



SWIMMING METRO SOUTH EAST
PO Box 435 Leichhardt NSW 2040
<http://www.metsea.org.au/index.php>

METSEA Competition Structure

Background

METSEA was formed in 2007 through an amalgamation of the existing Districts of St. George, Eastern Suburbs, City of Sydney and part of Western Suburbs. It includes 44 Clubs and over 3,000 swimmers.

METSEA is governed by an Executive consisting of eight representatives elected at the Annual General Meeting, namely a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Competitions Convenor, Development Convenor and ATSC Convenor. The Executive is advised by three committees, namely the Competitions Committee, Development Committee and Area Swimming Technical Committee, members of which are also elected at the Annual General Meeting.

Since its formation METSEA has conducted summer and winter championship carnivals, a development meet and Speedo sprint heats. In 2011 an additional summer meet was held for swimmers who did not achieve places in the summer championships and in 2012 a qualifying meet is planned before the summer championships as well as a winter Speedo Sprint carnival.

A development program designed to cater for a wide range of swimming abilities has been in operation since METSEA was formed and this program has expanded each year to cater for an increasing number of swimmers. In 2011 development squad numbers reached 353 and this is set to increase in 2012.

Discussion at the 2011 Forum suggested the need for a review of the existing METSEA structure. Concern was expressed by some delegates that METSEA was too big and was not catering well for less competitive clubs.

Challenges of the Present Structure

The number of swimmers competing in summer and winter championships has increased to the point that in 2011 qualifying times were imposed on entries in the summer championships. This meant that some swimmers wishing to compete were not eligible. Although an additional carnival was staged in 2011 to cater for these swimmers and many did compete, the non-championship status of this carnival made it less attractive as an alternative.

Increasing numbers of swimmers will make it likely that qualifying times will be continued and possibly extended to the winter championships as well. The implications of this trend are that METSEA will increasingly cater for the elite swimmers at the expense of the ordinary club swimmer.

Proposals for Reform

A number of options to address the challenges that have emerged are possible. Several are canvassed here for discussion. Others may emerge.

Option 1:

Retain the existing structure but include additional non-championship meets to cater for swimmers who do not meet qualifying times for summer and winter championships.

This option would require minimal change to the existing structure and could readily be accommodated into the present program. The non-championship status of these meets may be a disincentive for some swimmers.

Option 2:

Form three zones within METSEA and hold zone championships in addition to the METSEA summer and winter championships. Zones could be formed along previous district boundaries except that City of Sydney and Western Suburbs Clubs would form a Western Zone. A proposed zone structure is attached. No qualifying times would be set for these championships so that all swimmers in the zone would be eligible to compete. Zone committees would need to be set up to organize these carnivals. These committees would be in addition to the METSEA Executive and Committees and would form subcommittees of the METSEA Competition Committee. All funds collected by these Committees would revert to METSEA, not the Zone.

The number of clubs competing in a zone championship would be fewer and thus give more opportunity for non-elite swimmers to perform well. METSEA championships would tighten qualifying times to further reduce the number of swimmers at this level.

Finding sufficient technical officials to stage these carnivals may turn out to be a problem with this option as even with the existing program recruitment of sufficient numbers of technical officials is sometimes difficult.

Option 3:

Same as for Option 2 but dispense with the METSEA championships altogether and stage only zone championships. METSEA would become then an administrative structure but would continue the Development Program.

This option would ease the demand for technical officials but would not cater well for elite swimmers.

Option 4:

Retain the existing structure but encourage interclub meets where several local clubs compete against one another. One such interclub meet initiated by Drummoyne Club and called the "Battle on the Bay" comprising Drummoyne, Balmain, Leichhardt and Cabarita Clubs has been running successfully for the past two years and this could be a template for other such developments.

Setting up these interclub meets would require a high degree of organization and would need input from club officials. Once initiated, however, organization could rotate among clubs in the local areas making the running of them less onerous.

Discussion of Options

The options presented here do not exhaust the possibilities but are aimed at increasing opportunities for less competitive clubs to participate in Area events. Since the merger of the previous districts to form METSEA many previously active clubs are no longer involved in METSEA carnivals. Non-elite club swimmers are discouraged from competing due to the stringent qualifying times necessary to keep METSEA championships to a viable length. There is a view in many clubs that the merger has disadvantaged these swimmers causing a loss of interest in swimming and a withdrawal of participation by these clubs. This proposal is designed to address these problems.

Proposed Zone Structure

	Others	Competitive	Total	Districts	Regions
Ascham Aquatics SC	0	43	43	E	E
Ashfield ASC Inc.	15	81	96	W	W
Balmain AS & LSC	10	48	58	C	W
Bayside Swimming Club	17	129	146	E	E
Bondi ASC	0	6	6	E	E
Breakers SC	3	7	10	E	W
BSC Rockdale ASC Inc.	18	15	33	S	S
Carss Park SC	19	41	60	S	S
Cranbrook Eastern Edge SC	10	123	133	E	E
Cronulla SC	11	133	144	S	S
Drummoyne Swimming Club Inc	28	152	180	C	W
Enfield ASC	9	51	60	W	W
Engadine Swimming Club Inc	18	76	94	S	S
Gynea Bay ASC	2	1	3	S	S
Hurstville Aquatic SC Inc.	25	64	89	S	S
Jones Swimming Club Inc.	10	58	68	S	S
Leichhardt SC Inc.	19	118	137	C	W
Little Sharks Swim Club	4	17	21	S	S
Maccabi ASC	4	3	7	E	E
Maroubra ASC	37	92	129	E	E
Menai Swimming Club	6	55	61	S	S
MLC Marlins Swim Team	83	104	187	W	W
NC Aquatic Swim Club Inc	4	111	115	S	S
North Ramsgate SC	20	20	40	S	S
Oatley ASC Inc.	101	5	106	S	S
Peakhurst ASC Inc.	29	80	109	S	S
Randwick & Coogee ASC	24	112	136	E	E
Roselands Swim Club	37	48	85	S	W
Sans Souci Sea Devils Swim Club Inc	16	72	88	S	S
SEA'S THE LIMIT SWIM CLUB	8	109	117	E	E
Shire Sharks Swim Club	1	23	24	S	S
Sladem ASC	21	32	53	W	W
SLC Aquadot Swim Team	46	137	183	S	S
South Sydney ASC	4	21	25	E	E
Swim Stars Club	3	5	8	E	E
Sydney Swim PLC Club	17	56	73	W	W
Sydney University SC	56	124	180	C	W
Tivoli Swim Club Inc	4	82	86	E	E
Trinity Grammar School SC	19	79	98	W	W
UNSW UniSwim Swimming Club	22	98	120	E	E
YMCA Sydney Swim Club	8	66	74	C	E
Grand Total	788	2697	3485		

Old Districts

	Swimmers		Club Nos
City of Sydney	508	c	5
Eastern Suburbs	830	e	13
St George Sutherland	956	s	17
Western Suburbs	403	w	6
	<u>2697</u>		

New Zones:

Eastern Zone:

East of Harris Street, Botany Road, Botany Bay to La Perouse, Eastern Suburbs Coast Line,	889	e	13
---	-----	---	----

Southern Zone:

South of Airport, west of Botany Bay, west
of Cronulla Beaches, north of Port

Hacking, East of Area Western Boundary

908 s

16

Western Zone:

West of Harris Street, Botany Road, North
of airport, South of Paramatta River, East

of Area Western Boundary

900 w

12

2697