



SWIMMING NEW ZEALAND SELECTION POLICY

Event
PAN PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIPS, LOS ANGELES (Open Water and Pool) 10-15 August 2026
Qualification Period
1 December 2025 to 17 May 2026, inclusive.
Selection Events (Pool)
Any World Aquatics approved long course competition within the above Qualification Period shall be considered a Selection Event. <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 the 2026 NZ Swimming Championships, contesting the individual swimming event in which they are seeking selection in a committed and competitive manner.</i>
Selection Events (10km Open Water)
• 2026 NZ Open Water Championships, 11 and 12 January 2026, Lake Taupo. • 2026 Swimming Australia National Open Water Championships, 22 to 25 January 2026, Koombana Bay. • NZ Swimming Championships, 13 to 17 May 2026, Auckland.
Selectors
The Selectors appointed by Swimming New Zealand to execute this Policy are: • Brent Layton • Rebecca Dubber • Phillip Rush • Nick Tongue

1. Eligibility

To be considered for selection, a Swimmer must:

- a. Be a New Zealand citizen who is eligible to represent New Zealand in competition as per World Aquatics Competition Regulations, Part One, Rule 3.
- b. Continuously be a registered and financial member of Swimming New Zealand (SNZ)
- c. Be a positive ambassador for SNZ.
- d. Compete at 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.
- e. 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.
- f. 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).

2. Over-riding Selection Process

- a. The maximum team size will be in accordance with World Aquatics and/or Pan Pacific Championships rules.
- b. New Zealand will enter a maximum of three Swimmers per individual swimming event at the Pan Pacific Championships.
- 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 7.
- e. Swimmers' selection will be announced no later than one week after the completion of the Qualification Period.

3. Individual Event Selection Standards (Pool)

- a. An Individual Event is where a swimmer competes as an individual and not part of a relay team.
- b. Except for Clause 3.c, to be considered for selection for an individual event, Swimmers must record a time equal to or better than the "A" times detailed in Table 1 at a Selection Event in the Qualification Period.
- c. Swimmers 21 years or younger on 31 December 2026 (i.e. year of birth 2005 or later) or NZ Champion at the 2026 NZ Swimming Championships (i.e. first swimmer eligible through Clause 1, above), and not yet being an Aquablack in pool competition (i.e. someone who has competed for NZ at World Aquatics Championships or Olympic or Commonwealth Games pool events), will be considered for selection for an Individual Event by recording a time equal to or better than the "Dev" times detailed in Table 1 at a Selection Event in the Qualification Period.
- d. For Clauses 3.b and 3.c, heats, finals and single gender relay lead-off splits in the relevant swimming event will be included in Selectors' consideration.

TABLE 1 - Individual Event Selection Standards				
Women		Event	Men	
A	Dev		A	Dev
24.86	25.23	50m Freestyle	22.05	22.38
54.25	55.06	100m Freestyle	48.34	49.07
1:58.23	2:00.00	200m Freestyle	1:46.70	1:48.30
4:10.23	4:13.98	400m Freestyle	3:48.15	3:51.57
8:34.62	8:42.34	800m Freestyle	7:48.66	7:55.69
16:24.56	16:39.33	1500m Freestyle	15:01.89	15:15.42
28.22	28.64	50m Backstroke	25.11	25.49
1:00.46	1:01.37	100m Backstroke	53.94	54.75
2:11.08	2:13.05	200m backstroke	1:58.07	1:59.84
30.75	31.21	50m Breaststroke	27.33	27.74
1:06.87	1:07.87	100m Breaststroke	59.75	1:00.65
2:25.91	2:28.10	200m Breaststroke	2:10.32	2:12.27
26.23	26.62	50m Butterfly	23.36	23.71

58.33	59.20	100m Butterfly	51.77	52.55
2:09.21	2:11.15	200m Butterfly	1:56.51	1:58.26
2:12.83	2:14.82	200m Individual Medley	1:59.05	2:00.84
4:43.06	4:47.31	400m Individual Medley	4:17.48	4:21.34

