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# Moree Diggers Swimming Club

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## Handicapping Rules and Guidelines

Adopted June 2018

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# 1. Formal Structure

- 1.1. The name of the Club is Moree Diggers Swimming Club (MDSC)
- 1.2. The Handicapping Rules are to be read in conjunction with the MDSC Constitution relating to by-laws and definitions.

# 2. Definitions

- 2.1. Category relates to swimmer's classification – Tadpole, Mini, Intermediate or Adult
- 2.2. An "Adult" is defined as a club member over the age of 18 years old.
- 2.3. An "Intermediate" swimmer is aged 13 – 18 years old.
- 2.4. A "Mini" swimmer is aged 6 – 13 years old; however the individual must be able to confidently swim 50m freestyle unaided.
- 2.5. A "Tadpole" swimmer is the youngest member of the club. They must be able to swim the nominated length without human assistance; however they can use swimming apparatus' such as noodles, kickboards or jackets (no arm floaties).
- 2.6. A "grandparent" is a financial club member whose direct descendant (ie their child or adopted child) has given birth (or adopted) a child of their own.
- 2.7. The "Money Swim" is the nominated race for the week being 30m, 50m, or Brace Relay. Heats are swam, the closest 8 swimmers to their time, go into a final. Winners of finals are awarded prize.,
- 2.8. Handicapped (or nominated) time is the swimmer's time it takes to swim the event. It is based on times previously recorded, plus 2 seconds.
- 2.9. Time trials are a new member's first swim to determine what their handicap time will be each event.
- 2.10. "Closest to Time" is a prize category recognizing the swimmer who swim's closest to their nominated time.
- 2.11. "Biggest Bust" is the swimmer who has exceeded their nomination time by the largest amount in freestyle (this award is only for Mini swimmers and Tadpoles)
- 2.12. "On the button" is a saying when the swimmer does the exact right time of their nominated swim.
- 2.13. "Brace Relay" is a team event with one swimmer doing 50m, the other 30m. It is Adult/Adult (or Intermediate) combination and Child/Child (under 18s) combination
- 2.14. "Rex Kelly" is a team event with one swimmer doing 50m, the other 30m. It is Adult and Under 18s combination.
- 2.15. "Don Ford" is a team event with one swimmer doing 50m, the other 30m. It is an Adult/Adult (over 18s only) combination

- 2.16. "Poss Wilson" is a team event with 3 swimmers doing 50m, the last doing 30m. All swimmers are Adults (Adults and Intermediates only)
- 2.17. "Vinny Heinrick" is a team event with 3 swimmers doing 50m, the last doing 30m. All swimmers are Under 18s

### **3. The Season Program**

- 4.1. The Program for the upcoming season will be drawn up by the Head Handicapper and presented to the Executive for adoption.
- 4.2. Minor changes to the Program can be made at any time during the year on approval by the Executive; however any change must be fair and equitable to all members.
- 4.3. The Program will consist of:
  - 4.3.1. Start and finish dates of the Diggers swimming season (usually 25-27 weeks)
  - 4.3.2. Carnival dates including Interzone, Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) National Carnival and Goondiwindi events
  - 4.3.3. Moree Services Club Friday night raffle commitment (December)
  - 4.3.4. Social interactions such as barbeques, meetings, Christmas party, Presentation Night, AGM, extraordinary events; and Days of Observance (see Schedule)
  - 4.3.5. The weekly Money Swim events - 30m, 50m, and Brace Relay
  - 4.3.6. Handicapped freestyle events – 25m, 100m, 200m, and Rex Kelly
  - 4.3.7. Handicapped stroke events – 30m/50m butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke
  - 4.3.8. Tadpole program – 25m, 30m and 50m freestyle; 30m stroke event
  - 4.3.9. End of season, Championship events – 25m, 30m, 50m, 100m, 200m and relay events being Don Ford, Under 18s relay, Poss Wilson, and Vinny Heinrick

### **5. Handicapping**

#### **5.1. Program**

- 5.2. **Individual handicap freestyle events** must be an odd number of races over the season (guide based on 25 week season).
  - 5.2.1. 25m, 200m, Brace and Rex Kelly Relay – 7 per season (or odd number)
  - 5.2.2. 30m – held every week
  - 5.2.3. 50m – 17 per season
  - 5.2.4. 100m – 11 per season

### **5.3. Individual handicap stroke events**

- 5.3.1. 30m or 50m strokes - backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly - 7 per season (or odd number)

### **5.4. Tadpole events**

- 5.4.1. Each week, Tadpoles are offered two freestyle events (25m/30m or 30m/50m (depending on ability)
- 5.4.2. When the program is offering 25m to all swimmers, Tadpoles nominated for 30m/50m events, can also do 25m
- 5.4.3. When the program offers stroke events, Tadpoles only have the choice of the 30m length
- 5.4.4. Tadpoles can enter the Under 18s Relay events, however Tadpole inclusion in relays is at the discretion of the Handicapper, depending on the nominations of other swimmers.

