



Welcome to the new Alumni Newsletter,

Written by alumni for alumni and Canadian water polo enthusiasts, the goal of the Alumni Newsletter is to reconnect and unite the water polo community.

The Alumni Newsletter is brought to you by the newly re-established Water Polo Canada Fundraising Committee. The Committee members include Adam Deffett (Chair), Jennifer Goldhar, Kerry Mosher, Renée Sauriol, Nadia Rachid, Kevin Graham, and Alec Taschereau.

In this first edition, we are proud to highlight achievements of our athletes from the past summer and introduce the inaugural online auction

National Team Updates

The summer saw some notable performances for several of Water Polo Canada's national teams and athletes as our teams continue their journey towards the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

Water Polo Canada's women's program hired a new head coach for the women's senior national team – Kyriaki Liosi. Coach Liosi takes the head coaching role having most recently coached in Greece for Vouliagmeni and winning the 2025 Greek A1 league. She is a former captain of Greece's women's team, winning a silver medal at the 2004 Olympics, and two silver medals at the European Championships.

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Photos: Michael Hall

It was a quieter summer for the senior women as the team transitions with changes to the roster in the water and on deck, while budget constraints also factored into plans. In lieu of world championships, the senior national team held an athlete talent pool training camp over the summer which helped coach Liosi familiarize herself with the team.

The age group national teams were well represented at various competitions with a particularly strong second place finish at the 17U Pan American Championships. The players will undoubtedly come back motivated to improve on their results next summer.



Head Coach Hayley McKelvey (National Team Alumni and 2x Olympian) talking to the U15 Girls ahead of the semi-final vs Brazil

Women International Results:

- World Aquatics Women's U20 Water Polo Championship in Salvador, Brazil – 13th
- 17U Pan American Championships in Medellin, Colombia – 2nd
- 15U Pan American Championships in Bauru, Brazil – 2nd

Water Polo Canada senior men's national team proudly represented Canada at the 2025 World Aquatics Championships in Singapore, finishing the tournament with a 16-11 victory over Brazil to secure 11th place overall.

Despite recent funding cuts to the men's program, participation in the championships was made possible thanks to a last-minute fundraising effort. We extend our sincere gratitude to all donors whose support ensured the team could compete on the world stage. While the final placement may not have achieved the team's objectives, Canadian players notched some impressive performances. Reuel D'Souza (Port Coquitlam, BC – Pacific Storm) earned top goal scorer of the tournament, an honour no men's team player has earned at World Aquatics Championships in recent memory. Bogdan Djerkovic (Ottawa, ON – Ottawa Titans) was recognized by Total Waterpolo as drawing the most penalties in the tournament – an incredible 41 with the next closest athlete drawing 30.



Not to be outdone, the 17U Pan American Champion boys' team had the result of the summer for the men's program, winning the Pan Am Championships. The team lost its second game of the tournament to Brazil 6-11 but then bounced backed going undefeated for the remainder of the round robin. That set-up a semi-final vs the USA, which Canada won 17-11 and punched their ticket to the final in a rematch with Brazil. The final was a tight game with Canada edging Brazil 11-10. The gold medal was our best result for the U17 Men at this event. Ivan Khramtsov (Mississauga, ON, Mavericks) was named MVP for the men's tournament and tied for second place in the scoring standing with 19 goals.



U17 Men's Team wins Gold at Pan Am Championship.
Photo Zoltan Csepregi, Team Manager and Men's National Team Alumni

Men's International Results:

- World Aquatics Championships in Singapore – 11th
- World Aquatics Men's U20 Water Polo Championship in Zagreb, Croatia – 14th
- 17U Pan American Championships in Medellin, Colombia – 1st
- 15U Pan American Championships in Bauru, Brazil – 3rd

Athlete Spotlight

Check back in next newsletter for a behind-the-scenes look at two athletes from our senior national teams.

Fundraising Update

A series of fundraising initiatives will take place over November and December in support of Canada's national team athletes. The Water Polo Canada Fundraising Committee is excited to announce the first annual online auction taking place from Tuesday, December 2nd to Wednesday, December 10th. All proceeds will directly support the development and success of Water Polo Canada's current and future national team programs.

Your involvement – whether by bidding or donating – makes a meaningful impact and is greatly appreciated.

If you or your business would like to contribute auction items such as sports or event tickets, gift certificates, merchandise, or vacation rentals, please contact us at Fundraising@waterpolo.ca.

Alumni Update

We are building a database of our national team athletes and supporters with a goal of building a network and community. Please click the link below to subscribe and share your contact information and share this with others so that we can grow this group.

Subscribe

In addition to this newsletter, we plan to host events to gather people in cities around Canada.

If you would like to contribute material – updates on alumni, masters teams, pictures or share events, please e-mail Alumni@waterpolo.ca

We hope you've enjoyed reading this newsletter and look forward to sharing more updates with you in future editions.

Sincerely,
Water Polo Canada Fundraising Committee



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