10. CAP COLOURS AND GAME START POSITIONS

10.1 The first team listed in the official program must wear white (light-coloured) caps and start the game on the left side of the jury table.

10.2 The second team must wear blue (dark-coloured) caps and start on the right side of the jury table.

10.3 Each team is responsible for providing its own caps.



11. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

11.1 Before participating in a game, players must remove any articles that could cause injury.

11.2 Fingernails must be kept short.

12. FIELD OF PLAY

Field of play is 25 m x 20 m for both men and women.

13. MATCH TIME

13.1 The duration of the game shall be four periods each of eight minutes actual play.

13.2 Time shall commence at the start of each period when a player touches the ball.

13.3 At all signals for stoppages, the time shall be stopped until the ball is put back into play by the ball leaving the hand of the player taking the appropriate throw or until the ball is touched by a player following a neutral throw.

13.4 The maximum ball possession time on attack has been reduced from 30 to 25 seconds whilst all corner throws, rebounds and exclusion times have been reduced from 20 to 15 seconds.

13.5 The maximum ball possession time on attack in a woman's match remains at 30 seconds whilst all corner throws, rebounds and exclusion times have been reduced from 20 to 15 seconds.

13.6 There shall be a two minute interval between the first and second quarters and between the third and fourth quarters and a three-minute interval between the second and third quarters.

13.7 The teams, including the players, coaches and officials, shall change ends before starting the third quarter.



14. SUBSTITUTIONS

- 14.1 A visible high five is no longer required when making a substitution in the re-entry area; however, both players must be visible in the re-entry area.
- 14.2 A high five touch is still required in the flying substitution area.
- 14.3 If a player leaves the field of play through the re-entry area or flying sub area the SAME player may re-enter from the exclusion area or flying substitution area

15. METHODS OF SCORING

- 15.1 A goal is valid **only after at least two players** have touched the ball at the start of the game (swim-off).
- 15.2 A goal is counted **only when the entire ball** fully crosses the goal line, passing **between the goalposts** and **under the crossbar**.

16. FOULS

- 16.1 If a player is fouled **inside the 6m area**, they may swim outside the 6m and take a shot.
- 16.2 If a foul occurs **inside 6m**, but the ball is **outside 6m**, the player may take a direct shot.
- 16.3 If a player is **inside 6m** and receives a foul, they may swim outside 6m before shooting.

17. TIMEOUT

- 17.1 A timeout may be called by the attacking team coach once a penalty is awarded and both teams may make substitutions.
- 17.2 Where a timeout is called at a 2 m throw the restart will take place at halfway.



18. IMPROPER ENTRY

Penalty throws will be awarded in the following scenarios regardless of possession:

- 18.1 No high five in flying substitute zone.
- 18.2 Substitute enters field of play before other player reaches the exclusion area.
- 18.3 Excluded player enters field of play before the possession time has expired.
- 18.4 A player re-enters from an area other than the exclusion zone unless they are in the flying substitution area.

19. ILLEGAL PLAYER (8TH PLAYER)

Any player who commits an illegal entry will no longer be punished with a red card for misconduct but rather just a personal foul and if not their third personal foul may continue to participate in the game.

20. FREE THROWS

The first or second player closest to the ball must play the ball. If any player thereafter plays the ball then a turnover foul will be called against the team in possession.

21. INJURY AND BLOOD REPLACEMENT

Both situations will be treated in the same way and players will be substituted at the referee's earliest convenience without any undue delay.



22. OTHER

The following is now permitted

22.1 Passing a ball back behind the halfway line.

22.2 An attacking player is permitted to swim the ball back behind the halfway mark.

22.3 An attacking player is permitted to remain in the same position without intention to attack.

23. TRANSFORMATION POLICY:

23.1 A minimum of three **(3)** black players per team and one **(1)** black official per team.

23.2 Teams that arrive at their match without a black official or teams that do not have a black official on the team during a game will forfeit their game.

23.3 Teams that arrive at their match without meeting the (3) black player requirement will forfeit their game.

23.4 SSA reserves the right to take additional action against the offending affiliate.

24. DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

24.1 Failure to adhere to the Transformation Policy as directed under Point 6.1.1 of the Rules document will result in exclusion from the championship and the team management will appear for the disciplinary committee.

24.2 The team captains shall be playing members of their respective teams and, together with the team coach, will be responsible for the good conduct and discipline of the team.



24.3 **Misconduct** – exclusion from the game and if necessary, a hearing will be held for the following behaviors:

- a) Unacceptable language – including being directed during general play
- b) Equipment abuse - intentional damage to pool/team/club equipment
- c) Disobedience of referee instruction
- d) Disrespect to a referee – including lack of respect or courtesy to an individual/team
- e) Dissent – gesturing/splashing at an individual, including a referee or Official

24.4 **Aggressive Play** – Exclusion from the game, and if necessary, a hearing will be held for the following:

To do or attempt to do any act of aggression to another player with malicious intent. Examples include but are not limited to elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, head butting, eye gouging, sustained sinking, or any other form of malicious physical abuse of that player

24.5 **Violent Action (Previously Brutality)** – Exclusion from the game which will also include a mandatory one **(1)** game suspension and if necessary, a hearing will be held for the following behavior:

To do or attempt to do any act of extreme violence to another player with malicious intent. **Examples include but are not limited** to elbowing, punching, kicking, head butting, eye gouging, biting or any other form of malicious physical abuse of that player.

Dependent on the outcome of disciplinary hearing a further hearing may apply.

24.6 Coaches, assistant coaches or managers that receive a red card for one or more of the following behaviors toward an official during the tournament will serve a mandatory one (1) game suspension and in addition, the district affiliate will be sanctioned with a fine of R1000. If necessary, a hearing with the Disciplinary Committee will be held at the tournament:



One or more of the following behaviours towards an official:

- a) Unacceptable language and/or abuse
- b) Equipment abuse
- c) Disobedience
- d) Disrespect
- e) Continuous disrespect
- f) Abuse and/or assault of a Referee or Official
- g) Bringing the game into disrepute.

24.7 Official misdemeanors are as per World Aquatics Rules.

24.8 Water Polo is a contact sport. The incidence of traumatic injuries is the highest of all the SSA aquatic disciplines. A Medical Team shall be ready to address any injuries that may occur.

25. SELECTORS

All National Selectors must be present at the championship for the full duration of the event.

SSA reserves the right to co-opt additional selectors if required

26. RESULTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Medals will be awarded to **1st, 2nd, 3rd place** for all events

Once the competitions have been completed the official results will be posted on the Swimming South Africa website as soon as practical following the completion of the tournaments.

Medal Presentation will be held at the venue once the results have been ratified and published.

Podium finishers are requested to wear their Affiliate attire for the presentation.



Disclaimer:

Swimming South Africa and any other event Organizer's will not be held liable for any costs and expenses incurred by any person following cancellation of an event outlined in this Event Information Notice. The limitation of liability includes but is not limited to any costs and expenses incurred by any members, participants, coaches, and administrative personal or medical staff of Provincial Affiliates or individual swimming clubs in respect of the cancellation of the event. Swimming South Africa reserves the right to amend the above entry conditions as required.

