

Explanation of Ages, Recommended Attendance, Minimum Attendance, Squad Movement Times, Squad Moves

Ages – ages as at 31 December explained.

All swimmers ages are calculated by year born.

In 2026 all swimmers born in 2016 are 10 years of age, all swimmers born in 2015 are 11 years of age.

This is in line with Swim England competition rules, all Swim England County/Regional/National competitions are run under these conditions.

Please do not come to me saying my child is 9 years of age if they are 10 prior to 31 December, they are 10 years of age and need to get used to this system.

Maximum Ages

Swimmers have a limited amount of time in the main groups defined by age. If a swimmer does not meet the performance standard and recommended attendance by this age, the swimmer will be moved across to one of our non age limited groups so that they may continue their swimming progression. All of the maximum ages for groups are on the squad rules.

Attendances – General

The figures shown on the app show the percentage of sessions attended against the total number of sessions that have been available to the swimmers in the group.

Holidays, sickness, school events count as non attendance. We only record how many actual times your child comes to training.

We do not count the month of August in the attendance criteria.

We do not count any sessions that we cancel.

Attendances are normally calculated as follows.

January Promotions – 1 September to 1 December attendance.

April Promotions – 1 January to 1 March attendance. We will also take into consideration the Sept to Dec attendance.

August Promotions – 1 January to 1 July attendance.

Recommended Attendance

This is the minimum attendance percentage expected to be considered for any squad moves. If a swimmer does not achieve this percentage, they will not be considered for a move to the next group.

We have an obligation to ensure that all the swimmers are progressed through the programme safely and are showing that they are coping with the workload in their current group before moving to the next group which will have a higher level of commitment.

Example - Promotion from a 9 hours a week group to a 12 hours a week group is a reasonable progression. Someone who is completing 50% of the attendance in the 9 hour group is only completing 4.5 hrs and the jump to 12 hours would be inappropriate and possibly unsafe.

The percentage required takes into consideration that swimmers will sometimes get sick or have other school or holiday commitments and is also in line with the hours recommended on the Long Term Athlete

Development document on the website under Squad Guides. The recommended attendance is therefore less than 100% attendance to allow for some time off.

Minimum Attendance

This is the minimum attendance required to remain in the group. Failure to meet the minimum standards for attendance may result in the swimmer being moved to a more appropriate group. The space then gives other swimmers an opportunity in the group.

Squad Movement Times

The times are age related and are very clear for each of the groups – see ages above. Squad guide entry times are on the website alongside the squad criteria.

SQUAD MOVES

Generally only happen 1 January, 1 April, 1 August.

Moves depend on spaces available in the next group, the highest ranked swimmers are moved into the spaces available first, swimmers are competing for a place in the next group.

Squad Moves are completed from performance times and attendance only, this is recordable and factual data which is accessible to all parents for their own child. There are no preferences given to children of committee members, volunteers for the club or coaches choice.

The only time we do not follow the above is if the swimmer has made the standard and attendance for the next group but the hours would be too much for the swimmers age in line with the Long Term Athlete Development document. This is too protect the swimmer from completing too much training too early.

An excel document is created with all of the info on and the swimmers ranked in order of how far under or over the swimmers are on the performance times, this is the priority order for movement.

The secondary criteria for the movement is attendance percentage against the recommended. If a swimmer has not achieved the required attendance they will not be considered for promotion no matter how high they are on the performance list.

In later groups there are some extra criteria taken into consideration. The details are on the squad guides.

We go down the list and select the highest performing swimmers with the required attendance in order. Places available in the next group dictate how many swimmers are moved at each time. If there are spaces available we may move swimmers that have not achieved the performance times to fill up the groups but we will not move swimmers that have not achieved the attendances as we have to show that the swimmer is physically prepared for the increase of hours for the next group.

I am hoping this clears up any misunderstandings with regards to promotions and attendances

Please do not come to me asking why your child has not been moved to the next group when their attendance is under the recommended and the performance does not meet the squad move times.

All of the information is on the website.

Rhys Gormley

Head Coach