

UWA WEST COAST SWIMMING CLUB

RELAY TEAM SELECTION POLICY

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1 Introduction

1.1 Objective

The objective of the Relay Selection Process is to ensure the best possible teams are selected to represent the UWA-West Coast Swimming Club (UWSC) at State and National level swimming championships. It is expected that selected relay team members will represent UWSC with respect, integrity and sportsmanship. When selected on a UWSC relay team the team is representing the entire UWA-West Coast Swimming Club.

In the interests of all UWA-West Coast Swimming Club members, this policy also serves to provide clarity and transparency to the selection process.

All UWSC swimmers, coaches, Team managers and parents are expected to abide by this policy.

1.2 Policy Principles

This document has been developed using the following principles and guidelines.

A coordinated approach to selecting relay teams with input from the performance history of swimmers available to the Meet Registrar via the Club's Team Manager database and the knowledge of the Club's Coaching Panel in relation to individual swimmers. Other factors include:

- A sense of fairness, responsibility and accountability.
- SWA bylaws.
- Common practice at State Level and above representative teams.
- Relay submissions are subject to UWSC funding approval.
- National Relay teams will be selected in accordance with the established National Age Relay Policy (2.5)

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2 UWSC Relay Team Selections

2.1 General Selection Principles

The Relay Team selection process is as follows:

- 1) The UWSC Meet Registrar in consultation with the Head Coach (or a nominated alternate) will create draft relay teams for meets which offer relay options and are approved by the Club's Committee. The Meet Registrar provides the HC with a Team Manager generated relay list and the HC consults with other coaches to establish a final team based on criteria as outlined below. Once agreed by the coaches, the Meet Registrar conducts a final review in accordance with stated policy and lodges the teams with the relevant association by the due date. This process also includes ensuring that any required fees are forwarded to the Treasurer for processing.
- 2) Swimmer's times can be derived from any of the following sources:
 - i. Swimming WA Competitions
 - ii. All swimming events where times swum are recognised by Swimming WA (including splits)
 - iii. Official-timed Club Nights/Time Trials
 - iv. Swimming Australia Competitions
- 3) The criteria considered in the selection of Club Relay Teams includes some or all of the following:
 - i. Competition times by swimmers
 - i. Current Long and Short course times
 - ii. 50m, 100m & 200m times will be considered
 - iii. For times to be eligible they must be official
 - ii. A development opportunity for a swimmer as defined by the Head Coach. Aforementioned Coach may utilise selection of the Club's Relay Teams to develop a swimmer that they believes would gain from the experience.
 - iii. UWA-West Coast Swimming Club Competitive members
 - iv. Preferably competing in an individual event at the meet.
- 4) The Meet Registrar will circulate a draft list of the selected Relay Team swimmers and reserves prior to the close of entries for the competition.
- 5) Selected swimmers will confirm their availability to compete on the Relay Team by a nominated deadline.
- 6) Final Relay Teams that will be confirmed at least 3 days prior to the Competition date, but in the case of competitions referred to in **2.3, 2.4 & 2.5** they are subject to change if individual times achieved at that Competition will, in the opinion of the Meet Registrar or HC in attendance at the meet, create a faster combination than the one selected prior to the Competition date.
- 7) Information surrounding prospective or final relays and/or deliberations of relay teams must be considered completely confidential until an official announcement is conducted.

2.2 Relay Selection for Swimming WA & Club-run Meets (except State/National Meets)

Coaches will implement the Club's philosophy of maximum participation at these events with a bias towards participation and fun rather than performance, unless otherwise stipulated by the Committee prior to the beginning of the selection process. Selection for relays at SWA club meets are based on the above General Selection Principles.

2.3 Relay/Team Selection for A-Grade Premiership

Selection of relays/teams for A-Grade Premiership will be based on an initial listing of eligible swimmers and times as provided by the Meet Registrar to HC. The HC will establish the best possible combination of swimmers to represent UWA-West Coast Swimming Club in consultation with the coaching group. The final team will be forwarded to the Meet Registrar and any deviations from best-possible combinations should be noted in the event that the Club is required to justify inclusions or omissions from the team.

