



SWIMMING NEW ZEALAND SELECTION POLICY

Event
2026 Tri Series - Western Australia – July 2026
Qualification Period
1 December 2025 to 17 May 2026, inclusive.
Selection Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Zealand Age Group Championships 8th to 12th April 2026• Australian Age Championships 11th to 18th April 2026• NZ Championships 13th to 17th May 2026 <p><i>Note: While times for selection can be set at any of these meets, Clause 1.d requires that, to be eligible for selection, Swimmers must compete at either the 2026 NAGS 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• 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 and World Para Swimming Competition Regulations.
- 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 NAGS or NZ Swimming Championships, contesting the individual swimming event in which they are seeking selection in a committed and competitive manner.
- 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).
- g. Be aged between 14 to 18 years as of 13th May 2026.

2. Over-riding Selection Process

- a. The total team size will be capped at 40 swimmers, divided into two teams of 20 swimmers each (The Black Team and the White Team).
- b. Each team will include up to four Paralympic Pathway swimmers (mixed gender), eight female Olympic Pathway swimmers, and eight male Olympic Pathway swimmers.
- c. Reserves may be considered at the time of selection or as needed.
- d. A panel comprising the Tri Series Head Coach, National Head Coaches for Paralympic and Olympic Pathways and the Head of High Performance will make recommendation to the Selectors for those swimmers to consider, based on the Principles in Clause 3.
- e. The Selectors' discretion is then final, considering any or all of the Principles.
- f. In exercising their discretion, the Selectors may consider any Extenuating Circumstances in accordance with Clause 4.
- g. Selections will be announced no later than one week after the completion of the Qualification Period.

3. Selection Principles

- a. Swimmers will be selected first to the Black Team and then to the White Team.
- b. The Teams will be selected to optimise overall performance with respect to the events in the Tri Series matches. This will include consideration for:
 - i. Range of distances,
 - ii. Mix of strokes and medleys,
 - iii. Number and length of relays.
- c. World Aquatics Points Score will be used as a comparative gauge to consider Swimmers' performances.
- d. Swimmers' performances at Selection Events will be considered across their range of strokes and distances.
- e. A Team's final composition will be considered to optimise overall performance throughout the Tri Series matches.

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 August 2025
- b. V2 November 2025