### **5.5. Handicap Point-score**

- 5.6. The following point-score will be awarded to the swimmer of each race/heat/final they enter.

- 5 = win
- 4 = second place
- 3 = third place/no time/ Carnival Swim away
- 2 = bust/break/time trial
- 1 = for entering the race

- 5.7. Separate point-score will be kept for each handicapped event in each category; and handicap weekly heats, separate from finals results.

- 5.8. Point-score will remain confidential until Presentation Night.

### **5.9. Bust and Break per Event**

- 5.10. A bust or break is when a swimmer is faster than their nominated time by X seconds. They are thus penalized for their bust/break.

- 25m, 30m, 50m and including 30/50m stroke events will be 1 second.
- 100m will be 2 seconds.
- 200m will be 3 seconds.
- Brace relay will be 2 seconds.

- 5.11. When a swimmer bust/break in a heat, they will be awarded the bust/break point-score. If the race is a money swim, they will not proceed to a final or be awarded a place.

## **5.12. Money Swims**

### **5.13. 30m and 50m**

- 5.13.1. The “Money Swim” is the weekly nominated race which alternates between the 30m, 50m, or Brace Relay, where the top 8 swimmers closest to time across all heats, in their category, goes into the final.
- 5.13.2. First and Second place is awarded in each category (except Tadpoles). If all swimmers bust/break, no award is given
- 5.13.3. Adults and Intermediates are treated as a joint category and Mini swimmers are separate for the 30m and 50m freestyle

### **5.14. Brace Relay**

- 5.14.1. “Brace Relay” is a team event with one swimmer doing 50m, the other 30m. It is Adult/Adult (or Intermediate) combination and Child/Child (under 18s) combination.
- 5.14.2. Tadpole inclusion in the Brace Relay is at the Handicapper’s discretion, where they have been included; they are treated as a Mini swimmer.
- 5.14.3. As the event is handicapped, there is no distinction between categories at heat level. All teams/categories have equal chance to enter the final.
- 5.14.4. Once the final has been swam, the winners are determined by first across the line, closest to time. First and Second place is awarded in each category. If swimmers in individual categories bust/break, no award is given.

### **5.15. Tadpole Events**

- 5.15.1. Tadpoles are awarded First Place in all heats for 25m, 30m and 50m events. They do not have finals.

## **6. Running the weekly events**

### **6.1. Nominations (letting the Handicapper know you are swimming)**

- 6.2. All nominations (online or verbal) are due Friday by 8pm
- 6.3. Nominations are made through the website [www.MoreeSport.com.au](http://www.MoreeSport.com.au) > Diggers. There is a separate page for Adults/Intermediates, Mini swimmers and Tadpoles. Where a member does not have online accessibility, they must verbally nominate to the Handicapper by the due time.
- 6.4. Where there is a Relay event, teams will be prepared and roll-call made Sunday morning at 8.25am. Members must be in attendance or will be scratched from the race.
- 6.5. Should you nominate and not be able to swim, a text indicating this to Handicappers Sunday morning would be appreciated. However, continuous nomination without attendance will cause ramifications.

- 6.6. Acceptance of late nominations (current member or new swimmer) is at discretion of the Handicapper. It will be dependent on process, scratching's and lane availability.
- 6.7. The slowest swimmer of the heat must always be in Lane 1, the time-triallier swimmer must always be in last lane (or Lane 8) for the Diggers Electronic Handicapping System to work.

