

ONB COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS – ONB EXEC CTTEE DECISIONS ON 9TH MAY 2023

The Swim Sec talked the cttee through the recommendations. A full discussion was held and the ONB Cttee decisions/comments are below:

	Subject	Proposal	ONB Decision
1.	Qualifying times Already acknowledged that Sharon will be looking into 2024's times to allow, Hopefully, more swimmers. Requested need to go back to easier consideration times, and then do rejections to fill the meet. If meet full then will get more officials/volunteers, especially if younger age groups have more swimmers as more parents to newer volunteers/officials.	Agreed that Sharon will look at 2024 consideration times on the basis of increasing the number of entries especially in the younger age groups (but realistic times to ensure swimmers should be at the championships).	Supported.
2.	Qualifying times for 800m/1500m FC	It was felt that the current basis cuts out the younger swimmers that should be included in the championships. It was agreed that we would like to review this area and offer consideration times for age groups but building in the requirement to ensure that the session is not going to run beyond 3 hours which would then impact on the officials.	Supported. Will include awards in each age group.
3.	Possible reserve list after rejections. If we have timing allowable in the session that possible waiting list to replace swimmers.	It was felt that with the work involved in this and also trying to decide who should be put back into an event would be very difficult ie which age group.	Agreed that it's not an option in 2024 due to the way Championships are run and the work involved.
4.	One coach asked about times not reflecting across age groups (harsher for younger age groups) when using national rankings.	It was felt the younger swimmers have a disadvantage to older swimmer when we are basing times against the national cut i.e a comparison between 11 and 16 year olds. When you look at top 8 nationally for the base line that the spread is much bigger for the younger swimmer than the older swimmers, as the very top swimmers in the younger age group have developed early and are not a true representation of the swimmers in the country in the younger age groups in comparison to the older age groups as they have already developed.	We will potentially use County ranking rather than National, although the Swim Sec needs to run through the system before she can clarify this. Still considering having a 17 year age group – seeking licensing advice.

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		There is a huge chunk of younger swimmers who have missed out as the impact of covid is showing and had a huge effect on the numbers that are swimming at a county level and many of these age groups are still at an academy level. This will be taken onboard as part of the review of the consideration times.	
5.	Programme: 1500m and 800m split age groups and awards.	It was proposed that medals would be issued to the age groups as per other events.	Supported – medals for each age group. More medals will need to be ordered.
6.	Can we get rid of 200m finals please? Last heat has music and introductions.	<p>It was felt that some swimmers withdraw from the event, some are not going faster as they are too tired, and others are going slower in the heat to save themselves for the final.</p> <p>Discussion was around whether we had to have finals for 200's as per guidelines. Oliver looked up information and we do not need to have 200m final. We could have HDW. We would need to make presentations at the end of the session of which the 200m event has been swum. It was the view of the majority of coaches. Look to have music and introductions for the last heat of each 200m event so we still build up the excitement.</p> <p>It was therefore proposed that we remove 200m finals.</p>	Agreed to the removal of 200m finals. For the final few heats, music will be played/ swimmer names will be announced to make this special.
7.	Mixed relays please! Keep other relays. Junior and senior 4x50m mixed FC and medley relays. Where to put in session? Maybe in 200m session?	<p>It was felt that this should be introduced as it would allow for smaller clubs to participate in the relays as they should have more swimmers available. This would be Open/Junior events.</p> <p>Agreed that we would go away and look at the best place to include this event in the programme.</p>	<p>Looking to considering putting mixed relays into the end of the 400m sessions for juniors and seniors – Swim Sec to confirm.</p> <p>Suggesting mixed Medley and mixed Freestyle.</p>
8.	Finals Do the 10/11yr age group need finals? Especially when big step up to swim at County level. Very few in 10-11yrs finals. So HDW for all events. Then step up to finals next year	This is the covid age group, many of the younger swimmers only swam the morning and then hung around all day to take part on the finals, many were terrified and wondered if we make the 10/11-year-old HDW and introduce a 17-year-old age group. A lot of the 16-year-olds that are moving up to the open age group may not get into Counties next year due to swimming against much older swimmers and keep more swimmers in the pool rather than being demoralised.	<p>Agreed that we would lose the finals for the age 10/11 age groups; 10/11 will have HDW.</p> <p>Agreed to introduce a 17 year old final and 18 and over final.</p>

