



THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE SWIMMING SEASON

For very young swimmers, aged 9 and under, the wider structure of the swimming season may not be very relevant, as you are not yet old enough to compete, but for all other competitive swimmers it is.

The competitive season is divided for championship purposes into a Short Course (25 - metre pools) phase from September to late December and a Long Course (50 - metre pool) phase from January to August.

Short course competitions continue from January onwards, but the second half of the season will tend to be for younger swimmers or those not aiming to qualify for regional and national championships.

In competitive terms the season is structured approximately as in the table below:

September to December	Club Championships Qualifying for County Age Group Championships Regional Winter Short Course Championships British Winter Short Course
January to February	County Age Group Championships
January to April	Qualifying for Regional Age Group Championships British Championships
April to June	Regional Age Group Championships Qualifying for British & English Summer Age Group Championships
July to August	British & English Summer Age Group Championships

As well as giving general competitive experience, Club Championships and Open Meets are an opportunity to improve Personal Bests (PB's) or achieve the Qualifying Times (QTs) for County, Regional or National Championships, depending upon the level of the event.

Registering Official Times

Once you are a Swim England registered swimmer (as Club Compete) and have competed in a licensed event you will have times for each swimming event recorded.

As your swimmer competes in more meets and events and improves their times the record of their Personal Best times will be automatically updated on the Swim England database.

You can check the times and progress of your swimmer on the Swim England website at <https://www.swimmingresults.org/individualbest/>

Qualifying times and cut-off times

A qualifying time (QT) is a time that is required to enter an event.

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A cut-off time is a time that is the fastest a swimmer can be to enter an event

The age group/time for your swimmer will be set for each Meet.

For Club Championships the age will be as at the 31st December in the year of competition.

Use the information on QTs and the eligibility report as a guide to the Meets you should think about entering your child for. If in doubt consult with your child's Coach or the Meet Secretary.