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PRESENT



CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Initial Information Pack 2026

Version v1.1 updated 03/03/26

Competition Schedule:

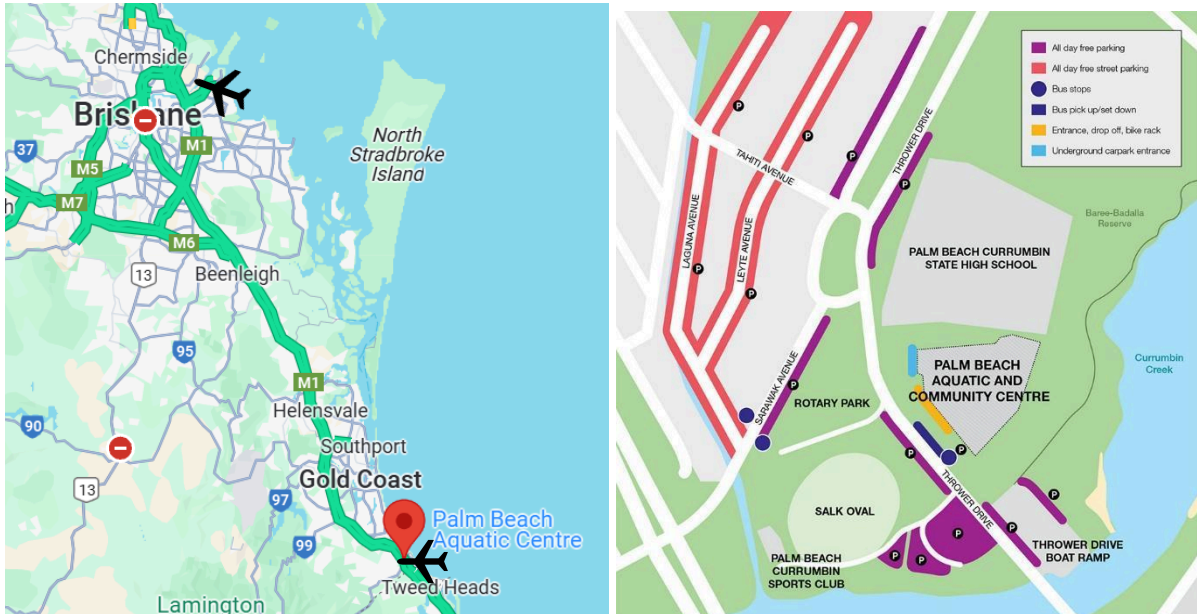
<u>Friday 26th June 2026:</u>	6.30-8pm	Pool set up + social game
<u>Saturday 27th June 2026:</u>	10am-6pm	Kings Cup
	7pm – late	Function (Location TBA)
<u>Sunday 28th June 2026:</u>	8am-4pm	Kings Cup
	4.30pm	Medal Presentation

* time of day subject to change

Venue:

Palm Beach Aquatic Centre, Thrower Dr, Palm Beach QLD 4221

Please note the venue change from previous years.



This is an outdoor venue with a grassed area, and limited table and shaded areas immediately adjacent next to the pool (but there are undercover areas closer to the entrance). The competition will be in the Queensland winter so mild temperatures are expected; however teams should still consider sun protection when planning. There is a café attached to the pool (Palmy Café) which provides food and drinks. The Pines Elanora Shopping Centre is a 12 minute walk from the pool.

Parking: Underground parking (<2m height) is available for centre users during opening hours. Accessible carparks are located near the lifts. Parking will be subject to availability. There is a 2-minute drop off zone at the front of the centre.

Divisions:

- Women
- A Grade (open)
- B Grade (open)
- C Grade (open)

All AUF clubs are invited to attend. Up to 12 players per team will be accepted. Teams must have a minimum of 8 players.

Women's Division Interest: Last year's new women's division was widely regarded as a success. We did receive a high proportion of late registrations however, which led to teams with 13-15 players. We want to create a division with correct team sizes this year, and therefore strongly encourage early commitment from those eligible.

Players interested in playing in the women's division are requested to fill out an [expression of interest form](#). Women's division teams will be composed of these interested players and will be constructed to be equally strong. Players who are playing in the women's grade are welcome to play for other grades as well, but may have games which clash across the grades if so.

