

Parramatta City Swim Club

Frequently Asked Questions

www.parracityswimclub.com.au

Note: *These Frequently Asked Questions should be read in conjunction with the club's Race Rules. If there is a discrepancy between what is contained in this document and the Race Rules, the Race Rules takes precedence.*

How do I enter club races?

Parramatta City Swim Club entry cards must be used to enter all club races. These cards can be purchased from the Race Registrar's table for \$0.20 each or \$1.00 for a sheet of six. Once completed they must be placed in the yellow club entry "mailbox" at the front of the pool **by 6 pm Thursday**.

If for some reason you are unable to make it to the pool during the week, entries can be phoned through to the race committee (see the top of the program for contact details) **by 7pm Thursday**. These entries must be given directly to race registrar on Saturday morning **by 7.30am**. Entries can only be phoned in **three times** in a season.

Entries that are presented on Saturday morning without previously being "phoned through", will be considered late entries.

If for some reason you run out of cards, place a slip of paper in the box with the races you wish to enter. You then must purchase cards on Saturday morning, fill them out, and return them to the race registrar **by 7.30am**.

Usually for the first week of each season, and the New Year, "post entries" are available. This means you can enter on the day of the races, and still receive full points as long as your entries are with the Race Register by 7.30am. Please consult the club's Race Program to see what dates post entries are available.

How do I know what races I can enter?

The club's Race Program shows all races available throughout the season. It also has a good deal of other information about what is happening in the club.

It is possible that the program could change during the season. If the program does change, the new version will be given to all members.

The version number and date of the version is shown in the top right-hand corner of the program.

How many races can I enter?

A swimmer can receive points for up to three graded races each Saturday morning. An additional race can be entered at the discretion of the Race Committee. This race must be clearly marked "No Points", as no points will be awarded for this race.

Three championship races are normally held on championship race weeks. On weeks where there is only one championship event, only two graded points score races can be entered.

What is the difference between graded club point score races and the club championships?

The club conducts two different sets of races during a season. In graded races, swimmers gain points by attempting to break their own times. In club championship races, swimmers are awarded championship points based on the place they come in their age group.

Graded races are normally held at the start of the season while championships are held in the last four or five weeks of the season.

What is the Open Championship?

The Open Championship aims to determine the best male and female swimmer in club. Neglecting the swimmers age and awarding championship points on the times swum in each championship event does this. The fastest male and female swimmer in each event is awarded first place, the next fastest swimmer, second place, and so on.

The male and female swimmer with the most open championship points at the end of the season become the open champions.

What age will I swim in the Championships?

A swimmer will swim the age they are on the first day of championships for the season. Swimmers may therefore compete against a different group of swimmers in winter than they do in summer.

How many races do I have to swim to be eligible for a trophy?

To be eligible for a championship trophy, a swimmer must compete in no less than one third of the weeks of graded races and swim in no less than one-third of the championships available for their age.

Unfortunately, this can mean that swimmers that join later in the season will be ineligible to win a championship trophy.

How do I know how many points I have scored?

The club's race committee calculates official point scores.

Points for graded races are then published every month or so, on the club's website and posted on the club's notice board. This ceases one month prior to championships to ensure that the final placings are a surprise at the presentation.

The club encourages swimmers to record their times and calculate their points using the club's recording sheets. The recording sheet can be obtained from the race registrar or from the club's website (MSWord and MSEXcel format).

The rules for calculating points can be found in the Club Race Rules.

If the points you calculate are different from those published, or you wish to confirm your points at the end of the season, please see the race registrar. The race committee members are human and can make mistakes, and therefore are pleased to have swimmers raise issues about any discrepancies.

Is the time that I receive at the end of the race from the timekeeper my official time?

No. In swimming, the official placings are decided by the judges and referees, not by times. This means that in some circumstances it may be necessary to adjust a swimmer's time so that they match the official placings. This is a fairly rare occurrence and usually involves only one or two tenths-of-a-second.

A time adjustment can be one reason why the points calculated by swimmers can vary slightly from those calculated by the race committee.

When can I break a club record?

You can only break a club record at Saturday morning races.

If you wish to attempt to break a record in a graded race, you must write "Record Attempt" on the card for the race that you are making the record attempt. This ensures that three timekeepers are made available so that an official time can be recorded.

There is no need to write "Record Attempt" on cards for championship races, as these are automatically assumed to be a record attempt.

How long is the swimming season?

The club conducts a winter and a summer season.

The summer season starts after October school holidays and finishes at April school holidays. The winter season starts at the end of the April school holidays and finishes at October school holidays. The club also has two-week break at Christmas/New Year and maybe a week off at Easter depending if it falls during April School Holidays.

What types of social events does the club hold?

The club holds a number of social events throughout the year. These include:

- End of Summer and Winter season break-up party;
- Christmas break-up party which includes a visit from Santa;
- Presentation picnic/night after the end of each season; and,
- BBQ for Mother's and Father's Day.

Which Carnivals does the club compete in?

The club competes in a number of external carnivals each year including:

- Metro North West Area Summer and Winter Championships;
- Metro North West Area mini-meets;
- Speedo Sprint Series.

What fees do I have to pay?

There are two main types of fees you need to pay once you decide to join the club.

- **NSW Swimming Registration:** This fee includes personal accident and public liability insurance. All swimmers and all officials must be registered.
- **Club Membership Fee:** This can be paid either as individual or as family.

Both NSW Swimming Registration and Club Membership last for one year and must be renewed at the start of the summer season (1st October) each year.

Swimmers that have previously registered with NSW Swimming via another club must still pay the club membership fee.

Individual club membership fees are waived for swimmers that have graduated from the club's learn-to-swim program or from another club-approved swim school.

The current list of fees is available on the club's website.

Does the club have a coach?

The club conducts free coaching sessions for all swimmers who participate in club races three times per week. The sessions are immediately after Saturday races and two evening per week.

The club's mini-squad are called the "Blues", the advanced squad the "Golds".