

Swimming Domestic Competition Plan (2017-2018 Season & Beyond)

All meets (other than schools competitions) to be age classified as of 31st December within the year in question. The plan follows a sequential swimming development model in age bands as follows:

- Intra-Club Meets from 8 years upwards. Such meets can be organised on 'blank' weekends on the season plan
- Inter-Club Meets and Club Open Meets from 9 years upwards. Such meets can be utilised for entry into Development Meets and Regional Qualifying Meets only. Such meets can be organised on 'blank' weekends on the season plan
- Regional Development Meets and Regional Qualifying Meets from 10 years upwards
- Regional Meets/Championships and National Division 2 Meets from 11 years upwards
- National Meets/Championships from 12 years upwards

Definition of Qualifying/Consideration Times

- When an athlete achieves a Qualifying Time set within the parameters of a particular set of meet conditions, such an athlete is guaranteed entry into this event
- When an athlete achieves a Consideration Time set within the parameters of a particular set of meet conditions, such an athlete will be considered for entry into this event. Meet managers will make their decisions based on entry numbers and cut off accordingly per event
- When an athlete does not achieve a Qualifying/Consideration Time set within the parameters of a particular set of meet conditions, such an athlete will NOT be considered for entry into this event

Please consider the content of this document alongside the associated 2017-2018 season plan:

Annual Season

- The season will be defined as the period 01/09/17 – 31/08/18
- The NPD will provide a Programme of Events for all meets (other than Development and Qualifying Meets, which will be constructed at each Region's discretion). Each Region to write their own Qualifying and/or Consideration times for Regional events based on the demographic of their athletes. The NPD (in association with the High Performance Committee/Performance Advisory Group) will write the Qualifying Times for National Championships and National Division 2 Meet

Short Course Season (Period 1)

- All events to be competed in short course pools only in the period 01/09/17 – 31/12/17 (with the exception of the Ulster Regional & Open LC Championships in Commonwealth Games season)
- The Regional culmination of the short course season will be each Regional SC Championships
- The National culmination of the short course season will be the Irish SC Championships
- The International culmination of the short course season will be the European or World SC Championships

Long Course Season (Period 2)

- Events to be competed (as much as possible) in long course pools in the period 01/01/18 – 31/08/18
- The Regional culmination of the long course season will be each Regional Youth/Senior LC Championships and each Regional Age Group Championships
- The National culmination of the long course season will be the Irish Open LC Championships in the first training cycle and the Irish Summer National LC Championships in the second training cycle
- The International culmination of the long course season will be the the Irish Open LC Championships in the first training cycle and the benchmark summer LC international meet in the second training cycle. In 2017-2018, this is the European LC Championships

Regional Development Meets

- Events that have traditionally been described/defined by Regions as Graded Meets, 'B/C' Meets and/or Grade 2/3 Meets will now be termed as 'Development Meets' by all Regions
- Regions are offered up to six windows of opportunity to run Development Meets according to their own needs. Development Meets are to be run in these periods only (up to 12 days in total)
- Development Meets can be one or two days in length per window of opportunity
- SC Development Meets are preferable in format to LC. Any meet or Club based time trial can be utilised for entry into Development Meets
- Development Meets can cover all age groups from 10 years upwards, can incorporate individual events and/or relays, can be linked to a specific discipline (ie, distance events only) and should incorporate the 100m IM
- Development Meets must have upper time standards for entry but not lower time standards. Athletes are ineligible to enter into an event where they have a Qualifying Meet Consideration Time
- LC/SC conversions may be used for entry
- Development Meets can be used to establish entry times for individuals to then utilise for Qualification Meet entries

Regional Qualifying Meets

- Events that have traditionally been described/defined by Regions as 'A' Meets, Division 2 Meets and/or Grade 1 Meets will now be termed as 'Qualifying Meets' by all Regions
- Regions are offered up to three windows of opportunity to run Qualifying Meets according to their own needs. Qualifying Meets are to be run in these periods only (up to 9 days in total) and should reflect the short course/long course season approach
- Qualifying Meets can be one, two or three days in length per window of opportunity
- Qualifying Meets can cover all age groups from 10 years upwards, should offer individual events only and should have an Olympic event focus (in the main)
- Qualifying Meets must have Consideration Time standards for entry
- LC/SC conversions may be used for entry. Any meet can be utilised for entry into Qualifying Meets
- Qualifying Meets can be used to establish entry times for individuals to then utilise for Regional Championship entries and (in the long course season) Irish Summer National LC Championship entries (if such events are held in a long course pool)
- It should be noted that although the Regional Schools Meets are not qualifying events for the Regional SC Championships, they are qualifying events for the Irish SC Championships (providing that they are hosted in 25m pools)