### **6.8. *Schedule***

- 6.9. Races begin at 8.30am on Sundays (except for Days of Observance)
- 6.10. On Days of Observance, the morning program will start with Club members standing solemnly around the pool while a wreath is placed in the water and the Ode and Last Post is played at:
  - 6.10.1. Start and End of the season
  - 6.10.2. On all carnival days or when there are visiting Clubs
  - 6.10.3. On the Sunday closest to ANZAC Day 26 January, Remembrance Day 11 November
- 6.11. Schedule is run with the longest length race first, followed by the Money Swim heats and final, and then to the shortest length race, relay then the stoke events. Each length will start with Adult/Intermediates, Mini swimmer and then Tadpoles.
- 6.12. Once all races are swam, weekly prizes are awarded

### **6.13. *Starting the Handicapped Races***

- 6.14. Time trials are a new member's first swim of each length of freestyle and stroke (they wish to swim) to determine their handicap time. Time trials are done as each event is rotated on the program. A new member may already have a handicap time, and therefore, do not have to do a time trial.
- 6.15. Handicapped races begin with the Race Starter saying "Take your marks, get set, go, 1..2..3..4.." (and counting until all swimmers have left the blocks). The Starter must use a stop watch to count seconds correctly.
- 6.16. Handicap times will vary from week to week, depending on the various swimmers in the heats. Swimmers leave the block as per their handicapped time for the event.
- 6.17. There are no false start or break penalties for leaving the block before your handicapped time.

## **6.18. Weekly Prizes**

### **6.19. Adults and Intermediates**

- 6.19.1. Money Swim Finals – First and Second Place
- 6.19.2. Closest to Time – awarded to swimmer whose race time (across any freestyle event for the day) is closest to their nominated time.

### **6.20. Mini swimmer**

- 6.20.1. Money Swim Finals – First and Second Place
- 6.20.2. Closest to Time – awarded to swimmer whose race time (across any freestyle event for the day) is closest to their nominated time.
- 6.20.3. Biggest Bust – the swimmer who has exceeded their nomination time by the largest amount (in freestyle events only)

### **6.21. Tadpole**

- 6.21.1. Tadpoles are awarded First Place in all heats for 25m, 30m and 50m events. They do not have finals.
- 6.21.2. Biggest Bust – the swimmer who has exceeded their nomination time by the largest amount (in freestyle events only)

## **6.22. Adjusting swimmer times**

### **6.23. No Time for Race**

- 6.23.1. If there has been an error in the clocking of a swimmer during the Money Swim heat/final, (ie: stopwatch not working, the Clocker was distracted etc), the swimmer's position in the heat is noted and they are given "no time" (N/T) by the Head Clocker
- 6.23.2. If the N/T is a heat event, the swimmer is awarded the appropriate points and the Handicapper then gives the swimmer a time to ensure they automatically go through to the final (but not 'on the button').
- 6.23.3. If the N/T is in the finals, their position is based on a judgement call between the Head Clocker and Judge and their time is based on the other swimmers in the race.

### **6.24. Changing Nomination Times**

- 6.24.1. The Handicapper will adjust all swimmers' nomination times every three weeks based on the swimmer's average time, without bias.
- 6.24.2. A swimmer can request their times not be changed by the Handicapper and instead monitor their own time and make changes (as per the point below)
- 6.24.3. At any time, after an event and prior to nomination of the following week, a swimmer can make changes to their own times.

- 6.24.4. Where there has been an obvious clocker/time entry error, the Handicapper will adjust the swimmer's time on the books accordingly, without bias.

## **7. Championships**

### **7.1. Rules**

- 7.2. Championship races are held in conjunction with the Handicap races and scheduled in the last weeks of the season; as per the Championship Awards.
- 7.3. Strategically, swimmers must choose to swim the race to their handicap or race to win. Points are still awarded under the handicap system.
- 7.4. The race heats are started off "Go" and the winner is the swimmer with the fastest time in each category.
- 7.5. Swimmers with false starts or breaking the start will be penalized including disqualification.
- 7.6. Swimmers may nominate a different time to their handicapped time (what is on the books) for Championship Relay events (not applicable for individual races). This must be done at nomination time.
- 7.7. To qualify to enter Championship events, you must have:
- 7.7.1. Participated in one race for any six weeks during the season, this is to prevent 'swimming guns' just turning up to win; and
  - 7.7.2. Swam the individual event at least twice during the season

## **8. End of Year Presentation**

### **8.1. Prize Matrix**

- 8.2. There is a prize matrix to ensure all categories are treated fairly.
- 8.3. Money Swims being the most popular race is awarded a larger prize for that category.

### **8.4. Handicap Awards**

#### **8.5. Tadpoles**

- 8.5.1. All Tadpole swimmers receive a participation medallion.
- 8.5.2. Handicapper Award - for the most improved Tadpole swimmer over the season in 30m (based on time at the start and end of season)
- 8.5.3. Overall Point-score - presented to the boy and girl with the highest accumulate points for the season from 25m, 30m 50m and combined strokes.

