

Dear Swimming Wellington Clubs,

Recently Swimming Wellington have been working on a new initiative for competitive swimmers, registered with Swimming Wellington, and would like to share with our clubs, those selected and to gain further understanding of the programme, and the selection process for swimmers wishing to work towards selection into the programme in 2016.

This letter provides a brief overview of the All Stars Development programme and what it entails, for the athletes and coaches that have been selected. Attached is also a basic look at the athlete development pathway within swimming and where this programme sits within the SNZ framework. We hope that this gives a transparent outlook on the selection process.

Swimming Wellington's All Stars Development programme has been selected to be a part of the Wellington City Council Talent ID Programme which is administered by the Sport Wellington Performance Hub. This partnership allows athletes selected onto the programme to have access to High Performance Sport New Zealand resources.

When selecting the swimmers several elements were taken into consideration; age, performance at national events in 2014, and FINA points.

The All Stars Development programme is set to work towards developing athletes at a performance level in order to promote a smoother transition into the Power of Black and High Performance environment. The aim is to work with identified athletes on developing core foundation level skills required to train, compete, balancing study with training, family life and peer contact. The project is planned around developing the athlete's ability out and in the water.

This process creates a well-rounded athlete maximising their ability and works towards minimising their weaknesses to reduce impact on performance in the water. This approach allows foundation level skills to be put into place to support the athlete. This will help to give the swimmers the tools required for to maximise their opportunity to successfully continue along the performance pathway.

Swimming Wellington's role in this programme will be the co-ordination and the administration of the programme with the athletes and Coaches. This role will provide the administration and management of the athletes for services within the programme and aims at supporting the coach to achieve and develop each swimmer within the programme, continuing along the athlete development pathway.

WCC TiD programme content

This element of the programme is to be delivered by Helen Regan, High Performance Sport New Zealand and the topics will look at skills for swimmers out of the water and provides a holistic approach as swimmers look at developing to enter the performance environment. Helen will also work closely with swimmers and coaches, one-on-one, to ensure swimmer's specific goals and skills are focused on their personal development pathway.

Funding has been allocated towards a number of sports across the Wellington Region so athletes in the programme will be given the opportunity to interact with other performance level athletes excelling in their sports.

Swimming Wellington also aims to take the group of athletes over to the Queensland State Championships in December 2015 where the athletes will be able to put their developed skills, over the season, into practice as they are placed in a high pressure unfamiliar environment against unknown competition. Swimming Wellington has currently got a potential sponsor interested in assisting in funding this part of the programme, however we will keep Club's informed of progress.

All athletes that are selected have performed to the selection criteria standard over the past 12 months. These 11 athletes have been notified of their selection and confirmed their involvement into the programme and Swimming Wellington would like to congratulate the following swimmers on their selection;

Kyle Barnes- Capital
Maggie Burns- Capital
Hamish Trlin- Capital
Joe Hammond- Capital
Devlin Forsythe- Karori
Alex Pampalone- Karori
Bronagh Ryan – Porirua City Aquatics
Rebecca Moynihan- Raumati
Ruby Health – SwimZone
Chelsea Edwards - SwimZone

This is a new and exciting perspective on athlete development for swimmers in the Wellington region and we look forward to working with the athletes, coaches, and various service providers throughout 2015. Launches for the programme are currently being planned but dates are yet to be confirmed and bearing in mind athlete and Coach requirements with Opens and NAG's in the not too distant future.

Further information will be provided as it becomes available to athletes and coaches. News and information will also be circulated and put up on the Swimming Wellington website and Facebook page.