Regional SC Championships

- Three day competition with all four regions running this event simultaneously (with the exception of Ulster in Commonwealth Games season)
- Regions may accept entries from athletes/clubs outside of Ireland but Irish clubs/athletes may only compete in their own Regional Championships (with the exception of Ulster in Commonwealth Games season, with Ulster athletes able to enter any one of the other three Region's Championships if Ulster do not hold a Qualifying Meet at this time)
- Age Groups as Youth (Male 16 years & under and Female 15 years & under) and Senior (Male 17 years & over and Female 16 years & over)
- Qualifying Times and Consideration Times to both be utilised to allow maximising entries for meet managers
- Separate Qualifying Times and Consideration Times for the two age groups per gender
- SC Qualification times (plus LC conversions) may be used for entry
- Full Olympic programme of individual events plus 50m Form Strokes and 100m IM
- Four relay events to be Single Gender 200m Freestyle & 200m Medley relays and Mixed Gender 200m Freestyle & 200m Medley relays (two male/two female)
- Open Finals for all events other than relays and 400m/800m/1500m (Timed Finals)
- Regional SC Championships can be used to establish entry times for individuals to then utilise for National SC Championship entries

Dave McCullagh Memorial Meet

- Three day competition
- Age Groups as Youth (Male 14 years & under and Female 13 years & under) and Senior (Male 15 years & over and Female 14 years & over)
- Separate Qualifying Times for Senior and Youth events
- LC entry times (plus secondary SC entry times) may be used for a SC/LC tiered entry
- Full Olympic programme of individual events plus 50m Form Strokes for Seniors and to be run as the first set of heats on Friday, Saturday and Sunday
- 200m IM, 200m Freestyle, 200m Backstroke, 200m Breaststroke and 200m Butterfly individual events for Youth and to be run as the second set of heats on Saturday and Sunday. The 200m IM is mandatory for entry for any athlete wishing to enter one or more of the other four 200's (regardless of whether that have the 200m IM qualifying time or not)
- Three 'Open' Olympic relay events per gender
- 'Senior A', 'Senior B' and 'Youth' integrated Finals for all events other than relays and 800m/1500m (Timed Finals)
- To be run as an 'Open' event in Heats, 'A' Finals and Youth Finals. To be run as a 'Closed' event to Irish athletes in 'B' Finals

Regional Youth/Senior LC Championships

- Two or three day competition with all four regions running this event simultaneously. Regions may merge if required
- Regions may accept entries from athletes/clubs outside of Ireland but Irish clubs/athletes may only compete in their own Regional Championships (unless two or more Regions merge as above)
- Age Groups as 15 years, 16 years and 17 years & over
- Qualifying Times and Consideration Times to both be utilised to allow the maximising of entries for meet managers
- Separate Qualifying Times and Consideration Times for the three age groups per gender
- LC Qualification times (plus SC conversions) may be used for entry. Any Licensed onshore or similarly licensed offshore meet can be utilised for entry
- Full Olympic programme of individual events plus 50m Form Strokes
- Three Olympic relay events per gender (Age as 15 years & over)
- Finals in each age group for all events other than relays and 400m/800m/1500m (Timed Finals)
- Regional Youth/Senior LC Championships can be used to establish entry times for individuals to then utilise for National Summer National LC Championships or National Division 2 LC Championship entries

Regional Age Group LC Championships

- Two or three day competition with all four regions running this event simultaneously. Regions may merge if required
- Regions may accept entries from athletes/clubs outside of Ireland but Irish clubs/athletes may only compete in their own Regional Championships (unless two or more Regions merge as above)
- Age Groups as 11/12 years, 13 years and 14 years
- Qualifying Times and Consideration Times to both be utilised to allow the maximising of entries for meet managers
- Separate Qualifying Times and Consideration Times for the three age groups per gender
- LC Qualification times (plus SC conversions) may be used for entry. Any Licensed onshore or similarly licensed offshore meet can be utilised for entry
- Full Olympic programme of individual events
- Three Olympic relay events per gender (Age as 11-14 years)
- Finals in each age group for all events other than relays and 400m/800m/1500m (Timed Finals)
- Regional Age Group LC Championships can be used to establish entry times for individuals to then utilise for National Summer National LC Championships or National Division 2 LC Championship entries

NB: Where Regions feel that it is not feasible to run separate Youth/Senior and Age Group Championships, the preferred model would be for Regions to 'merge' and keep both weekends on the calendar, rather than to operate independently and merge the two meets into one.

