FINA organises a men's and women's World Championships for young water polo players every year. From 2011 on, a new age group competition format has been launched with World Junior Championships for “Under 20’s” taking place in odd years and World Youth Championships “Under 18’s” in even years.

In 2012, the first-ever FINA World Youth Water Polo Championships (U18) for both men and women was held in Perth (AUS). The event gathers 16 to 20 teams, about 200 players, from the strongest and rising nations in the sport.

The second edition of the FINA World Men's Youth Water Polo Championships (U18) was held in Istanbul (TUR) in 2014. The women's Championships took place in Madrid (ESP) in 2014.