

WORLD CLASS SWIMMING PROGRAMMES

PLACEMENT OF SWIMMERS AT THE BRITISH SWIMMING INTENSIVE TRAINING CENTRES

INTRODUCTION

It is important that British Swimming develops a process for the placement of swimmers in the ITC Network. Such a policy position needs to be clearly communicated by British Swimming to the following parties:

- ITC Coaches
- Home Coaches (non ITC Coaches) and their clubs.
- Home Country Swimming Associations (HCSA)
- BSCTA
- UK Sport
- Swimmers wishing to seek a placement at an ITC
- Parents of swimmers seeking a placement at an ITC

Why do we need a policy position on the placement of swimmers at ITCs?

It is essential that communication channels are open to all relevant parties to provide a transparent and smooth transition in every case.

There are several instances in which discussion might lead to an athlete placement at an ITC e.g.

- Initiated by British Swimming via the Head Coach of the ITC with the full knowledge and support of the home coach and the British Head Coach (Podium athletes) or the British Development Coach (Development athletes).
- Direct contact made by a swimmer to an ITC Coach.
- Direct contact made by the home coach and swimmer to the ITC Head Coach.
- Direct contact made by a swimmer and/or their coach to other British Swimming staff i.e. British Head Coach, British Development Coach, Director of World Class Programme etc.

What process and criteria will be applied by British Swimming when offering an ITC placement to a swimmer?

- The British Head Coach (Podium level athletes) or British Development Coach (Development level athletes) must endorse the placement of all ITC swimmers.
- The ITC Coaching staff must in all cases take their recommendations for placing swimmers at an ITC to the British Head Coach and British Development Coach for approval.
- The swimmer's home coach and parents (where appropriate) must be kept informed of all dialog, no matter who has initiated the request.
- Every swimmer under consideration for an ITC placement will be requested to complete and British Swimming ITC Enquiry Form and assessed to establish:
 - If the individual swimmer is currently on the World Class programme, and if not, if the athlete is viewed by British Swimming and the HCSAs to have the potential to be fast tracked if awarded an ITC place.
 - If the coaching skills-sets at the ITC meet the needs of the individual athlete.
 - If the ITC best matches the academic and lifestyle preferences of the swimmer.
- Following the offer of an ITC placement, an annual plan will be developed by the ITC Coach, the swimmer and their home coach covering the initial 12 months of the placement. This plan will set out transitional and realistic pool & lifestyle targets for the swimmer and link into the Personal Improvement Needs (PIN) process.

Can swimmers visit an ITC to see whether they would like it?

British Swimming will provide visits for swimmers considering a long-term placement at an ITC. Such visits will offer swimmers the opportunity to become acquainted with the swimming, lifestyle and academic choices at the ITC.

ITC visits will be approved on the basis that the home coach is aware of the activity and all athlete visits will include the opportunity for the home coach to attend if their other commitments permit. As such, the athlete, their home coach and parents (if under 18), will be required to complete a British Swimming ITC Enquiry Form prior to any visits being arranged.

Financial support may be offered to support such visits as outlined in the document '*Process and Support for Swimmers to visit an ITC for a Trial Period*'

Do swimmers need to change Clubs if they move to an ITC?

There are no obligations on a swimmer to become a member of the club attached to the ITC venue. Whilst it is the strong preference of British Swimming that swimmers maintain their association with their home club programme, club representation will be entirely the swimmers own choice.

What recognition will British Swimming provide to the Club and Coach if one of their swimmers moves to an ITC?

It is vital that British Swimming acknowledge the significant contribution the home coach and club have made in a swimmer's development prior to their move to the ITC.

As such, a system of dual recognition/branding will be introduced. For example Sally Jones moving to the Bath ITC from Liverpool and choosing not to swim for Bath University would be listed in event programmes as "Sally Jones-City of Liverpool/Bath ITC".

Where swimmers have trained in their home club programme for at least 18 months prior to transferring to the ITC:

- Their home clubs will continue to score Podium & Development club funding points for that swimmer for 2 years (this does not apply to Offshore Centre or USA based swimmers).
- Their home coach will be prioritised for World Class Programme CPD opportunities in the event that the swimmer excels at major benchmark meets.

SUMMARY

The placement of swimmers in the ITC Network must be clearly communicated to ensure transparency and buy in of all parties concerned. A consistent approach to the identification, assessment and confirmation of all potential ITC athletes must be adopted and appropriate processes applied. Most importantly, the club and home coach's contribution in the swimmer's development must be acknowledged and a system of recognition introduced.