

= Kelsey Wakefield =

Kelsey Wakefield ( born 1 June 1991 ) is an Australian water polo player . Before choosing water polo , she competed in the high jump at a state and national level . Wakefield has been a member of the Australia women 's national water polo team at the junior starting in 2006 and senior level starting in 2009 . She earned a silver medal at the 2010 FINA World League , a gold medal at the 2011 Canada Cup and a bronze medal at the 2011 FINA Junior World Championships . Wakefield won a championship as a member of the 2011 Brisbane Barracudas squad in the National Water Polo League and has been selected for the preliminary Australian water polo team for the 2012 Summer Olympics .

= = Personal = =

Wakefield was born on 1 June 1991 in Gold Coast , Queensland . She is 178 cm ( 5 ft 10 in ) tall and weighs 64 kilograms ( 141 lb ) . She has a wingspan of 183 cm ( 6 ft 0 in ) , and is left @-@ handed .

While she was growing up , Wakefield 's house had a backyard pool , where she used to train with her sister , Brittany . As a five @-@ year @-@ old , she watched the Olympics on television and dreamed of competing at the Games .

Wakefield attended Trinity Lutheran College , and was a straight @-@ A student . Beyond water polo , while in school , she also competed in the high jump . In 2006 , after winning the Queensland state championships , and setting a Queensland age group record and personal best of 166 cm ( 5 ft 5 in ) , she competed in the U16 national athletics competition . In 2007 , she finished fourth in her age group in high jump at the national championships . In 2008 , she competed at the Queensland U20 state athletics championships in the event , finishing second with a 165 cm ( 5 ft 5 in ) . She eventually chose water polo over the high jump because she preferred to play a team sport . Her departure from the sport was also a result of conflicting training times between it and water polo .

As of 2011 , the Brisbane @-@ based Wakefield is a student at Griffith University , studying biomedical science studies . She took a semester off from school in order to concentrate full @-@ time on playing water polo with the hope of making the Olympics . One of the reasons she is pursuing a career in medicine is because her father is a doctor . She is thinking of specialising in pediatrics or anesthetics .

= = Water polo = =

Wakefield is a member of the Australia women 's national water polo team . She is a goalkeeper . She wears several different numbers including 1 , 13 and 18 . She took up the sport when she was twelve years old at school . In 2006 , at the Australian Country Championships , she competed for the Queensland open women 's team . In 2007 , she competed at the U16 Australian Water Polo Championships and was named the goalkeeper of the tournament . She competed at the 2009 Australian National U20 Water Polo Championships for Queensland , where her team finished second to New South Wales . She competed at the Australian National U20 competition in 2011 , where her team took home gold . She trains at the Queensland Academy of Sport , and during the regular season , she may drive as many as 1 @, @ 000 kilometres ( 620 mi ) a week driving between home , university , the Queensland Academy of Sport , to training facilities and competition pools . The City South News in Brisbane describes her as an " Australian water polo prodigy " . Between appearances on the junior national team and the senior national team , she has already played more than 50 games for Australia . She currently holds a water polo scholarship at the Australian Institute of Sport .

= = = Club water polo = = =

Wakefield plays club water polo for the Brisbane Barracudas who compete in the National Water

Polo League . She was with the team in 2008 . She was a member of the team in 2011 when they won the league championship for the third year in a row . She was in goal for the championship match with the score 4 ? 4 at the end of regular time , 1 ? 1 at the end of over time and finally going to a shootout . Wakefield was named to the league 's 2011 All Star team .

= = = Juniors = = =

Wakefield represented Australia in 2006 at the U16 national team that competed at the New Zealand hosted Pan Pacific Championships . In 2007 , she was a member of the U16 national team . In 2008 , she was a member of the U16 and U17 national teams , and the first ranked goal keeper on the U16 squad . She was a member of the Australian side that finished third at the 2011 FINA Junior World Championships . She was the captain of the Australian side . The team finished third after losing to eventual gold medalist , Spain , during the semifinals .

= = = Seniors = = =

Wakefield made her first appearance for the senior side at the 2009 Canada Cup . She was a member of the 2010 team that finished second at the FINA World League Super Finals held in La Jolla , California . She competed at the 2010 Canada Cup . In a preliminary round match against Canada that Australia won 11 ? 5 , she made 10 saves in goal . Her team played Italy in the semi @-@ finals of the 2010 Cup . She represented Australia at the 2011 Canada Cup , and participated in the gold medal final match against China that Australia won . She was named the Goalkeeper of the Tournament . She competed in a warm up match for the 2011 FINA Water Polo World League against Italy in Ostia , Italy in July that Australia won 12 ? 11 .

In October 2011 , as a representative of the senior squad , she attended a training camp at the Australian Institute of Sport . The camp had four goal Australian goalkeepers at it , of which only two would be named to the squad to compete at the Olympics . She competed in the Pan Pacific Championships in January 2012 for the Australian Stingers . In February 2012 , she was named to the final training squad for the 2012 Summer Olympics . She attended a training camp at the Australian Institute of Sport in February 2012 . The team of seventeen players will be cut to thirteen before the team departs for the Olympic games , with the announcement being made on 13 June . 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 . She did not compete in the first match . She competed in the remaining four matches in the series .

= = Recognition = =

In 2008 , Wakefield was nominated for Gold Coast Sportsperson of the Year . In 2010 , she was nominated for the Queensland Junior Sportswoman of the Year .