

2020 Selection Criteria Rationale – The Why?

The 2020 Olympic Qualifying Criteria has, as we know, been out in the public domain for some time. There have not been any changes to that criteria, other than the confirmation of the US based trial as being the TYR Pro Series meet in Indianapolis from 6-9 May 2020. Remember, swimmers can only choose one of the two meets to use as their qualifying opportunity. Lewis Clareburt and Ali Galyer have already 'pre-qualified' by achieving the qualifying standards at the World Championships. But both can improve upon these times at the trial meet of their choice, and of course, both can be pushed out of an Olympic spot if two swimmers swim faster at the trials in the events they have qualified in.

Tomorrow (Friday 27th) before NZ Short Course starts next week, the qualifying criteria for Los Angeles Invitational 2020, Oceania 2020 and Junior Pan Pac's 2020 will be released. Below is a brief description of the qualifying process and the reasoning behind each process:

Next Year's Junior Pan Pac's will be held in Maui, HI, from 19th to 22 July. The week before (9th-12th) there is the Los Angeles Invitational Meet, in Los Angeles CA. This meet offers a great opportunity for NZ to develop our ability to prepare our swimmers for World Class competition and test our coach's ability to build taper and make our best athletes more robust and battle hardened. Due to the reasonably proximity of LA to Hawaii and the relatively low cost, this is a great chance to hold an extended camp overseas (in Los Angeles) before travelling into Hawaii to race at JPP. The LAI is an exceptional meet and follows the US Olympic trials by just two weeks. Our swimmers will have to race strongly which will give them strong preparation for JPP, which begins 7 days later.

The qualifying standards for JPP have taken a lot of deliberating, with an emphasis placed on continuing with the commitment to continuous improvement, but also with the aim to make the times align with our national standards as much as possible and create opportunity. The final standards for JPP 2020 were reached through looking at NZ Gold levels, World Junior Top 16, and World Junior Top 8. A combination of these standards was used to determine the final QT's. In addition, an elite standard has also been included, which is the eighth fastest time from the heats at the 2019 World Junior Championships. Junior Pan Pac's will not be fully funded by SNZ as World Juniors was last year but athletes who achieve the elite level of qualifying will be subsidised by Swimming New Zealand. All athletes who qualify will be able to apply to the Swimming Trust for scholarship support. There is also an additional qualifying criterion, 4x100 and 4x200 freestyle relay standards which is to reinforce the SNZ strategy of developing World Class relays and get athletes and coaches to drive the level of 100m and 200m freestyle swimming up in New Zealand. The usual criteria for selection to these relays will apply. The times are not easy, roughly being set between 8th and 9th fastest times at the recent World Junior Championships.

Senior swimmers who fall short of the Olympic Qualifying standards need to be given opportunities to race at quality International meets. In 2020 it is expected that NZ will have a significant number of developing athletes who are making great progress but will probably not quite get the Olympic times. So, two further Senior Teams will be selected, from the same qualifying events as the Olympic Games. The stronger of these two teams will travel to Hawaii at the beginning of July in a preparation camp at the University of Hawaii, from 1st July to 7th, before travelling on to Los Angeles to also compete at the LAI. This will be their pinnacle meet for 2020. These athletes will have two qualifying standards to aim for. The first of these is for males and females born before 1st January 2002 but after 1st January 2000. In other words, 19 or 20 years old. They will need to achieve the Gold standard times currently set by SNZ as the equivalent for the World's Top 150. Any athlete born before 1st January 2000 (21 yrs. or older) will have to achieve the higher standard times, set at FINA A (2020) +1%. There is no limit to the number of athletes who can be selected per event for this meet, if they are within the qualifying standards.

The next two senior swimmers, born before 1st January 2002 who do not achieve the LAI times but who do achieve the Oceania Times which are set at 2019 FINA B will be eligible for Oceania.

No junior athletes (born 2002 or later) will be eligible for the LAI team or the Oceania team. Junior athletes not achieving the JPP standards will still can make the Australian State Teams Championship Squad, which will be selected in a similar way to 2019, through qualification to a selection camp through performances at NAGs.

2020 Junior (18 and under) competition pathway.

Note: The age limit has been set at 18 on December 31st, 2002 because JPP criteria allows this

Meet	Age Criteria	Performance Criteria
Olympic Games	Males age 15 & over on 24/07/2020	Fastest two swimmers at selection meets within FINA A 2020 times
	(Born before 25/07/2005)	
	Females age 14 & over on 24/07/2020	
	(Born before 25/07/2006)	
Junior Pan Pac's and LA Invitational prep meet	Males and Females aged 14 to 18 on 31/12/2020	Fastest three times in each event at the selection meet that are inside the designated qualifying times
	(Born before 01/01/2007)	
Australian State Teams Championships	Girls aged 13-16 on 30/09/2020	Performances at NAGs leading to selection for final selection camp. Performances based on Gold, Silver and Bronze time standards 2020
	(Born between 30/09/2003 and 30/09/2007)	
	Boys aged 14-17 on 30/09/2020	
	(Born between 30/09/2002 and 30/09/2006)	

