



GYSC Link Swimming Policy

Purpose

This policy outlines the procedure for swimmers from Great Yarmouth Swimming Club (GYSC) who wish to participate in a link programme with another swimming club. The goal is to ensure that the process supports the swimmer's development while maintaining their strong involvement with GYSC.

Eligibility Criteria

Swimmers must meet the following criteria to be eligible to participate in a link programme:

1. **Active Membership**

Swimmers must be active members of GYSC and in good standing, with no outstanding fees, disciplinary issues, or attendance concerns.

2. **Commitment to GYSC**

Swimmers must demonstrate consistent commitment to GYSC training, competitions, and events. A proven track record of regular attendance and engagement is required.

3. **Performance and Development Needs**

Swimmers must show a level of performance and development that warrants participation in a link programme. This includes potential benefits that complement their training at GYSC.

4. **Coach-Led Identification**

Swimmers will only be considered for a link programme through a coach-led process. The GYSC Head Coach, in collaboration with coaches from the linked club, will identify swimmers who may benefit from participation based on their development trajectory, performance, and training needs.

5. **Age Appropriateness**

The swimmer's age and stage of development must align with the requirements set by the GYSC Head Coach to ensure readiness for the additional demands of a link programme.

Approval Process

1. **Coach-Led Identification**

The link programme will operate as an invitation-only opportunity.

The GYSC Head Coach, in collaboration with coaches from the linked club, will assess and identify swimmers who may benefit from the additional training and development opportunities provided by the link programme.

2. **Discussion with the Swimmer**

Potential link swimmers and their parents/guardians may be invited to meet with the GYSC Head Coach to discuss their motivations and aspirations for joining the link programme. This is to ensure the programme aligns with their development plan and to provide guidance where needed.

3. **Evaluation and Agreement**

The GYSC Head Coach will confirm eligibility and seek agreement from the swimmer and their family.

The GYSC Head Coach will liaise with the linked club to establish the terms of participation, ensuring clarity regarding training schedules, coaching arrangements, and competition requirements.

4. **Decision**

Terms of participation will be formally outlined, and the decision will be communicated in writing to the swimmer and their family.

Terms of Participation

1. Continued commitment to GYSC Competitions

Swimmers approved for the link programme must prioritise and compete for GYSC at:

- GYSC Club Championships
- Level 4 meets
- Level 3 meets (both SC & LC)
- Any league/team/relay galas where they are selected to represent GYSC.
- County Championships

Swimmers have a choice which club they represent at the following competitions:

- Level 2 meets (when GYSC are not attending)
- Level 1 meets (when GYSC are not attending)
- Regional Championships
- National Championships

Swimmers are free to enter another club championships providing there is no clash with GYSC fixtures.

GYSC expects clear and open communication regarding choices to ensure no conflict with GYSC's fixture priorities.

Exemptions may be discussed with the Head Coach on a case-by-case basis.

2. Continued Commitment to Training

- Swimmers must continue to attend their regular training sessions with GYSC as part of the terms of their participation in the link programme.
- Absences from GYSC training sessions for any reason related to the link programme must be agreed in advance with the GYSC Head Coach.
- No restrictions on members becoming club captains in line with the age restrictions in the club constitution.
- The swimmer is not eligible for any reduction on fees payable to GYSC.

3. Monitoring and Reviews

- The Head Coach will conduct regular reviews of the swimmer's progress to ensure that the link programme aligns with their development goals. Adjustments that may be made include changes to training schedules, competition priorities, or specific development goals to better align the swimmer's progression with both club and individual objectives.

4. Sensitivity to Club Dynamics

- Participation in a link programme should be approached with sensitivity to other swimmers and their families, as opportunities and pathways differ for each member based on individual needs and progression.
- Swimmers and their families are encouraged to focus on their own development and avoid sharing specific details about participation in external programmes, as this helps maintain a positive and inclusive environment within the club.

5. Ongoing Communication

- Swimmers must ensure open communication with the GYSC Head Coach regarding their involvement in the link programme.

6. Progress Review

- The Head Coach will regularly review the swimmer's progress to ensure the link programme complements their overall development plan at GYSC.

Exit Clause

- GYSC reserves the right to terminate a swimmer's participation in the link programme if it is found to negatively affect their training, performance, or engagement at GYSC, or if agreed terms are not upheld.
- Swimmers may request to withdraw from the link programme by notifying the GYSC Head Coach in writing.

Communication and Confidentiality

- All discussions and decisions regarding the swimmer's participation in a link programme will be handled respectfully and professionally. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring a supportive and fair environment for all club members, recognising that pathways and opportunities differ based on individual circumstances.

Review and Amendments

This policy will be reviewed annually by the GYSC Committee and GYSC Head Coach to ensure its relevance and effectiveness.

Acknowledgement and Agreement

By signing below, the swimmer and their parent/guardian (if under 18) acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to abide by this policy.

Swimmer Name: _____

Swimmer Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (if applicable): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

GYSC Head Coach Name: _____

Head Coach Signature: _____

Date: _____

GYSC Committee Representative Name: _____

Committee Representative Signature: _____

Date: _____

This policy aims to provide swimmers with additional development opportunities while ensuring their continued commitment and involvement with Great Yarmouth Swimming Club, fostering a culture of mutual respect and fairness within the club community.