

**2024 Australian
Underwater Hockey
Nationwide Championships
Initial Information Pack:**



INITIAL INFORMATION PACK (as of 7/1/2024)

**AUSTRALIAN UNDERWATER HOCKEY
NATIONWIDE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Thursday 11th April to Monday 15th January

Tobruk Memorial Pool – Cairns QLD

Contact: uwhnationals2024@gmail.com



Welcome & Introduction

The Queensland Underwater Hockey Commission and Cairns Crays Underwater Hockey extends a very warm welcome to all states and teams competing in the 2024 Australian Underwater Hockey Championships to be held in April 2024 at Tobruk Memorial Pool, Cairns.

The following document will provide you with all the initial information you need with final costing and details to be released to states by the end of August.

If you have any questions regarding the 2024 Australian Underwater Hockey Championships, please forward them to the event email - uwhnationals2024@gmail.com. State reps/team managers please use this email address in the first instance for any information regarding Nationals. Players should contact their state reps/team managers beforehand so that questions are collated.

Ben Stepkovitch

UHA Tournament Director

Ph: 0427 004 036

td@underwaterhockeyaustralia.org.au

Venue

Tobruk Memorial Pool

370 Sheridan St

Cairns North

Queensland 4870

Pool Description

The facility offers members and guests a FINA approved 50m Olympic Pool, a 25m lap pool, a warm water therapy pool, a toddler splash area, a Flow Rider, Café, two function rooms and retail. The Tobruk Memorial Pool is by far the most exciting aquatic facility in North Queensland. Whether you're a future flowboarder, a young Ian Thorpe, an aqua aerobics lover or just looking to enjoy a good coffee; Tobruk Memorial Pool is a place where tourists and locals can come to socialise, train and enjoy state of the art facilities.

Format

The games format will follow the format recommended by the UHA tournament guidelines.

Categories

The following categories will be contended at the 2024 Australian Nationwide Championships

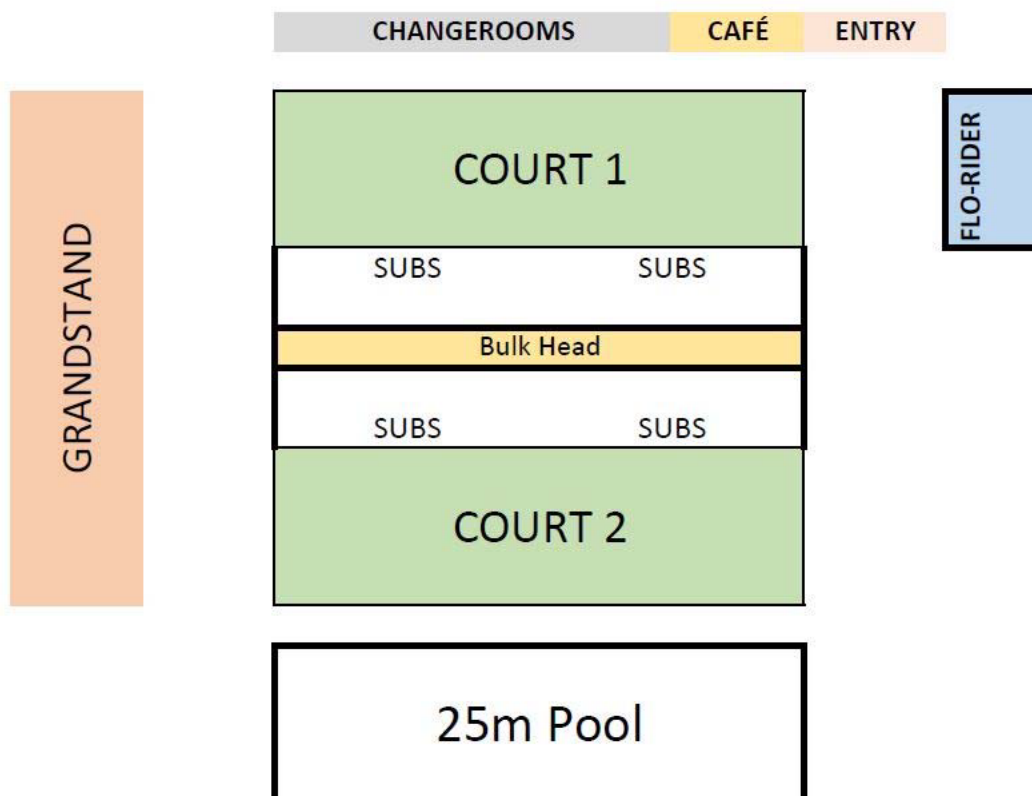
Open Elite | Women Elite | Open Masters | U19 Open | U15 Open

