

# Memorandum

**To:** SWA Club Presidents, SWA Club Secretary, SWA Directors  
**Cc:** Kirsty Read, Acting CEO  
**From:** Ben Harvey, Competition and Performance Manager  
**Subject:** 8-year-old Competition  
**Date:** 23 March 2021

---

Good morning/afternoon,

Following extensive review and feedback on 8yrs swimmers competing, SWA wants to encourage participation in this youth age group.

1. 8yrs swimmers may compete in any Meet run by a Club/Region/Zone (these meets to be called Carnivals).
2. 8yrs swimmers may not compete in any Meet run as a Championship (e.g. South Zone Championships) or by SWA (State Champs, Junior Challenge, Junior LC Championships).
3. 8yrs swimmers may compete in Club Premierships and Country Pennants.
4. There will be no medals presented to any swimmers in the 8yrs age group.
5. 8yrs swimmers may only compete in the 8yrs age category, unless Country Pennants or Club Premierships to which the below point stands (6).
6. 8yrs swimmers are eligible to swim in 9 years and under 50m Free, 50m Backstroke, and 50ms breaststroke and the '10 and under relays' only.
7. 8yrs swimmers may ONLY compete in the Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke in either 25m or 50m.
8. 8yrs swimmers are not permitted to enter any Butterfly events.

**The date of implementation will be April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.**

This change has been put in place to clarify the confusion over previous communications put out surrounding "SWA Sanctioned Meets". This now enables athletes to gain qualifying times at a larger number of Meets for when they turn 9yrs and can enter competitive swimming.

The intention behind the decision to limit 8yrs swimmers in competition is to reduce the potential burn out and injuries. With this in mind, SWA recommends that any 8yrs events be planned to take place within 3 hours so that the younger swimmers are not required to stay and compete longer than necessary.

If there are any questions please contact Competition and Performance Manager, Ben Harvey.

Yours sincerely,



**Ben Harvey**  
Competition and Performance Manager

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

HANCOCK PROSPECTING