



## WATER POLO SELECTION CRITERIA



### NSWIS SELECTION GUIDELINES – WATER POLO

#### NSWIS Aim

The NSW Institute of Sport (NSWIS) will work in partnership with sport to deliver programs that will develop and assist identified high performance NSW athletes and coaches to achieve excellence and success at international level.

NSWIS will be a major player in the delivery of internationally recognised programs, coaching and services to achieve world-class performance as a part of an effective, nationally coordinated, high performance sport network.

#### Program Purpose

Delivered in partnership with Water Polo Australia and Water Polo NSW, the NSWIS Water Polo program aims to support water polo in Australia to be the top nation while developing future Australian Stingers and Sharks.

The Program will provide world-class coaching, training and competition, facilities and support services to improve athlete development with a view to supporting daily training needs of athletes competing at International and National level in open and junior categories with a dedicated Talent Squad Program. The major competition focus is Olympic Games, World Championships, World League, Universiade and Junior World Championships.

#### Selection Aim

The aim of selection is to ensure the best and most suitable athletes available are included in NSWIS programs, according to program description, selection processes and criteria as agreed.

#### Program Description

##### Target Athlete Group

NSW players ages 16 and over selected for NSW State Age and Senior squads/teams and National squads/teams, demonstrating potential to represent at National and International Competitions.

*NB: All athletes must be Australian citizens and current financial paying members of Water Polo NSW (WPNSW) to be nominated for NSWIS Squad scholarship. An athlete who does not reside in NSW but is eligible to represent NSW at National Championships may be selected, but only after referral to and authorisation by the NSWIS Water Polo Program Partners; Water Polo Australia (WPA) and WPNSW.*

##### Structure

Centralised (SOPAC) with decentralised feeder programs from state, pre-elite, RAS, satellite and metro squads/teams.

##### Maximum no. of scholarships

- Total NSWIS scholarship numbers: Approx. 40 (20 men and 20 women) (Up to 10 Associates and 10 Training)
- Talent numbers: Up to 40 (20 men and 20 women) NB: Talent athletes are not NSWIS scholarship holders.





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### Selection Criteria

Athletes will be eligible for inclusion into the NSWIS Water Polo Squads relative to the WPA selection guidelines for one of the scholarship categories listed.

*NB: 'Eligibility' does not necessarily guarantee an NSWIS scholarship offer. This will be dependent on the number of scholarships available and athletes will be ranked by performance according to WPA guidelines and will need to gain the necessary recommendation from the Head Coach and subsequent approval by the program Sport Partners.*

### Water Polo Events covered by NSWIS Selection

The selection of athletes for the NSWIS Water Polo Program covers events for males and females included in FINA World Championship events schedule and the Olympic Games.

### NSWIS Scholarship Categories

There are 5 scholarship categories within the NSWIS Water Polo Program.

### Program Structure and Organisation

The below table outlines how NSWIS and WPA will apply athlete categories linked to selection of their national squads and teams as well as guiding selection of SIS/SAS scholarships through implementation of a nationally identified list of athletes. An athlete's category status will be reviewed at least twice annually in line with major competitions, completion of the international season and AWE reporting timeframes.

It should be noted that athletes are expected to show progress to maintain their status as national squad or SIS/SAS scholarship athletes.

AWE Category	AWE Criteria	WPA Description	SIS/SAS Scholarship Category
Podium	Athlete who had a medal performance at a world championship (or equivalent) event in the previous 24 months and is considered capable of a medal at the next world championship (or equivalent) event.	Identified athletes from medal winning senior team at recent BME that have committed and are targeted for 2020	Podium
Podium Ready	Athlete who placed fourth to eighth at the most recent world championship (or equivalent) event and is considered capable of progressing to Podium in the next two years.	Identified athletes from senior team that placed 4th - 8th at recent BME that have committed and are targeted for 2020	Podium Ready
Podium Potential	Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to at least Podium Ready in the next two years	Other identified athletes not in categories above who have committed and are targeted for 2020	Podium Potential
Developing	Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to at least Podium Potential in the next two years	Identified athletes targeted for 2024 with remote chance for selection by 2020	Developing
Emerging	Athlete who is considered capable of progressing at least Developing in the next two years	Junior and youth squad athletes identified as early prospects for 2024	Emerging

