

Selection Criteria for Competitive Gala Teams and
Open Meet/Championship Relay Teams

Selection Criteria

Please see below the selection criteria for competitive gala teams and open meet/championship relay teams. Friendly gala's may be picked using other criteria.

When possible an availability list will be circulated to see which swimmer are free and to give swimmers and parents the information on which weekends they may want to keep free in case swimmers are picked. Confirming availability does not guarantee you or your child will be selected to swim but that they will be considered when the team is being picked.

Selection will be based on three main guidelines:

1. Attendance at Training (swimmers training three times or more weekly are more likely to be picked over those swimming less than three times weekly)**.
2. Performance at Training**.
3. Personal Best Times*.

The above are guidelines and are used at the coach's discretion. The intention will be to pick the best and fastest possible team taking into account the above.

Teams will be posted on the club notice boards or via the team managers as well as on our Facebook Group at least one week before the gala. Once you have been picked, you will be expected to swim, so if your circumstances change you must notify Ricky before the team is published.

If you are picked for a Gala and then fall ill before the event takes place, please notify Ricky ASAP, so

Please see additional notes below to clarify the above criteria:

*A personal best time is the fastest time we have seen a swimmer complete at a given event. The club holds a PB database and this will be used when selecting swimmers. To improve PB's swimmers need to be training hard and entering open meet competitions.

**Swimmers that train more regularly may also be considered for selection in preference to a faster swimmer if they train more regularly, particularly if two or more swimmers are close and one swimmer trains significantly more than the other. The threshold that will be used to make this selection will be whether or not swimmers train three times weekly and above. However simply training more often is not enough in itself and swimmers must also apply themselves when they attend training.

1. If a swimmer has been identified as available and are then picked the club does expect them to swim. Obviously the club cannot make them swim but if they refuse because they have another commitment or simply no longer wish to swim, this may affect their future selection in team events.
2. The club completely understand that swimmers have several demands on their time, but the club does need to know who is and is not available to make team selection fair to all

the swimmers. Therefore if a swimmer decides they are no longer available for a particular round then please let the coaching team know before the team is selected and published. Once the team is picked swimmers are expected to swim, dropping out may affect future selection.

If you still haven't identified your availability, please do so ASAP, the longer you leave it the less likely it is you/your child will be selected.

The club hope this helps, this is not designed to exclude swimmers, or make things difficult but to help ensure fairness, transparency and the clubs ability to actually compete properly at gala's and team events.

Gala Team Expectations

When we attend a Gala we attend as a "Team" not as individuals. The club understand that it is not always possible but the club would like all swimmers to travel to galas on the team bus. This allows the swimmers to socialise, and build team spirit. The club would like the swimmers to enter the swimming pool as a team and everyone travelling by coach helps this.

Once on poolside swimmers should consult with the team managers and captains regarding the plans for warm ups. Swimmers should not leave poolside unless they have check first with their team manager.

Once the gala has commenced all swimmers should encourage and cheer for one another – As a club we always win as the club with the "Best Team Spirit", and we often get comments on how strong this aspect is, so the club is keen for this to continue, it is this team spirit that will eventually help us to win galas.

All swimmers must wear a club swimming hat (regardless of how long your hair is). The correct hat to wear is the royal blue hat with yellow writing. Swimming hats have two main benefits, they give you your identity as a Bridgwater Swimmer and also make you more streamlined, leading to faster swimming! You wouldn't play football without boots or play hockey without a hockey stick, so a swimmer doesn't race without a hat! Be proud to be a Bridgwater swimmer and wear your hat with pride.

The clubs colours are Blue and Gold; therefore I would also like to see swimmers wearing plain navy blue costumes.

Finally we enter a gala as a team and therefore should leave as a team. Swimmers should not leave poolside until the final result has been announced, we have done our traditional cheering, and the coach or team managers have said it is ok to get changed. Even if your events are near to beginning of the gala you should remain until the end, although you may be allowed to change so long as you return to poolside to support your team mates, but please check with a team manager first.

Here's to continuing to build as a club and improve our success!