



SWIMMING NEW ZEALAND SELECTION POLICY

Event	
WORLD AQUATICS JUNIOR OPEN WATER, Argentina, September 2026	
Qualification Period	
1 December 2025 to 17 May 2026, inclusive.	
Selection Events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2026 NZ Open Water Championships, 11th and 12th January 2026, Lake Taupo. 2026 Swimming Australia National Open Water Championships, 22nd to 25th January 2026, Koombana Bay. Any World Aquatics approved long course competition within the above Qualification Period shall be considered a Selection Event. <p><i>Note: While times for selection can be set at a range of meets, Clause 1.d requires that, to be eligible for selection, Swimmers must compete at either the 2026 NZ Age Group Championships, or the 2026 NZ Swimming Championships, contesting the individual swimming event in which they are seeking selection in a committed and competitive manner.</i></p>	
Selectors	
The Selectors appointed by Swimming New Zealand to execute this Policy are:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brent Layton Rebecca Dubber 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phillip Rush Nick Tongue

1. Eligibility

To be considered for selection, a Swimmer must:

- Be a New Zealand citizen who is eligible to represent New Zealand in competition as per World Aquatics Competition Regulations, Part One, Rule 3.
- Continuously be a registered and financial member of Swimming New Zealand (SNZ).
- Be a positive ambassador for SNZ.
- Compete at the 2026 NZ Age Group Championships, or the 2026 NZ Swimming Championships contesting the individual swimming event in which they are seeking selection in a committed and competitive manner. For Open Water, this is the 1500m Freestyle event.
- Comply with any established code of conduct or Swimmer agreement of SNZ and otherwise conduct themselves in a way that does not bring their sport or the team into disrepute.
- Have not used or administered any substance which, if it had been detected as being present in the Swimmer's body tissue or fluids, would have constituted doping, or used any prohibited method or committed any other doping offence as defined in swimming's Anti-Doping rules (including but not limited to World Aquatics and Swimming NZ).
- Have completed the mandatory Sport Integrity Level 1 or higher Anti-Doping Education
- Be aged in accord with Table 1 as of 31st December 2026.

2. Over-riding Selection Process

- a. The maximum team size will be in accordance with World Aquatics rules.
- b. New Zealand will enter a maximum of two Swimmers per individual event per gender into the World Junior Open Water event.
- c. Selectors will consider Swimmers for selection based on the Selection Standards below.
- d. In any decision regarding the selection of Swimmers, the Selectors may, in their sole discretion, consider any Extenuating Circumstances in accordance with Clause 4.
- e. Swimmers' selection will be announced no later than one week after the completion of the Qualification Period.

3. Individual Event Selection Standards

- a. To be considered for selection to the World Junior Open Water Championships, an athlete must:
 - i. Be the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd New Zealand Swimmer at the 2026 NZ Open Water Championships in the individual event that they are eligible for as per Table 1 below event **OR**
 - ii. Achieve a Top 10 overall placing at the 2026 Australian Open Water Championships in the individual event that they are eligible for as per Table 1.

Table 1 – Open Water Events Age Group Events	
Age groups (as at 31/12/2026) (Male and Female)	Distance
14 & 15 Years	5km
16 & 17 Years	7.5km
18 & 19 Years	10km

- b. Swimmers must also achieve the 1500m Freestyle Standard in Table 2 at any World Aquatics long course competition within the Qualification Period.

Table 2 – 1500m Freestyle standards per age group		
Age groups (Male and Female)	1500m Freestyle standard (Male)	1500m Freestyle standard (Female)
14 & 15 Years	17:12.29	18:11.39
16 & 17 Years	17:12.29	18:11.39
18 & 19 Years	16:45.11	17:42.61

- a. **Ranking:** Following the completion of all qualification events, NZ eligible athletes shall be ranked by final placings in the relevant 10km event at the New Zealand Open Water Championships, followed by placings at the Swimming Australian Open Water Championships.
- b. **Discretionary:** Where no eligible Swimmer has met Clause 3a and/or 3b, the SNZ Head Olympic Coach may recommend to the Selectors for consideration for selection the fastest eligible non-qualified Swimmer at a Selection Event on

the basis of prospects for the 2028 or 2032 Olympic Games. Selection of any Head Coach's recommendation remains at the discretion of the Selectors.

