

Swim Ireland Domestic Competition Plan Update 2020-2021 Season (Short Course Period: September - December 2020)

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the majority of the 2019-2020 long course season, with both domestic and international competitions unable to take place in the period March 2020 – August 2020. Unfortunately, the pandemic has continued to disrupt the domestic competition calendar as we begin the 2020-21 season and under current circumstances both north and south of the border, the Regions are unable to run October 2020 Development and Qualifying Meets as ‘actual’ meets.

In summary, 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 – Virtual Meet (Development & Qualifying Meet combined)
- November 2020 – Actual Meet (Regional SC Championships) with a Virtual Meet plan constructed as a contingency if required
- December 2020 – Actual Meet (National Winter Championships in Dublin)

This document outlines the changes adopted to the Swim Ireland Domestic Competition Plan and Meet Licensing requirements in the period September to December 2020.

Swim Ireland Domestic Competition Plan September to December 2020

Our intention is to enable clubs to run a Virtual Meet in October 2020 from which swimmers can qualify for their respective Regional SC Championships. The format of the Regional SC Championships in 2020 is likely to 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. Swimmers 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 following Virtual Qualifying Meet. Times recorded at this Virtual Meet 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 this Virtual Meet can be used to set new Club Records

Virtual Development & Qualifying Meet (Combined) October 2020

The Virtual Qualifying Meet will replace both the Regional Development Meet and Regional Qualifying Meets scheduled for October 2020 and will provide a combined in-house opportunity for swimmers to compete, benchmark where their performances currently stand and to attempt to qualify for the 2020 Regional SC Championships. There will be no qualifying times in place for this in-house competition and it should open to all club swimmers aged 10 years and over who are registered as competitive members.

Meet Format

Clubs will be responsible for running the meet 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 and/or age groups throughout the 23-day period depending on pool and staff availability. Clubs may also choose to run a select number of events according to their needs and Swim Ireland’s regular licensing requirements will not be in force. Clubs may also decide whether they run events as single genders or combined genders according to their needs.

Clubs should nominate a Meet Manager to oversee the running of each meet session and, where possible, this should be a Swim Ireland licensed official. Where this is not possible, the Meet Manager should be the Head Coach of the club. Where possible, officials should be qualified for the role they undertake and the following minimum number of officials/adult helpers should be in place during each event:

- Meet Manager
- Starter
- Recorder
- Chief Timekeeper (timekeeper back up in the case of stopwatches not starting)
- One timekeeper per lane

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If clubs are limited to the number of officials/adult helpers permitted on poolside due to COVID-19 restrictions they can apply to the Region for an exemption outlining their reasons.

Events

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

* Swimmers achieving a Regional SC Championship Qualifying Standard in the 400m Freestyle may also enter the 800m and/or the 1500m Freestyle event at the 2020 Regional SC Championships

** Swimmers achieving a Regional SC Championship Qualifying Standard in the 100m Backstroke, Breaststroke or Butterfly may also enter the 50m event in the corresponding stroke at the 2020 Regional SC Championships

*** Swimmers achieving a Regional SC Championship Qualifying Standard in the 200m IM may also enter the 100m IM at the 2020 Regional SC Championships

Ideally, all competitions should take place in 25m pools. In circumstances where clubs can only facilitate a 20m pool, times will be accepted from such pools after clubs have informed their Region as to why this is their only option.

For meets 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.

COVID-19 Procedures

Full details and guidelines as to how such meets can be organised and operated under required and recommended COVID-19 protocols and procedures will be circulated to clubs and Regions in due course.

Entries & Results

Each Region will generate a Hytek Meet Manager File and Team Manager Event File for circulation to their clubs. Clubs must register swimmers with their Region by submitting entries using a Team Manager Meet Entry File as would normally be the case for entering competitions.

Stopwatch/automated times should be recorded for all swims and where clubs have access to electronic timing equipment, this should be utilised. 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 meet using the Hytek Meet Manager File and submit the meet 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 session must be accompanied by a Sign Off Form completed by the Head Coach or a Licensed Official. Each Region will then consolidate the results into one Virtual Meet and publish the overall results. Times achieved in this Virtual Qualifying Meet can be used to qualify for the Regional SC Championships 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 Virtual Meet will be null and void after this period.

Entry Fee

Clubs may choose to charge swimmers an entry fee of no more than of €3.00/£3.00 per event. Regions will inform clubs as to whether they require a payment of €1.00/£1.00 per entry to the Region. Regions will inform their clubs of the requirements in advance of the competition period commencing

Questions or Enquires

Clubs may seek further guidance and advice if required from the Swim Ireland Competitions Manager Pat Daly via patdaly@swimireland.ie