

## Munster Regional Galas

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Question 1

At Munster Regional Development 1 Level, what is the 100 IM QT and consideration times and where to achieve them? Are consideration times necessary for the other events also?

#### Answer 1

There is no pre-set qualifying time, but training times or times achieved at a Swim Ireland-licensed meet can be used. NT's will not be permitted for the 100 IM. Consideration times will also be necessary for other events and they must be achieved at a Swim Ireland-licensed competition from Level 1 upwards.

#### Question 2

If a swimmer finished last season (2018/19) at a particular standard, do they still hold onto that standard now, even though they may not have all the published qualifying times required to compete at the new standard times?

#### Answer 2

Due to the fact that no prior notice was given to swimmers within the region that this would occur, a compromise or transition period will be facilitated to allow swimmers to compete at the level they finished last season in, up until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019, **HOWEVER** the new criteria will kick-in fully from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 and swimmers will only be allowed compete in the level which their qualifying times state that they are at, at that time.

#### Question 3

If a swimmer finishes SC season in December, having achieved a standard, does this still stand for LC season, if they age up? And are SC conversions allowed?

#### Answer 3

If a swimmer ages up, then they must achieve the new standards for their age. SC to LC conversions have already been completed and are outlined on the qualifying-time table so this is the only format which should be followed. If a conversion is required and allowed for a meet, that time should be sent to the Munster Recorder for conversion only.

**Question 4**

If a child has achieved their times in an event, are they precluded from swimming that race until they reach the next level?

**Answer 4**

No. This could limit swimmer's chances of racing their best events, especially when they may need opportunities to race them leading up to Summer Championships or if they risk running those best times out of the 15 months expiry date. They may not always choose to race those events in which they already have the qualifying time for the next standard in, but they shouldn't be excluded from doing so either. Most exclusions in this scenario should only occur when a meet is over-subscribed, and swimmers may need to drop one or two events so that the meet can adhere to timelines.

**Question 5**

If not relegated this year, but a swimmer does not have all consideration times for Regional Qualifying meets, can they go back to level 2 to get them?

**Answer 5**

Firstly, the times required for the 200 Free and 200 IM, the 100m stroke events and the 100m IM are all "Qualifying Times", not Consideration Times. Consideration times will be used for all other events (400Free, 100 Free, etc.) and these are detailed in the qualifying-time table. Secondly, swimmers will only compete at the level in which they have achieved the full criteria for and will no longer be able to compete at multiple levels within the region.

**Question 6**

Development 2 Galas - 'However, to swim in any 100m event, swimmers must already have an official 50m time in that particular event from any Swim Ireland Licensed gala within the last 15 months' - does that mean an electronic time or does it mean it has to be the level 1 time for age?

**Answer 6**

All times must be achieved at a Swim Ireland-licensed gala achieved within the last 15 months. For Development 1, Level 1 licensed galas, but for Development 2 and above they must be from Level 2 or higher licensed galas.

**Question 7**

Will swimmers be able to swim 2 x 100's and 2 x 200's at each gala, as over the last number of years they can only swim one at each gala, due to time constraints?

**Answer 7**

Yes, however only depending on time availability. If timing will be an issue at a particular meet then the gala recorder can request swimmers entered in the 2 x 200m events (Freestyle and IM) to drop one of them and the swimmer/coach can then decide which one they will drop this time and may have the opportunity to swim the other 200m event at the next gala. It is advisable to only enter one of the 200m targeted events (200Free or 200IM) when entering Regional Qualifying meets so that these competitions can be ran effectively and efficiently while also minimising the need to exclude swimmers from certain 200m Free or IM events due to over-subscription.

**Question 8**

Can split times be used from events to achieve a Munster Regional Qualifying Meet time or Development Meet time?

**Answer 8**

Yes, once they have been attained within the last 15 months at the correct level Swim Ireland-licensed competition. The aim is for swimmers to attain their selected qualifying times in the actual event and not through a 'split-time system' which can add extra work when completing entries to any meet.

**Question 9**

Is the 100m IM event also included in the Regional Qualifying meet SC competitions up until Dec 31<sup>st</sup> each season.

**Answer 9**

Yes

**Question 10**

Munster Championships – if a swimmer has achieved a consideration time can they swim at this event if they have not qualified out of Development galas?

**Answer 10**

Yes

### **Question 11**

What is the expiry date for times achieved by swimmers at galas?

### **Answer 11**

15 months

### **Question 12**

Some clubs may have swimmers who possess no official swim times at present. Where and when will there be an opportunity for them to get into the system with a time trial? Can we use training times for them?

### **Answer 12**

As is the case for the new times and full structure coming into effect on Jan 1st, it has been suggested allowing training times to be considered for DEV 1 meets up until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019, as there has been no opportunity for swimmers to achieve official times at the start of the season in Munster on this new system.

Therefore, the answer is 'yes', training times are allowed on the 50m events up until December 31<sup>st</sup>, after which the full new criteria will take effect.

### **Question 13**

If the swimmer competes at Dev 2 between now and Dec 31 - how will they manage to compete in 50m events? There are not many competitions that facilitate 50m events outside of invitationals. In other words, is it better that a Dev 2 swimmer (old criteria) actually focusses on Dev 1 in the interim? Is that allowed?

### **Answer 13**

A swimmer who fulfils all the qualifying criteria for Dev 2 standard can only compete at that standard until such a time that they either drop down to DEV 1 because of expired times or age group change, or if they progress to the Regional Qualifying standards. If the child swims at Dev 2 between now and Dec 31st then they should be targeting the events and qualifying times to make Regional Qualifying standard and try to add other events to their list by entering them at competitions outside the regional structure such as club Open or Invitations.

