



HSC – Relay Commitment and Withdrawal Policy

The purpose of this policy is to set out clear expectations regarding swimmer commitment to relay events and the process for withdrawal once selected.

Relay events are team based and require reliability, fairness and respect for teammates, coaches and event organisers.

This policy applies to all swimmers, in all age groups, representing the club in relay events at:

-  Arena League
-  Peanuts
-  County Championships
-  Regional, National and Open Meets
-  Any other competition where relay events form part of the programme

Relay Selection

Selected swimmers will be **offered** the opportunity to be part of the team for the relay event.

Once the swimmer (and parent/guardian where applicable) **accepts** relay selection, this will be considered as a **firm commitment**.

Relay participation is a team responsibility. Withdrawal by one swimmer may result in the entire team being withdrawn or may significantly disrupt the coaches' planning.

Swimmers should only accept relay selection if they are willing to and able to compete.

Acceptable Reasons for Withdrawal

Withdrawal from a relay after acceptance will only be considered acceptable in the following circumstances:

-  Illness or injury
-  Welfare or medical concerns
-  Exceptional personal or family circumstances
-  A coach-led decision based on performance, recovery or swimmer wellbeing

A preference to focus on individual events, nerves, or a change of mind is not considered an acceptable reason once commitment has been given.

Notification Requirements

Any request to withdraw from a relay must be communicated to the coaching team as early as possible. Where possible, swimmers are expected to provide a minimum of 7 days' notice prior to the event.

Late notification may prevent a suitable replacement being found and may result in the team being withdrawn from the relay event.



Consequences of Late or Unjustified Withdrawal

Where a swimmer withdraws from a relay after acceptance and outside of the agreed timescales without an acceptable reason, the club may apply one or more of the following:

-  Reduced priority or exclusion from relay selection for future competitions
-  Ineligible for relay selection at the next championship or league round
-  A formal discussion with the swimmer (and parent/guardian where applicable) to address expectations for future relay events.

Parental Responsibility

Parents/Guardians are expected to:

-  Support the importance of relay events and team commitments
-  Encourage swimmers to raise concerns **before** accepting relay selection
-  Reinforce that accepting a relay place is a commitment to teammates, not an optional extra

Coach Discretion

Coaches retain full discretion over relay selection, replacements and final team composition.

All decisions will prioritise swimmer welfare and fairness to other swimmers.

This policy does not limit a coach's ability to make changes in the best interest of the team

Acknowledgement

By accepting selection for a relay event, swimmers (and parents/guardians where applicable) confirm that they understand and agree to comply with this policy.