



South Africa Water Polo (NPC)

11 March 2025

Dear Water Polo Community Member,

Re: The Way Forward

Background

Water polo in South Africa is currently at a standstill, and it will remain so until it is run properly. The failures are very well documented and occur where Swimming South Africa (“SSA”) exert influence, specifically at the development level and at the high performance level. In areas where they have little or no influence (schools and Masters) the sport is thriving.

With the support of the vast majority of the community, from all of you who attended the town halls and voted for this, to the organised structures represented by the Chairs of most Regions and all of Masters (an overwhelming majority of the community), we are extremely excited to start the process of taking water polo forward.

Structure

The extent of the institutional failure in national governance of the sport has necessitated the establishment of a new entity, South Africa Water Polo NPC, a not for profit company (“SA Water Polo” or “SAWP”), through which the sport can be administered at a national level.

In deciding on the nature of the entity and the leadership thereof, we have followed (i) the example of other South African sporting federations; (ii) international best practice; and (iii) principles of good corporate governance. Accordingly, the new entity will initially be led by an interim leadership group comprising independent and **non-executive board members** and an executive committee. Their mandate shall be to

expeditiously deal with governance systems, structures and procedures; to make the necessary preparations and arrangements for SAWP's first annual general meeting to be held as soon as reasonably practicable, with elections for new leadership in accordance with a new Memorandum of Incorporation; and to generally do whatever is necessary and appropriate in order to restore the integrity and reputation of Water Polo in South Africa.

The independent non-executives have strong sporting credentials at the pinnacle of cricket, rugby and water polo and suitably diverse breadth of skills and legal, financial and sports administration experience.

The interim executive committee members, all of whom are volunteers at this time, are:

- Robbie Taylor (interim CEO) - **Masters swimmer, ex water polo player**, and CFO of listed companies (LSE/JSE).
- Duncan Woods - **Chair Cape Town Water Polo**, ex SA water polo captain and coach, Performance and Leadership Consultant
- Sieg Lokotsch - **Chair NMB Water Polo**, ex water polo player, Operations Director for Jendamar Automation.
- Tony Ferguson - **Chair Gauteng Water Polo**, ex water polo player, ex SwimSA Technical Committee Chair
- Jared Wingate-Pearse - **Chair SA Masters Water Polo**, ex SA water polo player, Finance entrepreneur
- Richard Irvine - **In his personal capacity**, but also Chair Schools Water Polo South Africa.
- Delaine Mentoor - **Former SA Women's Water Polo Head Coach and player**, first female head coach at the Olympic Games. Head of Aquatics at Pearson High School
- Steffanie Werrett - **Chairperson Eastern Gauteng Schools Waterpolo**, ex swimmer.
- Kevin Adriaan - **In his personal capacity**, but also SWPSA vice Chairman, WPSWP executive member, WPSWP General Manager, Head of Sport, Head of Water Polo at a renowned water polo school.

At the first AGM, the interim leadership group will stand down and make way for a newly ***elected*** leadership - elected by registered members - to govern your sport.

Next Steps

We are in the process of establishing the system for registrations on SA Water Polo's online management platform (Revolutionise Sport). We ask that you please register as clubs, players, coaches, and/or referees. Our ability to effectively and efficiently administer the sport depends on our receiving your continued support through your registrations.

The Interim Exco has determined that as a key priority, it will establish the participation related structures required to properly prepare our players across the age groups for world class competition, including:

- The appointment of selectors;
- The appointment of coaches;
- High Performance training camps;
- Competitive, nation-wide tournaments; and
- International tours (where applicable).

This is not a breakaway but rather an empowered evolution of water polo in South Africa, undertaken by the sport's true custodians. The goal is clear: to prioritize players, coaches, and officials, securing a sustainable and independent future free from restrictive external influences

We have to set up this structure so that your cash subscriptions go to where you intend, so that you have transparency on what is being done, and so that we are accountable. Finally we will be independent from restrictive interference.

Regarding international competition, SA Water Polo believes that the most seamless transition from the existing to the new structure will be in consultation with SSA who would be required to recognize the new structure including all necessary delegated levels of authority for SA Water Polo to run the sport. Failing this, SA Water Polo will engage with World Aquatics to recognize it separately from SSA as the body

representing the vast majority of players in the country – as provided for in the World Aquatics constitution.

We look forward to your support, we look forward to serving the water polo community, and we look forward to the results that will inevitably flow.

Yours sincerely,

Robbie Taylor

Interim CEO South African Water Polo NPC

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