



How Squad Moves Work?

Checklist

- Assessments are carried out at regular times throughout the year. These are used to monitor swimmer progress and provide a clear standard to attain in order to move into the next squad. For all squads, the principal consideration is the coaches' checklist of their swimmers' technique, training data from swim test sets and attitude.

For the higher squads some additional measures are introduced.

- The specific squad criteria for each pathway of the club can be found on the Training page of the club website.
- Detailed feedback from the criteria checklist is available on request from the lead coach for each squad.

Squad Moves

- Squad moves can take place four times a year for YP, JP, Competitive Development, Development and Academy.

For the higher-level competitive pathway Elite, Comp A and Comp B, squad moves take place at the most suitable time in the year to best match their training cycles and competition calendar, ie Summer and Christmas breaks

You may find that your child stays in a group for a considerable length of time and 12-18 months or even 24 months in one group is not unusual.

Move Windows

Development, Youth and Junior Potential

Any potential moves can happen 4 times a year. Once criteria are met, the swimmers will be invited to their new squad. There will be one month notice, where possible, where bridging may or may not happen during that period.



Moves happen at the end of each of these periods.

- 1 - September - November
- 2 - December to Post N&Ds
- 3 - March - May NER
- 4 - May NER - Nationals and August break

Elite, Comp A & B

- 1 - September
- 2 - January

• Please remember that the coaches' decision is based on the best interests of the child and their swimming. Coaches' discretion may seem like a term that is thrown about and doesn't have any meaning. Coaches discretion is a coaches knowledge and experience with their swimmers and swimming. Whether that person is mentally and physically ready for the demands of a new squad. Squad criteria is a list of physical goals, it takes no consideration for the mental ability to deal with swimming loads, of which there is the use of coaches' experience to know how well a swimmer will do with a move.

- You will be advised the date at which your child will move squad.
- All squad moves are initially probationary for the first month (i.e., trial period).

This is to ensure the new group suits the swimmer. It helps manage expectations for swimmers, so they understand initial moves are 'try outs' and occasionally there is a need to revisit the squad move.

Bridging

Bridging can and will be used by coaches to allow a swimmer to train with another squad for a certain period to assess their suitability for a move. There is no



criteria for bridging apart from Coaches Discretion. It can be withdrawn at any point through the SC and LC seasons

Bridging swimmers up to squads helps coaches analyze whether or not swimmers are close to meeting that squad criteria and gives the swimmer a taste of that squad.

Fees

- When moving squad, you will be advised of any fee changes. These will either start from the next calendar month. However, the squad change may be effective immediately. If there are any concerns regarding the affordability of any squad, please contact our treasurer in confidence.

Moving up a squad

- If a swimmer meets the squad criteria for the next squad up (see above) then they will be moved up squad, *at the relevant time window*. They may be offered bridging sessions if the squad is in fact full.
- When squad moves are sent out there may be some latitude for moving to a different pathway, or the move may come with a probationary period.
- Unfortunately, we are not able to move children based on the convenience of the session times for the parent. However, we will work to accommodate swimmers in a parallel or lower squad provided there is space and it is appropriate. Swimmers may not swim up a squad.

If the alternative squad becomes full and the space is needed, any swimmers swimming out of squad will no longer be able to attend that session. Moves to a less competitive pathway may be deemed necessary also if squad criteria is consistently missed.



If a swimmer is identified as not meeting the squad requirements for the next squad or does not meet the criteria for the current squad then the process below will take place.

1. The coach will have a conversation with the parents of the swimmer to discuss the situation. They will suggest a move to a less competitive squad. If the parents or swimmer do not want this, the swimmer could stay in the squad for a set period of time where they can try to achieve the squad criteria. They will be given feedback about what they need to do to improve to meet the requirements.
2. The swimmer will be assessed throughout the period and a final decision about the squad moves will then be made and communicated to the swimmer and parents.
3. This process may be fast tracked for reasons of poor attendance, poor punctuality and poor attitude.
4. If there are extenuating circumstances (e.g., bereavement, injury) then a longer period of grace may be granted to the swimmer