



Swimming

BAY OF PLENTY

SBOP JUNIOR LEAGUE 2017 DOCUMENT

Swimming Bay of Plenty in conjunction with our Coaches and Clubs are thrilled to be able to present to you the Inaugural 2017 Junior League. We believe that for our junior athletes (12 and under) the emphasis should be placed heavily on skill development and the fun of participation. Our calendar in the past has been cluttered with no real progressions from one meet to the next. We want to attract young people into swimming so this League will provide a more structured pathway from Junior League to Junior Swim Meets to Premier Meets and beyond.

The Junior League is for non-competitive and competitive swimmers aged 12 years and younger as at the date of each round. There are three rounds of competition:

- Each round of competition is composed of two sessions: Session 1: Sunday Morning
Session 2: Sunday afternoon
- Clubs have been placed into two equal sized groups for each round of competition. Club members must compete in the round allocated to their club – there will be NO EXCEPTIONS. Each round will be hosted by a Club. Round One: Otumoetai. Round Two: Taupo. Round Three: Mt Maunganui.
- Both sessions are held at the same venue (enabling the use of electronic timing for all meets)
- Sessions (warm up and races) to be completed in under 3 hours. Racing finishes on the 3 hour mark

Our research discloses that our sport already carries many large barriers to entry when compared with other sports at a junior level. These barriers include (but are not limited to) high participation cost in both terms of time and money. Therefore:

- **Meet entry one off flat fee of \$10**
- **Maximum of 3 individual events per swimmer**
- **Open to all registered BOP 12 and under swimmers both competitive and non-competitive**
- **Entries made via SNZ database**

Conditions of entry: (See the separate event flyers for race details)

- **Round One Junior League:** hosted by Otumoetai Swimming Club but racing will be at the Greerton Aquatic and Leisure Centre, Kiteroa Street, Greerton. July 2nd 2017.
- **Round Two Junior League:** hosted by Taupo and racing will be at the AC Baths Taupo. July 30 2017.
- **Round Three Junior League** will be hosted by Mount Maunganui and racing will be at Baywave. August 27 2017.

Session One: Only the following Club members are eligible to enter - no exceptions (athletes will be removed if entered in wrong round):

- Round One - Otumoetai, Taupo, Whakatane, Papamoa, Tauranga.
- Round Two - Otumoetai, Greerton, Whakatane, Mount Maunganui, Tauranga.
- Round Three - Otumoetai, Swim Rotorua, Whakatane, Te Puke, Liz Van Welie.



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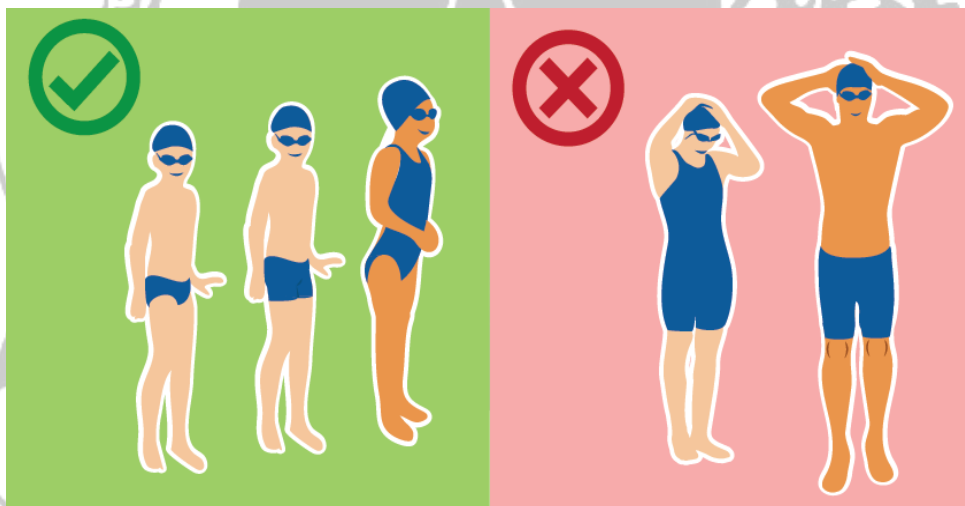
Session Two: Only the following Club members are eligible to enter - no exceptions (athletes will be removed if entered in wrong round):

- Round One - Swim Rotorua, Greerton, Kawerau, Mount Maunganui, Te Puke, Liz Van Welie.
- Round Two: Swim Rotorua, Taupo, Kawerau, Papamoa, Liz Van Welie, Te Puke.
- Round Three: Greerton, Taupo, Papamoa, Tauranga, Kawerau, Mount Maunganui.

Age must be 12 years and under as at: the date of the meet:

- Round One: 2nd July
- Round Two: 30th July
- Round Three: 27th August

To keep young swimmers in our sport, we need to be providing an environment that encourages them, and keeps the level of competition and pressure appropriate for their age. We have spent a lot of time considering this issue and we are all in agreement that for the Junior League there will be a **BAN ON ALL JAMMERS/RACING SUITS**. So **NO RACING TOGS/JAMMERS** permitted. Males are only allowed trunk, aqua short cuts, or classic brief. Girls can only wear traditional one-piece swimsuits.



There are many reasons we believe this is the best course of action including:

- There is no documented evidence that supports performance benefits of racing suits for athletes 12 and under.
- Personal best times should not be the only evaluation or measure of success for younger swimmers. Technique and skill development is essential.
- The cost of suits makes them unattainable for many families. SBOP does not want to add any extra financial pressure on parents with unnecessary purchases



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- These suits are not designed for young swimmers. The manufacturers design these suits for older athletes. One of the main benefits of wearing technical suits is for muscle compression.

- A common misconception amongst young swimmers is that without a suit, a swimmer cannot swim fast. Juniors do not need a suit to swim fast they will improve and attain PBs regardless of the suit due to gradual increase in training and skill development.
- The aim should be to build mentally-strong athletes, confident in his or her own ability and training ethic rather than an athlete depending on a suit to get an improved result.

Entries via the SNZ database:

- Entries close Round One: Thursday 28th June at 11.59pm.
- Entries close Round Two: Wednesday 26th July at 10pm.
- Entries close Round Three: Wednesday 23rd August at 10pm.

There is no marshalling, swimmers who fail to take the blocks will be deemed to have withdrawn. Team Managers should try to notify the Marshall of such withdrawals as a *matter of courtesy*

NT's are not accepted - please ensure you email times if not in database

Club relays are free - We prefer relays to be entered via the database or emailed by the closing date

Admission Fee's: Swimmers and officials are free. Spectator charges will apply.

Electronic timing will be used

The **one start rule** will apply and **over the top** starts will be used

Awards: Ribbons will be issued for HEAT WINNERS

Poolside officials: Clubs will be allocated lanes based on athletes attending. All Clubs are required to provide officials.

The Meet will be conducted under the technical rules of FINA with **local rules taking precedence**

Events will be swum as per the programme however the host Club in conjunction with SBOP reserve the right to restrict the number of swimmers in sessions should the session time line exceed three hours.

A Medical Certificate will be required for Refunds on withdrawal and **must** be handed into control *before* the conclusion of the meet.



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We look forward to bringing you this exciting League and any queries on the information in this document and format please contact swimmingbop@gmail.com.