2.4 State Championship Relays

The process of selecting State Championship relay teams will incorporate the above General guidelines as well as below:

1. The Meet Registrar will provide a copy of the best possible relay teams to the HC, as selected by the most recent times available in the Club's Team Manager database.
2. The HC in consultation with the coaching group will assess Team Manager selections and make recommendations on final selections.
3. An 'A' and 'B' team is preferred where the teams entered are deemed to have 'competitive' entry times. Any additional teams ('C', 'D', etc.) require the prior approval of the Club's committee.
4. The initial relay teams will be formed using the 4 fastest swimmer/combinations available and then any changes made require justifications to be noted. These include but are not limited to:
 - a. Training Performance
 - b. Injury or any other reason for poor performance during the year
 - c. Any reason for extra ordinary performances during the year
5. Once swimmers have been notified of their selection, it is their responsibility to notify the Club as soon as possible if they are unable to attend. Once the coaches have been notified, an additional swimmer will be selected and notified accordingly.

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- 6 The Meet Entry Registrar will then submit teams to SWA with other supporting documents and forward payment requests to the Treasurer.
- 7 Relay teams will be finalised on the week/or day of the competition taking into account times swum at the meet. Should a swimmer improve his/her times at the meet, the coach may substitute the swimmer in this instance. If a change is required, the Senior Coach attending the meet will notify both swimmers.
- 8 Members should be aware that once relay nominations have been submitted (usually immediately prior to the session that the relay is in) there can be no further changes to the team selected or the order of swimmers.

2.5 National Age Relays

The following guidelines have been established to assist in the selection of National Age relay teams representing UWA-West Coast Swimming Club. The process of selecting National Age relay teams will incorporate the General Selection Principles and include:

2.5.1 Conditions of Selection

- A National Age Relay team will preferably consist of three or four swimmers who have qualified for individual events at Age Nationals. In circumstances where only three swimmers have qualified, consideration will be given to the entering a team, subject to all swimmers satisfying criteria as outlined below.
- Firstly, that the swimmers already qualified for individual events must agree to be part of a relay team, taking into account the demands of their individual program. This decision must be made in consultation with their coach and parents to ensure there is no negative impact on their performance over the duration of the championship meet.
- The combined times of relays swimmers must meet the qualifying standard. Teams that have not achieved the published entry time with a combination of recognised times will not be eligible for selection.
- Invitations to be considered for a relay team will be offered based on a priority favouring the fastest possible combination and availability, providing swimmers have met all other criteria listed.
- All relay swimmers must have shown commitment and an excellent attitude towards their training program.

- All relay swimmers must have participated in club activities as outlined by the Club (including attending club nights & club championships, targeted meets, and other nominated activities such as National Team related fund-raising events)
- All relay swimmers should have demonstrated that they are working towards achieving individual National Qualifying times.

2.5.2 Selection Process Steps

The process of selecting National Age relay teams will include:

1. The Meet Entry Registrar will identify potential relay teams based on swimmer eligibility, with consideration being given to the above Conditions of Selection.
2. The appointed Nationals Team Manager in consultation with the HC and other national age coaches submit written proposals to the Committee of the UWA-West Coast Swimming Club, including individual & relay team selections.
3. Providing opportunities for members to achieve National championship standards is a primary objective of the UWA-West Coast Swimming Club. The Committee's final decision to approve a recommendation is based on the coaches confirmation that the above performance-related criteria has been satisfied, as well as funding considerations that fit in with the Club's established Policy on Funding for National Age Swimmers.
4. The Committee's decision on funding and relay team entries will be final.
5. The Meet Registrar in consultation with the Nationals Team manager will then submit teams, along with payment to Swimming Australia.

2.5.3 Selection Feedback Process

1. Any changes to the selected relay teams, contrary to the swimmer ranking lists, will be noted for the benefit of clarity.
2. UWA-West Coast Swimming Club swimmers who wish to comment on National Relay Team selections may do so at an appropriate time after the team has returned home from the Championships, by contacting the Head Coach.

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3 Competition Guidelines

- All UWSC Relay Teams are expected to compete according to the Rules of Swimming.
- Any breach or suspected breach of Rules should be reported to Meet Officials immediately.
- If there is any doubt regarding the eligibility of a team or its representatives, the Team manager and/or Head Coach must consult with the Meet Officials to clarify that there is no risk of disqualification.
- When a member enters a targeted competition where relays are included in the program, they do so on the understanding that they may be selected to swim in a relay team. That swimmer must be prepared to represent the Club.
- Swimmers selected to swim relay events can only withdraw with coach approval. Failure to do so will lead to exclusion for an indefinite period from future club relay teams.
- Swimmers selected in relay events are expected to prepare and race to the best of their ability. Failure to do so may lead to exclusion for an indefinite period from future club relay teams.

Any queries regarding the interpretation of the UWSC Relay Policy should be directed to the Club's 'Meet Director'.