

## SWIMMING WAIKATO

### Waikato Championship Meets Policy

Original – 1 March 2018

#### OBJECTIVE –

- To provide a fair, consistent, competitive opportunity for all swimmers at our annual Swimming Waikato Championship Meets.

#### RATIONALE –

Our Swimming Waikato Championships are target meets for many swimmers in our Region and as such, Swimming Waikato is committed to running these events in formats that celebrate swimming at all levels.

In the Waikato, we have a number of summer only clubs with predominantly junior programmes. To encourage the growth of the competitive programmes at these clubs, our Waikato Junior Championship meet is held annually in March to ensure that these swimmers have a full season of swimming in the lead up to this meet.

Due to two key National meets (Division II and National Age Group Championships) being held in March and April, it is not possible to schedule our Waikato Senior Championship meet after our Junior meet. The impact of this is that swimmers turning 13 after our Senior Championships do not have the opportunity to compete at either of our Championship meets.

Introducing an 'age as at' date is the best option to address the scenario raised above.

#### POLICY –

1. The following Swimming Waikato Championship Meets will be held annually -
  - SW Reverse Distance Championships – Waikato Christmas Meet – December (long course)
  - SW Senior Championships - Waikato Summer Meet – January / February (long course)
  - Waikato Juniors Championships – March (short course)
  - Waikato Relay Championships (trophy events only) – October/November (short course)
2. The age as at date for these Championship Meets will be 31 December. To clarify, for the 2018/19 Championship events, swimmers will compete in their age group as at 31 December 2018.
3. The Swimming Waikato Senior Championships, which form part of the Waikato Summer Meet, (excluding distance events) will include heats in the morning, and open finals in the evening and will be swum in a long course format.
4. The Swimming Waikato Distance Championships will be swum in a long course format as part of the Waikato Summer Meet.
5. The Swimming Waikato Reverse Distance Champs will be swum in a long course format as part of the Waikato Christmas Meet.

6. For our junior swimmers, all events will be contested in each age group (9/under, 10, 11 and 12), giving swimmers a rare opportunity to swim in their age group each year. Following the lead from Swimming New Zealand, our Junior Championships will be swum in a short course format.
7. Our Waikato Relay Championships (trophy events) will be contested as part of our Waikato Relay Meet which will take place annually in October/November and be swum in a short course format.