

ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH GIRLS TRYOUTS

Dear Players, Coaches, and Interested Parties,

The Girls Zone 7 Orange County (OC) Youth (Born in '87 or later) Initial Tryout Schedule has been finalized. Inland Empire is conducting their own tryout.

Eligibility:

The Youth Zone 7 tryout is intended for girls who are currently registered as players with USA Water Polo and who were born in 1987 or later. The National Teams follow the FINA International "born in" years which means born in '85 (Junior), born in '87 (Youth).

The Coaching Staff:

USA National Youth Girls Coach - Rafael Ruano, assisted by Gabriel Martinez
Head OC Area Coach - Bill Barnett
OC Zone Team Administrator -- Ed Reynolds (reynolds@reynolds-group.com)

Organization of Tryouts, Ultimate Outcome:

There will be three Zone 7 tryouts -- Orange County North, Orange County South, and Inland Empire. The Inland Empire is conducting its own tryouts and performing its own notifications. Per the desires of the National Coaching Staff, one Orange County Team (only from Orange County) and one Inland Empire Team (only from San Bernardino and Riverside Counties). These are called the Zone 7 "Area" Teams.

The two Orange County teams will be merged during the selection process (which may last up to May 19) to form one Orange County Team. No athletes will be allowed to cross their geographical boundaries to tryout. Zone 7 will be made up of two (2) area teams (OC and Inland Empire) that each have their own Head Coach and will each have their own tryouts and training schedule prior to traveling to San Diego over the Memorial Day weekend.

One of the purposes of the tryout process is to give the girls the opportunity to train and play with other girls with whom they do not normally compete. To that extent the coaches, to the extent possible, may at their discretion carry more girls forward to additional training sessions than the number that might make the ultimate cut to the final selection in San Diego over the Memorial Day weekend.

Two teams of 13 players, one from Orange County and one from the Inland Empire will travel to San Diego, CA from about May 26 through May 31. The players will likely stay in a hotel down there.

Players should plan their Memorial Day schedules around this possibility. Players will be required to pay for their trip to San Diego which may cost a few hundred dollars. Players will travel and stay under the direction of the Zone Head Coach. No special provisions for travel or accommodations will be made.

Boundaries Defined:

Inland Empire is defined as all Zone 7 Teams that are in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties (not Orange County).

Orange County -- South High Schools

Academy League: Sage Hill

Golden West League: Costa Mesa, Estancia, Ocean View, and Westminster.

Pacific Coast League: (all) CDM, Laguna Beach, Northwood, Tesoro, University.

Sea View League: Aliso Niguel, Laguna Hills, Newport Harbor.

Serra League: Rancho Santa Margarita-South Coast League: (all) Capo Valley, Dana Hills, El Toro, Mission Viejo, San Clemente, Trabuco Hills

Sunset League: Edison, Marina, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach

Orange County -- North High Schools

Century League: (all) Villa Park, Canyon, Tustin, Brea Olinda, El Modena, El Dorado

Empire League: (all) Cypress, Katella, Kennedy, Loara, Valencia

Freeway League: (all) Buena Park, Fullerton, La Habra, Sonora, Sunny Hills, Troy

Garden Grove League: (all) Bolsa Grande, Garden Grove, La Quinta, Los Amigos, Pacifica, Rancho Alamitos

Golden West League: Orange, Saddleback, Santa Ana

Orange League: Magnolia, SA Valley, Savanna, Western

Sea View League: Foothill, Irvine, Woodbridge

Sunset League: Los Alamitos, Esperanza

Serra League: Mater Dei, Rosary

For the purposes of these tryouts, we request that you tryout in the Zone where your high school is located. If you are a Los Angeles County High School or Middle School student, but play for an Orange County club, we request that you try out in the new Coastal Zone. If you are a Zone 7 high school or middle school athlete who trains for a club in Los Angeles, please try out in our Zone 7.

Cost of Tryouts and Administration

The cost of participating in the entire tryout process -- until a player is cut from or qualifies for -- the team is \$40. Tryout registration forms will be completed on the pool deck and \$40 cash or check made out to "SOPAC Water Polo" will be accepted. All players must currently be USA Water Polo registered prior to arriving on deck. (You may now register on line.) Please fill out and mail in your 2003 Player registration form prior to appearing on the pool deck. Registration forms may be downloaded from or you may register on line by going to:

<http://www.usawaterpolo.com>

Initial Schedule for Orange County North And South Tryouts

At Newport Harbor High School (600 Irvine Avenue, Newport Beach, CA)

<http://www.newportharborhigh.com/>

March 12, 13, 14.

Friday, 5p-7p north squad, 7p-9p south squad.

Saturday, 9a-11a north, 11a-1p south, 1p-3p north, 3p-5p south.

Sunday, 8a-10a south, 10a-Noon north, Noon-2p south, 2p-4p north.

There will be additional training between March and the National Selection Camp over Memorial Day to be determined around the girls swim season. Girls who are selected for the National Youth Team over the Memorial Day weekend will train and then depart on June 30 for a trip to New Zealand and Australia. The objective is the "Pan-Pacific Tournament" in New Zealand.

Some Possible Questions and Answers:

Question: Are girls who made the Zone 7 Team last year guaranteed a spot on this year's team?

Answer: There are no guarantees. All girls should try out again. The National Team Staff does reserve the right to select girls for the team from other venues such as PACE clinics, etc.

Question: Is it possible because of the split of Zone 7 that one team will be stronger than the other, leaving "qualified" girls off the Zone 7 team?

Answer: Yes, this is possible. The National Team Staff has directed Zone 7 to split into half about an east-west axis and bring an Orange County and an Inland Empire team to San Diego.

Question: What if I have a good excuse such as a family trip, a swim meet, or another emergency which prevents me from trying out and I have to miss these tryout dates?

Answer: All such excuses will be decided only by the Local Area Coaches Jason Gall and Bill Barnett. Their decisions are final.

Question: I was born after 1987 and 1988. I am younger than the target group. Do I stand a chance to be on the team and should I tryout?

Answer: The coaches will select who they feel will contribute now and in the future to the goals and objectives of the USA National women's program. Tryouts are part of the development process. The USA National Coaching staff has selected girls to be on USA National Teams from different places such as PACE clinics, college teams, and high school teams. Trying out is an awesome experience to learn more about different coaches, meet other players, and learn a little bit about your strengths and weaknesses.

Coach Barnett has asked me to emphasize the following: the Youth Team is the first step in recognizing future National/Olympic Team players. In other words the players that try out should be very skilled athletes not just good frosh-soph players. The number of players on each Orange County training squad is not fixed. It depends on the talent level that Coach Barnett observes in both the North and south tryouts.

Question: What is happening with the other development teams, boys and girls?

Answer: There are no other tryouts this year for girls this year. There are no younger teams. Participation on the Junior Girls team selection is by invitation only from the National Staff. Participation in the Senior National team is also by invitation only.

In 2005, the Women's program may establish a "Futures Program" which is targeted to a younger group of girls than 17 years of age. This will be further organized after our USA Senior National Team Women compete in the Olympics.

The Men's and Women's national team selection programs have diverged significantly over the past couple of years. Your local coach should be plugged into what is happening at the Zone

level for the boys programs. Make sure you subscribe to our Zone e-mail service by registering your e-mail at <http://www.sopacwp.com> or visit the same web site.

By subscribing, you will automatically receive updates about all development activities if the local coaches pass them through the Zone communications channel.

Enjoy the tryouts. This information will be updated as more becomes available.

Respectfully,

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