

## SWIMMING WAIKATO

### Right to Compete Policy

Original: 25 January 2016  
Reviewed - 26 February 2018  
Reviewed – 13 February 2019  
Reviewed – 09 February 2022

**OBJECTIVE** – To clarify Swimming Waikato's implementation of the Right to Complete By-Law

#### **POLICY** –

The Swimming New Zealand By-Law relating to the Right to Compete with regard to Club and Competitive swimmers has been amended to remove some of the barriers to compete. In summary, the By-Law allows Club and Competitive swimmers to compete in approved competitions as long as they –

- Are a current member of Swimming New Zealand.
- Have paid their memberships fees due to their Club, Regional Association and Swimming New Zealand.
- Have paid all other outstanding monies to the Regional Association and Swimming New Zealand.
- Have supplied their contact details to Swimming New Zealand.
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This is a change from the previous By-Law which did not allow Club Swimmers to compete in approved meets.

It is Swimming Waikato's role to work within the confines of this By-Law to ensure that -

- it is applied in a way that positively impacts on swimming development in our region; and
- it is based on the philosophies of our Regional Development Pathway.

This By-Law will be implemented in the Waikato Region as follows –

1. A Club swimmer's first race experience should take place at a Club Night and swimmers should not progress to competing at swim meets until their Coach feels the swimmer is ready for the step up. Club nights are an important part of Swimming Waikato's Regional Development Pathway and we encourage all our clubs to hold Club nights throughout the season. If a Club does not have the facilities or numbers to run a Club night, please contact Swimming Waikato and we can put you in contact with a neighbouring club so your swimmers have this entry level racing experience.
2. Our 12/U Club swimmers are also eligible to take part in our 12/U Relay events which are scheduled during the 12/U Blackout period – April to June each year. These race days provide another opportunity for our Club swimmers to experience a race environment where they will swim alongside competitive swimmers in this age group.
3. Club swimmers are able to compete in all Club hosted meets and Swimming Waikato hosted meets (interclub meets) with the exception of Championship meets which are for competitive swimmers only.
4. Zonal and National meets are for Competitive swimmers only.

The Right to Compete By-Law also impacts on School Meets. Competitors in school meets will be required to be registered with a Swimming Waikato Club under a unique membership code which will allow the results from the Waikato and New Zealand Secondary School events to be official (meaning times swum can be used as qualifying times for Regional and National meets). As a result of this requirement, the Waikato Secondary Schools Swim Meet will be an unapproved meet.