\* WPA will also recognise national and state identified athletes selected in junior or youth squads as part of the sports nationally identified list





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### Selection Timeframes

The NSWIS squad will be selected in November each year. Athlete scholarships will commence on **1st November through to 31st October** of the following year. Athlete scholarships will be reviewed in **April** each year.

### NSWIS Selection Guidelines

#### Squad Selection Ratification

The Head Coach will nominate potential scholarship holders and Talent athletes to a selection panel comprised of the program Sport Partners.

The nominated Scholarship and Talent athletes must be approved by the program Sport Partners prior to athlete notification and induction.

Where a conflict of interest exists with any member of the panel (eg. when a member has a personal involvement with an athlete under consideration), that member will exclude themselves from any decisions relating to identified athlete/s.

*NB: Selection criteria will be reviewed annually by program Sport Partners.*

*NB: Selection to the NSW State teams and National teams is independent from NSWIS Squad athlete selection or membership. Athletes are under no obligation to accept a NSWIS scholarship offer.*

#### Accepting and Maintaining a NSWIS Scholarship

The NSWIS Scholarship athletes must sign and abide by a NSWIS Athlete Agreement and Athlete Code of Conduct for the term of the scholarship. It is the responsibility of the athlete to ensure all conditions of the Agreement are met at all times, including maintenance of a healthy lifestyle and fitness.

Talent Squad athletes will be required to sign an agreement and code of conduct.

The composition of the squad may be amended by the program Sport Partners at any time where an athlete's scholarship is withdrawn based on an athlete's performance review, or an athlete meets selection criteria during the course of a scholarship year.

The level of scholarship an athlete receives is performance based. All scholarships will be reviewed 2 times per year. These will be held on a 6 monthly basis following the domestic and international seasons.

Following each review, NSWIS athletes will either remain at their current scholarship level or be nominated by the NSWIS Head Coach to be moved to another scholarship level. Athletes who perform below expectation and do not meet expected performance indicators when they are on Potential International level may have their scholarship withdrawn.

#### Athlete Withdrawal from NSWIS Sport Squad Scholarship

An athlete wishing to withdraw from their NSWIS Scholarship may do so by informing the NSWIS Head Coach in writing at any time.

Any equipment loaned to an athlete through the NSWIS Program must be returned to the Head Coach upon withdrawal of a scholarship. Athletes who do not return equipment will be liable for the cost of all outstanding equipment.





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### **Scholarship Suspension / Termination**

An athlete's scholarship may be suspended or terminated where s/he breaches the NSWIS Athlete Agreement, Code of Conduct, Sport Code of Conduct (or equivalent) and/ or brings the Institute and / or the Sport into disrepute.

In this instance the NSWIS CEO, in consultation with the Program Partners will recommend to the NSWIS Board, the suspension or termination of the athlete's scholarship.

The NSWIS Board is the only body that has the power to terminate or suspend an athlete scholarship. The athlete, Head Coach and Program Partners will be advised in writing of the outcome.

### **Athlete Appeals Process Relating to Non Selection of NSWIS Athlete Scholarship**

Athletes may appeal non-selection to the NSWIS or withdrawal of a scholarship by contacting the Coordinator of the NSWIS Appeals Panel in writing within two weeks of withdrawal or non-selection. The NSWIS Appeals Panel will hear all appeals within two weeks of notification and will consist of the Coordinator and program Sport Partners. The Coordinator may appoint an independent to the Appeals Panel where deemed necessary or at an athlete's request. A full report of the Appeals Panel's decision will be forwarded to the athlete and NSWIS CEO within one week of the Appeals hearing.

Athletes may be accompanied by a support person of their choice at all times during the Appeals process.