

## Performance Pathway Program

### Athlete Selection Criteria 2025/2026

#### Amendment

Swimming WA reserves the right to amend any component of this version of the document. Publications of versions will be articulated within this document.

#### Scope

The purpose of this policy is to inform the selection of athletes into the following Performance Pathway Program Squads:

- WA Target Flippers Squad
- WA Flippers Squad
- WA Development Squad

This policy encompasses the following disciplines of the sport of swimming:

- Able Bodied Pool events
- Multi Class Pool events
- Open Water events

#### Definitions

“Home State”	The State or Territory of Australia that the athlete considers themselves as a representative of at national competition.
Automatic Qualification	Selection into the respective squad is without discretion provided the athlete meets stated athlete eligibility standards and selection criteria.
Benchmark Championship	Competitions that have been identified by a governing body as the pinnacle competitions for an athlete’s annual program.
Heat	The race in a specific event that athletes will compete for placings used to qualify for a final.
Final	The race in a specific event that athletes will compete for final placings, usually determined by placing in the preceeding heat session.
Performance Standards	An agreed time taken to complete a specified event, that is used to inform athlete selection into the respective squad.
Special Consideration	The consideration of an athlete for qualification, that does not meet performance standards, due to circumstances outside the athlete’s control significantly impacting the ability to meet performance standards.
Swimming Australia	Governing Body for the sport of Swimming in Australia.
Swimming WA	Governing Body for the sport of Swimming in Western Australia.
Timed Final	The race in a specific event that athletes will compete for final placings, where there was no preceeding heat session.
World Aquatics	Governing Body for the sport of Swimming (globally).

## Criteria

<p>Athlete Eligibility</p>	<p>To be considered for selection, an athlete must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be an Australian Citizen*</li> <li>- Be a current Swimming WA Annual or Seasonal Swimming Member</li> <li>- Declare Western Australia as their “home state”</li> <li>- Be eligible under World Aquatics regulations to represent Australia at the athletes’ targeted upcoming international benchmark championship as defined by Swimming Australia</li> <li>- Be considered in good standing by the Swimming WA affiliated club, Swimming WA and Swimming Australia</li> </ul> <p>* Athletes that can demonstrate evidence of application for Australian Citizenship, with the estimated date of Australian Citizenship within a timeframe agreed by Swimming WA Athlete Pathways Manager and SA Technical Lead (Western Australia/South Australia), may be considered for selection.</p>
<p>Selection Criteria</p>	<p><b>Able Bodied and Multi Class Events</b></p> <p>ONLY Performances at the following benchmark championships will be considered for Automatic Qualification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2025 Swimming Australia Australian Open Water Championships</li> <li>- 2025 Swimming Australia Australian Age Championships</li> <li>- 2025 Swimming Australia Australian Open Championships</li> <li>- 2025 Australian Team Selection Trials</li> </ul> <p>Athlete performances at the following benchmark championship may be recommended to the selection panel for qualification through special consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2025 Hancock Prospecting State Swimming Championships (Long Course)</li> </ul> <p><b>Selection for WA Target Flippers Squad and WA Flippers Squad:</b> ONLY Performances in a Final (including Timed Final) will be considered using the following selection criteria.</p> <p><b>Selection for WA Development Squad:</b> Performances in a Final (including Timed Final), and performances in a Heat, will be considered using the following selection criteria.</p> <p><b>Automatic Qualification (Able Bodied Events):</b> Athletes must meet pool performance standards* outlined in Appendix A.</p> <p><b>Automatic Qualification (Multi Class Events):</b> Athletes must meet pool performance standards** outlined in Appendix B.</p>

**Qualification through Special Consideration:**

Athletes may be considered by the selection panel for special consideration through completion of the application form.

Factors considered by the selection panel in reference to the qualification through special consideration include but are not limited to:

- Recent history significantly impacting ability to perform at benchmark championship
- Previous performances in benchmark championships
- Proximity to Automatic Qualification standards

\* Olympic Pool performance standards are based on a percentage of 2024 Olympic Games, by event, gender and age.

\*\* Multi-class performance standards are based on a combination of a percentage of 2024 IPS World Rankings, by event, classification, gender and age (Paralympic Pathway) and Swimming Australia Multi-Class Points Score calculations by classification, gender and age.

**Open Water Events**

ONLY Performances at the following benchmark championships will be considered using the following selection criteria:

- 2025 Swimming Australia Australian Open Water (Age Category) Championships
- 2025 Swimming Australia Australian Open Water (Open Category) Championships

ONLY Performances at the following distances will be considered using the following selection criteria:

- 10km
- 7.5km (Age only)
- 5km (Age only)

**Automatic Qualification:**

Athletes must meet open water performance standards outlined in Appendix A.

**Qualification through Special Consideration:**

Athletes may be considered by the selection panel for special consideration through completion of the application form.

Factors considered by the selection panel in reference to the qualification through special consideration include but are not limited to:

- Recent history significantly impacting ability to perform at benchmark championship
- Previous performances in benchmark championships
- Proximity to Automatic Qualification standards

## Process

<p>Selection Process</p>	<p><b>Automatic Qualification</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Selection panel notified of athlete qualification following the conclusion of the benchmark championship.</li> <li>- Selection panel to confirm athlete eligibility for selection.</li> <li>- Athlete notified of selection within fourteen (14) days following the conclusion of the benchmark championship.</li> </ul> <p><b>Qualification through Special Consideration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Athlete to complete the application form within fourteen (14) days following the conclusion of the benchmark championship.</li> <li>- Selection panel notified of athlete application for special consideration.</li> <li>- Selection panel to confirm athlete qualification and eligibility for selection. The selection panel may gather evidence from various stakeholders including the athlete’s home coach in order to inform athlete qualification.</li> <li>- Swimming WA CEO (or equivalent) to ratify athlete qualification outcomes.</li> <li>- Athlete notified of selection within twenty-eight (28) days following the conclusion of the benchmark championship.</li> </ul> <p>Qualifying athletes will be announced via the Swimming WA website and relevant media outlets as soon as practically possible following the closing date of athlete acceptance into the Performance Pathway Program.</p>
<p>Selection Panel</p>	<p>Swimming WA Pathways Manager          Swimming WA General Manager – Community or equivalent          Swimming Australia Technical Lead (Western Australia/South Australia) or equivalent          Western Australian Institute of Sport nominated representative          Independent representative from the coaching community</p>
<p>Appeals Process</p>	<p>Disputes relating to decisions and application of this policy are bound by Part Four (Dispute Resolution, Mediation and Disciplinary Action) of the Swimming WA Constitution which can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

## Version

Version	Date of Publication	Published by	Approved by
1.0	03/12/2024	Pathways Manager	CEO

Appendix A  
[Click here](#)

Appendix B