

= Nicola Zagame =

Nicola Maree " Ziggy " Zagame (born 11 August 1990 in Sydney) is an Australian water polo centre back / driver . She attended Kirrawee High School in New South Wales . One of her hobbies is art , and some of it was displayed as part of an exhibit at the Hazelworth Regional Gallery and Arts Centre in 2008 . She became a water polo player after being recruited from surf lifesaving when she was thirteen . She has had a water polo scholarship with the New South Wales Institute of Sport . She plays for the Cronulla Sharks in the National Water Polo League where she has twice set single season scoring records . She has represented her country as a member of Australia women 's national water polo team on both the junior and senior levels , and was part of the silver winning team at the 2010 FINA Women 's Water Polo World Cup . She represented Australia at the 2012 Summer Olympics .

= = Personal = =

Zagame , nicknamed Ziggy and Nicky , was born on 11 August 1990 in Sydney and grew up attending Kirrawee High School . Currently residing in Gymea Bay , New South Wales , the 174 cm (5 ft 9 in) tall 73 kilograms (161 lb) right handed Zagame disclosed her hobbies to be surfing , art , scrapbooking , and reading . Her art was displayed at the Hazelworth Regional Gallery and Arts Centre in 2008 as part of an exhibition of works of young local artists . She is " intrigued by the animal @-@ like qualities often found in people , both in physical appearance and personality " and integrated this theme into her works which were on display . She attended Sydney University where she was part of a course related to medical radiation science @-@ diagnostic radiography . She is a water polo coach and works at a shop making sandwiches .

= = Water polo = =

Zagame plays as a centre back / driver and prefers to wear cap number twelve . She keeps a rock that she considers lucky in her pool bag . She started playing water polo as a thirteen @-@ year @-@ old in Sutherland , New South Wales having been recruited from Cronulla SLSC where was involved with surf lifesaving . At the time of her transition to water polo , she was a better surf swimmer than a stillwater swimmer . She has held a scholarship for water polo at the New South Wales Institute of Sport . In 2008 , she competed in the Women 's International Series .

= = = Club team = = =

Zagame is a member of and plays club water polo for the Cronulla Sharks Water Polo Club in the National Water Polo League . During the 2009 season , she scored 76 goals . She played for the team in 2010 , including the finals tournament , during which she was named in the league final 's All Star team . She has twice set season goal @-@ scoring records while playing in the league , with the second time coming in a 2010 game when her team beat Adelaide at home in the Sutherland Leisure Centre . She challenges opposition players in such a way that it frequently results in her fouling out of games . She was the captain of the team during the 2011 season . In 2012 , she played briefly with the club before taking a break from the team following their 18 February 2012 game to attend the national team training camp . Her last game before the break was against the Balmain Tigers . As a member of the team , she helped win the first two games of the season 8 ? 4 and 7 ? 4 .

= = = Junior national team = = =

Zagame has represented Australia on the junior national level . In July 2006 , she was a member of the Youth Girls squad that competed in an international series in Auckland , New Zealand .

= = = Senior national team = = =

Zagame is a member of the Australia women 's national water polo team , nicknamed the Stingers . She made her senior team debut in May 2009 . In 2009 , she was part of the Australian side that finished third at the FINA World League Super Finals in Kirishi , Russia . This was her first major international tournament as a member of the senior squad . In 2009 , she was part of the team that finished sixth at the FINA World Championships in Rome , Italy in 2009 . She was also part of the Australian side that won the 2009 Holiday Cup in the United States .

Zagame was a member of the 2010 Stingers squad that competed at the FINA World Cup in Christchurch , New Zealand where Australia finished second . In the team 's quarter finals 10 ? 8 victory over the United States women 's national water polo team , she scored three goals . In May 2010 , she was a member of the team that competed at the FINA World League Asia @-@ Oceania zone held in Osaka , Japan and Tianjin , China .

Zagame was part of the Australian side that won a silver medal at the 2011 Kirishi Cup in June . In the game for the medal , they played Kazakhstan women 's national water polo team . In that match , she scored two goals . In July 2011 , she was a member of the Australian Stingers that competed in the 2011 FINA World Championships in Shanghai . In preparation for this tournament , she attended a team training camp in Perth , Western Australia .

In January 2012 , Zagame competed in the Pan Pacific Championships for the Stingers , and was a member of the squad that competed the three @-@ game test series against the United States . The Australian team won two of the three matches , with scores of 12 ? 13 in an opening series loss , winning 11 ? 6 in the second match and winning the third match 12 ? 7 clash at Sutherland Leisure Centre . Zagame scored a goal in the second half of the final match in the series . This test series was the first time she had played an international match in her home swimming pool , Sutherland Leisure Centre .

In February 2012 , Zagame was named in the 17 @-@ member training squad for the 2012 Summer Olympics , and attended a training camp that started on 20 February 2012 at the Australian Institute of Sport . She was part of the Stingers squad that competed in a five @-@ game test against Great Britain at the AIS in late February 2012 . This was the team 's first matches against Great Britain 's national team in six years . The team will be cut to thirteen before the team departs for the Olympic games , with the announcement scheduled on 13 June .

Zagame is planning to stay in the sport and hopes to qualify for the 2016 Summer Olympics .