

South West Academy of Sport Swimming Program 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 South West Academy of Sport (SWAS) Swimming Program.

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.
Benchmark Championship	Competitions that have been identified by a governing body as the pinnacle competitions for an athlete's annual program.
Coachability	An individual's willingness and ability to be receptive to, and act on, feedback to drive individual development
Training	Sessions delivered within the daily training environment, including but not limited to swimming and dryland sessions
Swimming Australia	Governing Body for the sport of Swimming in Australia.
Swimming WA	Governing Body for the sport of Swimming in Western Australia.
World Aquatics	Governing Body for the sport of Swimming (globally).

Criteria

Athlete Eligibility	<p>To be considered for selection, an athlete must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be an Australian Citizen* - Be aged between 15 years old and 18 years old (inclusive) as at the start date of the program** - Be a current Swimming WA Annual Swimming Member - Declare Western Australia as their "home state" - Be eligible under World Aquatics regulations to represent Australia at the upcoming international benchmark championship as defined by Swimming Australia - Reside in the South West Region as defined by the WA State Government - Be considered in good standing by the Swimming WA affiliated club, Swimming WA and Swimming Australia - Have maintained 80% expected training attendance (minimum of six pool sessions per week) for the last three (3) months, verified by their home coach

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have committed to participation at the following 2025/2026 championships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 2025 Hancock Prospecting WA Short Course Championships o 2025 Hancock Prospecting WA Championships (Long Course) o 2026 Australian Open Water, Age and/or Open Championships <p>* Athletes that can demonstrate evidence of application for Australian Citizenship, with the estimated date of Australian Citizenship within a timeframe agreed by the selection panel, may be considered for selection.</p> <p>** Athletes aged 13 (female only) and 14 years (male and female) who meet all other criteria may be considered for selection, subject to SWAS Board approval.</p>
Selection Criteria	<p>Able Bodied, Multi Class Pool and Open Water Events</p> <p>ONLY Performances at the following benchmark championships will be considered for selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2025 Swimming Australia Australian Open Water Championships - 2025 Swimming Australia Australian Age Championships - 2025 Swimming Australia Australian Open Championships <p>Athletes will be ranked using the following priority system, to a maximum of ten (10) athletes selected. Should the total number of athletes by priority ranking exceed the maximum number allowed, the secondary ranking system will be applied.</p> <p><i>At the discretion of the selection panel, athletes whom have had significant impacts, outside of their control, to their ability to meet the below selection criteria may be recommended for selection. External factors may include (not limited to):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Illness or injury causing significant lost training time or inability to compete</i> - <i>Family events causing significant lost training time or inability to compete</i> <p>Priority 1: Athletes selected into the following WA Performance Pathway Program Squads for the 2025/2026 season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WA Target Flippers Squad - WA Flippers Squad - WA Development Squad <p>Secondary ranking system: Athletes will be ranked based on a combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Home coach rating of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Training performance and application to training o Coachability

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Performance trajectory towards future Dolphins team selection <p>Priority 2: Athletes competing in Olympic and Paralympic Pathway Individual events* at benchmark championships.</p> <p>Secondary ranking system: Athletes will be ranked based on a combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Home coach rating of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training performance and application to training ○ Coachability ○ Performance trajectory towards future Dolphins team selection <p>Priority 3: Athletes classified S/SB/SM15 – S/SB/SM19, who are deemed by their home coach and Swimming WA selection panel, have the potential to be selected for their nominated international benchmark championship within the 2025/2026 season.</p> <p>Secondary ranking system: Athletes will be ranked based on a combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Home coach rating of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training performance and application to training ○ Coachability <p>Priority 4: Athletes competing in Non-Olympic and Non-Paralympic Pathway Individual events at benchmark championships</p> <p>Secondary ranking system: Athletes will be ranked based on a combination of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Home coach rating of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training performance and application to training ○ Coachability ○ Performance trajectory towards future Dolphins team selection <p>*Olympic and Paralympic Pathway events are listed in Appendix A.</p>
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Process

Selection Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection panel and home coaches notified of athlete position within priority system - Home coaches to provide secondary ranking system information for relevant athletes seven (7) days following notification - Selection panel provide recommendation to CEO for selection seven (7) days following home coach information is received - Swimming WA CEO ratifies selection panel recommendation - Athletes and home coaches notified of selection outcome
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	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 South West Academy of Sport Swimming Program.
Selection Panel	Swimming WA Pathways Manager Swimming WA Development Manager or equivalent South West Academy of Sport CEO Appointed Program Lead – SWAS Swimming Program Independent member of the coaching community
Appeals Process	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 here .

Version

Version	Date of Publication	Published by	Approved by
1.0	20/03/2025	Pathways Manager	CEO

Appendix A

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