



WORLD CLASS SWIMMING PROGRAMME

EDUCATION POLICY 2009

- 1. INTRODUCTION**
- 2. SECONDARY EDUCATION PROTOCOL (Key stage 5, 16-19)**
- 3. FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION PROTOCOL**

1. Introduction

The aim of this policy is to create an environment for Podium and Development swimmers that enables them to train and compete whilst effectively following their chosen course of study.

1.1 Policy Statement

British Swimming supports athletes to combine study with their sporting commitments. The benefits of education can assist athletes to develop their career pathway whilst enabling them to follow an area of interest, develop their subject specific skills and widen their social support network. Due to the considerable demands placed upon athletes in terms of training and competition balancing the two components can be challenging. An integrated approach between coaches, athlete, parents / carers and educational institution is essential to ensure the athlete has a positive and successful experience.

2. SECONDARY EDUCATION PROTOCOL

This section will detail the procedure for athletes in secondary education, key stage 5, 16- 19 years. The policy will apply to all athletes. In circumstances where the school / College liaison has been managed effectively by the coach, athlete or parent and does not require the PL Advisers direct involvement, a letter will be sent from British Swimming to the school via the athlete.

- 2.1 A parent / coach/ PL adviser will contact the Head Teacher of the selected school prior to the start of the academic year to determine the appropriate contact person at the school. A meeting between the British swimming PL Advisor, parents / carers, athlete and appropriate designated staff from the school can then be arranged as appropriate. The purpose of this initial meeting is to provide details of the athletes programme and identify potential areas where parents, British Swimming and the school could work together in supporting the athlete. Following this initial meeting, communication between the school and British Swimming will be on a mutual needs basis.
- 2.2 Where possible schools will provide flexible arrangements for an athlete in relation to their school timetable to assist the athlete to meet the demands of training and competition schedule, in line with their Local Educational Authority guidance. This will be on an individual school basis and will form an agreement between the school, the athlete and British Swimming, and may include the following areas:
 - Slightly later arrival at school to accommodate early morning training sessions
 - The inclusion of extra study periods during school day, aimed at alleviating pressure in evenings, to promote better quality academic work.
 - Possible additional revision/tutoring included in school day, especially if athlete misses classes due to being away competing.
 - Flexibility of appropriately accredited courses in respect of amount and duration.
 - Acceptance that an athlete may not be able to compete for their school if it conflicts with national level competition or training demands.

- Flexibility in assessment and coursework deadlines where appropriate.

The list above is designed to be a starting point in assisting each individual athlete's circumstance. Appropriate support mechanisms can then be arranged, where possible, in agreement with the school and the ITC.

Accommodation

- Appropriate accommodation must be sought prior to the athlete starting at their academic institution. This must be agreed between all parties including athlete, parents, coach and educational institution.

3. FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION PROTOCOL

3.1 Athletes need to apply for their selected courses using the UCAS system for undergraduate courses. This needs to be completed prior to the deadline in the January for the next academic year, starting in September. Athletes can contact the PL Advisor for support during this process.

3.2 British Swimming will contact the appropriate contact person at the selected University / College prior to the start of the academic year in August / September.

3.3 Prior to the commencement of the course a meeting will be arranged between the PL Advisor, athlete and institutional staff to discuss the following points:

- Course demands
- Procedures for absences, extensions
- Swimming demands, weekly, annually and Olympic cycle
- Agreement of appropriate lines of communication and contacts
- Course flexibility, identification of potential breaks in study and credit transfer.

3.4 Athletes are encouraged to communicate directly with academic staff regarding sporting commitments in addition to the PL Advisors support.