



Scope

The purpose of this policy is to inform the selection of athletes into the following Swimming SA Pathway program: **OPEN WATER** Flippers. This policy encompasses Able Bodied (Only) Open Water disciplines of the sport of swimming.

Definitions

Swimming SA	Governing Body for the sport of Swimming in South Australia
Swimming Australia	Governing Body for the sport of Swimming in Australia
World Aquatics	Governing Body for the sport of Swimming (globally)
Automatic Qualification	Selection into the respective squad is without discretion
Discretionary Qualification	Selection into the respective squad is not automatic and based on further evidence in line with the outlined criteria
Performance Standards	An agreed time taken to complete a specified event, that is used to inform athlete selection into the respective squad
Final	The race in a specific event that athletes will compete for final placings, usually determined by placing in the preceeding heat session
Timed Final	The race in a specific event that athletes will compete for final placings, where there was no preceeding heat session
Benchmark Championship	Competitions that have been identified by a governing body as the pinnacle competitions for an athlete's annual program

Criteria

Athlete Eligibility	<p>To be considered for selection, an athlete must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Age eligible, which is calculated as age of athlete on 31/12/2024 when swam at the benchmark event. - Australian Citizen* - Current member of a Swimming SA affiliated club and training in South Australia - Considered in good standing by the Swimming SA affiliated club, Swimming SA and Swimming Australia <p>* Athletes that can demonstrate evidence of application for Australian Citizenship, with the estimated date of Australian Citizenship within a timeframe agreed by Swimming SA Pathways Manager and SA Technical Lead (Western Australia/South Australia), may be considered for selection.</p>
Selection Criteria	<p><u>Able Bodied Open Water Events</u></p> <p>ONLY Performances at the following benchmark championships will be considered using the following selection criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2024 Australian Open Water Championships

	<p>ONLY Performances in a Final (including Timed Final) for the following distances will be considered using the following selection criteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10km - 7.5km - 5km <p>**Note - Club/State relay events are not considered for selection to the Flippers Program</p> <p>Automatic Qualification: Athletes must meet open water performance standards outlined in Appendix A.</p> <p>Discretionary Qualification: Athletes may be recommended to the selection panel for discretionary qualification by the Swimming Australia WA/SA Technical Lead and/or Swimming SA Pathways Manager.</p> <p>Factors contributing to the consideration of an athlete for discretionary qualification include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to Automatic Qualification standards - Date of Birth - Previous performances in benchmark championships - Recent history impacting ability to perform at benchmark championship.
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Process

Selection Process	<p><u>Automatic Qualification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection panel notified of athlete qualification within five (5) business days the conclusion of the benchmark championship. - Selection panel to confirm athlete eligibility for selection within five (5) business days of notification. - Athlete notified of selection within two (2) business days of confirmation of athlete eligibility. <p><u>Discretionary Qualification</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection panel notified of athlete qualification within five (5) business days the conclusion of the benchmark championship. - Selection panel to confirm discretionary qualification and eligibility for selection within ten (10) business days of notification. The selection panel may gather evidence from various stakeholders including the athlete's home coach in order to inform discretionary qualification. - Swimming SA CEO to ratify discretionary qualification outcomes within three (3) business days of notification from selection panel. - Athlete notified of selection or non – selection within two (2) business days of notification. - At the discretion of the selection panel, pending an athlete does not meet automatic qualification, a review of circumstances impacting performance will take place. - Pending any review of events, an athlete may be selected at the discretion of the selection panel, if they have demonstrated the following from the previous 12 months.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Selection in National Squads ii. SASI Scholarship Holder iii. Medalist in National Open Water <p>Automatic and Discretionary Qualification will be announced via the Swimming SA website and relevant media outlets as soon as practically possible following the conclusion of the selection process.</p>
Selection Panel	<p>Swimming SA Pathways Manager Swimming (SA) Chief Executive Officer Swimming Australia Technical Lead (Western Australia/South Australia)</p>
Appeals Process	<p>Disputes relating to decisions and application of this policy are to be submitted to Swimming SA Pathways Manager.</p>

Appendix A

Athletes must meet **both** performance standards below, by event, in order to meet automatic qualification outlined in the selection criteria.

		Performance Standard 1	Performance Standard 2
Race Distance	Category	Finish Position Required*	Time behind 1 st place*
10km	Age (18-19yrs & Open)	Top 10	5 minutes
7.5km	Age (16-17yrs)	Top 10	4 Minutes
5km	Age (16-19yrs & Open)	Top 10	3 Minutes
5km	Age (14-15yrs)	Top 10	5 Minutes

* Refers to the finish position amongst and/or maximum time behind the leading, Australian athletes only. In this instance, an Australian athlete is defined as a current member of a Swimming SA or other Swimming Australia affiliated club.