- 8.5.4. Graduation – a Tadpole will graduate to Mini’s when they can confidently swim 50m freestyle and complete 30m in other swimming strokes, usually between 6-7 years old.

## **8.6. Mini Swimmers**

- 8.6.1. All Mini swimmers receive a participation medallion
- 8.6.2. A boy and girl will be awarded first place in point-score for the following races
- 8.6.2.1. Individual freestyle events – 25m, 30m, 50m, 100m, 200m
  - 8.6.2.2. Highest combined point-score for stroke events – butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke
  - 8.6.2.3. Most Finals - The most finals award is the combined score of the “money swims” being the 30m, 50m and brace events.
  - 8.6.2.4. Overall Point-score - the highest accumulate points for the season from 25m, 30m, 50m, 100m, 200m and combined strokes (does not include finals).
  - 8.6.2.5. Closest to Time - award is given to the swimmer (gender neutral) with lowest average time over the 30m. The swimmer must have exceeded 10 races in 30m. It is determined by taking the lowest swimming time from the highest swimming time and dividing by the number of swims to get an average time. The swimmer with the lowest average is deemed the winner.
  - 8.6.2.6. Graduation – a Mini swimmer will graduate to Intermediates when they are aged between 12-13 years old.

## **8.7. Intermediate Swimmers**

- 8.7.1. All Intermediate swimmers receive a voucher to the value of the medallion
- 8.7.2. First place (gender neutral) will be awarded for highest point-score for the following races
- 8.7.2.1. Individual freestyle events – 25m, 30m, 50m, 100m, 200m
  - 8.7.2.2. Individual stroke events - butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke (where a swimmer has done both 30m and 50m events, their score is combined)
  - 8.7.2.3. Most Finals - The most finals award is the combined score of the “money swims” being the 30m, 50m and brace events.
  - 8.7.2.4. Overall Point-score - the highest accumulate points for the season from 25m, 30m, 50m, 100m, 200m and combined strokes (does not include finals).
  - 8.7.2.5. Closest to Time - award is given to the swimmer (gender neutral) with lowest average time over the 30m. The swimmer must have exceeded 10 races in 30m. It is determined by taking the lowest swimming time from the highest swimming

time and dividing by the number of swims to get an average time. The swimmer with the lowest average is deemed the winner.

8.7.2.6. Graduation – an Intermediate swimmer will graduate to Adults at the start of season in the year they turn 18 years old.

## **8.8. Under 18s awards**

8.8.1. The following point-score events are awarded to the highest scoring Under 18s swimmer (regardless of gender)

8.8.1.1. Brace Relay

8.8.1.2. Rex Kelly Relay

## **8.9. Adult Swimmers**

8.9.1. First place (regardless of gender) will be awarded for highest point-score for the following races

8.9.1.1. Individual freestyle events – 25m, 30m, 50m, 100m, 200m

8.9.1.2. Individual stroke events - butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke (where a swimmer has done both 30m and 50m events, their score is combined)

8.9.1.3. Brace Relay

8.9.1.4. Rex Kelly Relay

8.9.1.5. Most Finals - The most finals award is the combined score of the “money swims” being the 30m, 50m and brace events.

8.9.1.6. Overall Point-score - the highest accumulate points for the season from 25m, 30m, 50m, 100m, 200m and combined strokes (does not include finals).

8.9.1.7. Closest to Time - award is given to the swimmer (gender neutral) with lowest average time over the 30m. The swimmer must have exceeded 10 races in 30m. It is determined by taking the lowest swimming time from the highest swimming time and dividing by the number of swims to get an average time. The swimmer with the lowest average is deemed the winner.

8.9.1.8. Flood Award - award is given to the swimmer who has not won a race in “money swims” being the 30m, 50m and Brace Relay events, therefore has not made it to a final. To establish the winner, it is a case of finding a swimmer with zero points in the finals. The elimination starts with those who have swam more than 10 races (in 30m), then 9 races and continues to reduce down by one swim until the minimum of 6 races. After which, if there is no swimmer with zero points, the award is not presented.