2020 Senior (19 and over) competition pathway.

Meet	Age Criteria	Performance Criteria
Olympic Games	Males age 15 & over on 24/07/2020	Fastest two swimmers at selection meets within FINA A 2020 times
	(Born before 25/07/2005)	
	Females age 14 & over on 24/07/2020	
	(Born before 25/07/2006)	
Los Angeles Invitational	Males and Females aged 19 to 20 on 31/12/2020	Unlimited number of swimmers in each event who achieve the 'B' qualifying standard at the selection events
	(Born between 01/01/2000 and 31/12/2001)	
Los Angeles Invitational	Males and Females aged 21 and over on 31/12/2020	Unlimited number of swimmers in each event who achieve the 'A' qualifying standard at the selection events
	(Born before 01/01/2000)	
Oceania	Males and Females aged 19 and over on 31/01/2020	2 fastest swimmers in each event at the selection meets that are inside the designated qualifying times
	(Born before 01/01/2002)	

The aim of the qualifying standards is to keep up the drive for continuous improvement, but wherever possible create opportunities at every representative level. For 2020 we can see the steps from Junior entry level to Pinnacle Senior level:

JPP QT's 2019				
Female Elite	Female	Event	Male	Male Elite
00:25.52	00:26.15	50 free	00:23.43	00:22.80
00:55.36	00:56.91	100 free	00:51.64	00:50.01
02:00.92	02:03.31	200 free	01:52.32	01:49.25
04:11.83	04:20.37	400 free	03:58.14	03:51.75
08:43.74	08:57.99	800 free	08:15.46	07:57.23
16:44.76	17:15.38	1500 free	15:52.90	15:18.33
01:01.45	01:03.27	100 back	00:56.80	00:54.80
02:12.48	02:16.76	200 back	02:03.62	02:00.07
01:08.52	01:11.38	100 brst	01:03.92	01:01.17
02:28.43	02:33.82	200 brst	02:19.05	02:14.30
14:24.00	01:01.74	100 fly	00:54.67	00:52.77
02:12.85	02:17.54	200 fly	02:04.00	01:59.17
02:15.85	02:18.94	200 IM	02:05.56	02:01.91
04:47.06	04:57.97	400 IM	04:28.74	04:20.58
	03:47.00	4x100 free	03:23.60	
	08:11.00	4 x 200 free	07:30.00	

Oceania QT's 2019		
Female	Event	Male
00:25.92	50 free	00:22.96
00:56.40	100 free	00:50.51
02:02.81	200 free	01:51.16
04:19.34	400 free	03:56.14
08:56.71	800 free	08:10.91
17:06.76	1500 free	15:39.14
01:02.71	100 back	00:55.95
02:16.13	200 back	02:02.48
01:09.79	100 brst	01:02.05
02:31.02	200 brst	02:15.59
01:00.53	100 fly	00:53.78
02:13.73	200 fly	02:00.80
02:17.69	200 IM	02:04.43
04:52.97	400 IM	04:26.93

LA Invitational				
Female 19-20	Female	Event	Male	Male 19-20
00:25.60	00:25.02	50 free	00:22.23	00:22.67
00:55.58	00:54.92	100 free	00:49.06	00:49.59
02:00.47	01:58.45	200 free	01:48.12	01:49.12
04:14.58	04:10.38	400 free	03:49.05	03:53.07
08:46.63	08:38.49	800 free	07:59.25	08:07.07
16:52.26	16:45.00	1500 free	15:10.00	15:30.86
01:01.91	01:00.85	100 back	00:54.39	00:55.43
02:13.82	02:11.69	200 back	01:58.68	02:01.28
01:09.56	01:07.74	100 brst	01:00.53	01:01.55
02:29.88	02:26.98	200 brst	02:11.65	02:13.95
00:59.97	00:58.50	100 fly	00:52.48	00:53.24
02:13.06	02:09.71	200 fly	01:57.64	01:59.45
02:15.96	02:13.88	200 IM	02:00.87	02:02.39
04:49.03	04:41.32	400 IM	04:18.40	04:22.79

Junior Entry level: Australian State Teams – combination of performance and process evaluation

Junior Pan Pac's: 2020 pinnacle Junior selection. Incentive for outstanding (World Class) performance. Step up from 2018 JPP by introduction of pre meet competition.

Oceania: Entry level Senior meet – reward for committed Senior athletes who achieve FINA standards.

LAI: Athletes just missing out on pinnacle selection, within 1% of world class or developing athletes whose performance levels indicate world class potential.

Olympic Games: Pinnacle performance