Minimum age: The minimum age to play the competition is 15 (by the date of the competition). Juniors are encouraged to play as part of their club teams in a grade suitable to their development – if your team is entering junior players, it is assumed they are comfortable playing against adults at a club level.

The Organising Committee is also in discussion with UHA regarding junior participation and safeguarding arrangements for 2026. Further guidance may be issued prior to the tournament.

Juniors Interest: As part of registration clubs will be asked to declare Junior age players (being <19 Years old on January 1st 2026).

IMPORTANT NOTE – There is limited capacity and pool space to accommodate Team Registrations. So in 2026 the first five eligible teams that register and pay their deposit in each grade will be guaranteed a spot, but any teams that register after that will have to wait to be confirmed. Confirmation will depend on permutations of total games required in each division for X number of teams entered etc.

In lieu of a feasible quantitative method to grade team lists/players - what constitutes a B and C grade team will be at the discretion of the competition organisers. Teams that have easily placed in their grades in the past may be candidates for promotion, to keep the field competitive. That said, clubs will be asked to nominate the grade in which they believe they should be playing.

If any individual players would like to attend and are not otherwise affiliated to an AUF club, please message us (see contact details below).

Format:

The number of teams per division will be determined by an algorithm that considers the number of teams that apply for entry in each division; the number of game slots available across the weekend of competition; the fairest proportion of game play for each team; sufficient competitors across the various divisions; player base available etc. This means there may be some variation in the number of teams in any given division. Decisions about numbers of teams for each division will vary from year to year. The divisions will be conducted in the following formats:

- <5 teams per division – double round robin with finals
- 5-8 teams per division – single round robin with top 4 progressing to finals
- > 8 teams per division – 2 pools/groups, single round robin in each with top 2 teams (minimum) in each pool progressing to finals

Game length (Subject to change):

- 10 minute halves
- 2 minute half time
- 4 minutes in between games

Tournament layout:

The courts are full competition size and play is width-wise across the pool with 3 walls and a barrier on the 4th side. Substitution will be in water. Warm up lanes will be provided between the 2 courts.



Teams: Up to 12 players can be listed per team but maximum 10 can play each game as per normal Underwater Hockey competition rules.

Pucks: The SIMMS puck will be provided for competition use. Teams should bring their own puck(s) for warm ups and training.

Uniforms:

Club bathers are encouraged but not compulsory (yet). Cap and stick colour will matter (black/white as designated in the draw) but cap numbers will not be recorded.

Function:

Location TBA, but likely to be at a surf club or pub somewhere close to Palm Beach on the Saturday evening. Function not included in competition fees. Will be a mixed function (juniors and seniors).

Teams Eligible to Enter – Team Composition

Eligibility to enter the competition is determined by the composition of the team.

Definition of an Eligible "Club Team"

1. **Organizational Standing:** The club must be a registered affiliate of their State Underwater Hockey Association and have a documented history of organized training or local competition (minimum 6 months prior to the event).
2. **No Representative Entries:** Specifically, teams formed primarily for the purpose of elite training or representative preparation (e.g., Australian U19, U24, or Elite development squads) are not eligible to enter as a standalone entity.

To be eligible to enter, a team must consist of:

1. Current club members;
2. Players who were members of the club within the last 12 months but are not currently active with that club;
3. Players who:
 - will, for registration purposes, play with the club geographically closest to their residence within the same state; and
 - are either:
 - not part of a club; or
 - members of a club that is not entering a team in that grade because it is not reasonably able to field a viable team, as determined by the Sydney UWH Committee;
4. Up to a maximum of two (2) approved non-club players; and
5. For the Women's Division only, players who are women.

A club will not be considered "not entering a team" for the purposes of this rule where it has sufficient playing numbers to field a viable team but elects not to do so.

Mergers and Player Movement

We encourage participation through club collaboration, provided it does not create an unfair competitive advantage. Subject to Sydney Kings approval:

Multi-Club Mergers

If two clubs individually lack the numbers to field a team, they may apply for a **Joint Venture (JV) Entry**.

