

COMPETITION COMMITTEE 2019-20 Meet Calendar

Background

1. The Swimming Northern Territory Incorporated (SNTI) Board appointed the Competition Committee in June 2018. The Committee met a number of times and consulted with clubs and coaches to develop a 2019-20 meet calendar.
2. The following sets out the Committee's guiding principles and resulting calendar.
3. Swimming Australia has undertaken research which strongly indicates that while children under 12 should be able to compete, there should be no pressure on them to train to excess. Therefore, Swimming Australia will be restricting its national open championships to children who are 12 and over. (The Committee considers 10 years of age and over is appropriate for children in the Northern Territory).

Consultation

4. Please provide feedback to the Chair of the Competition Committee at admin@nt.swimming.org.au.

Guiding Principles

5. The Committee is seeking to ensure the calendar provides opportunities for competition swimmers to compete and qualify for various meets, and for beginners to learn and enjoy swimming in a fun, encouraging environment.
6. The Committee is keen to establish longer term draft calendars to provide clubs, club members, other stakeholders, and sponsors with a predictable and stable calendar of meets.

Strategy Summary

7. The aim of the Committee is to hold:
 - 3 championship meets - long course, short course and open water
 - An invitational meet for each club
 - Additional meets to ensure club members have opportunities across the season to qualify for NT Championships
 - Encouragement meets (participation meets) for junior (12 years and under) and open multiclass swimmers.
8. Timing of meets were based on:
 - Ensuring swimmers had opportunities to qualify for major NT or national / interstate meets

- Limiting clashes with other major events / games, school holidays etc
- Taking into account opportunities for come and try meets, around school terms and major meets
- Seeking to ensure a consistent opportunity to race across the season.

Summary of Meets

9. Table 1 sets out the number of meets by competition type.

Table 1: Number of meets by competition type	
Encouragement (junior)	7
Long Course (aged)	12
Open Water (aged)	5
Short Course (aged)	4
Total	28

10. Table 2 sets out the number of meets by type of swimmer.

11. Age is generally for 8 and above. However, note that only certain shorter races will be available for more junior age groups. Further, clubs and coaches will be expected to only enter children into events once they have reached certain minimum standards. The encouragement events are designed for younger children who are still learning to swim and compete.

12. The Long Course and Short Course Championships will be split into a Junior, and Open and Age championships. The Junior Championship will be for 8 to 12 years, focusing on 10 to 12 years, but allowing 8 year olds and above, who have qualified, to compete.

13. The Open and Age championships will be for 13 year olds and above.

14. Both the Junior and Open and Age long course championships will require minimum qualifying times. They will be held in conjunction with each other, to ensure families with multiple children are catered for.

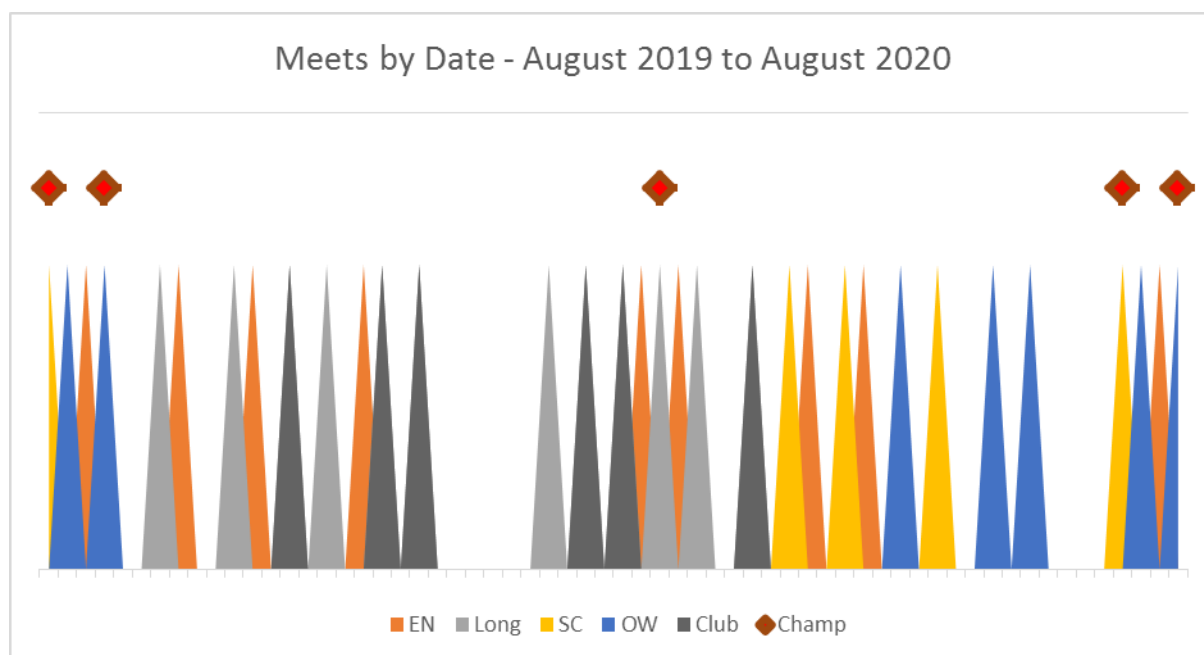
15. Juniors are restricted to 12 and under and open water meets are open to swimmers 11 and over.

