

## Competition Pathway

The National Performance Director has introduced a new competition pathway which will be implemented in all Regions from September 2017 and will ensure that competitions are streamlined throughout the country. This is a huge step forward and will be a very positive step in Irish Swimming.

This document has been compiled by the Swim Ireland Competitions Steering Group in conjunction with the Performance Department and will explain the pathway from the time a swimmer begins their competitive career until they reach National level competition.

### Age:

Swimmers ages will be defined as their age on 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year of the competition. (For example, a swimmer born in 2005 will swim as a 12 year old during 2017 and a 13 year old during 2018).

This applies to all competitions with the exception of schools which will be defined as 31<sup>st</sup> August of the school year.

### Time Standards:

**Qualifying Times.** Where a meet has qualifying times, swimmers who have achieved these times will be accepted into that event.

**Consideration Times.** Where a meet has consideration times, swimmers who have achieved these times will be considered for entry into the event based on entry numbers. Swimmers who have not achieved either the qualifying or consideration times will not be accepted into the event.

### Competition Types:

Swim Ireland have introduced a Domestic Competition Plan which sets out the competitions to be held Regionally and Nationally throughout the year. These are classified as:

- (a) Intra-Club meets,
- (b) Inter-Club and Club Open meets,
- (c) Regional Development and Regional Qualifying Meets (these replace Graded galas; with Regional Development replacing Grade 2B, 3, and Regional Qualifying replacing Grade 3)
- (d) Regional Championship and National Division 2 Meets
- (e) National Meets and National Championships.

### (A) Intra-Club Meets:

These are defined as meets which are confined to swimmers from within the host club. Swimmers **must be 8 years of age** in the year of the competition to compete in these. Times achieved at these meets can be used for entry to Inter-Club meets and Club Open meets.

Qualification standard:

None