



TEAMS GUIDE

1. WELCOME

World Para Swimming in cooperation with Swimming Australia are pleased to share with you the Teams Guide for the Para Swimming World Series Australia. Within the Guide, you will find all key information relating to the competition.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Gold Coast, Queensland and should you have any questions, please contact the key contacts below

Additionally, if teams wish to travel to Australia earlier, the Victorian Open Championships (where previously the World Para Series event has been held) has multi-class racing available the week prior from 13 – 15 February. Event information can be found here: <https://vic.swimming.org.au/events/mattioli-victorian-open-lc-championships>.

All costs are the responsibility of the individual athletes or NPCs/ NFs.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1. Dates & General Information

Entries open: 20 November 2025

Classification Entry Deadline: 11 December 2025

Final Entry Deadline: 15 January 2026

Training/Classification Dates: 16-19 February

Competition Dates: 20-22 February

LOC Main Contact: Kaity Brunsdon

Kaity.brunsdon@swimming.org.au

World Para Swimming Technical Delegate: Marg Chamberlain

World Para Swimming Contact: Nicole Burns

Nicole.Burns@WorldParaSwimming.org

World Para Swimming Classification contact: Kanyali Ilako

Kanyali.Ilako@WorldParaSwimming.org

2.2. Venue Overview

The competition will be held at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre. The 600 seat facility features a 10 lane 50m competition pool, 8 lane 50m warm up pool.

Location: Marine Parade, Southport, Queensland

[Gold Coast Aquatic Centre](#)

2.3. Traveling to the Gold Coast

The Gold Coast Aquatic Centre is located 40mins from the Gold Coast Airport and 90mins from Brisbane Airport.

The Gold Coast is home to some of Australia's best beaches, restaurants and activities if you wanted to extend your stay.

Website: <https://experiencegoldcoast.com/> | <https://www.goldcoastairport.com.au/>

2.4. Visas

Each team is responsible to ensure they have the proper documentation to enter Australia.

Please use the following link to check if you require an entry VISA
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder/visit>

Should you require a visa, you can request a letter of support to Sam.watson@swimming.org.au with the following information on all staff and athlete's attending from your NPC:

- Full Name
- Position
- Date of Birth
- Passport Number
- Passport Expiry Date

2.5. Accommodation and Transportation

The LOC will not be offering a Accommodation or transport package for this event. For information on accommodation option please refer to:

<https://experiencegoldcoast.com/plan/where-to-stay>

NPCs and NFs are asked to coordinate their own transport as there are a number of options available: <https://www.goldcoastairport.com.au/transport/transport-overview/transport-options#public-transport-options>

Taxi

A taxi fare from Gold Coast Airport to Southport will cost approximately \$80 - \$100.

There is a convenient taxi rank located outside Gold Coast Airport across from the terminals. If you require a taxi to be transported you can call 13 2227.

Uber

An uber fare from Gold Coast Airport to Southport will cost approximately \$65-\$75. You will require the uber app on your mobile device to be able to request an uber.

Rental Cars

A number of rental car services operate out of Gold Coast Airport.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.goldcoastairport.com.au/transport/transport-overview/car-rentals>

2.6. Competition Fee

Competition Entry fee for athletes: \$120 (one rate to cover all entries)

Entry fee for Coaches/Staff: \$100

Should an athlete no longer able to attend, withdrawals are as per the WPS Rules and Regulations. Medical Withdrawals require a Medical Withdrawal form submitted to the WPS contact for confirmation.

Payments must be received by Friday 31st January.

Refunds of payments will be granted if withdrawal is made before 7 February 2026. After 7 February 2026 no refund will be provided.

To request for invoices, please email Lourdes.osores@swimming.org.au with the following details:

- Name of NPC / National Federation
- Billing Address
- Number of Athletes and Team Officials entered
- Contact Details (Name, telephone number, email address)

3. SPORT ENTRIES

3.1. Athlete Eligibility

Swimmers must:

- hold an active World Para Swimming license for the Season 2026.
- be entered by their NPC or NF.
- the NPC being a good standing member of IPC and must have no outstanding invoices with WPS. Any outstanding invoices must be paid prior to entry confirmed
- be 12 years of age or older by 31st December in the year of the competition

To compete in Para Swimming World Series finals, an athlete must have an International Classification status of Review (R), Fixed Date Review (FDR) or Confirmed (C).

Any athlete on a New (N) Status not undergoing classification in the competition may only swim in heats and will not progress to World Series finals.

3.1. Entries

All entries must be through WPS Entry system. [SDMS \(ipc-services.org\)](https://sdms.ipc-services.org)

Important Entry dates:

Entries Open:	20 November 2025
Classification Entry Deadline:	11 December 2025
Final Entry Deadline:	15 January 2026

No late entries will be accepted.

- **Australian swimmers who are internationally classified and licensed:** Visit Swim Central and access the 2026 Para Swimming World Series Australia competition page (add link) to enter online through the entry portal. If you are nominated for international classification, Swimming Australia will advise which events you are required to enter for classification observation purposes. These events must also be entered into [Swim Central](#).