8.9.1.9. Over Fifties - given to the swimmer aged over 50 years old (at the end of the season) with the highest combined point-score from 25m, 30m and 50m freestyle events

## **8.10. Other Awards**

- 8.10.1. Roll Call - given to the swimmer in each category (Tadpole, Mini, Intermediate and Adult) with the highest attendance record for the season
- 8.10.2. Liar's Belt – The belt dates back to 1963 when the Moree Diggers Club was first established. It is awarded to the person who has a variety of excuses, gives unsubstantiated accounts of events and/or continually makes claims about their performance (or lack of...)
- 8.10.3. President's Award – As decided upon by the President
- 8.10.4. Club Person of the Year – Recognises the contributions of time and resources made by individuals within the Club. It is a peer-based award decided by written nomination into a ballot box in the last four weeks of the season. It is opened and counted by a Life Member at the Presentation Night. An individual cannot win the award more than two consecutive years.

## **8.11. Championship Awards**

### **8.12. Tadpoles**

- 8.12.1. There are no Tadpole championship events or awards, however they may enter the Relay events at the discretion of the Handicapper.

### **8.13. Mini, Intermediate and Adult Swimmers**

- 8.13.1. First place awarded for Male and Female swimmers in all categories
  - 8.13.1.1. Individual freestyle events – 25m, 30m, 50m, 100m, 200m
  - 8.13.1.2. Individual stroke events in 50m length only – butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke.
- 8.13.2. The "Grandparent" race is 50m freestyle race, where the winner is closest to their time (or that nominated) without bust/break

### **8.14. Relay Events**

- 8.14.1. All Relay events start off "Go", and team must swim closest to their time (or time that is nominated).
- 8.14.2. Under 18s Brace Relay - with one swimmer doing 50m, the other 30m.
- 8.14.3. Don Ford is a team event with one swimmer doing 50m, the other 30m. It is an Adult/Adult (over 18s only) combination
- 8.14.4. "Poss Wilson" is a team event with 3 swimmers doing 50m, the last doing 30m. All swimmers are Adults and Intermediates
- 8.14.5. "Vinny Heinrick" is a team event with 3 swimmers doing 50m, the last doing 30m. All swimmers are Under 18s

## **9. Club Representation at Carnivals**

### **9.1. *Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) National Carnival***

- 9.2. The AIF is held in March each year, at a location determined by the AIF Committee.
- 9.3. Any financial member of Moree Diggers Club can enter these carnivals.
- 9.4. Each swimmer attending the AIF will be awarded points towards their handicap score for programmed races they would normally swim at Moree on that weekend
- 9.5. Any Moree Diggers financial member can nominate to swim the AIF but to qualify for Club financial backing, swimmers must have participated in one race for any six weeks during the season.
- 9.6. Moree Diggers will commit \$1000 per event with money to be distributed equally amongst the attending swimmers, but no one swimmer is to receive more than \$150. Where there is a large amount of swimmers attending a carnival, the funds could be used for group transport (as determined through a meeting recommendation). Fund distribution contrary to this, should be determined by the Executive.
- 9.7. A member of the Moree Diggers Executive Committee or nominated swimmer at the AIF must attend the AIF AGM.

### **9.8. *Far North Coast and North West Zone Carnival***

- 9.9. The Zone Carnival is held in November each year, at a location determined by the FNC & NW Committee.
- 9.10. Any financial member of Moree Diggers Club can enter these carnivals.
- 9.11. Each swimmer attending the Zone Carnival will be awarded points towards their handicap score for programmed races they would normally swim at Moree on that weekend.
- 9.12. Any Moree Diggers financial member can nominate to swim the Zone Carnival. However due to the early season timing, to qualify for Club financial backing, swimmers must have participated in one race for any six weeks during the previous swimming season.
- 9.13. Moree Diggers will commit \$1000 per event with money to be distributed equally amongst the attending swimmers, but no one swimmer is to receive more than \$150. Where there is a large amount of swimmers attending a carnival, the funds could be used for group transport (as determined through a meeting recommendation). ). Fund distribution contrary to this, should be determined by the Executive.
- 9.14. A member of the Moree Diggers Executive Committee or nominated swimmer at the Zone Carnival must attend the Zone AGM.

**9.15. *Goondiwindi-Moree Carnival***

- 9.16. The Goondiwindi-Moree Carnival date and venue is determined by mutual consent between the two Clubs.
- 9.17. When Moree is the host club, we will provide the prizes and run a barbeque (at cost or as a fundraiser).
- 9.18. When the carnival is hosted by Goondiwindi, group transport is organised and seats allocated on a first-in basis.