

# Swim England South East

## 2018 Qualifying Times

This document explains how the qualifying times for the 2018 championships were set and how they will be applied.

### The Challenge

In planning the region championships we have a lot of constraints which mean that we need to make trade-offs.

1. We operate under the criteria that apply to all licenses meets.  
No single session longer than 3 hours, without a significant break.  
No more than 7½ hours swimming on any day (Including in session presentations).
2. All 15/over events must be completed by Monday May 7<sup>th</sup>.
3. All team events must be completed by Monday May 7<sup>th</sup>.
4. There must be individual age group finals for all 50m, 100m and 200m events.
5. We need to add the reverse distance freestyle events (male 800m, female 1500m)
6. It is not practical to additional weekends of competition because of the availability of suitable pools and the distance that some entrants have to travel.

### Our Approach

We have planned the timings of the sessions assuming a specific number of heats for each event. Initially, we have allocated the available spaces evenly across age groups competing in a specific competition.

Our primary basis for acceptance and rejection of swimmers will be to select the fastest swimmers in each age group.

We have automatic qualifying times. Every entry that achieves the automatic time will be accepted, even if that means that we accept more swimmers than our target for that event.

We have base (consideration) times to ensure a minimum standard for the competition.

Base and automatic times are based on the pattern of entries from 2017, with some smoothing to address anomalies and to ensure that the times are progressive (see below).

As an example, if our target number of swimmers is 20, the automatic time is set at the 12<sup>th</sup> fastest entry time last year (60% level) and the base (consideration) time is set at the 24<sup>th</sup> fastest entry time last year (120% level).

That means that we expect to accept more than 80% of the entries that meet the base (consideration) time.

## The Target Number of Swimmers

To fit the competition into the time available, we have a target number of swimmers per event:

Distance	14/Under Target	15/Over Target
50m	38	24
100m	32	17
200m (except Ind Medley)	27	17
200m Ind Medley	32	17
400m	24	12
800m	10	12
1500m	10	10

These numbers represent the minimum number of swimmers to be accepted in each age group, subject to the conditions

- All entries must be equal to or faster than the base (consideration) time
- No swimmers shall be accepted on a time that is slower than that of a younger swimmer who has been rejected (progressive times, see below).

Additional swimmers may be accepted if other age groups are undersubscribed or to allow acceptance of older swimmers who would otherwise not be accepted because of the progressive times condition.

### “Reverse” Distance Freestyle

We have little historical data upon which to establish qualifying times for the male 800m freestyle and female 1500m freestyle.

Because of this, we may accept entries outside of the base (consideration) time if we get fewer entries than we expect based on the published times and if time is available.

### Entry Times

All times submitted must appear on Swim England rankings and be set in level 1, 2 or 3 meets in the qualifying period. You must submit the time exactly as it appear on rankings, with seconds to two decimal places.

You may enter Long Course and/or Short Course times. All short course times will be converted to long course using the Swim England equivalent performance table.

If you submit both long and short course times, the meet management system will select the better of the two. You will only be charged for one entry.

For the purpose of determining whether a time meets the automatic or base (consideration) time, the second decimal place is ignored. So for example. a time of 32.19 would be accepted as meeting a qualifying time of 32.10.

For the purpose of accepting/rejecting entries, the second decimal place is taken into account. If there are multiple entries with exactly the same time for the last acceptance place, none of the entries will be accepted.

## Rankings

We recommend that you submit entries at least 48 hours before the published closing date/time. Exactly 48 hours before the published closing date/time we will validate times against rankings and publish a list of failures. Because entries are still open, you have the opportunity to correct any invalid entries.

Any entries that cannot be validated against rankings on the published closing date/time will be rejected.

## Progressive Times

The policy of the region is that qualifying times should be “progressive”.

1. The published base and automatic times for any event shall not be slower than for a younger age group.
2. No swimmer will be accepted on a time which is slower than the time of a rejected swimmer in a younger age group.

This may mean that the number of swimmers accepted is not exactly the target figure published.

Example – Girls/Ladies 50m Backstroke

Target number of entries per age group: 24

Analysis of 2017 entries

	14 <sup>th</sup> fastest entrant	28 <sup>th</sup> fastest entrant
Age 15	32.46	33.43
Age 16	32.85	33.37 (only 19 entries)
Age 17/Over	31.71	33.20 (only 25 entries)

2018 times after “smoothing” to ensure progressive times

	Automatic Time	Base (Consideration) Time
Age 15	32.50	33.50
Age 16	32.40	33.50
Age 17/Over	31.70	33.20

Number of entries to be accepted

	Automatic	Consideration	Slowest accepted entry
Age 15	14	15	33.46
Age 16	14	5	33.37
Age 17/Over	14	10	32.15

Age 16: Cannot accept 24 entries because the slowest 5 would be slower than rejected age 15 swimmers.