

## Potential Changes to Swimming Competitions in 2015

Potential changes to the structure of competitive swimming to be introduced in 2015 were presented at a meeting at the ASA office in Loughborough on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March. The consultation period closed in mid June.

Please note: These are proposals for consultation, not decisions. Whatever happens, the proposal will have an impact on competitions next year.

Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) was introduced with a lot of academic research to back it up, These proposals do not have any similar backing, but are based on the (lack of) success of LTAD in terms of medals and observations of some of the unintended consequences of LTAD in practice.

Some of the problems identified:

- British Swimming is no more successful now than it was a decade ago.
- WE are not converting success at Junior level to Open swimming
- Although we have swimmers who are capable on paper of making finals and winning medals, they rarely do “on the day”
- Too many youngsters are specialising too early (BAGCATS was never implemented properly at National level .. qualification continued to be based on times for individual events, not as points totals across a set of strokes)
- The switch to 200m swimming for younger swimmers meant a change in focus from technique to strength

The proposals for change can be summarised as follows:

National (GB)	Entry will be by invitation to the top 30 swimmers in rankings in each age group. Probably fewer than 30 for longer distance events. No QTs will be published. The qualifying period will be very restricted, probably April and May Ages 14 and upwards.
National (England, Scotland and Wales)	Entry will be by invitation to the next 30 English/Welsh/Scottish swimmers in rankings in each age group. Probably fewer than 30 for longer distance events. No QTs will be published. Swimmers invited to the GB Nationals will be excluded. The qualifying period will be very restricted, probably April and May. Ages 13 and upwards.
Region	To be held in the qualifying period for Nationals. (April/May) Long course. Ages 12 and upwards. [Currently 10 and up] We can set QTs. NO BAGCATS Finals for 50m/ 100m only
County	To be held in January/February Short or long course Ages 11 and upwards [Currently 9 and up] We can set QTs.

	NO BAGCATs Finals for 50m/100m only
Short Course	<p>Up to the end of December will be considered a short course season with</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Short course Nationals in December</li> <li>2. Short course Regionals in November</li> </ol> <p>Qualification for short course Nationals will be based on achieving QTs.</p> <p>Long course times can be used, <b>but not converted</b>, so this encourages more short course competitions in the autumn period.</p>
Zonal Meet	<p>Does not form part of the plan and does not fit into the calendar.</p> <p>The South Zone is still keen to have a competition in 2015 to give swimmers the opportunity to experience the Aquatic Centre in London.</p>