- e. **Ranking:** At the conclusion of the Qualification Period, each qualifying swim will be ranked in order of time, fastest to slowest and the first, second and third ranked Swimmers will be selected.
- f. **Tie Break:** Where times are equal for any third qualifying place, rank order will be determined using the Swimmers' times in the final of the relevant Individual Swimming Event at the 2026 NZ Swimming Championship. If there is still a tie for third place, rank order will be determined using a swim-off in the relevant event at a time during the 2026 NZ Swimming Championships agreed between the event management and the parties involved. Further swim-offs may take place until the tie is resolved.
- g. **Discretionary:** Where no eligible Swimmer has met either Clause 3.b or Clause 3.c for an individual event in Table 1, the SNZ Head Coach may recommend to the Selectors for consideration for selection the fastest eligible non-qualified Swimmer in the individual event at a Selection Event on the basis of prospects for the 2028 Olympic Games. Selection of any Head Coach's recommendation remains at the discretion of the Selectors.

4. Relay Event Selection Standards (Pool)

- a. A Relay Event is where swimmers compete as part of a team relay and not as individuals.
- b. The Selectors will consider Swimmers for selection for the Relay Events indicated with a Selection Standard in Table 2.
- c. Any Swimmer selected for an Individual Event must also be available for and may be selected to a Relay Event.
- d. Following consideration of Swimmers selected for Individual Events, the selectors will consider for selection swimmers for Relay Events who have recorded a time at a Selection Event in the Qualification Period, when combined with up to three other Swimmers who have recorded times at a Selection Event, to produce a composite qualifying time that is equal to or faster than the Relay Selection Standards in Table 2.
- e. For single gender relays, heats and finals in Individual Events, and splits from single gender Relay Events will be included in Selectors' consideration. For mixed gender relays, times in mixed gender Relay Events will also be included in Selectors' consideration.
- f. In considering the composite qualifying times, an allowance of approximately 0.6 seconds will typically be applied for consideration of relay changeovers.

TABLE 2 – Relay Event Selection Standards			
Relay	Women	Men	Mixed
4x100m Freestyle	3:39.53	3:14.30	
4x200m Freestyle	8:01.96	7:10.22	
4x100m Medley	4:00.56	3:34.10	3:45.98

- g. Swimmers being considered for Relay Events will be ranked in the same way that Swimmers being considered for Individual Events are ranked in Clauses 3.e and 3.f.
- h. The final composition and order of any relay team will be determined from all selected Swimmers by the Head Coach at the event.

5. Open Water Event Selection Standards

- a. To be considered for selection for the 10km event, a swimmer must:
 - i. Be the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd New Zealand Swimmer at the 2026 NZ Open Water Championships in the Open 10 km event OR
 - ii. Achieve a Top 10 overall placing at the 2026 Australian Open Water Championships in the Open 10 km event.
- b. Swimmers must also achieve the World Aquatics 'B' Standard for the 1500m Freestyle Individual event as per Table 3 below, at any World Aquatics approved long course competition within the Qualification Period.

TABLE 3 - World Aquatics B standards		
	Men	Women
1500m Freestyle	15:33.46	16:59.02

- c. **Ranking:** Following the completion of all qualification events, NZ eligible athletes shall be ranked by final placings in the 10km event at the New Zealand Open Water Championships, followed by placings at the Swimming Australian Open Water Championships.
- d. **Discretionary:** Where no eligible Swimmer has met Clauses 5a and 5b the SNZ Head 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 Olympic Games. Selection of any Head Coach's recommendation remains at the discretion of the Selectors.

6. Additional Events

- a. Any Swimmer selected for an Individual or Relay Event, or Open Water may be able to swim additional events after consideration of the following criteria:
 - i. That there is a place available for them to swim in that Event.
 - ii. That by racing that Event, the performance of the Swimmer in the Individual or Relay Events that the Swimmer has been selected to swim will not be compromised.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. Version Tracking

- a. V3 August 2025
- b. V4 October 2025
- c. V5 November 2025