

Swim Club – Age Up Date

Club rules: 16.1, 18.1, 19.1

12-APR-2008

William Ferguson

The date at which age's are calculated for Championships is the 1-MAR each year.

It is used to determine the age divisions for the Principal's Award and the Club Championships. It is not used to determine age for records which is calculated based on age on blocks.

1. It needs to be the same date each year so that no child competes in the same age group 2 years running, nor skips an age group between years.
2. Some date needs to be chosen at which dates are determined.
3. It is close to the date of the championships so that as near as possible swimmers are swimming as at date on blocks.
4. Whatever date is chosen always advantages some kids and disadvantages others. Kids born just after the age up date have the most benefit as they will be the oldest kids in their cohort.
5. Whatever date is chosen always means that kids are racing against others kids born within 364 days of themselves.
6. Because school year is grouped based on 30-DEC, a 1-MAR age up creates the *perception* for roughly 17% of athletes that they are competing against older kids. It's just that kids born early in the year (before 1-MAR) will compete against kids in the next higher school year.
7. Changing the age up date to 30-DEC to match the school year would seem to solve the problem, except that the date used to divide the new preps is 30-JUN. So using 30-DEC would mean that there would be an adverse perception for 50% of all the younger swimmers. And likewise a 30-JUN date means an adverse perception for 50% of all older swimmers.
8. NB if we do change the date, it will create a season where some kids either never swim as a particular age group or swim as the same age again.
9. I suggest that we defer a review of the age up date until the new school year age division has progressed through the club, at which point realigning the club's age up date to match the school age (ie 30-JUN) would seem warranted. So revisit in roughly 12 years time.

NB Retarding the age up date by 3 months provides a large advantage for the kids in that 3 month block (as they go from the youngest in their cohort to oldest), but introduces a 3 month disadvantage for the kids in the other 9 months. And these disadvantaged kids could mount an argument along the same lines that the age up date should be retarded further, and so on and so on.