

Rationale for Changes to the structure of Irish Age Group & Summer OPEN Championships

The following is an explanation for the changes in age group criteria for the 2016 Irish Age Group & Summer Open Championships

The terms of reference for the High Performance (Technical) committee would be to look at the broader development of competitive standards in Ireland (see Terms of Ref below)

Context

The Swim Ireland Technical Swimming committee looks ongoing to develop performances and standards of competitive swimming the Ireland. Historically in the 1980's and early 1990's Irish competitions were in 5,6 & one 8 lane pools and typically double ages.

- c.2000
 - In the late 90's and early 00's times were changed in line with British Standard times and competitions moved to single ages and year of birth which was considered relevant for the time
- 2006
 - In 2006 the Irish Age Group championships moved to LC As new facilities have opened up. In line with previous years a review commenced at that time of all National meets.
- 2009
 - Following appointment of new PD in 2009, a full review of meet structures were taken place and meets moved to Age on Day and single years, whilst also separating out the IAG competition further.
- 2012
 - Following 3 years of static standards (2010 to 2012), the duplication of event athletes and in an effort to retain more senior athletes a further assessment of the events was taken by the Technical committee.
- 2013
 - All QT's were reviewed had redefined the Irish Age Group competitions in 2013 moved back to Double Age Banding. A decision was made at that time to continue with Age on Day and review after 2/3 seasons.
- 2015
 - The event has continued to grow in numbers and a further review was made in the summer of 2015 and in an effort to continue to raise standards of competition, the event has now been brought in line with the majority of European national Age Group competitions by being year of birth.

Whilst this varies from single to double age bands in some countries, given the number of competing individuals and the depth of performance in our country it has been decided to retain the double age bands for the coming seasons and a further review will be carried out annually by the Technical committee.

In Summary, it is felt by the members of the technical committee that Double Age Banding, Year of Birth competition falls in line with National Squad criteria, International Meet qualification Criteria (albeit some changed to 4 years in 2015) and at this time is considered by the Technical committee to be the most relevant structure to enhance the standards of domestic competition overall in Irish Swimming.

Chronology of changes in Irish Age Group & Summer meet structures

Year	Age Bands	Age Criteria	Course	Pool	Notes
1980's	Double Age	Year of Birth	SC	Typically 5/6 lane	
1990's	Double Age	Year of Birth	SC	Typically 5/6 lane	
2005	Single Age	Year of Birth	SC	8 Lane UL	
Full Review with new availability of LC opportunity in Summer					
2006	Single Age	Year of Birth	LC	10 Lane NAC	Nat's SC in Jul
2007	Single Age	Year of Birth	LC	8 Lane UL	Nat's SC in Jul
2008	Single Age	Year of Birth	LC	8 Lane NAC	Youth / Open is 1 Meet
2009	Single Age	Year of Birth	LC	10 Lane NAC	Youth / Open (2 Meets)
Full Review with new PD & Age bands & Event Structure Changed					
2010	Single Age	Age on Day	LC	10 Lane NAC	AG (14&U) & Irish Open (2 Meets)
2011	Single Age	Age on Day	LC	10 Lane NAC	AG (14&U) & Irish Open (2 Meets)
2012	Single Age	Age on Day	LC	8 Lane Limk	AG (14&U) & Irish Open (2 Meets)
Full National Events Review & AGE Bands & Times Changed by Tech Comm					
2013	Double Age	Age on Day	LC	10 Lane NAC	Irish Summer Champs - 1 event
2014	Double Age	Age on Day	LC	10 Lane NAC	Irish Summer Champs - 1 event
2015	Double Age	Age on Day	LC	10 Lane NAC	Irish Summer Champs - 1 event
Full National Events Review & Age Bands + Times Reviewed by Tech Comm					
2016	Double Age	Year of Birth	LC	10 Lane NAC	

High Performance Committee Terms of Reference

The High Performance Committee shall

- Advise the Competitions Committee on the Application of the principles and findings of Long Term Athlete Development Programmes (LTADP) and appropriate competition structures.
- Determine entry standards and/or qualifying criteria for National Championships and other National events.
- Determine the order of events for the National Championships and other National events
- Review and monitor the entry standards and/or qualifying criteria for National Championships and other National events.
- Review and monitor the order of events for the National Championships and other National events
- Provide technical leadership to the membership with the aim of driving standards higher in coaching and ultimately, performance.
- In cooperation with the High Performance Director Review and debate strategic operational high performance plans and structures
- Develop a criteria and process for the selection of Coach of the year awards
- Make recommendations to the High Performance Director on matter relating the High Performance Programme