



## ***Guide to Competitive Swimming***

We have created this document to help Brisbane Jets' families who may be new to the world of competitive swimming. It aims to explain the different types of swimming that your swimmer can participate in and what the goal is for that type of swimming. If you think other information should be included, please let us know.

### **Swimming "Season"**

A lot of people ask when swimming runs, and the answer is really all year round!

Your Brisbane Jets membership runs for the financial year. Swimming Queensland allows members until the end of September to renew their membership.

There are a number of different "seasons" for swimming, depending on the type of competition.

### **Club Swimming**

A Swimming Club's swimming year runs from the end of April (after the Australian National Championships have been held) and finishes the next year at Nationals (both Age and Open), in April. The National Championships are split into Age Nationals (where swimmers compete against swimmers of the same age) and Open Nationals (where swimmers who have the appropriate qualifying time compete, regardless of age).

The National Championships (Age and Open) is hosted by Swimming Australia and swimmers from affiliated Clubs around Australia, including Brisbane Jets, can nominate if they have swum the required qualifying times. Girls aged 13 years old and Boys aged 14 years old can compete at Age Nationals.

Nationals is the highest level of competition in Australia every year. In various years there may be other trials for Australian team selection for overseas meets, such as the Olympics.

### **Brisbane Jets Swimming**

Our Club Nights run on Friday nights in Terms 4 and 1 of the year.

The objective of Club nights is to provide swimmers with the opportunity to experience meet style races in a more relaxed environment with a friendly and fun atmosphere. They also give swimmers the opportunity to keep track of their times in preparation for Swim Meets. Times swum at Club Nights unfortunately cannot be used as qualifying times for Brisbane Swimming meets, as no Brisbane Swimming scrutineers are present at Club Nights.

Club Nights also have a big social aspect, with a Club run BBQ available. Club Nights rely on enough members volunteering to enable us to run them.

In April / May each year Brisbane Jets Swimming Club hosts our Club Championships swimming meet which is our end of season championship and will determine our Club's Swimming Age Champions. This is followed up later with an end of year party, presentation night and AGM.

### **School Sport Swimming**

In addition to Club Swimming as part of Brisbane Jets, school swimmers from the year they turn 10 are eligible to compete through their school in School Sport Swimming. Often Schools use their carnival to determine who is selected to represent the school at Districts (often held in February). At Districts, swimmers who meet the published qualifying time are then selected to compete at Regionals (MetEast, MetWest etc depending on the location of your school).

From Regionals, swimmers can then qualify for the Queensland School Sport State Championships in March.

Swimmers at the State Championships can then qualify for Australian School Sport Nationals, which is usually held in July or August.

Nominations for school sport swimming are done through your child's school. Feel free to discuss which events your child should look at nominating for with their Coach.

# Swimming Calendar

(timings are estimates)

Red meets are compulsory as they count for the Brisbane Premiership

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Long Course Season (50m pool)	Sprint Meets Brisbane Sprints	Qld sprints Brisbane Champ's		Age Nationals Open Nationals					Club Meets	Club & Preparation Meets	Club Relays	Qld Champ's
Short Course Season (25m pool)												
School Sport		Regionals	Districts SS States						SS Nationals			
Open Water			Nationals									

## 4 Types of Swimming in the Swimming Calendar

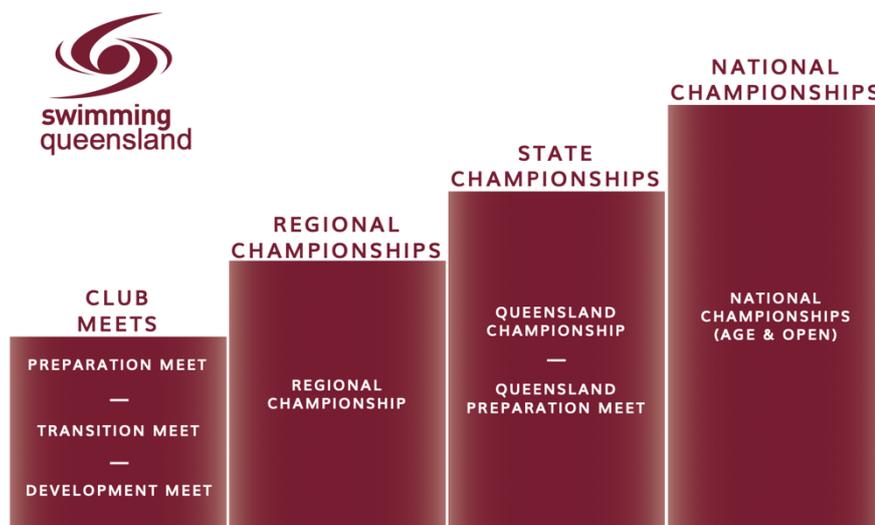
	Short Course Season (25m)	Long Course Season (50m)	School Sport Swimming (50m)	Open Water
<b>Duration</b>	June to August	September to April	January to August	September to March
<b>Major Target at the end of each Season</b>	Queensland State Short Course Championships August (11 years+)  Australian Short Course Championships September	Queensland State Championships December (12 years+)  Age Nationals April Girls 13+ Boys 14+	Queensland School Sport State Championships March  School Sport National Championships August  10 years +	Queensland State Open Water Championships October  Australian Open Water Championships March

## Summary of the Different Type of Swimming Meets

Not all swimmers want to compete at the big end of season meets and not all swimmers will qualify for those meets. There are different types of swimming meets which are available and cater to all swimmers throughout the swimming calendar. Brisbane Jets' encourages members to participate in at least the allocated meets, where our coaches attend, and also the Brisbane Swimming Premiership meets. These will be identified in the Calendar on TeamApp.

Brisbane Jets hopes that all our swimmers, no matter what level of competition they participate in, enjoy and love swimming.

The Events calendar on TeamApp contains a list of upcoming meets that swimmers can attend. Whilst training is fun, many swimmers love competing in meets to see how all that training has improved their times.



Below is a quick summary explaining the different types of swimming meets:

### **Development & Transition Meets**

Development and Transition Meets are generally run by swimming clubs and don't require swimmers to have achieved a qualifying time in order to enter. Times achieved at these meets can be used to qualify for other meets.

### **Preparation Meets**

Preparation Meets are the next level up from Development and Transition Meets. Some Preparation Meets may require qualifying times. Times achieved at Preparation Meets can be used for all other meets, including Regional, State and National Championships.

### **Regional Championships**

For Brisbane Jets our regional championships are run by Brisbane Swimming. These meets require qualifying times for swimmers to nominate. These qualifying times must come from an approved meet, like a Development or Transition meet. Brisbane Jets club night times cannot be used as a qualifying time for these meets. Times achieved at Regional Championships can be used for all other meets.

### **State Preparation Meets & Championships**

Swimming Queensland runs two types of meets – Preparation Meets and State Championships. Qualifying times are required in order to enter both of these types of meets. Swimmer from across Queensland, as

well as members from other states and national federations, may attend these meets if they have achieved the qualifying times for the relevant event.

### ***Age and Open Nationals***

Age and Open National Championships are held at a different venue each year by Swimming Australia. Swimmers are required to meet qualifying criteria in order to be able to enter these Championships. Short course times cannot be used for Nationals qualifying times. Girls must be 13 years and Boys 14 years to compete at Nationals. Nationals are used as a qualifying meet for selecting international Junior and Senior Australian teams.

So, if your swimmer is starting out or hasn't swim for a while, they will need to enter a development meet or a transition meet first to get a time for each of their events. Then they can enter the different meets that come up. When events have qualifying times, the required times are posted with the event in the Events calendar in TeamApp.