***Players must be under the age of 19 or 15 as of 12:01am 1/1/2024 to play in the U19 or U15 Open divisions respectively**

****The U19 Open category will change to U18s in 2025, in line with CMAS Age Group Changes, so this will be the last year of 'U19s' for players born both in 2005 & 2006.**

Pool Layout

The 2024 Australian Championships will take place using two (2) courts running simultaneously. In – Water substitution will be employed in all courts. Court Two will have permanent markings, with Court One having temporary markings for the duration of the tournament.



Team & Player Costs

The registration costs for the 2024 Australian Underwater Hockey Championships are as follows. Different to previous years, there is one fee per player owed to UHA that will cover entry to the competition (see *Referees for referee costs per state*). Each state is required to pay a \$500 deposit to register each team, but that deposit contributes towards the total cost each state is required to pay (UHA Player fee x N players across all teams).

*Players only have to pay one fee (dictated by age), regardless if they are playing in both junior and senior divisions.

UHA Player fee:

Seniors (>19 on 1/1/2024): \$225 per player

Juniors (<19 on 1/1/2024): \$175 per player

Payment Schedule

The key to this payment schedule is communication. If any state needs more time, please contact us and we will work something out.

February 12th 2024: Team deposits due (\$500 per team)

March 11th 2024: UHA Player fees due (balance from team deposits)

April 1st 2024: Function tickets, team training requests

Referees

As in previous years, the intention is to use as many Non-Playing Referees (NPRs) as possible – and minimise the requirement for players to have to cover in-water duties if possible.

In lieu of the UHA referee levy being added to registration costs, this year we are trialling states being responsible for sourcing and supplying NPRs. This includes state players covering costs for their own referees to attend – flights, accommodation.

Note – accommodation, transport and food will be organised and supplied by the UHA Referee Director for the Tournament (TBC). If states can't supply the required number of referees, there will be a fee of approx. \$800 (TBC) per missing referee paid to UHA to cover other NPRs to attend. Please bear with us as we trial this, and Ben is happy to discuss logistics.

Incentive – Ideally NPRs are available for the full 5 days, however if any senior players are available to referee the full junior competition, or confident U19s referee the senior competition as NPRs, UHA will waive your UHA player fee [first in best dressed until we fill the quota for NPRs].

Referees Required per State	
No. of teams entered	No. of NPRs required
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	3
5	4
6	4

If any NPRs available could please contact referee@underwaterhockey.org.au to signal their availability ASAP that will help us with planning.

Referee Course

A Level 1 and/or Level 2 Referee Course will be held prior to the beginning of the National Championships. States will be asked to express interest at a later date.

Physiotherapy

Nick Stepkovitch and his team of qualified and/or trainee physiotherapists will be onsite during the competition. The costs of supplying physios are covered by your UHA player fee.

