

2019 AUSTRALIAN STATE TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

What is the purpose of Swimming New Zealand sending a team to these Championships?

- The ASTC meet gives New Zealand Age Group Swimmers the chance to go up against Australia's best Age Group Swimmers. The Australian States, by the unique format of the competition, pick their best swimmers for this competition which means that the competition is tough and therefore a great opportunity for our swimmers to assess their ability against the best in Australia.
- The ASTC also enables us to send a large team of both swimmers and coaches where we can begin to develop essential processes and behaviours that will guide their transition from age group through to Elite. Coaches are an integral part of encouraging these high-performance behaviours and therefore exposure to this level of competition is vital as a key coach development tool.
- It also means that some swimmers will be taken out of their comfort zone swimming more than just their main events and swimming for the team first, themselves second, again helping to **establish a strong team culture.**

Introducing New Selection Standards:

- We will no longer use FINA points to select swimmers to the ASTC team.
- Instead, a new set of time standards has been developed, primarily to assist with the selection of the 2019 National Development Squads, but also these standards will be used to select the 2019 ASTC team.
- Whilst these standards have not yet been released, the times for selection to this team will be set at the Gold Level of the 2019 National Development Squad. These standards, as with the existing 2018 ones, have been derived by Natatorial Analyst, John Pike. The standards were devised from analysis of World Top 150 performances from the year 2010 onwards until 2018.
- The 2019 ASTC Selection Criteria will explain the process of selection in detail including the tie breaks for each age group and event pairing given we are only permitted one swimmer in each.
- By using these time standards, as opposed to FINA points, the selection is much more relevant to best performance comparisons as the time standards are reflective of age equivalent performance in relation to World Class swimming and are very comparable to those used in other countries. We will continue to develop these time standards over the next few years with the ongoing support of John Pike.

A New 2-stage Selection Process:

- The first opportunity for automatic selection will be at NAGS where **up to** 28 swimmers (one per age group and per event pairing in both male and female, as per previous years) will be selected because of their performances (times).
- These (up to 28) swimmers, and an additional group of up to a further 42 swimmers will be invited to attend the Australian State Teams Camp from 17th to 21st May 2019 in Auckland where the final round of selections will occur and the final 'wild card' swimmers will be selected.
- The Camp will be a significant start to building the team towards the meet as well as providing another opportunity for swimmers to achieve selection based on the Criteria.

SNZ acknowledges that this is a new process for selection to the team, but we are confident it will enable a most robust team selection process for this important development event. Any questions or clarification needed please contact us directly.