



UTS BALMAIN 12 YEARS & 10 YEARS & UNDER CARNIVAL OVERVIEW

WHEN	Sunday, 3 January - Tuesday, 5 January 2027
WHERE	Dawn Fraser Baths – Elkington Park, Balmain
TIME	From 8:30am each day
PHILOSOPHY	Maximum participation in a nurturing and non-threatening environment. Code of Conduct for players, coaches and spectators is enforced.
WHO	Children born 2014 and later. Experience is not necessary. Groups/Clubs/Associations can enter as a team. Individuals can enter and will be placed in a Barbarians or Harlequin team. UTS BWPC will provide coaches for the Barbarian and Harlequin teams. All individual players not registered with a Club will be registered with WPNSW through UTS BWPC as a Flippa Ball player – part of their registration fee.
WHAT	Teams will be placed in divisions dependent on gender, age and experience. Generally, a boys, a girls and a mixed and younger division. The 10 Years & Under division will be mixed. Divisions will be decided by committee after closing date. Teams will play round robin games followed by play offs and finals. Each team will play a minimum of 7 games.
AND.....	Optional skills clinics run by Australian Water Polo League players will be offered on Thursday and Friday. The draw will be available for download on our event website & Facebook page from 20 December. There will be no printed draws. All information will be on a live Event Website. https://sites.google.com/balmainwaterpolo.com.au/12s-carnival-2027/home
COST	Team Entry – early bird - \$930 includes pool entry @ Dawny for team members and one team official (\$980 after 15/11/2026) Individuals wishing to be placed in a Barbarian team - \$150 – inc Pool entry @ Dawny Referee Mentor Program – \$140 includes a t-shirt All participants will receive a pass on a lanyard – this must be shown at the entry point. Multi day passes will be available for spectators.

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REGISTER	Team Entry – Individual Player Nomination - Referee Mentor Program – <i>Registrations close 25 November 2026 unless limits are reached earlier.</i>
RULES	MODIFIED RULES • Playing field 20 metres length & 12m wide • No shot at goals from behind halfway • 35 second possession time • Exclusions – swim to exclusion zone then return to play • 8 – 10 nominated players per team – 6 playing at any one time. Rotating goalkeeper. (Minimum of 8 players) • Size 3 ball • No shots at goal from a free thro
HISTORY	After the WPA 2011 12 years Carnival was cancelled early December 2010, BWPC contacted teams who had expressed an interest in attending the event and invited them to a 2 day alternative at Dawny. We had 9 teams in our first year, including 3 teams from Tamworth. Such was its popularity BWPC the carnival became a permanent fixture on our calendar. In 2012, Dawny closed due to rain and the carnival was moved to MLC – with 18 teams and an increased number of junior referees. This year the BBQ and catering was a feature. 2013 and 27 team entries, the carnival moved to 3 days. This time on Day 2 we experienced mid 40s temperatures but managed to ensure all participants and spectators were kept hydrated and safe. 2014 saw a record number of teams entered – 32 – with teams from Tamworth, the Shire, Central Coast, School teams, and players from Wagga Wagga, Newcastle and Blacktown. We also had a following on Facebook from The Bahamas Water Polo Association with them posting an array of photos from our event. 2015- again a record number of teams with 38 in total. We introduced Mummies & Daddies games during a break on the Tuesday. We saw 26 dads over 35 and 26 mums over 35 take to the water as a display. More than 5 former Olympians in this bunch. 2016, again saw Dawny shut due to flooding rains so 38 teams, 42 Junior referees moved to Ashfield Pool for the 3 days. Once again, another successful tournament.

	2017 – a record 43 teams participated in the 12s Carnival and included a Brisbane Mermaids.5 Divisions, 44 junior referees! Once again WPNSW assisted with the referee mentor program. 2018 & 19– 40 teams including 3 from Brisbane. 5 divisions. 43 junior referees. Attracted sponsorship and each participant was given a back pack full of goodies. 2020 – Dawny closed for renovations saw the event moved to Ryde Leisure and Aquatic Centre. Carnival ran over the period of time of the major NSW bushfires and those 3 days we experienced record breaking temperatures. With 32 teams playing and 30 junior referees, great sportsmanship shone through. 2021 – Dawny is still closed and COVID creates havoc with planning. The Carnival was postponed until the end of January, and then restrictions and having to run Carnival in sessions resulted in reduced number of teams, 28 referees, no spectators and spread over 2 pools – newly opened Ashfield Aquatic Centre and Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre. 2022 – was a return to Dawny, however, COVID limited teams to NSW & ACT based only. A huge spike in COVID cases over Christmas/New Year saw the number of attendees each day shrink. However, everyone was grateful for the fact we could compete. It was the friendly games. 2023 – 3 days at Dawny with the return regular competition. With the weather only just holding out until Day 3 where everyone out of the pool got as wet as those in. 2024 – WPA moved the AYC 5 days earlier in January so the 12s Carnival moved back to 28 – 30 December. Smaller numbers, but again weather played havoc. Day 1 & 2 was moved to Ashfield and Leichhardt with a return to Dawny for the final day. 2025 - With the NSW State Junior Championships held just before Christmas, the numbers for the BWPC carnival were down on previous years. We managed 3 glorious days of weather with a record number of referee mentors. A greater number of mixed teams entered. <i>2013 – Bahamas WPA Facebook Page</i>
SUN SAFETY	The pool is outdoor tidal pool with outdoor shaded areas. Open decking areas are available for clubs to erect team 3 x 3m tents.
FIRST AID	Trained first aid staff at Dawn Fraser Baths
CATERING	Full meal service offering breakfasts (bacon & egg rolls, fruit salad) through to healthy lunch and snack options – chicken wraps, homemade cakes slices etc, (and some naughty food too – lollies !! Pool kiosk also open offering coffee, cold drinks, slushees, hot chips, ice cream. A coffee van will be onsite.
SALES	Delfina will have a stall selling Souvenirs & apparel selling water polo balls, t-shirts & singlets, water bottles, key rings. Happy to sell rule books if available.

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AND IN DOWN TIME...	Dawn Fraser Baths is a tidal pool with plenty of water play area outside playing fields. The tide will be going out from 8am so by midday beach area will be available for play.
SUPPORTERS	Major Sponsor – Delfina Sport Most of our supporters are in kind : In 2026 – Balmain Sports Medicine - workshops The Trophy Store, Croydon Park Inner West Council And more to come.

From 2012 we used Uni student members to manage aspects of the carnival with guidance – developing event management and organisation skills.

In 2027, we will be using our young Club members cover aspects of the event organisation and running. Funding to assist with this development of management skills in our helpers comes from the team entries.

A key value in this event is exposing and giving experience to our young players (over 13) in aspects of the game where they are contributing – giving back to the sport.

Please join with us and enjoy the experience.