



SWPSA Selection Criteria – Best Goalkeeper

For **Goalkeeper of the Tournament** in water polo, you want to evaluate both **technical ability** and **overall influence on the team**. This is exclusively for the **U19 Girls and Boys age group**.

1. Shot-Stopping Ability

- Consistently makes key saves under pressure.
- Strong reflexes and reaction time for both close-range and long-range shots.
- Maintains correct positioning to reduce scoring angles.
- Saves in high-stakes moments, including one-on-one situations.

2. Game Intelligence & Anticipation

- Reads the opponent's attacking patterns and anticipates shots and passes.
- Adjusts positioning effectively based on the ball and player movements.
- Makes smart decisions when to come off the line or stay deep.

3. Communication & Leadership

- Directs and organises defenders effectively.
- Communicates constantly during man-down, counterattack, or hole set situations.
- Acts as a vocal leader and calming influence in high-pressure moments.

4. Distribution & Counterattack Initiation

- Starts fast breaks with accurate passes.
- Makes quick, intelligent decisions with the ball to maintain offensive flow.
- Supports transition play by choosing when to pass or hold the ball.



5. Physical Presence & Command of the Goal

- Controls the goal area with strength and reach.
- Minimises rebounds and second-chance opportunities.
- Demonstrates stamina and consistency throughout the tournament.

6. Performance in Extra-Man / Man-Down Situations

- Key saves during 6-on-5 situations.
- Anticipates attacking set plays and coordinates defensive coverage.

7. Composure & Consistency

- Performs reliably under pressure, maintaining focus throughout games.
- Recovers quickly after conceding goals and remains mentally strong.
- Shows consistent effort and concentration across the tournament.

8. Attitude & Sportsmanship

- Respects referees, opponents, and teammates.
- Positive influence on team morale and overall play.
- Demonstrates professionalism, resilience, and team-first mindset.
