

Development Squad Competition Policy – 1st Feb 2014

The City of Birmingham (CoB) Swimming Club offers the opportunity for swimmers with excellent potential to join the CoB Development Squad (DS). Normally at least 9 years of age, this opportunity is made in discussions with the swimmer, parents and home club. In addition to training three times per week at CoB, DS swimmers will be exposed to competition on a Regional and National Stage. The purpose of competing is to test technique and racing skills honed in training under the pressure of competition. It will be process based, not result based. DS swimmers will never be judged on results; however, exposure of young swimmers to a performance environment early on in their career will aid their development.

DS Swimmers will normally compete in 8 - 11 pre-planned open meets during a season which will contain a mixture of short course and long course events. Each year a completion plan outlining these events will be made available at the start of the season. This calendar will include Midlands Championships, Nationals and Welsh Nationals and DS qualifiers will swim for City of Birmingham at these events. All swimmers who compete in Junior League, National League and County Championships will continue to do so as representatives of their home club. In addition, and following dialogue and agreement between coaches of CoB and home club, DS Swimmers will be available to represent home clubs at meets hosted by their home club (e.g. Stourbridge Swimmers and Stourbridge Sprint) and at targeted meets despite the DS being present. However, as DS swimmers are not result based we request that all feedback at these events be given by CoB coaches.