

National Water Polo Committee Meetings

Points of Note – 5th September 2026

For Clubs, Regions, and Staff

The NWPC held a half day in-person meeting on Sat 5th September – A summary of the meeting is included below

Damian Ball provided an operations and education update which included:

Operations

- Damian delivered a presentation to the NWPC comparing league & cup entries from 2025-2026 v 2026-2027
 - Increase of 4 teams across the leagues (54 to 58 teams)
 - Increase of 35 teams across cup competitions (78 to 113) - Noted last season low entries for U14 Cup and a D2 cup did not run
 - Fixtures list generated and published – 322 games, requiring 318 hrs of pool time.
 - Around 100 hrs of pool time remain for non-league activities (Blitz, Cup Qualifiers, National Programme, and National initiatives)
- Updated Rule Book published on website and sent to clubs
- New Fixture Change Policy Published and sent to clubs
- Updated Volunteer Exp form
- Pre-season Table Officials training dates set
- Meetings with club chairs completed:
 - Friday 17th July: In-Person meeting with Leinster
 - Wednesday 22nd July: Virtual meeting with Ulster
 - Monday 17th Aug: In-Person meeting with Connacht

Education Update

- X4 Water Polo Tutors will complete their training through Sept-Nov
- New direct entry coaching courses dates set as follows
 - Leinster: 4 weeks over Sept & Oct
 - Ulster: 8 weeks over Sept & Nov
 - Galway: 2 weeks dates to be confirmed
- The NWPC recognise the frustration from the WP community around late publication of course dates and will address these concerns with Swim Ireland.

Financial Update

Joan Hynes (Treasurer) provided a financial update which included:

- Forecasting the income / Exp for the remainder of 2026
- The cost for international trips is significantly higher than budget, mainly due to increased travel costs.
- 2027 Budget preparations to begin in October

Competitions Committee Update

Damian Ball provided an update which included:

- Dave McLouglin (Leinster Rep) stepped down and replaced by Eoin Bridgeman
- Peter Cusic (Ulster Rep) stepped down and replaced by Brian Morrissey
- In person meeting held Friday 4th Sept and included:
 - Roles & Responsibilities
 - Objectives for the season
 - How the committee will operate and report to NWPC
 - Enforcing deadlines & rules for clubs
 - Fixture Lists – Challenge points and key dates
 - Reviewed named player numbers for WNLD1
 - Reviewed no. of outfield players permitted on team sheets for U16 games
 - Reviewed Cup Qualification for U14 & U16 – Work in progress
 - Reviewed U14 Blitz dates & Format – Work in progress

National Programme

- Damian Ball provide the NWPC with a summary from the summer international events
- Applications for National Programme Team Staff roles for 2026-2027 will be published shortly
- The NWPC agreed to increase engagement with the National Head Coach which will include improved reporting and attendance at committee meetings

Review feedback from club chairs meetings

- A feedback report from the club chairs meetings was sent in advance to the NWPC and discussed in detail
- Key development and improvement areas were identified and will form part of a new development plan.

Next Meeting date 21st Oct 2026