Irish National SC Championships

- Four day competition
- Age Groups as Youth (Male 16 years & under and Female 15 years & under) and Senior (Male 17 years & over and Female 16 years & over)
- Separate Qualifying Times for the two age groups per gender
- SC Qualification times only – no LC or LC conversions
- Open event (conditional)
- Qualification window 01/12/16 – 06/11/17 from the Irish National SC Championships (previous season), Regional Qualifying Meets, Regional Championships and Regional Senior Schools Meets
- Offshore SC meets in the periods 01/12/16 - 06/11/17 which meet similar standards to those of Licence 3a (with electronic timing) may be nominated in advance to Swim Ireland as a Qualification meet
- Full Olympic programme of individual events plus 50m Form Strokes and 100m IM
- Four relay events to be Single Gender 200m Freestyle & 200m Medley relays and Mixed Gender 200m Freestyle & 200m Medley relays (two male/two female)
- 'A' and 'B' Finals for all individual events other than relay events ('A' Final only) and 800m/1500m (Timed Finals)

Irish LC Championships

- Five day competition. Irish Trials for International selections (along with Commonwealth Games in 2018)
- Age Groups as Youth (Male 15/16 years and Female 14/15 years), Junior (Male 17/18 years and Female 16/17 years) & Senior (Male 19 years & over and Female 18 years & over)
- Open event (conditional)
- Separate Qualifying Times for the three age groups per gender
- LC Qualification times only – no SC or SC conversions
- Qualification window 01/07/17 – 19/02/18
- Offshore LC meets in the periods 01/07/18 – 31/08/17 and 01/01/18 – 19/02/18 which meet similar standards to those of Licence 3a (with electronic timing) may be nominated in advance to Swim Ireland as a Qualification meet
- Full Olympic programme of individual events plus 50m Form Strokes
- Three Olympic relay events per gender
- 'Open' and 'Junior' Finals for all events other than relays and 800m/1500m (Timed Finals). Junior Finals to be Male 18 years & under and Female 17 years & under)

Irish Summer National LC Championships

- Five day competition
- Age Groups as 12/13 years, 14 years, 15 years, 16 years and 17 years & over
- Open event (conditional)
- Separate Qualifying Times for the five age groups per gender
- LC Qualification times only – no SC or SC conversions
- LC Qualification meets organised by Irish Clubs can be ratified for this subject to application to Swim Ireland regarding their proposed timing on the annual calendar and that they meet the current Level 3a Licensing Conditions (with electronic timing)
- Offshore LC meets which meet similar standards to those of Licence 3a (with electronic timing) may be nominated in advance to Swim Ireland as a Qualification meet
- Qualification window 01/01/18 – 18/06/18
- Full Olympic programme of individual events plus 50m Form Strokes (17 years & over only)
- Three Olympic relay events per gender in two separate age groups (12-14 years and 15 years & over)
- Finals for all events in all age groups other than 800m/1500m (Timed Finals)
- Athletes may not compete in the Irish National Division 2 Meet if qualified for this competition

Irish National Division 2 LC Meet

- Four day competition
- Age Groups as 11/12 years, 13 years, 14 years, and 15 years & over
- Separate Lower Qualifying Times for the four age groups per gender. Separate Upper Qualifying times to be set at the Irish Summer National LC Championships Qualifying Time standard
- LC Qualiifcation times (plus SC conversions) may be used for entry. All onshore and offshore meets that have a minimum of a 3a Licence or international equivalent (with electronic timing) can be utilised for entry
- Qualification window 01/01/18 – 18/06/18
- Full Olympic programme of individual events plus 50m Form Strokes (15 years & over only)
- Three Olympic relay events per gender in two separate age groups (11-14 years and 15 years & over)
- Finals for all events in all age groups other than 800m/1500m (Timed Finals)

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