

Swimming Domestic Competition Plan (2019-2020 Season) Explanatory Notes

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Please consider the content of this document alongside the associated 2019-2020 Season Plan

Galas

The emphasis for galas is on 'fun' in individual and/or relay swimming. If medals/prizes are to be awarded, they are for participation rather than medals for first, second and third positions within a race. The focus is on club/team representation and swimmers compete for a finishing position which provides their club/team with a point score towards a club/team accumulative score

Meets

The emphasis for meets is on individual/relay performance for a time and a finishing position. Meets will usually swim consolidated heats with outcomes declared from either a heat declared winner basis (HDW) or from athletes qualifying for finals from heat swims

General

All competitions (other than schools competitions or Inter/Intra Club Galas) 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 Galas from 7 years upwards. Such galas can be organised on 'blank' weekends on the season plan
- Inter-Club Galas from 8 years upwards (other than the Swim Ireland Christmas Crackers Gala, to be from 7 years upwards). Such galas can be organised on 'blank' weekends on the season plan
- Club Invitational/Open Meets from 9 years upwards. Such meets are predominantly to be utilised for entry into Development Meets and Regional Qualifying Meets, however may be used to qualify for Regional Championship Meets and National Meets subject to licencing requirements. 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

Annual Season

- The season will be defined as the period 01/09/19 – 31/08/20
- The NPD will provide a required Programme of Events for all National and Regional Championships
- Development and Qualifying Meets will be constructed at each Region's discretion
- Each Region will write their own Qualifying and/or Consideration times for Regional events based on the demographic of their athletes. The NPD (in consultation with the Performance Advisory Group) will write the Qualifying Times for all National Championships and the National Division 2 Competition

Short Course Season (Period 1)

- All events to be competed in short course pools only in the period 01/09/19 – 31/12/19
- 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 National SC Championships
- The International culmination of the short course season will be the European SC Championships

Long Course Season (Period 2)

- Events to be competed (as much as possible) in long course pools in the period 01/01/20 – 31/08/20
- The Regional culmination of the long course season will be each Regional LC Championships
- The National culmination of the long course season will be the Irish Open Championships in the first training cycle and the Irish Summer National Championships in the second training cycle
- The International culmination of the long course season will be the Irish Open Championships in the first training cycle and the benchmark summer LC international meet in the second training cycle. In 2019-2020, this is the Olympic Games

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Full Time National Centre Athletes

- On an individual basis, such athletes may enter a Regional Championships either within the Region in which their National Centre is based or in the Region of their home club
- Such athletes who enter a Regional Championships within the Region in which their National Centre is based (and this is a different Region to that of their home club), such athlete will be eligible to compete in heats and/or finals but will not be eligible to win medals from within that Region

Regional Development Meets

- Events that have previously been described/defined by Regions as Graded Meets, 'B/C' Meets and/or Grade 2/3 Meets will 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 always incorporate the 100m IM when in SC format
- 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
- 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
- Regions may accept entries from athletes/clubs outside of Ireland but Irish clubs/athletes may only compete in their own Regional Development Meets (unless two or more Regions merge to run such an event) and such events should be considered as 'Closed' in this sense

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 two windows of opportunity to run up to three Qualifying Meets according to their own needs and requirements
- Window 1 is in the short course season and is 3 days in length. One short course meet of 2 or 3 days in length can be run in this period
- Window 2 is in the long course season and is approximately 80 days in length. One or two long course meets of 2 or 3 days in length can be run in this period
- Qualifying Meets are to be run in these two windows only
- Qualifying Meets may not be organised in published 'Closed Weekends'
- 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 Championship entries (if such events are held in a long course pool) and Irish National Division 2 Competition entries (if such events are held in a short course or 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)
- In Window 1 (SC season), Regions may accept entries from athletes/clubs outside of Ireland but Irish clubs/athletes may only compete in their own Regional SC Qualifying Meets (unless two or more Regions merge for this competition) and such events should be considered as 'Closed' in this sense
- In Window 2 (LC season), Regions may accept entries from athletes/clubs outside of their own Region and from outside of Ireland and such events should be considered as 'Open' in this sense. Regions should write criteria into their own Qualifying Meet Regulations which gives preferential entry conditions to athletes from their own Region, with entries from other Regions accepted on a 'top-up' basis

Regional SC Championships

- The schedule of events shall be set by the National Performance Director
- Two or Three-day competition with all four regions running this event over one of two specified weekends. Regions may merge for this competition if required
- Age Groups as Youth (Male 16 years & under and Female 15 years & under) and Senior (Male 17 years & over and Female 16 years & over)

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Regional SC Championships contd.