Table 2: Meets by Swimmer Type	
SNTI Aged (long / short / open water)	12
Championship (combined junior and open and aged)	3
Junior (12 and under, encouragement meets)	7
Open (clubs)	6
Grand Total	28

16. Table 3 and Figure 1 provide information on the timing of meets.

Table 3: Meets by date					
	Encouragement	Long Course	Open Water	Short Course	Total
2019					
Sep	1	1			2
Oct	1	2			3
Nov	1	2			3
Dec		1			1
2020					
Jan		1			1
Feb	1	2			3
Mar	1	2			3
Apr	1	1		2	4
May	1		1	1	3
Jun			1		1
Jul			1		1
Aug			2	1	3
Total	7	12	5	4	28

17. The timing of meets is consistent with previous years. The season has been broken into three periods, with some minor overlap.
- September to March is long course, culminating in the long course championships in early March
 - March to August is short course, culminating in the short course championships in early August
 - June to August is open water culminating in the open water championships in late August

Figure 1:

18. The main break in the season is:

- across Christmas (mid-December to February), noting that Adelaide's age championship is held in mid-January
- June and July for those who do not compete in the open water.

Northern Territory Championships

19. These meets are our flagship meets. The long course and short course meets are for swimmers who are 10 and over, whereas the open water is for swimmers who are 11 and over. The long course will require qualifying times, as proposed by the Competition Committee.

Club Invitational

20. Ideally each club will hold a meet and that meet will be at the same time each year.

21. Ideally, meets held outside of Darwin are held on long weekends to allow for travel time. SNTI and the club will also need to investigate affordable accommodation and travel options. Consistency of dates over a number of years is important to ensure swimmers who have to travel are able to plan ahead.

Open Water meets

22. There are four meets plus the Championship planned across the dry season. This is consistent with previous years. The timing is required to ensure safety of swimmers.

23. Open Water meets are open to non-SNTI members and need to be advertised to the wider swimming community (i.e. in Darwin Triathlon Club newsletters, Surf Club newsletters, at the pools).

Encouragement meets

24. The 12 & Under McDonald meets are for beginners. This is designed for children who do not competitively swim yet, or have recently started, such as new club swimmers, schools and swim school kids. It is an opportunity for them to have some fun and learn the basics of competition swimming.
25. It will also include multiclass meets, to again encourage multiclass swimmers to participate. It will have modified rules, and will require fewer officials than normal meets. It also provides opportunities to train officials.
26. Times will be non-approved. Meets will run with the Dolphin Timing System where available.
27. As these meets will include non-members, we aim to keep registration simple.
28. The Committee has focused on rotating these meets across pools to allow all Darwin clubs to promote themselves. In centres outside of Darwin, it is expected that these types of meets will be undertaken by the relevant clubs via club meets.
29. There will be a small fee of \$10 per child to participate, to help cover administrative costs of running the meets.
30. The Committee has currently scheduled 7 meets, 3 prior to Christmas and 4 after.

SNTI Meets

31. These meets are to ensure there is a minimum number of opportunities for members to qualify for the Championships (long course and short course) meets. This Committee will ensure races that haven't been offered at other meets e.g. 1500m Freestyle are offered at these meets.
32. It is proposed to hold short meets on either Saturday mornings or evenings. This will provide a consistency of meet times and provide swimmers with the best opportunity to qualify for meets, as there are only limited races in each meet.
33. The Saturday evening timing will allow non-Darwin swimmers with an opportunity to compete.
34. These meets are designed for competitive club members and times will be approved.

2019-20 Meet Calendar

Dates	MEET	Event Type	Who	VENUE
Saturday 21st September	SNTI Meet 1	Long	SNTI	Parap Pool
Saturday 28th September	Encouragement Meet	EN	SNTI	Palmerston Pool
Saturday 19th October	SNTI Meet 2	Long	SNTI	Parap Pool
Saturday 19th October	Encouragement Meet	EN	SNTI	Parap pool
26-27 October	Invitational: KATHERINE	Long	Club	Katherine Pool
Saturday 9th November	SNTI Meet 3	Long	SNTI	Parap Pool
Saturday 23rd November	Encouragement Meet	EN	SNTI	Casuarina Pool
29-30 November	Invitational: CAS STORM	Long	club	Casuarina Pool
Saturday 14 December	Alice Springs Invitational	long	club	Alice Springs
Saturday 25 January	SNTI Meet 4	long	SNTI	Parap Pool
Saturday 8th Feb	Nightcliff Invitational	long	club	Parap Pool
Saturday 22nd February	Invitational: PALMERSTON	Long	club	Palmerston Pool
Saturday 29th February	Encouragement Meet	EN	SNTI	Nightcliff
5-8 March	NT Open & Age Championships	Long	SNTI	Parap Pool
Saturday 7th March	Encouragement Meet	EN	SNTI	Parap Pool
Saturday 14th March	SNTI Meet 5	long	SNTI	Parap Pool
Saturday 4th April	Darwin Invitational (top End Sprints)	long	club	Parap Pool
Saturday 11th April	SNTI SC Meet	SC	SNTI	Parap Pool
Saturday 7th March	Encouragement Meet	EN	SNTI	Parap Pool
Saturday 25th April	SNTI SC Meet	SC	SNTI	Parap Pool
Saturday 2nd May	Encouragement Meet	EN	SNTI	Palmerston Pool
Saturday 16 May	Open Water #1	OW	SNTI	Darwin Waterfront
29-31 May	SNTI SC Meet	SC	SNTI	Parap Pool
Saturday 20th June	Open Water #2	OW	SNTI	Darwin Waterfront
Saturday 4th July	Open Water #3	OW	SNTI	Darwin Waterfront
Sunday 8 Aug	NT Short Course Championships (10 & Over)	SC	SNTI	Parap Pool
Saturday 15th August	Open Water #4	OW	SNTI	Darwin Waterfront
Saturday 29th August	NT Open Water Championships	OW	SNTI	Darwin Waterfront