

Swim Ireland Domestic Competition Plan Update 2020-2021 Season (October 2020)



Republic of Ireland Level 3 Status

As the Republic of Ireland has moved into Level 3 status for all counties during October, these counties/areas are **no longer** able to run Virtual Meets this month. Clubs within these locations should now run Club-Based Time Trials within their training sessions as a replacement for the Virtual Meets

Northern Ireland Locations Without Additional Restrictions

For those counties/local areas in Northern Ireland that do not have Additional Restrictions placed upon them in October, the Virtual Meets planned for the October 2020 period can go ahead as per the documentation recently distributed to clubs

Northern Ireland Locations With Additional Restrictions

As some Northern Ireland areas now fall under Additional Restrictions during October, these counties/areas are **no longer** able to run Virtual Meets this month and at this moment in time are also unable to run Club-Based Time Trials. We are working closely with Swim Ulster to be able to get clubs within these locations to be able to run Club-Based Time Trials within their training sessions similar to that described for Republic of Ireland Level 3 counties

Swim Ireland's current intention (which is subject to Government of Ireland/Northern Ireland Executive directives announced during October, November and December 2020) is as follows:

- October 2020 – Will fall under one of two categories as detailed above:
 - Virtual Meet (Development & Qualifying Meet combined) for Northern Ireland locations that do not have Additional Restrictions
 - Club-Based Time Trials for all Republic of Ireland counties
 - No possibilities as yet for Northern Ireland locations that do have Additional Restrictions in place but Swim Ireland and Swim Ulster are endeavouring to progress this favourably for such clubs
- November 2020 – Will fall under one of two categories dependant on Regionally different circumstances in place at that time:
 - Actual Meet (Senior National SC Qualifying Meets organised/hosted by the Regions and incorporating 2020 Regional SC Championship awards) for Northern Ireland locations that do have Additional Restrictions and Level 3 areas of the Republic of Ireland – and for athletes 16 years of age & over only
 - Actual Meet (National SC Qualifying Meets organised/hosted by the Regions and incorporating 2020 Regional SC Championship awards) for Northern Ireland locations that do not have Additional Restrictions and Level 2 areas of the Republic of Ireland
- December 2020 – Actual Meet (Swim Ireland National Winter Championships) to be held in Dublin

Swim Ireland Domestic Competition Plan September to December 2020

The aforementioned Club-Based Time Trials in October 2020 will provide athletes with an opportunity to qualify for their respective National SC Qualifying Meet within their Region. The format of the National SC Qualifying Meet in 2020 will be reformatted to become a Heat Declared Winner competition across all events, with government directives and Swim Ireland guidelines in place at that time dictating the numbers allowed into the facility at any one time. Athletes will be able to enter this meet using times achieved in Level 3 Meets since 1st July 2019 (SC times and converted LC times) as well as being able to qualify from times achieved in the October Club-Based Time Trials. Times recorded in the Time Trials will not be used for selection to Regional Squads and cannot be used to set Regional or National Records. Clubs will make their own judgements and decisions as to whether times at their Time Trials can be used to set new Club Records

Club-Based Time Trials (Combined) October 2020

The Club-Based Time Trials in October will replace both the Regional Development Meet and Regional Qualifying Meets scheduled for October 2020 and will provide a combined in-house opportunity for athletes to be timed in their training environment and to benchmark where their performances currently stand in an attempt to qualify for the 2020 National SC Qualifying Meets within their own Regions in November. There will be no qualifying times in place for this in-house competition and it should open to all club athletes aged 10 years and over who are registered as competitive members.

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Time Trial Format

Clubs will be responsible for running the Time Trials across as many days/sessions as they wish and in whatever format suits their individual circumstances in the period from **Saturday 3rd October 2020 through to and including Sunday 25th October 2020**. Clubs may choose to run this in one evening or to spread the events throughout the 23-day period depending on pool/staff availability. Clubs may also choose to Time Trial a select number of events according to their needs and with this being a series of Time Trials rather than a meet, Swim Ireland's licensing requirements will not be in force. Clubs may also decide whether they run Time Trials as single genders or combined genders according to their needs.

Clubs should nominate their Head Coach to oversee the running of each Time Trial session and the following maximum number of adult helpers should be in place during each Time Trial:

- Head Coach
- One additional coach (for time trials operating in up to 6 lanes) and up to two additional coaches (for time trials operating in 8-10 lanes)
- COVID-19 Officer
- Parent On Duty

Time Trial Events

- 50m, 100m & 200m Freestyle
- 400m Freestyle*
- 100m, 200m Backstroke, Butterfly & Breaststroke**
- 200m & 400m Individual Medley

* Athletes achieving a National SC Qualifying Meet Consideration Standard in the 400m Freestyle may also apply to enter the 800m and/or the 1500m Freestyle event at the 2020 National SC Qualifying Meets

** Athletes achieving a National SC Qualifying Meet Consideration Standard in the 100m Backstroke, Breaststroke or Butterfly may also apply to enter the 50m event in the corresponding stroke at the 2020 National SC Qualifying Meet

Ideally, all Time Trials should take place in 25m pools. In circumstances where clubs can only facilitate a 20m pool, times can be recorded from such pools after clubs have informed their Region as to why this is their only option. For Time Trials taking place in pools where starting blocks are not available, each time may manually be improved by 0.5 seconds for all events which involve a dive start. For Time Trials taking place in pools where diving is permitted because of shallow water, each time may manually be improved by 1.0 seconds for all events which would normally involve a dive start.

Time Trials Entries & Results

Each Region will generate a Hytek Meet Manager File and Team Manager Event File for circulation to their clubs. Clubs must register athletes with their Region by submitting entries for the Time Trials using a Team Manager Meet Entry File as if running a meet.

Stopwatch times should be recorded for all swims and electronic timing equipment should not be utilised. Time Trial results should be returned to the Regional Gala Secretary on or before **Monday 26th October 2020** for ratification by one of the following methods, listed in order of preference:

1. Clubs who have access to Meet Manager can run a Time Trial using the Hytek Meet Manager File and submit the Time Trial results to the Region
2. Clubs who do not have access to Meet Manager can submit a Team Manager Result File
3. Clubs who do not have access to either Meet Manager or Team Manager can submit an excel result sheet for processing by the Region

Results for each Time Trial must be accompanied by a Sign Off Form completed by the Head Coach. Times achieved in these Time Trials can be used to qualify for the relevant National SC Qualifying Meet in November 2020 and can be used as entry time for the first Regional Development and/or Regional Qualifying Meet held within their Region in 2021 (subject to any other conditions Regions place on entry to their Development/Qualifying Meets). Times recorded at this Time Trial will be null and void after this period.

Swim Ireland Domestic Competition Plan Update 2020-2021 Season (October 2020)

Entry Fee

Clubs may choose to charge athletes a fund raising entry fee of no more than of €3.00/£3.00 per Time Trialled event. Regions will inform clubs as to whether they require a payment of €1.00/£1.00 per Time Trialled event for administration purposes. Regions will inform their clubs of the requirements in advance of the Time Trial period commencing

Questions or Enquires

Clubs may seek further guidance and advice on the October Time Trials if required from Swim Ireland's Pat Daly via patdaly@swimireland.ie