

Dear Swimmers and Parents,

In April, we wrote to notify you of a proposed change to the structure of the club in order to align ourselves with the Athlete Development and Support Pathway for swimming. This alignment is required for Hoylake ASC to achieve the SwimMark accreditation, a recognised quality mark in the sport. Our aim is to provide a structured teaching and training programme and an enjoyable, safe and caring environment, where swimmers can achieve their maximum potential, in line with individual aspirations, talent and ability. We believe the new structure will also make the club (even) more competitive. Swimmers will know what is expected of them at each level, and what they need to aim for to be promoted.

The main changes concern the entry criteria to Blues. This group will become more focused on the attainment of county qualifying times, giving swimmers a clear target to work towards, should they choose to do so. The Support Pathway requires us to make it clear to all swimmers what is expected of them and so we are publishing entry criteria for all groups.

Qualification Criteria for Blues starting Feb/March 2020

Automatic: Cheshire Qualifying Time for the Next Year

Consideration: Swimmers within 5% of Cheshire Qualifying Times in at least 2 events depending on numbers in the Squad and coaches' discretion. The consideration times may vary up and down year on year.

Minimum Age: 12 at end of year (2020) with coaches' discretion. Ideally year 7 at school.

Squad Movement: Movements in and out of Blues will be in Feb/March each year when the following year County Times are announced. Only in exceptional circumstances will movement be considered mid-season (September), this will also be coaches' discretion. If a swimmer doesn't have an official county time their place is not guaranteed.

Training Attendances: We will be looking to achieve at least 60% attendance over a 3-month rolling period. This will be monitored.

Swimmers may be asked to move out of Blues to Reds if they no longer meet the above criteria, or they may choose to move. We appreciate that not all our swimmers will want to try and achieve the above criteria. Some coaches' discretion will be allowed in the case of, for example, injury or illness.

Criteria for other groups: (Reds, Yellows, Gold, Silver and Bronze)

Please see HASC Training Structure 2019 Document.

As Blues coach, Craig Pickering will be speaking to the swimmers currently in Blues about how, and if, the changes will affect them, over the coming weeks.

We hope the new structure can be comfortably phased in over the next 6 months. As ever, we value your commitment and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to approach any of the coaching team or committee, or contact the club by email on hasc@hoylakesc.co.uk.

Regards,
Hoylake Coaches and Committee members