

Age Group National Squad Specification Sheet 2026-27

Generally, Boys 13 to 15 Years (Born 2014 to 2012) and Girls 13 to 16 Years (Born 2014 to 2011)

Total available weekly training sessions	Pool – 14 hours	Land – 2 hours
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Squad Profile

The Age Group National Squad is part of Guildford City's High-Performance Section and forms part of the National & Regional Pathway sitting between the Senior National and Junior National Squads. It is for swimmers aged 13 to 16 who have generally already achieved or have the aspiration to achieve an English National qualifying time in at least one event. Members are expected to target a minimum of 10 hours per week training in the pool and 1 hour per week for land-based training in order to benefit from the carefully planned training program that aims to prepare all individuals for competitions and racing. Training is both physically and technically challenging with the coaches always encouraging and motivating swimmers to keep their competitive spirit and eagerness to develop and improve.

It should be noted that the Coaches are continually reviewing and assessing a swimmer's training ability and attendance and their attitude to learning and progressing. Our goal is to help the child develop into a self-motivated, independent, hardworking athlete. Parents are asked to respect the Coach's judgement and not to expect or request a child's squad promotion.

Minimum Standard

Generally, to achieve at least one South East Regional qualifying time in any event within the previous 12 months

Entry into the squad

Consideration for a promotion / entry into the Squad by existing Guildford City swimmers or swimmers from other clubs will be based upon:

"Key Measures"

1. age eligibility
2. a clearly demonstrated and sustained work ethic
3. commitment to the existing squad training & competition programme
4. meeting the squad minimum time standard

Maintaining a Place in the Squad

In order for a swimmer to maintain their place in the Squad they will have to continue to meet the "Key Measures" as listed above

Movement to other squads / pathways

Swimmers who meet the relevant “Key Measures” may be considered for a promotion to the Senior Performance Squad, Senior National Squad or Junior Performance Squad at any point during the year at the discretion of the coaches.

Swimmers who do not meet the “Key Measures” may be transferred to a more appropriate training pathway at any point during the year at the discretion of the coaches.

Time Out

Boys aged 15 years (born 2012) will generally time out of the Squad in August 2027

Girls aged 16 years (born 2011) will generally time out of the Squad in August 2027

- Ages as at 31 December 2027
- Special consideration may be made at the Coaches’ discretion waiving the age parameters. In reviewing each case Coaches will consider the history of a swimmer’s commitment to training and competition as well as their work ethic and maturity.
- The Coaches may waive any of the criteria contained in this document at their sole discretion.
- Please note that standards stated may change without prior notice or justification.
- Graduation from squad to squad will normally take place at the beginning of the new swimming year in September.
- Swimmers missing prolonged periods of training for various reasons (including but not limited to exams, illness, holidays) maybe invited to train with a more appropriate squad until they have regained their fitness or skills levels to the High-Performance standard
- Due to its variable nature Open Water Swimming will not be considered as qualification to move or to retain squad places.
- Swimmers and/or parents failing to adhere to the clubs Code of Conduct could jeopardise their place in the High-Performance Squads. Procedures will be carried out as per the disciplinary procedures outlined on the Club website.
- Swimmers may not attend any other swimming activity outside of Guildford City Swimming Club; examples of this would include training camps, training clinics, and open meets without the Squad Coache’s express permission. If unauthorised attendance at any other swimming activity takes place, a swimmer may be asked to leave High Performance without notice. Please note this also applies to swimmers trialling at another swimming club or educational establishment.

- Attending Tuesday am SSP training session is by invitation only and is offered to those members who regularly attend all of the other Age Group National Squad training sessions.



Motto

'Shaping the Future of Swimming in the South East'



Mission Statement

Every day we strive to provide an environment where personal excellence, honesty and commitment are expected. Through the pursuit of our dreams and goals we learn valuable life skills and develop the drive to achieve our potential in swimming and life. We are committed to fostering a healthy environment (mentally and physically) where swimmers are not afraid to fall down, fall short or fail in the lofty pursuit of their dreams; this is where character is developed.



Vision Statement

To continue to build a tradition of swimming excellence and develop our national reputation for producing passionate, inspired and high producing swimmers and coaches. Our aim is to ensure that every athlete has the opportunity to reach their potential within the sport (regardless of standard) and to provide a culture that encourages learning and personal development within a safe friendly environment. Good sportsmanship will always be encouraged with the expectation that our members strive to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat. To maintain the highest possible standards we believe that team unity, character development and personal responsibility are paramount to providing a successful culture for all.





Swim England
Swimming

Performance
Centre

Performance



Team



Character





Key Values

★ Teamwork

Support each other

We aim to support everyone involved with Guildford City Swimming Club or the University of Surrey. This includes **supporting team mates** at competitions and training partners during training sessions.

★ Performance

Commitment

This involves making a commitment to the club and includes commitment to **attendance, work ethic** and **punctuality** at training, competition and any other activities associated with the club.

Adaptability

Everyone needs to be adaptable to training and competition but we expect all members to show **willingness** and **tenacity** to changing under challenging circumstances. Furthermore, we all need to show **resilience** within our lives and the ability to bounce back from adversity is an important quality.

★ Character

Responsibility

Our expectation is that every member takes responsibility for their actions to include training, competition and any other activities and lifestyle management.

Respect

Our expectation is that everyone shows respect for other **members**, the **facility** and for us as **individuals**.

Ownership

Our expectation is that we all take ownership for the **process** of **training**, take **accountability** for our actions and ownership for **self-reflection** of our actions.