- The team must compete under a name representing both clubs (e.g., "Club A / Club B").
- The combined roster is still limited to a maximum of **two (2) Non-Club Players** (players who belong to neither Club A nor Club B).

Viability Clause

A player from a non-attending club may only join another club's roster if their "Home Club" is not entering that specific grade.

Note: A club is deemed "not entering" only if they have fewer than 8 available players for that grade. Clubs with 8 or more eligible players are expected to field their own team and cannot "loan out" players to form super teams elsewhere.

Approval of Non-Club Players

The Sydney UWH Committee may approve up to two (2) non-club players per team where:

- **Rule 1-** Where a club team has less than 10 players (up to the standard of that grade); or
- **Rule 2-** Where the SYD UWH committee believes the inclusion of ineligible players in a club team would:
 - benefit the competition as a whole; and
 - encourage development of players; and
 - maintain the integrity of the sport; and
 - ensure fairness and equity within the competition and the promotion of the sport in Australia.

Applications for non-resident players must be submitted via the prescribed form by Sunday 1 June 2026.

Non-resident request form: <https://forms.gle/moQX9TSdqUXw6Fdb7>

Non-club teams from Australia or overseas:

As of 2025, the Sydney UWH Committee have been prioritising places for teams representing Australian Underwater Hockey clubs. As such applications from overseas teams will only be considered if capacity permits.

Registration:

As above, the first 5 teams in each grade to register are guaranteed a spot, and after that it depends on how many teams in each grade nominate themselves by the team registration deadline.

To register, please fill in the below link AND pay a deposit of \$100 per team to:

Acct name: Kings Cup

BSB: 082367

Acct No: 405747276

Ref: [Club Name + Team Grade]

LINK: <https://forms.gle/85PfPex2J5tkUVoz9>

Competition fees: per player (excludes function):

Adults - \$70

Juniors* (U/19), full-time students - \$40

*Under 19 years of age on the 1st Jan 2026

Key dates:

Team registration & deposit deadline: Sunday 3rd May 2026

Non-resident player request deadline: Sunday 31st May 2026

Team lists and outstanding player payments: Sunday 7th June 2026.

Team managers need to ensure all their players are current AUF members when team lists are submitted.

National Integrity Framework Policies

Each club must be familiar with the current AUF National Integrity Framework policy documents, which all underwater hockey events are required to comply with, in particular the policies with respect to Member Protection; Child Safeguarding; Improper Use of Drugs & Medicines; Competition Manipulation and Sports Wagering; Complaints, Disputes & Discipline; and Anti-doping. All teams must be aware of the policies and their obligations under them.

The Organising Committee is currently in discussion with Underwater Hockey Australia (UHA) regarding National Integrity Framework (SIA) compliance requirements for 2026. Any additional requirements or clarifications will be communicated to team managers prior to the event

Child Protection, Photography and Working with Children Checks:

The competition welcomes players who will be under the age of 18. We make special mention of the current AUF National Integrity Framework policy document with respect to [Child Safe-guarding](#). All underwater hockey clubs and events are required to comply with strict guidelines to protect our junior players. Kings Cup, and therefore each club, must comply with all policy obligations including photography, provision of Working with Children checks and with processes for ensuring safety of juniors who are travelling for sport. Each team must be familiar with the policies and ensure compliance with these.

The Organising Committee is also in discussion with UHA regarding junior participation and safeguarding arrangements for 2026. Further guidance may be issued prior to the tournament.

Travel:

Gold Coast Airport – approximately a 10 minute drive from the venue.

Brisbane Airport – approximately 1hr, 15min hour drive from the venue.

Accommodation:

There are plenty of accommodation options on the southern end of the Gold Coast ranging from cabins within camping grounds/holiday parks, family apartments to high-end hotels.

There are also sporting centres that offer affordable group accommodation and in-house catering:

- Gold Coast Recreation Precinct (Tallebudgera – 12min drive from pool).
 - <https://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/activities/areas-facilities/sport-and-recreation-venues/our-precincts-and-venues/gold-coast/accommodation>

Competition and Game enquiries:

All enquiries can be directed to:

Ben Stirling - Registrations Officer

Email: ben.stirling7@gmail.com

Phone: 0415 964 837