If a Dev 1 swimmer faces an age group change in Jan 2020, then it would be wise for them to target the next age category's qualifying times now, rather than waiting until January if there is a possibility of relegation again.

#### **Question 14**

Will the 100m times achieved in 2018/2019 season still hold in 2020 (i.e. 15 months from Apr-May 2019 for example, assuming they were achieved mid 2019 and that is when the swimmer was promoted to Dev 2)?

#### **Answer 14**

All times achieved have a 15month expiry from the date they were achieved so as long as they are kept updated then there should be no issues in that regard.

#### **Question 15**

Assuming the swimmer is demoted on Jan 1 2020, will the swimmer only swim 50m events in Dev 1 and be precluded from the 100m events?

#### **Answer 15**

They will swim in whatever events are on offer at Dev 1 level galas such as the 100m IM and 100m Free, the 50 Free/Back/Breast/Fly. They can enter any event they qualify in at any other non-regional Development or Qualifying meet also (e.g. Club Open or Invitations).

#### **Question 16**

If the swimmer achieves 2x50m times in a Dev 1. (within 15 months) are they promoted to Dev. 2 immediately? How do you reconcile this with the calendar year and the Age specific QTs?

#### **Answer 16**

If a swimmer achieves and holds the required qualifying criteria for their current age category to progress to the next level then they will do so immediately, so long as all times have been achieved within the 15 month window

## **Munster Swimming – General Gala Structure 2019/20**

**Aim:** To provide the Munster Region with a clear development pathway from entry into the Regional programme to Regional Championships and thereafter to National Championships.

### **General:**

1. Swimmers must achieve the stated standard before being able to enter the Munster Regional competition programme at Development 1 level.
2. Swimmers will remain at a particular level until they have achieved all of the stated criteria for the next level. Once they have progressed to the next level, they are eligible to swim all events at that level of competition (Regional Qualifying Meets have published Consideration Times which will need to be achieved) and are ineligible to swim at the lower level.
3. To promote ongoing participation and age appropriate competitions, swimmers who are 16 years of age plus on the 31<sup>st</sup> December, who may not have achieved all of the stated Regional Qualification standard times, may participate in one or more Regional Qualifier events, if they have achieved any of the stated Qualification Times. Swimmers entering the competition in this manner are eligible to swim in those events for which they have Qualifying and/or Consideration Times only.

### **Development 1:**

**To participate in Development 1 Galas**, swimmers must have a time in the 100m IM. Entry times to participate in other events must be provided.

The 100IM time and other consideration times can be gained at official club or inter club time trails and/or galas. **NTs will not be allowed.**

### **Club / Inter Club Time Trials:**

For Time Trial times to be valid, the following criteria must be adhered to:

- a. Clubs must apply to the Munster Regional Competitions Committee for a Level 1 Licence.
- b. The licence application must outline the trial time, date, venue and the events being covered.
- c. The event must be supervised by an officially qualified Level 2 Referee.
- d. All registered time trails must include a minimum of two skills-based events (e.g. timed 25 m kick, timed dive and glide (10m), timed turns (5m in and 10 m out) and stroke efficiency events (time + stroke count = score. Lowest score wins)
- e. The Trial venue must be held in a 25m pool with starting blocks.

- f. Where it is not possible to have electronic timing available, a minimum of three timekeepers watches must be used on each lane with the agreed finish time being signed by the referee in attendance.
- g. Times achieved at such events are only valid for entry into Munster Region Development 1 events.

**To progress from Development 1 to Development 2 standard**, swimmers must achieve all of the stated qualification times in the 100m IM + 100 Front Crawl, and two 50m times from the Fly, Back or Breaststrokes.

### **Development 2:**

Once qualified, swimmers may enter any event on the Development 2 programme. However, to swim in any 100m event, swimmers must already have an official 50m time in that particular event from any Swim Ireland-licensed gala within the last 15 months.

**To progress from Development 2 to Regional Qualifier standard**, swimmers must achieve all of the stated qualification times in the 200IM + 200 Front Crawl, and two 100m times from the Fly, Back or Breaststrokes.

### **Regional Qualifying Meets:**

The stated qualification times for progression from Development 2 standard to Regional Qualifying standard in the 200 IM, 200 FC and all 100m events will apply. Entry times for all events must have been recorded electronically at a licensed event.

Once qualified, swimmers may enter any event on the Regional Qualifier programme. However, to swim in any 200m event, swimmers must already have an official 100m time in that particular event from any Swim Ireland-licensed gala within the last 15 months.

The guideline regarding swimmers aged 16yrs plus will apply to RQ events.

### **Munster Championships:**

Stated qualification standards and criteria will apply throughout.

Swimmers may enter any event for which they have an electronically recorded official qualification time.

(Detail of these Championship events will be added)

**Competing at different levels:**

In previous seasons, swimmers achieving a QT in certain events may have been permitted to swim in that event at a Regional Qualifier meet e.g. a Development 2 standard swimmer achieving a Regional Qualifying standard time in the 100 Fly would have been permitted to swim in that event at a Regional Qualifying meet but was still able to compete in all their other events at a Development 2 meet.

This will no longer be the case and swimmers will compete at one level only until they have achieved all of the relevant standard qualifying criteria.

These rules apply to Munster Development 1 & 2 meets, and Munster Regional Qualifying meets only. Club Invitation galas, club Open meets, National Championships, etc. will have separate meet conditions, QTs and criteria applied.