

#WaterPolo4Change

The story of the process and reasons
for the suggested changes.



Where Started – SSA's Mandate from Alan Fritz



- SSA Indaba Aug 2019 – “The Elephant in the Room”
- Alan Fritz President set up challenge to SA Polo to change
- Find the faults and suggest a structure to fix the game
- 2022 - WP did come back to SSA and they banned me for making this proposal.
- Since then we have made many attempts but all have been rebuffed

What is the problem with the current structure within SSA



This is how it works in SA currently
into SSA constitution the game should be run
by Technical Committees (TC's)

- District Level
 - Clubs vote for their District WP Board who run their leagues
 - (Gauteng work as 1 prov)
- Provincial Level
 - Prov Technical Committees are null and void
 - WC has one with 1 person on it
 - Gauteng / KZN does not have

What is the problem with the current structure within SSA



National Level

- TC is appointed by SSA Executive
 - If 5 on board – 3 appointed and 2 voted
 - If 3 on board – 2 appointed and 1 voted

How to capture a sport - Problems with SSA TC appointments

1. Nominations are not disclosed or published
2. Reasons why SSA exec appoint is NOT disclosed
3. No-one on Exec has WP experience
4. No votes are ever called for from the WP community(last 15+ years)
5. No minute's explanations are published
6. In contravention of SSA constitution
7. Jobs for pals/ Cadre deployment

**What is the problem with SA Water Polo
and the current structure within SSA**



Why is this not fixable using the current structure?

- If SSA appoint 60% of the TC and WP votes only 30% - you cannot run your own game
- As SSA don't allow a vote currently – it is impossible to even vote in your 30%
- TC is a lame duck –
 - The TC should instruct the Executive however
 - The Executive don't listen they instruct (usually done by the CEO) .
 - This is the reason most honest and ethical people have resigned from the TC in the last 10 years

Could you Fix this structure from within the SSA umbrella?



In Theory you could, however in Practice it is impossible? Why?

(Using WC as an example)

- Step 1 – you would need to at District level vote in WP people to all board positions- Chair / Sec/ Tres etc
- Step 2 – you would need to do this in all 6 of the Districts in WC
- Step 3 – Those people voted in would need to run all Aquatic disciplines in the district
- Step 4 – You would need to have all the districts vote for WP people to then run the Provincial Aquatics body
- Step 5 – At the SSA AGM, you would need all 5 + 1 provinces to then vote your WP people in to run the National Aquatics body and put your people onto the SSA Executive
- This would have to be coordinated to work by Aug this year...

**Could you Fix this structure
from within the SSA umbrella?**



This would assume the following can be done:

- That you have people in WP willing to run the District, Provincial & National bodes
- NOT just to run WP, but to run Diving, Artistic, Long Dist, Swimming AND WP...

How long would this process take?

- In theory this could be done in 8 years, but in practice I would predict between 12 and 16 years at best.

Is this in anyway feasible?

- No, no and NO!

**So how is the
#WaterPolo4Change
model different?**



WP SA Executive Board

- Some Independent members (so not involved with WP in any way)
 - Ensures best practice as per King codes etc
- Water Polo people
 - Members, clubs and provinces will propose people for the positions
 - Members will then vote to elect
- Is this unique? No
 - Cricket SA have this and SACOC approve
 - USA/ Aus/ NZ/ Croatia/ Hungary and many others

**So how is the
#WaterPolo4Change
model different?**



SA Polo Executive Board

- Independent and WP People
- Voted by you

Duties are

- Running the long term and strategic path of SA Water Polo
- Dealing with SwimSA
- Dealing with SASCOC
- Dealing with World Aquatics
- Setting HP targets for SA Polo
- Setting Transformation plans for all levels

**So how is the
#WaterPolo4Change
model different?**



SA Polo Management Committee

- Running the day to day of the National Sport
- Implementing the strategies set by the Executive
- Reporting to CEO of SA Water Polo
- Made up of Directors of portfolios (some to have more than 1 division below them)
 - Finance
 - Coaching
 - Ladies/ Men
 - Senior / U20/ U18 etc.
 - Development
 - Planning Int Tournaments
 - Local Tournaments
 - Referees
 - Etc

**So how is the
#WaterPolo4Change
model different?**



Provincial Polo Management Committee(s)

- Running the day to day for each province / district
- Replicating to some degree the same structure of the SA Man Board
- Will Also will need to re-do constitutions to set up as NPO Pty Ltd
 - Each province will manage their own finances

What next and how does SA WP move out from the shadow of SSA?



- Western Cape, Gauteng, KZN and E Cape will be asked to vote on the proposal and confirm that the clubs want the constitutional amendment
- #WaterPolo4Change will then need to:
 - Lobby the 9 provinces
 - Lobby the SSA Executive
 - Lobby Associate Members
 - Lobby others who can influence the vote

What next and how does SA WP move out from the shadow of SSA?



- In Aug the Quadrennial AGM for SSA takes place.
- By the end of June (30days prior) #WaterPolo4Change would by that time need to have submitted the amendment requesting the change
- The SSA Executive and other members at the AGM will then vote to legally change to the SSA constitution

What happens the day after the vote?



- Interim Committee
- Set up date and time for Indaba
- Formalise and agree on constitution at indaba/ set criteria for positions on Man Committee
- Set up date for 1st AGM
- Find suitable / capable and interested people to sit on
 - Executive Board
 - Management Committee
- Ask people to apply for positions

What happens the day after the vote?

- Formalise contact with
 - SASCOC
 - World Aquatics
 - Any other body that will be needed



Why



Poor Governance = A Sport in poor Health

High Profile issues:

- Olympics / National Program in disarray (non-existent)
- Coaches & Structure (No nationals in 2024 – coaches in and out, or last-minute appointments)
- Safeguarding
- Transformation
- Death Zone
 - School years – Univ /Post School – Masters

Schools

Death Zone

Masters

We as polo people want to take control



- 1) **We care;**
- 2) **We believe it can be done better**