3.2. Competition Format and Programme

Para Swimming World Series events are run under Multi class competition format for both heats and finals. Points are determined using the World Para Swimming Points System.

For all Para Swimming World Series events the current World Para Swimming Rules and Regulations apply. They can be found on the World Para Swimming website (see Swimming – Rules & Regulations – Rules).

- Heats
 - 10 lanes will be used
 - Heats will be seeded by entry time
 - Warm up time: 8am
 - Heats start time: 9.30am
- Finals
 - 8 lanes will be used
 - Finals will be seeded by Points
 - Warm up time: 4pm
 - Finals start time: 5.30pm
 - The highest points scoring athletes in each event as determined by WPS Points system will be eligible for finals

Finals shall be formatted and prioritized in the following order:

- World Series Final A (1-8 Placed on Points)
- World Series Youth Final (1-8 placed on points scores of Youth athletes not in the A final).
- B Final (9-16 placed on points scores of athletes not involved in youth final)
 - Youth Finals will only take place if 4, or more eligible Youth athletes have not progressed to the A Final.
 - Youth Final age group eligibility is 18 years and under (age at 31st December of competition year)
 - B finals will only take place if more than 24 athletes are eligible for the start list.

World Para Swimming's and the LOC will confirm the Youth Final and B finals programme of events following final entries

Finals priority order is outlined below

- Where a swimmer has made the A Final and Youth Final, they will only be entered into the A final. The A Final will be prioritised over Youth and B Final.

- Where a swimmer has made the B finals and Youth final, they will be only entered into the Youth Final. The Youth final will be prioritised over the B final/

If necessary, a swim-off may be used to determine swimmers for an individual final, where point scores are equal, unless the swimmers are the same class then the fastest swimmer shall progress

Where possible there will be 2 reserve swimmers for A Finals only.

Direct finals will be in place for events with 8 or less entries, as per the WPS Rules and Regulations 10.10.1.2.1.

- WPS have implemented an exception to this rule for 50m Breaststroke and 150m Individual medley events to support development of a heat opportunity for lower class athletes.

Version 2 competition programme will be in place for the Para Swimming World Series Australia Competition. Programme below;

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
100 Freestyle M/F (S1-14) 50 Backstroke M/F (S1-13) 100m Breaststroke M/F (SB2-14) 50m Butterfly M/F (S2-13)	200m Freestyle M/F (S1-14) 100m Butterfly M/F (S5-14) 50m Breaststroke M/F (SB1-13) 200 IM M/F (SM5-14)	100m Backstroke M/F (S1-14) 50m Freestyle M/F (S1-13) 400m Freestyle M/F (S6-14) 150 IM M/F (SM1-4)
Mixed 4x100 Medley 49pt Relay Mixed 4x100 Medley S14 Relay Mixed 4x50 Medley 20pt Relay	Mixed 4x50 Freestyle 20pt Relay Mixed 4x100 Freestyle 34pt Relay Mixed 4x100 Freestyle 49pt Relay	Mixed 4x100 Freestyle S14 Relay Mixed 4x100 Medley 34pt Relay

4. NEXT WAVE 32

World Para Swimming in cooperation with Swimming Australia are piloting Next Wave 32 at this event to support performance-based competition to enable New (N) athletes not undergoing international classification at the competition an opportunity to compete in a second swim.

Next Wave 32 is open for all nations to participate, granted the athlete meets the below eligibility criteria. The Next Wave 32 second swim will only take place if there are 4 or more athletes eligible for the start list in each event.

Please note there will be no medals or certificates awarded in the Next Wave 32 as this is solely a second swim opportunity.

4.1. Next Wave 32 Eligibility

Swimmers must:

- have an international Classification status of New (N)
- have a National classification
- hold an active World Para Swimming license for the Season 2026.
- be entered by their NPC or NF into the SDMS.
- the NPC being a good standing member of IPC and must have no outstanding invoices with WPS. Any outstanding invoices must be paid prior to entry confirmed
- be 12 years of age or older by 31st December in the year of the competition

The Next Wave 32 second swim will take place alongside the World Series Finals. Details of the exact times and positions of the event will be confirmed after final entries at the Technical meeting

5. COMPETITION INFORMATION

5.1. Competition Venue



5.2. Training

Training on will take place at Gold Coast Aquatic Centre

Training times are below:

Tuesday 17 February: 3pm to 5pm (6 lanes)

Wednesday 18 February: 9am to 11am (6 lanes)
3pm to 5pm (6 lanes)

Thursday 19 February: 9am to 11am (6 lanes)
3pm to 5pm (6 lanes)

Lane markings will be clearly displayed on the poolside outlining specific classification lanes, e.g. VI lane, S1-4 Lane.

In the competition pool on training days, lanes 0 and 9 are reserved for classification.

5.3. Warm Up/Swim Down

Warm up on competition days for heats and finals is available in the competition pool and warm up pool.

Warm up times in the competition pool are below:

- Heats: 8:00 to 9:15
- Finals: 16:00 to 17:15

All athletes must follow the warm up signage in place for the safety of all swimmers. Warm up lane allocations will also be shared in the technical meeting.

