

CLUB ACCESS TO ITC WATER TIME

INTRODUCTION

Requests have been made by club coaches for their squads or individual swimmers to access long-course water time in the Intensive Training Centres.

If we are to support these requirements, there is a need to develop a policy framework to ensure that the allocation of pool time across the ITC Network is undertaken in a strategic and planned way.

BACKGROUND

British Swimming has an agreement with each of the Intensive Training Centre Lead Partners (Bath, Loughborough, Stirling, Stockport and Swansea) for an average of 25 hours water time per week. Bath ITC trains exclusively Long Course, and the remaining ITCs have a weekly mixture of both Long Course and Short Course training sessions. If this water time becomes available when ITC Groups are away from the Centre at Training Camps or Competitions, British Swimming will work with the ITC Lead Partner to ensure that any available contracted water time is optimally used.

Additionally, Bath, Stirling, Stockport and Swansea ITC partners have a contractual obligation to provide British Swimming with an additional 10 x 2.5 hour sessions over a seven day period each year, and in Loughborough, this extends to 5x1 week periods per year consisting of 10 x 2.5 hour sessions per week. This additional water time provides the opportunity for domestic national team training camps. However, this allocation so far has primarily been used to stage British Swimming Preparation Meets.

Clearly, utilising any unused or unallocated ITC water time would offer a value-added service to athletes and coaches who require access to long course training, and provide an additional level of assistance and support to athletes in their quest for podium success in 2012 and beyond.

ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE ITC WATER TIME

PRIORITISATION

Prioritisation for Training Camp opportunities will first lie with any National Team requirements (Senior, Development and Open Water). Consideration to release any further available ITC water time will then be made as follows:

First priority	British Swimming Podium Clubs with Podium athletes or individual Podium athletes not in a Podium or Development Club
Second priority	Podium Clubs without Podium athletes
Third priority	British Swimming Development Clubs
Fourth priority	Development athletes not training in a British Swimming Podium or Development Club

Within each priority above, precedence will be given to clubs with the greater number of World Class Athletes.

PROCESS

The following process will come into effect from 01 July 2009 and will be reviewed annually.

1. Applications from the clubs will be made to the National Performance Director, Michael Scott, via a formal application form which will be available on the British Swimming website, or provided via the British Swimming office on request. The application form will be completed by the club coach to specify their preferred ITC training venue, number of lanes, preferred dates and swimmers.
2. Allocation of ITC Training Camp Water Time.
 - i. National training camps will take priority when allocating ITC Training Camp Water Time
 - ii. Clubs applying for access to ITC Training Camp water time must make their request **by 01 October each year** so that all requests can be considered together and prioritised.
 - iii. Recommendations in line with this policy will be presented to the NPD by the Programme Planning & Evaluation Manager and the applicants will be notified by the Programme Planning & Evaluation Manager of the final decision by the 01 November.
 - iv. Once the Training Camp provision at the ITCs has been allocated, there will be no further opportunities to apply until the following year.
3. Allocation of ITC Unused Water Time
 - i. Applications from Clubs to access other available ITC water time (i.e. not ITC Training Camp Water time) will be accepted at any time during the year. Applications may also be made by Scottish Swimming for access to available Stirling ITC water time and likewise by Swim Wales for available water time at Swansea ITC.
 - ii. Throughout the season, ITC Head Coaches will inform the Programme Planning & Evaluation Manager as soon it is known of the dates and times their ITC Group will not be utilising their contracted water time.
 - iii. The Programme Planning & Evaluation Manager will review applications received and contact the Clubs to confirm their requirements still stand.
 - iv. Recommendations in line with this policy will be presented to the NPD by the Programme Planning & Evaluation Manager and the applicants will be notified by the Programme Planning & Evaluation Manager of the final decision.
4. Where more than one club/athlete has applied for the same water time in 2 and 3 above, the NPD may allocate shared pool or lane space as appropriate.
5. The Programme Planning & Evaluation Manager will inform the ITC Lead Partner and ITC Head Coach of the successful applicants and provide them with the relevant details i.e. Club, staff names, swimmers, dates and times, number of lanes allocated to each club etc.
6. Any requests for associated land training time would need to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, taking guidance from the ITC Lead Partner, noting any of the Centre's regulations i.e. the age of the athlete, any insurance issues, etc.
7. The Club would be responsible for the booking and payment of any associated accommodation requirements and would be responsible for any other associated costs outside that of the pool and land conditioning hire.
8. Within the six-monthly Programme Review and Evaluation cycle, feedback would be sought from the Club Coach as to the overall benefits (or otherwise) on their swimmers' preparation of the ITC water time provided for that period.