

TRAFFORD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH SWIMMING CLUB

Headquarters: SALE LEISURE CENTRE, Broad Road, Sale.
Affiliated to: C.C.W.P. & S.A., M. & D.S. & W.P.A., C.L.S. & W.P.A.

Masters Relay Selection Procedure

Background

- Relay selection has followed an informal but consistent process for 10–15 years, evolving slightly but retaining core principles.
- Until 2025, the club paid for relay entries. From 2025 onward, swimmers cover relay entry costs (committee decision).
- Primary relay targets:
 - **National Championships (Sheffield, October)**
 - **British Championships (June, rotating venues)**
 - **Regional Championships (Blackpool)**
 - Also targeted: **Cheshire Championships (Stockport)**
- Other meets (e.g., European/World Championships) are optional; swimmers manage their own relay entries.

Selection Criteria (Unchanged)

1. Record-breaking opportunities
2. Medal-winning potential
3. Participation (maximising involvement across the squad)

Previous Process

- Historically led by: Neville Barton, Richard Symons, Alan Rowson, Bob Bolton.
- Later, Judy Brown streamlined selection using a bespoke computer program.
 - Worked with Alan Rowson on final selections.
 - Enabled a major increase in relay entries due to:
 - Otter 120 Top Club Trophy
 - Increased popularity of relay events
 - Contributed to numerous World, European, and British records.
- Judy stepped down in 2025—responsibility passed to the Masters Subcommittee.

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Why Document the Procedure?

- Issues at Nationals (2025) involving:
 - Last-minute substitutions
 - Confusion about final selections
- Need for a clear, consistent, transparent process to avoid future problems.

Current Relay Selection Procedure

1. Apply the Three Core Criteria

- Prioritise record and medal teams first.
- After these, distribute participation opportunities as widely as possible.

2. Understand Meet Conditions

- Read the meet rules carefully:
 - Allowed age groups (and number of teams)
 - Maximum number of relay teams
 - Any specific eligibility requirements

3. Build Possible Team Combinations

- Pull swimmers' times from rankings.
- Know every swimmer's age to fit the appropriate age categories.
- Identify all viable combinations that meet the criteria above.

4. Manage Swimmer Load & Availability

- Determine how many teams you intend to enter overall.
- Avoid overusing your versatile swimmers across too many relays.
- Email all swimmers in advance to confirm availability and willingness to be selected.

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5. Allocate Participation Swims

- After confirming record/medal teams, place as many available swimmers as possible into participation teams.

6. Consult the Coaching Team

- Check that selected swimmers:
 - Are training regularly
 - Are fit and injury-free
- Confirm that fast newcomers (e.g., country members) aren't being over-selected ahead of regular training members.

7. Publish Teams & Manage Substitutions

- Release provisional teams and request swimmer confirmation.
- If someone withdraws:
 - Use substitutes without unnecessary reshuffling of complete teams.
 - Be mindful that last-minute changes can cause dissatisfaction.
 - Maintain clear rationale behind every decision.

8. Final Authority

- All selections are made following careful consideration.
- The selection panel's decisions are final.

R.W.Bolton
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