



**WELCOME TO Under 14!!**

### About U14 water polo

Your child is now old enough to move up to the U14 grade of water polo which runs very differently to the U12 season that you are likely accustomed to. Possibly the biggest change you will need to adjust to is that: **U14-U18 water polo is seasonal!**



### Who qualifies to play U14 water polo?

All players that are 12 or 13 years old on the 1st of January of the year in question, fall into the U14 category. Each player will spend 2 years in U14s before moving up into U16s.

Marist may also invite some more experienced U12 players up to join the U14 season. This is by invitation only and the decision is made by both the U12 and U14 coaches after a full assessment of your child.

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**REGISTER NOW**

[www.maristwaterpolo.org.nz](http://www.maristwaterpolo.org.nz)

## What does it mean to be 'in season'?

Unlike the U12 program that runs across all terms, U14-U18 water polo are 'in season' at different times of the year:

**U18 – term 2**

**U16 – term 3**

**U14 – term 4**

**When 'in season' in term 4, Marist competes in the U14 Auckland Water Polo League. We enter teams into both division 1 and division 2 and play games against other Auckland-based clubs.**

**Training in term 4 is usually twice a week (weeknights) and is often division specific to accommodate for numbers and appropriate level coaching.**

**The season culminates in the U14 National Water Polo Championships or "Nationals".**



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## AUCKLAND WATER POLO LEAGUE:

- The coaches will assign your child to a team at the beginning of the season
- Marist uses colours to designate teams. Marist Red is the top team followed by Marist Blue, Marist White, Marist Black etc.
- Games are usually played on a Saturday at various pools across Auckland
- AWP Competition Rules apply

## NATIONALS

- Entry of your child into nationals is **optional!**
- Your child is permitted to play in the Auckland League even if they are not available to play in Nationals.
- Nationals is played by all clubs across NZ and the venue changes from year to year. Division 1 and division 2 may be played in different centres.
- For an away tournament, Marist arranges for the team to travel and stay together with the coach and a volunteer manager.
- An approximate cost will be provided when you are asked to register your child for nationals selection.
- Nationals is considered the ultimate competition from U14 upwards!



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## NATIONALS 2024

In 2024, two Marist U14 teams made the gold medal final.

The Marist Red U14 boys went on to win GOLD in the Division 1 final.

The Marist Blue U14 girls won SILVER in the Division 2 final.

GO MARIST!!



## Do U14s only start training in term 4?

Luckily not! Each age group starts preparation for the Auckland League in the term before, i.e. for U14s the official Marist training starts in term 3. As we start training when the U16s are 'in season', the U16s are given the preferential pool time and U14s are given one training slot per week (usually on a Sunday).

## Pre-season academy

In terms 1 and 2, Marist offers a pre-season academy for players who wish to train before the U14 season officially starts. The pre-season academy is NOT compulsory.

Please look out for registration information on email and on our website.



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## What about fees?

As the U14 programme is different to the U12 programme, there is a difference in the fee system too.

In U12s you will have paid termly training fees and for each competition that you chose to enter.

For U14-U18, Marist charges a **PACKAGE FEE** which includes:

- One training per week term 3
- Two trainings per week term 4
- Entry into and coaching for the Auckland League in term 4
- PLEASE NOTE that Nationals entry is NOT included in this package as it is an optional competition for all players.

## OTHER TOURNAMENTS

At present, there are 2 other tournaments that Marist may consider entering an U14 team into:

- The Rotorua Development Tournament
- The Sea Wolves division 1 tournament over Labour weekend

## ROTORUA DEVELOPMENT TOURNAMENT

In 2024, Marist entered 1 girls and 1 boys team into the Rotorua Development tournament which falls in term 3.

The aim of this tournament is to allow clubs that do not have access to a weekly league (e.g. Rotorua) to give their players game time and experience as they build up to Nationals.



Marist sends a development team which is comprised of players of various abilities. This allows the more experienced Marist players to develop the more junior/new players within the team and provides a good opposition team for the other clubs.

The 2024 U14 boys team were lucky to secure GOLD in the tournament after a well fought battle against Tauranga that went to golden goal.

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## SEA WOLVES TOURNAMENT

The Sea Wolves Tournament falls over Labour Weekend in October and is a division 1 tournament only.

Marist enters 1 boys and 1 girls team and they compete in a round robin.

There are no knock-out games or finals. The tournament aims to give teams experience and game-time against non-Auckland based teams, in preparation for Nationals.



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