Tournament Schedule

Day	Date	Juniors (U15/U19s)	Seniors (Elite opens, women, masters)
0	Weds 10th	Pool set up Optional team training (QLD, VIC, WA)	
1	Thurs 11 th	Optional team training (NSW, SA, TAS) JNR Captains & Referees meeting JNR opening ceremony JNR round robin – Day 1	
2	Fri 12 th	JNR round robin – Day 2	SNRs optional team training (evening) – limited spots
3	Sat 13 th	JNR semi's, finals – Day 3 JNR Medal Presentation JNR function	*Possible team training (TBC) SNR Opening ceremony (concurrent with JNR medals) SNR Captains & Referees meeting SNR round robin – Day 1
4	Sun 14 th		SNR round robin – Day 2
5	Mon 15 th		SNR semis, finals – Day 3 Senior medal presentation/closing ceremony SNR function

There is potential for training camp bookings AM Sunday 13th and Tuesday 16th for any interested parties.

Functions

Function costs and locations are still being finalised by the committee. We intend to have this completed by the end of February; State Reps/managers will be notified once a decision has been made. The committee intends to keep costs of functions to a minimum to ensure affordability for all competitors and associated parties.

Volunteers

As with any competition, many hands make light work. The organising committee is calling out for anyone who may be coming to the Nationals as a non-player who would be keen to help out during the competition to help at the scoring desk and that players can use their non-playing time to relax and unwind. We will work around their schedule and commitments. An hour of volunteer time a day adds up over the entire comp.

Any interested parties are asked to contact Ben Stepkovich at td@underwaterhockeyaustralia.org.au

Puck

The competition puck will likely be the Simms Puck. Pucks will be made available for warm ups. No other pucks are to be used in the pool at any time.

Filming

The Competition Organisers are still in negotiation with various parties about how we will go about this. Once a decision has been made all State Reps will be notified.

Team Training

Limited Team Training slots will be available at the below times upon request – first in best dressed. Can State Reps/managers please contact Ben (td@underwaterhockey.org.au) to give an indication of interest. Note – we would like all states on school holidays on Weds 10th Apr to please have training that evening, to free up slots for the states not on school holidays the following morning before the comp starts.

Time available	Weds 10 th April, 5-8pm	Thurs 11 th April, 8-11am	Friday 12 th April 6-9pm
Preferred States/divisions	Juniors – QLD, VIC, WA	Juniors – NSW, SA, TAS	Senior teams *May be option for training Sat 13 th AM depending on draw

Local Amenities

The pool facility has sufficient parking, and is a 5 minute drive from the middle of the Cairns CBD.

Food at the Venue

Tobruk Pool has a café and with prior notification are able to make up lunch packs.

Shops/Supermarkets

There is an IGA within 2 minute drive of the pool. A five minute drive will get you to Cairns Central Shopping Centre which has a food court, cafes, Coles supermarket, Medical Practice and Pharmacy.

Medical Facilities

Cairns Hospital is a 4 minute drive away, with a number of medical centres and pharmacies near the pool. Standard pool-side first aid facilities are available.

Dive Stores

With the Great Barrier Reef on our doorstep, there are a number of dive shops should extra equipment be required during the tournament. Cairns Crays are supported by Divers World and Cairns Spearfishing Superstore.

Places of Interest

The Cairns Esplanade has a number of restaurants, cafes, and shops, as well as a nice 2.5km parkland to walk. There are a number of freshwater swimming holes, during the wet season please exercise caution with potential for rapidly changing conditions (Babinda Boulders, Josephine Falls, Behanna Falls, Crystal Cascades). In April swimming at beaches is between the flags and in the stinger nets. Palm Cove and Yorkeys Knob are two of the most popular.

An obvious one while in Cairns - Go to the reef. There are lots of companies to choose from, please contact the Cairns Crays UWH Club if enough interest we can organise a group booking. The fishing and spearfishing are awesome up here so well worth doing but can be expensive unless you know the locals well. Further information and suggestions can be provided to State Reps on request.

Accommodation

There are a range of accommodation options within easily accessible distance from Tobruk Memorial Pool. It is up to states to contact and book accommodation for their teams. It is highly recommended to book as soon as possible to secure the best available accommodation at a reasonable price. If States have any questions around locations or accommodation options please contact the tournament email address - uwhnationals2024@gmail.com