Swim down in the Warm up pool will close half an hour following the finish of the session.

5.4. Technical Meeting

The Technical Meeting will take place Thursday 19th February. Time and place will be confirmed at a later date.

Technical Meeting presentation will be circulated to attending NPCs in advance of the meeting to prepare any questions.

Any equipment that is required to be checked by Technical Officials can be taken to the technical meeting and checked at the end of the meeting.

5.5. Call Rooms & Competition

There will be one (1) call room:

Located on pool deck (TBD)

It is the responsibility of the athlete to report to the Call Room in line with WPS Rules and Regulations.

Regulations outlined in the World Para Swimming Rules and Regulations concerning swimwear will apply; swimwear (caps, goggles and swimsuits) must be from the approved list and might be checked in the call room. Athletes will be escorted from the Call Room onto the pool deck.

5.6. Sport Information Desk (SID)

A Sport Information Desk will operate at the competition venue on the days of competition, as well as during any scheduled training sessions. It is the primary and only point of distribution for all event related information including the following:

- Distribution of start lists for the NPCs;
- Official communication with teams;
- Official forms distribution (Relay Declaration Form, Protest Form, Medical Withdrawal Form);
- Liaison between teams and LOC / World Para Swimming.

5.7. Accreditation

All athletes and team staff require accreditation in order to enter the venue and competition areas.

Accreditation registration is through the SDMS system at the following link <https://db.ipc-services.org/accreditation> .

Only NF/NPC representatives are able to enter accreditation on behalf of their teams.

Accreditation system open: 20 November 2025

Accreditation registration deadline: 22 January 2026

- **Safeguarding requirements for international staff members:** a letter of good standing from their member organisation must be shared with the LOC main contact in order to receive an accreditation for this event.
- **Australian athletes:** accreditations will be added on receipt of entries to the competition.
- **Australian coaches/staff:** accreditation applications will be done through [Swim Central](#) event page 2026 Para Swimming World Series.

6. Classification

This competition offers international classification for the following impairment types:

- Physical Impairment (PI) – 16-19th February at Gold Coast Aquatic Centre
- Vision Impairment (VI) – 18-19th February at Vision Australia Coorparoo, 373 Old Cleveland Rd, Coorparoo QLD 4151 (Brisbane)
- Intellectual Impairment (II) – 17th-19th February at Gold Coast Aquatic Centre

World Para Swimming will schedule athletes with a New or Review status pursuant with the below regulations.

An athlete will only be permitted to undergo International Classification if he or she:

- Is licensed with World Para Swimming for the 2026 Season
- Has been entered into the competition by the classification entry deadline;
- The NPC has submitted their athlete priority list prior to the classification entry deadline

It is NPC responsibility to enter the required events for Classification observation purposes for the athlete in the Entry by Name. Details of which minimum events can be used for observation are below:

Physical Impairment (PI):

At least 100m S stroke (Freestyle, Backstroke or Butterfly) and
100m Breaststroke for SB4-9 classes or 50m Breaststroke for SB1-3 classes

Intellectual Impairment (II):

200m Freestyle or 100m Backstroke and
100m Breaststroke

Official posting of Classification results will be printed and posted in venue at a designated area. The classification team will notify NPCs of this location upon check in to classification. Results will be emailed to Team leaders for a secondary notification, however, please note the official posting time will be in venue.

7. VICTORY CEREMONIES

Medal ceremonies will take place throughout the finals session and will be listed in the timeline for each evening.

World Series Medals to be awarded to the three highest points scorers in the World Series A final per event.

World Series Youth Medals to be awarded to the three highest points scorers of youth athletes across all finals per event.

WPS Minus one rule will be implemented where applicable as per the WPS Rules and Regulations.

8. ANTI-DOPING AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

8.1. Anti-Doping

The Anti-Doping control / processes will be carried out in full accordance with the IPC Anti-Doping Code and the IPC Doping Control Agreement.

<https://www.paralympic.org/swimming/rules-and-regulations/anti-doping>

8.2. Medical Services at the Venue

Lifeguards, medical team and ambulance will be on site for teams.

8.3. Insurance

Each NPC must ensure that all members of their delegation are appropriately insured, including coverage for travel, liability, accidents and repatriation. All delegation members must have appropriate accident and health insurance accepted in order to compete. The LOC will provide only basic medical services in the venue

No medical insurance will be provided to any of the participants. All participants are responsible for obtaining their own medical insurance (including Repatriation Coverage) and will be responsible for any medical expenses resulting from participation in the event.

8.4. Medical Attention

The following details relate to emergency medical services:

Gold Coast University Hospital – 1 Hospital Blvd, Southport

<https://www.goldcoast.health.qld.gov.au/hospitals-and-centres/gold-coast-university-hospital>

Australia's primary emergency call service number is Triple Zero (000), which can be dialled from any fixed or mobile phone, pay phones and certain Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services. There are also two secondary emergency call service numbers—112 and 106.

If you have a hearing or speech impairment and your life or property is in danger, you can contact police, fire, or ambulance by calling 106 TTY service.