



NEW ZEALAND WATER POLO ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

The following pages detail the athlete development pathway through to 2028, there are five key components to this pathway:

1. **World Aquatics U16 Water Polo Championships:** Four Year Plan (Born 2010 – 2012)
2. **World Aquatics U18 Water Polo Championships:** Four Year Plan (Born 2008 – 2010)
3. **World Aquatics U20 Water Polo Championships:** Four Year Plan (Born 2005 or 2007)
4. **World Aquatics U20 Water Polo Championships:** Four Year Plan (Born 2009 or 2011)
5. **Athlete Competition Pathway**

1. WORLD AQUATICS U16 WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS: Four Year Plan (Born 2010 – 2012)												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2024												Talent ID U14 Nationals (2010)
2025		Selection Camp (2010)			Selection Camp (2010)		Selection Camp (A & B groups Aus State Champs) (2010)		Aus State Champs U15 – B team U17 – A team (2010)			Camp (2010)
2026		Reduction Camp (2010)		Selection Camp Worlds Team (2010)		World U16 Champs (2010)						Talent Id U14 Nationals (2012)
2027		Selection Camp (2012)			Selection Camp (2012)		Selection Camp (A & B group Aus State Champs) (2012)		Aus State Champs U15 – B team U17 – A team (2012)			Camp (2012)
2028		Reduction Camp (2012)		Selection Camp Worlds Team (?)		World U16 Champs (2012)						Talent ID U14 Nationals (2014)

Note: the Under 16 world campaign lasts two years. After two years, a reselection will be made and the Under 16 aged athletes will transition into a two year Under 18 programme.

2. WORLD AQUATICS U18 WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS: Four Year Plan (Born 2008 – 2010)												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2024										Talent ID U16 Nationals (2008)		
2025		Selection Camp (2008)			Camp – European Tour Selection (2008)		European Tour (2008)			Camp (2008)		Camp with U20 Squad (2008)
2026		Reduction Camp (2008)				Premier League – Aus Tour (2008)		World U18 Champs (2008)		Talent ID U16 Nationals (2010)		
2027		Selection Camp (2010)			Camp – European Tour Selection (2010)		European Tour (2010)			Camp (2010)		Camp with U20 Squad (2010)
2028		Reduction Camp (2010)				Premier League – Aus Tour (2010)		World U18 Champs (2010)		Talent ID U16 Nationals (2012)		

Note: the Under 18 world campaign will be over a two year cycle (following on from a two year Under 16 campaign). After the Under 18 campaign the athletes will transition into a one year Under 20 campaign.

3. WORLD AQUATICS U20 WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS: Four Year Plan (Born 2005 or 2007)												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2024						Junior Development Squad Named (2007 U17)	Junior Development Team Selection Aus State Champs (2007 U17)		Aus State Champs (2007 – U17)	Squad Named (2005) (Post U18 World Champs)		International Camp (2005) Junior Development Camp (2007)
2025			Junior Development Camp (2007)		Camp – European Tour Selection (2005)		Talent ID U18 (2007) Nationals – Junior Development Squad	World U20 Champs (2005)				Junior Development Camp (2007)
2026			Junior Development Camp (2007)			Junior Development Camp (2007)				Squad Named (2007) (Post U18 World Champs)		International Camp (2007)
2027					Camp – European Tour Selection (2007)			World U20 Champs (2007)				

Note: any athletes involved in the Under 18 or Under 16 programs will not be eligible for Junior Development opportunities until they are no longer part of the Under 18 and Under 16 campaigns.

4. WORLD AQUATICS U20 WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIPS: Four Year Plan (Born 2009 or 2011)												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2024						Junior Development Squad Named (2009 U15)	Junior Development Team Selection Aus State Champs (2009 U15)		Aus State Champs (2009 U15)			Junior Development Camp (2009)
2025			Junior Development Camp (2009)									Talent ID U14 (2011) Junior Development Squad Camp (2009)
2026			Junior Development Camp (2009, 2011)			Junior Development Camp (2009, 2011)	Junior Development Team Selection Aus State Champs (2009 U17, 2011 U15)		Aus State Champs (2009 U17, 2011 U15)			Junior Development Camp (2009, 2011)
2027			Junior Development Camp (2009, 2011)				Talent ID U18 Nationals (2009) - Junior Development Squad					Junior Development Camp (2009, 2011)

Note: any athletes involved in the Under 18 or Under 16 programs will not be eligible for Junior Development opportunities until they are no longer part of the Under 18 and Under 16 campaigns.

5. ATHLETE COMPETITION PATHWAY: School, Club, and International Competitions, and NZWP National Squads			
	School Competition	Club Competition	NZWP National Squads & International Competitions
Age 5-10 Year 3-6	Sanctioned year 3/4/5/6 Flippa Ball inter-school leagues	Sanctioned Flippa Ball leagues	
Age 9-12 Year 7-8	NZWP Year 7/8 Festivals (x3) Sanctioned Year 7/8 leagues Sanctioned Year 7/8 events	NZWP U12 Festival Sanctioned U12 festivals Transition-type competitions: from Flippa Ball to Water Polo	
Age 12-14 Year 9-10	North & South Island Year 9/10 Cup (Div 1 & 2) Sanctioned Year 9/10 leagues	U14 National Championships (Div 1 & 2) Sanctioned U14 leagues Sanctioned U14 events	
Age 14-16	North & South Island Secondary School Championships (Div 1 & 2) NZ Secondary School Championships (Div 1 & 2) Sanctioned Senior Secondary School leagues	U16 National Championships (Div 1 & 2) Sanctioned U16 leagues Sanctioned U16 events	U16 Squad – 16 & under <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Talent ID initial selection (NZWP coaches) – U14 Nationals - NZ Camps trials/observations – selection/reduction - Performance training DTE - Australia State Championships - World Aquatics U16 Water Polo Championships (every two years)

<p style="text-align: center;">Age 16-18</p>	<p>North & South Island Secondary School Championships (Div 1 & 2)</p> <p>NZ Secondary School Championships (Div 1 & 2)</p> <p>Sanctioned Senior Secondary School leagues</p>	<p>U18 National Championships (Div 1 & 2)</p> <p>Sanctioned U18 leagues</p> <p>Sanctioned U18 events</p>	<p>U18 Squad – 18 & under</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Talent ID initial selection (NZWP coaches) – U16 Nationals - NZ Camps trials/observations – selection/reduction - Performance training DTE - Australia State Championships - World Aquatics U18 Water Polo Championships (every two years)
<p style="text-align: center;">Age 18-21</p>	<p>NCAA system at a university in the USA</p> <p>European clubs</p>	<p>U21 National Championships (Div 1 & 2)</p> <p>Sanctioned U21 leagues</p> <p>Sanctioned U21 events</p>	<p>U20 Squad – 20 & under</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Talent ID initial selection (NZWP coaches) - NZ Camps trials/observations – selection/reduction - Performance training DTE - Australia State Championships - World Aquatics U20 Water Polo Championships (every two years) - Competitions in Aus, USA & Pacific - USA university scholarship opportunities
<p style="text-align: center;">Open</p>	<p>FISU University Games (U25)</p>	<p>Suzuki National Water Polo League</p> <p>Cup Challenge</p> <p>Masters National Championships</p> <p>Sanctioned senior leagues</p> <p>Sanctioned senior events</p>	<p>National Squad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Talent ID initial selection (NZWP coaches) - NZ & international camps trials/observations – selection/reduction - Performance training DTE - Competition/training in Australia - USA university scholarship opportunities - International professional contract opportunities - World Aquatics Championships, World Cup - Olympics