4. Extenuating Circumstances

- a. In considering the selection of Swimmers in accordance with this Policy, the Selectors may, in their sole discretion, give weight to any Extenuating Circumstances which may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - i. injury or illness;
 - ii. travel delays;
 - iii. equipment failure;
 - iv. bereavement or personal misfortune; and/or
 - v. any other factors reasonably considered by the Selectors to constitute extenuating circumstances.
- b. **Athlete to Advise:** Swimmers wishing for Extenuating Circumstances to be considered must personally and/or through a delegate advise the SNZ Head of High-Performance of the Extenuating Circumstances and reasons, in writing, with as much advance notice as possible and ideally seven (7) days prior to the 2026 New Zealand Swimming Championships. If the Head of High Performance is not notified of any Extenuating Circumstances, then the Selectors have no obligation to consider such circumstances.
- c. **Medical Certificate:** In the case of injury or illness, Swimmers may be required by the Head of High Performance to provide a medical certificate and/or to undergo an examination by a health practitioner/s nominated by the Head of High Performance, and to provide that opinion and/or report to the Selectors. Any failure to agree to such a request may result in the Selectors being unable to consider the injury or illness as an Extenuating Circumstance.
- d. **Return to Fitness:** Selection of any Swimmers in relation to Extenuating Circumstances, may be subject to conditions, such as satisfactory return to fitness. Such a process may or may not include a test in the swimming event that they have been selected for, with a target time by a given date, determined by the SNZ Head of High Performance and Head Coach.
- e. **Case by Case:** In the case of any Extenuating Circumstance/s, the Selectors will make a decision on a case-by-case basis.

5. Appeals

- a. **Grounds of Appeal:** A Swimmer may appeal non-selection on any one or more of the following grounds:
 - i. That the applicable Nomination Criteria was not properly followed and/or implemented; or
 - ii. The Athlete was not afforded a reasonable opportunity to satisfy the applicable Nomination Criteria; or
 - iii. The nomination decision was affected by actual bias; or
 - iv. There was no material on which the nomination decision could reasonably be based.

- b. **Procedure for Appeals:** The procedure for a Selection Appeal shall be as follows:
- i. A Swimmer wishing to appeal must give written notice of appeal to the SNZ Chief Executive within 48 hours of the selection announcement, stating their grounds for appeal.
 - ii. Within 48 hours of receipt of the appeal, the Chief Executive may propose a meeting between the parties and their representatives (if any) at which meeting the parties shall endeavour to resolve the appeal by discussion. Such a meeting, which may be held in person, by telephone or online, shall be held as soon as possible and in any event no later than 5 business days after the receipt of the appeal.
 - iii. Any such meeting shall be held on a confidential and without prejudice basis. In particular, the content of any matters discussed during such meeting may not be used by either party in respect of any further hearing of the appeal.
 - iv. If the appeal is not resolved at the meeting and the Swimmer wishes to proceed further with their appeal, the Swimmer must file an application for Appeal with the Sports Tribunal of New Zealand and serve a copy of such application for Appeal to the Chief Executive within 5 business days of the meeting or of the initial notice of appeal, whichever is later.
 - v. Appeals in the Sports Tribunal shall be determined in accordance with its Rules.
 - vi. The decision of the Sports Tribunal will be final and binding on the parties.

6. Notes

- a. SNZ may amend this Policy at any time, by giving reasonable notice to all Swimmers eligible for selection. Publication on the SNZ website will constitute reasonable notice.

7. Version Tracking

- a. V1 November 2025