



Southwest Zone Championship National Junior Olympic Qualification

Date: Friday-Sunday, June 12-14, 2015. All teams will get to play 4-5 games for the tournament. Games will only be played on Friday afternoon as needed. Games on Saturday will be from 8:00 am-8:00 pm. Games on Sunday will be from 8:00 am-4:00 pm. ***There will be a coaches meeting at the pool on Friday, June 12th (time TBD).***

Location: Strake Jesuit College Prep, 8900 Bellaire Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77036-4699. There will be two all deep courses both 25 yards across the pool. There will be limited warm-up space so teams will need to plan to warm-up between quarters/pass on deck. For maps & directions, please go to <http://www.strakejesuit.org>.

Divisions: An athlete's age is their age on August 1st (for both boys and girls). Athletes who turn 19-years-old before August 1st may play in 18U Division as long as they graduate from high school in May/June 2015 and submit an official transcript to USA Water Polo.

- 18 & Under Girls and 18 & Under Boys
- 16 & Under Girls and 16 & Under Boys
- 14 & Under Girls and 14 & Under Boys
- 12 & Under Girls and 12 & Under Boys
- 10 & Under Girls and 10 & Under Mixed
- NJO Website: <http://www.usawaterpolo.org/juniorolympics/>
- NJO Allocated Spots: <http://www.usawaterpolo.org/juniorolympics/allocations-seeding.html>
- **NOTE:** Athletes MAY "Play Up" and for multiple teams from the same club.

Event Details: ***The Southwest Zone Championship will be the Southwest Zone qualifier for the 2015 USA Water Polo National Junior Olympics (NJO's). The tournament is only for those clubs/teams attempting to qualify for NJO's (different from previous years).*** All teams are guaranteed 4-5 games. All games should be finished by 5:00 pm on Sunday evening. Schedules will be finalized and sent via email on Friday, June 5th. A hospitality room will be set up at the event for all coaches and officials. All clubs must be currently registered with USA Water Polo and have a registered USAWP Coach on deck for all games.

A Tournament Officials Committee will resolve all disputes and will consist of the Event Director, the Head Referee, and one to three observers (coaches, referee or other) who are knowledgeable to fill this role. Any protests must be lodged to the Event Director by a head coach within 15 minutes after the end of the game in question.

Entry Fee: The entry fee will be \$425 per team. ***Make checks payable to Southwest Water Polo.*** Please send entry fee payments to Southwest Water Polo (for Southwest Zone Champs ONLY), 7750 North Macarthur Blvd, #120-275, Irving, TX 75063. Payments will not be accepted online for Southwest Zone Champs (mailed or brought to the tournament).

Athlete Eligibility: An athlete's age for the Southwest Zone Champs and NJO's is determined by their age on August 1st for both boys & girls (*see exception below). Athletes MUST be Gold Members of USA Water Polo in order to be entered into the Southwest Zone Championships and National Junior Olympics. Athletes also must complete the Age Verification online at the USA Water Polo website in order to be eligible to compete in either event. ****The one exception to this rule will be for those graduating senior athletes who turn 19 before August 1st. These athletes can play in the 18U Division as long as they graduate High School in May/June 2014.***

Club Affiliation/Age Verification Deadline (NO EXCEPTIONS): ***Athletes and Coaches MUST be registered with the Club they intend to play with by Friday, May 29th at 9:00 pm.*** Athletes will also need to have their Age Verification completed by this date (3-5 day process). Athletes who turn 19 before August 1st AND graduated from high school in May/June must turn in their official transcript with USA Water Polo by this date. This deadline is for both Southwest Zone Championships and the National Junior Olympics.

Deadline for Southwest Zone Champs Team Entries: ***The deadline for the Southwest Zone Champs team entries is Friday, May 29th at 9:00 pm.*** Teams will need to enter the Southwest Zone Champs at <https://webpoint.usawaterpolo.com/wp15/Events2/ViewEvt.wp?EventID=12016>. These teams will also need to enter NJO's when registering for Southwest Zone Champs. Payments will not be accepted online for Southwest Zone Champs (mailed or brought to the tournament).

Deadline for NJO Team Entries: ***The deadline for entry in National Junior Olympics for teams from the Southwest Zone is Friday, May 29th at 9:00 pm.*** Only online entry is available for NJO's. In order to qualify for NJO's, clubs/teams must enter the Southwest Zone Champs (see process above). Failure to enter the Southwest Zone Championships will disqualify any NJO entry for the respective club's team in a specific age/gender division. ***NJO's Session #1 is for All Boys Divisions and 10U Girls. NJO's Session #2 is for All Girls Division (except 10U Girls) and 10U Mixed.*** To enter the National Junior Olympics, please complete the online entry process at the below links:
Session #1: <https://webpoint.usawaterpolo.com/wp15/Events2/ViewEvt.wp?EventID=11903>
Session #2: <https://webpoint.usawaterpolo.com/wp15/Events2/ViewEvt.wp?EventID=11909>

Rosters for Southwest Zone Champs: ***Rosters for Southwest Zone Champs will be due Friday, May 29th at 9:00 pm..*** Rosters for Southwest Zone Champs will only be accepted via the USA Water Polo roster verification system. More entry information is on the attached documents. There will be a roster "Lockdown Deadline" on Friday, June 5th at 9:00 pm. Any roster changes made between May 30th and June 5th will incur a \$100 late roster fee. No changes will be made to rosters after June 5th (no exceptions).

ID Checks/Photo ID's: The Referees will be doing ID Checks for coaches and athletes prior to each game of the tournament. All athletes need to be GOLD members of USA Water Polo. All coaches need to be registered with USA Water Polo/Age Verification and updated on their background check, 1st Aid/CPR, Safe Sport, etc. We recommend that all athletes download a picture with their USA Water Polo account (process takes two minutes). The Referees will have a copy of all team rosters. Teams will need to line up prior to their game in number order. All teams can print out team membership cards (click print membership cards at the bottom of each team's roster). Athletes can also have individual membership cards (this takes longer than printing out team membership cards).

Hotel: A Tournament Hotel will be emailed to all teams mid/late May.

Contact: For additional information, please contact the Southwest Zone Chair, Joe Linehan at 713-705-0945 or email to joelinehan@usawaterpolo.org