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New Head Coach for Australia's Women's Olympic Water Polo Program

Water Polo Australia (WPA) is pleased to announce Sakis Kechagias from Greece, as the National Women's Head Coach to lead the Australian Women's Water Polo team, the Aussie Stingers.

Set to join the team in the coming month, Kechagias brings to the role international experience most recently serving as the Head Coach for Greece's Women's Team.

Additionally, he has served as Head Coach for the Greece Men's Senior Team as they rebuilt following the 2012 London Olympic Games into one of the most consistent teams in the world.

He was also the Assistant Coach of the Women's Senior team during the period which Greece experienced much success on the international stage including a Gold medal at the 2011 World Championships. His experience extends to the men's junior national teams as national coach for numerous years demonstrating a strong capability to build talent.

Following the Rio 2016 review with players and High Performance personnel, WPA took into account the learnings from the previous campaign and built a profile of what the future Aussie Stingers program will look like. Based on the future needs of the program, the qualities of the ideal person to lead the program were identified.

WPA High Performance Manager Tom Hill says this announcement signals a new era to women's water polo in Australia and the opportunity for members and supporters to get behind the Aussie Stingers on their journey towards Tokyo 2020.

"The appointment of Sakis Kechagias as the National Women's Head Coach is very exciting and I'm confident he will create the required creative, empowering, confident environment for our talented players to thrive," said Hill.

"Sakis brings a wealth of international experience with him to Australia and is well regarded overseas which is an important factor to influence positive outcomes for Australian teams.

"He also has a very strong technical and tactical coaching approach with detailed game analysis and is an innovative thinker.

"His strong family values and emphasis on building a unified team culture aligns well with WPA and I look forward to welcoming Sakis to Australia in the near future," he said.

Dual Olympian Rowie Webster said change for playing group will no doubt ignite a new flame as the squad looks to build towards the Tokyo Olympics.

"I am fortunate enough throughout my senior international career to be coached by some extremely passionate coaches, the prospect of a new head coach excites me," said Webster.

"The upcoming international season will no doubt have its challenges, from discovering how the players and new head coach interact, to new younger generations coming through and marking their territory.

"I believe this is a really exciting time for Water Polo in Australia and a great opportunity to embark on a

new direction with the team. I hope that all our fans and supporters will get behind our team on our journey towards Tokyo," she said.

Newly Appointed Sakis Kechagias is excited at the opportunity to work with such a well respected team as the Aussie Stingers.

"It's a great honor and privilege for me to become a member of such a great team with big tradition and success.

"I am eager to begin my collaboration with the rest of the team members and of course the players.

"It's not going to be an easy task. It's going to need a lot of effort from all stakeholders involved and it will most definitely require time and patience.

"However, I am confident that with hard work and practice, determination in our goals and strong 'Can Do' attitude we will meet our objectives and at the end we'll present a confident, unified, winning team!"

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For further media enquiries please contact Lauren Ryan on 0402 162 807.