



## TWP Club Procedure: Age Group Programme Planning

### Background

Tauranga Water Polo (TWP) understand the importance of maintaining flexibility in our club's age group programmes to meet the diverse needs of players across all age groups. Each TWP age group coordinator is responsible for tailoring an age group programme to suit the specific requirements of their group.

### Age Group Planning Procedure

TWP Age Group Coordinators regularly collaborate to ensure the overall club programme aligns with the committee and club expectations. This coordination provides a consistent experience for members across age groups and ensures a smooth transition for players moving up to a new age group. This collaborative effort aims to enhance the player and parent experience within and across each age group, ensuring adherence to club policies and procedures while considering the skill development opportunities for all players in the club.

The key questions addressed in this collaboration is to consider how the age group programmes support the skill development of all players. i.e.:

- Strong players (i.e., A grade/Div 1 players)
- Developmental players (i.e., Non-A grade/Div 1 players)
- New players to the club
- New players to the age groups

When creating an age group programme, a number of factors are considered including:

- **Skill Level:** Tailoring selection criteria to match the skill level of each age group to provide an appropriate challenge.
- **Physical Development:** Considering the physical capabilities of players in different age groups and adjusting expectations accordingly.
- **Mental and Emotional Maturity:** Recognising varying levels of maturity among younger players and adjusting expectations accordingly.
- **Developmental Goals:** Aligning selection criteria with the developmental goals for each age group, emphasising skill acquisition, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Additional considerations include integrating core values (such as sportsmanship and respect), providing ample playing time, offering coach feedback and support, involving parents, and providing mentorship and leadership opportunities.

Tailoring the plan to the specific needs of each age group allows TWP to create an inclusive, supportive, and effective programme for selecting and developing players. This approach fosters a positive experience for players and parents, promotes skill development, and strengthens our club's sense of community.

### Approval

This policy was approved by the Tauranga Water Polo Club Committee on 12 March 2024