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	when 12yrs. If leave out 10/11yrs could we put in a 17yrs old age group? Good for retention especially the boys where many finals are 20yrs plus. Also progressive for regional/national.	<p>It was felt that this was an option to consider retaining 17-year-olds plus. There were mixed feelings whether we should remove the 10/11 years old and there are swimmers that love it. It was a long day, but some swimmers loved to come out to the music and being introduced in the 10/11-year-old age group.</p> <p>Oliver researched during the meeting and found that the age groups are set by Swim England and we would be unable to currently include a 17 year old age group and we would need to continue with 10/11 year old finals.</p>	Swim Sec will confirm with licensing.
9.	If have to do combined finals again next year of age groups (hopefully not) then can announce the different age group results please.	Sharon apologised for the announcer not distinguishing between the different age groups in the combined finals although Karen confirmed the announcer was advised a couple of times. Sharon will ensure that this does not happen next time. It was felt that if we were lower on numbers that the combined finals work well.	Agreed to combined finals, where necessary, due to low numbers in certain age groups. Swimmers will be announced separately.
10.	<p>Warmups</p> <p>Propose not having club volunteers as warm up Marshal. Instead Clubs to be responsible for own swimmers like at open meets/regionals etc. However, have a rota that each club to take in turns to have the lead coach for that warmup to make sure BK ledges are in and the warmup is safe etc. Chantal happy to do a coach rota. Will ease on the pressure of clubs to get more volunteers. Also discussed sprint and pace lanes set up. Chantal happy to work with Sharon on looking at each sessions plans that are released. Also, to release to clubs in advance. Chantal happy to help with all of this.</p>	<p>It was felt that some warmup Marshalls are not aware of what they really need to do. The coaches would allocate a coach to oversee a particular session and the coaching team would lead the warmups. Chantal was happy to do the warmup schedule including pace/speed lanes. The coaches were all happy with this.</p> <p>Coaches would lead the actual warm up sessions but need an announcer to read out safety briefing /withdrawals etc</p> <p>There may be a requirement for warm up marshal for the turn end of the pool.</p>	Agreed that warm ups will be run by the coaches; warm up marshals will still be required at the far end of the lane.

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	Possible that lead coach does the announcing during warm up of changing overs/sprint lanes etc. If feel that is needed to let the announcer rest???		
11.	<u>Swim Down</u> Can there be swim downs between sessions please? Again, coaches will monitor swimmers. Chantal happy to do a rota if Sharon feels that is needed to make sure someone is in charge of. Add into promotor conditions if is a yes.	We are paying for lifeguards, so could we have a swim down. Coaches would monitor swim down. There is a concern on numbers in pool as this has to be managed. It is more pointed to the older swimmers. The management side of this is a concern especially when people would need to take breaks. Is there a need for a swim down for 50/100m. New swimmers arriving, entering the pool as they feel they are late. There would need to be clear rules and guideline if we did this. We need to investigate this a lot further as it would need to be treated as a warmup. Emma suggested a 15 min time limit. This will be considered further.	Decided that swim downs will not be introduced as they are difficult to manage and control.
12.	<u>Presentations</u> Can we have an area off poolside for age group medal collections so can have a more official area to do photos etc for parents/coaches. Like at nationals.	This is a great idea to encourage swimmers to have a photo taken. We have the county team banner that could be used as the backdrop. The medals table could certainly be moved to the Spin room at Aqua Vale (where admission is) and then the banner used as the backdrop. Chantal will forward Sharon a photo of the banner. Look into a lovely parent to make a 1,2 & 3 or set off steps as well. Would need to mirror this at Leys Pools. Concerns re moving medal table off poolside as could make getting volunteers harder. Volunteers would be able to still see their swimmers just like the Marshals do.	Agreed to introduce this at both Aquavale and Blackbird Leys.
13.	Junior/senior championship presentations: In finals session can we do presentations as we race so more people see/support? Plus gives more rest to the swimmers between finals. Can do a timeline table for coaches so know when swimmers need to be ready for presentations (after which final is	It would be very difficult to keep moving the officials out of the way, bring boxes in & would make the session longer. There are a number of officials that are there with no swimmer so it would extend their day and the faff of moving people around. Making sure swimmers are in marshalling and they could miss this. It was felt that this could not work at the current time.	Decided that will keep presentations to the end of the session.

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	which presentation)		
14.	Point club system Please can look at the system for club points. Do need separate junior under 13yrs?	It was felt that we have a lovely trophy to use. Could we change to 14 & under? It is currently set in the middle of the age groups ie – 10/11, 12. 13 and 14, 15, 16 & 17 & over, We could consider changing if we introduce the 17 year old age group.	It was agreed that we continue with the points system – one Junior and one Open.
15.	Non coaching related matters Asking clubs for volunteers for more than swimmers in that session.	Sharon confirmed that she sends through the number of swimmers from each club in each session to the volunteer coordinator. We believe that a mistake was made i.e 1 swimmer competing, and 2 volunteers requested. The only fair way to do this is to allocate the roles based on numbers swimming from each club in each session. Concerns over other clubs not filling their roles and other clubs having to fill these roles. A suggestion was made to fine clubs that do not fulfil their volunteer allocations by the deadline set. Further discussion will take place regarding this.	Following much discussion, it was decided that we will NOT fine clubs this year. Situation will be reviewed following 2024 championships. It was accepted that dialogue between clubs and volunteer coordinators was needed. The reduction in the number of warm up marshals required should help alleviate the overstretch of volunteers.
16.	Spectator space	Some parents didn't get a seat as the swimmers took up the stand. Sharon said that on one occasion the swimmers were too high up in the stand, so Sharon moved them. There was no point over the weekend when the stands were full.	Noted that at no point over the weekend were the stands full.
17.	Swimmer hoodies from Swim path? They order themselves so not ordered through County.	Looking at county hoodies for 2024. Look at provision to have availability online for people to order direct. Swim path? We are happy to look into this.	Online ordering process will be introduced for 2024 Championship hoodies.
18.	Gender	Female (female at birth) & and open category – full implementation 1 st September 2023.	Swim Sec will ensure she is up to date on this re Promoters conditions.
19.		Would like a smaller gap for officials, so we discussed a reasonable break for the coaches and TM's. The gaps cost us money – longer gap/potentially higher charges. The coaches/TMs on the call felt that 30 mins from the end of a session to the start of warm up.	Decision – there will be a time gap of 30 mins from end of session to the next warm up starting.