- 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. Any suitably licensed onshore or similarly licensed offshore meet can be utilised 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 Irish National SC Championship entries
- Regions may accept entries from athletes/clubs outside of Ireland but Irish clubs/athletes may only compete in their own Regional SC Championships (unless two or more Regions merge for this competition) and such events should be considered as 'Closed' in this sense

Regional LC Championships

- The schedule of events shall be set by the National Performance Director
- Up to four days of competition with all four regions running this event over one or two of three specified weekends of two, three or four days (if one weekend is used) or two days of competition per weekend (if two weekends are used). Regions may merge if required
- Age Groups as 11/12 years, 13/14 years, 15/16 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 four age groups per gender
- LC Qualification times (plus SC conversions) may be used for entry. Any suitably licensed onshore or similarly licensed offshore meet can be utilised for entry
- Full Olympic programme of individual events for all age groups plus 50m Form Strokes for 15/16 years and 17 years & over only
- All Olympic relay events, mixed and per gender (Age as 11-14 years and 15 years & over)
- Finals in each age group for all events other than relays and 400m/800m/1500m (Timed Finals)
- Regional LC Championships can be used to establish entry times for individuals to then utilise for Irish Summer National Championships or Irish National Division 2 Competition entries
- Regions may accept entries from athletes/clubs outside of Ireland but Irish clubs/athletes may only compete in their own Regional LC Championships (unless two or more Regions merge for this competition) and such events should be considered as 'Closed' in this sense

McCullagh International Meet

- Four-day competition in 2020 (Thursday - Sunday)
- In 2020 this competition will run the Heats sessions in the evening and Finals sessions in the morning (to mimic the Olympic Games schedule)
- Age Groups as Age Group (Male 12-14 and Female 12-13) and Youth (Male 15-18 and Female 14-17) Senior (Male 19 years & over and Female 18 years & over)
- Separate Qualifying Times for Senior, Youth and Age Group events
- LC Qualification times (plus secondary SC entry times) may be used for a SC/LC tiered entry
- SC entry times will be converted to LC for seeding purposes
- Qualification window 01/05/19 – 21/01/20
- Club Open Meets organised by Irish Clubs can be ratified for this subject to application to Swim Ireland (through the Regional Meet Licence Coordinator) regarding the proposed timing on the annual calendar and that they meet the Swim Ireland Meet Licence Level 3 Conditions
- Clubs attending Offshore meets which meet similar standards to those of Swim Ireland Meet Licence Level 3 may be nominated in advance to Swim Ireland as a Qualification meet
- Full Olympic programme of individual events plus 50m Form Strokes for Youth/Senior and to be run as the first set of heats on Thursday, Friday & Saturday
- 200m IM, 200m Freestyle, 200m Backstroke, 200m Breaststroke, 200m Butterfly, 400m Freestyle & 400m IM individual events for Age Group and to be run as the second set of heats on Thursday, Friday & Saturday. The 200m IM is open to all athletes entering at least one other event, whether they have the 200m IM qualifying time or not
- All 'Open' Olympic relay events mixed and per gender and to be classed as the 'National Relay Titles' for 2020
- 'Youth/Senior A', 'Youth/Senior B' and 'Age Group' 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 Age Group Finals. To be run as a 'Closed' event to Irish athletes in 'B' Finals

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Irish National SC Championships

- Four-day competition
- Age Groups as Youth (Male 12-16 and Female 12-15) and Senior (Male 17 years & over and Female 16 years & over)
- Separate Qualifying Times for the two age groups per gender
- SC and LC Qualification Times will be published
- SC standards can be achieved from 01/12/18 – 18/11/19 while LC standards can be achieved from 01/07/19 – 18/11/19
- LC entry times will be converted to SC for seeding purposes
- Open event (conditional)
- Meets organised by Irish Clubs can be ratified for this subject to application to Swim Ireland (through the Regional Meet Licence Coordinator) regarding the proposed timing on the annual calendar and that they meet the Swim Ireland Meet Licence Level 3 Conditions Clubs attending
- Offshore meets in the periods above which meet similar standards to those of Swim Ireland Meet Licence Level 3 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 and 800m/1500m (Timed Finals)

Irish Open Championships

- Five-day competition. Irish Trials for International selections
- Age Groups as Youth (Male 13-16 years and Female 13-15 years), Junior (Male 17/19 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 01/07/19 – 25/02/20
- Clubs attending Offshore LC meets in the periods 01/07/19 – 31/08/19 and 01/01/20 – 25/02/20 which meet similar standards to those of Swim Ireland Meet Licence Level 3 may be nominated in advance to Swim Ireland as a Qualification meet
- Full Olympic programme of individual events plus 50m Form Strokes
- 'Open A', 'Junior' and 'Open B' 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). Finals will be populated in this order

Irish Summer National 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 (through the Regional Meet Licence Coordinator) regarding the proposed timing on the annual calendar and that they meet the Swim Ireland Meet Licence Level 3 Conditions
- Clubs attending Offshore LC meets which meet similar standards to those of Swim Ireland Meet Licence Level 3 may be nominated in advance to Swim Ireland as a Qualification meet
- Qualification window 01/01/20 – 10/06/20
- Full Olympic programme of individual events plus 50m Form Strokes (15 years & over only)
- All Olympic relay events 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 who have only qualified for one event in this competition may compete in the Irish National Division 2 Meet (but not in the event in which they have qualified for this competition)

Irish National Division 2 Competition

- Four-day SC 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 Championships Qualifying Time standard
- LC Qualification times published and SC conversions time published and both may be used for entry
- Meets organised by Irish Clubs can be ratified for this subject to application to Swim Ireland (through your Regional Meet Licence Coordinator) regarding the proposed timing on the annual calendar and that they meet the Swim Ireland Meet Licence Level 3 Conditions

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Irish National Division 2 Competition contd.

- Clubs Offshore meets which meet similar standards to those of Swim Ireland Meet Licence Level 3 may be nominated in advance to Swim Ireland as a Qualification meet
- Qualification window 01/01/20 – 10/06/20
- Full Olympic programme of individual events plus 50m Form Strokes (15 years & over only)
- All Olympic relay events (mixed and 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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