

2011 – 2012 Update to Selection Criteria

In respect to DRP qualification there are no changes other than the date required for clubs to nominate any results that have not been picked up previously. This has been altered this to fit in with the new timeline agreed with the National Swimming Committee.

For additional information, the main changes to the policy are featured at the front of the 2011 – 2012 National Squad Selection Policy and Times document.

The two main elements are;

- The inclusion of an open water qualification
- The reduction of events required by females at 17yrs from 2 swims to 1

Open Water

As open water continues to play an increasing role within the swimming programme and, in line with many coach's belief that the development of "open water swimmers" comes from development of swimmers through the pool pathway rather than open water swimming/training itself, open water qualification has been included.

Swimmers must achieve in both the pool (time 8/1500m) and in open water competition.

The open water element is difficult to quantify due to the nature of the event however we have tried to ensure that the standard achieved is at a suitable level through discussion with British Swimming and others.

Qualification is for those aged 17yrs+ at a senior silver level and 18yrs+ at senior gold level, thus ensuring that swimmers and coaches stay focussed on development within the pool.

Times have been derived from;

Senior Silver – Silver 17yrs 8/1500 times

Senior Gold – Gold 17yrs 8/1500 times

The times remain constant for the subsequent age groups. In doing so we are establishing a performance line for pool swimming that must be achieved before consideration for any form of support is given through the National Programme.

It is clear from results at World level open water that most swimmers attain a good level of performance in the pool but not all that achieve success are the best in the pool. We feel that using the above in the first instance will help to establish what that level should be over the years to come.

Female Events

The number of events that females need to achieve at 17yrs is reduced.

On analysing the number of female athletes within the programme and the lack of numbers making the step up or dropping out, it was felt that something had to change to help reverse the trend.

Rather than reducing the quality of the times set, the option of reducing events was considered. In doing so it is accepted that females are specialising earlier than males and therefore it is appropriate to alter the number of swims.

It is not considered that the number of female progressing (or lack of) is a direct result of the times/policy but that more attention is needed in the area of female development however both of us felt that the help and support through the institute network and Scottish Swimming at this level has helped the situation for female athletes in the past.

Clearly where females have made the transition, success has been achieved.