

Competition Pathway Overview

June 2024



Articulate a Competition Pathway

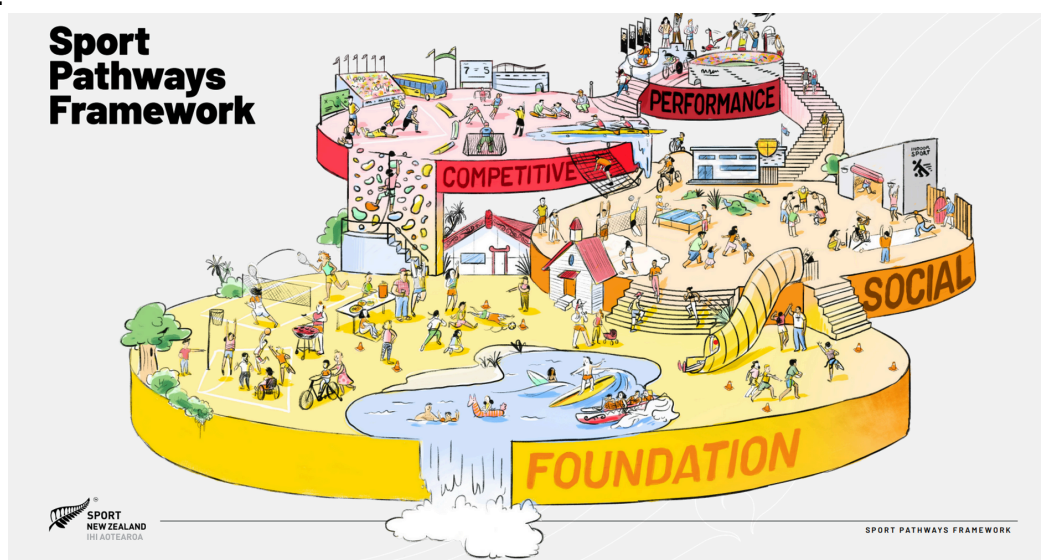
Recommendation 1 from the Competition Review was to outline the levels of competition available by articulating a competition pathway. This enables the community to have a clear understanding of the varying levels of competitions offered in New Zealand, as well as highlight that racing at each level is something to be celebrated and crucial to the development of swimmers across all levels of the competition pathway.

At the same time, the working group hopes that demonstrating the club competition level may showcase that there is a level for swimmers to stay involved in club swimming, and encourage those who aren't aspiring to swim in the competitive and performance levels that there is still a place to enjoy our sport.

The competition pathway aligns with the Sport Pathways Framework (Sport NZ) and outlines which events sit in each level of competition:

- Performance
- Competitive (broken into two tiers)
- Club
- Foundation

Within this competition pathway, it is important to note that all levels involve competition, and some meets may cater for multiple levels at the same time for different swimmers. An example of this could be a swimmer at club night for the first time, which would be foundation and club competition at the same time.



Competition Pathway

There are 5 levels of competition, showcasing a progression in the level of racing between levels. Each level of competition is a valuable racing opportunity and plays an important role in the delivery and enjoyment of swimming as a sport.

Pathway Level	Competitions
Performance	Selection on NZ teams for international competitions (eg: Aquablacks team)
Competitive – Tier 1	NZ Open Water NZ Champs NAGS NZ Short Course
Competitive – Tier 2	NZ Sec Schools (Pool & OW) Major Regional Championships Regional Championships Div II Junior Festivals
Club	Club Nights Club Champs Club Competitions Inter Club Carnivals/Meets Leagues Dual Meets
Foundation	Have a Go Meets

Performance Level

This level is reserved for our top NZ swimmers, who are selected to represent NZ at international competitions.

Competitive - Tier 1

This tier is the highest tier of racing hosted in the domestic calendar within New Zealand, with our national championships included in this competition level. It is this level of competition where we crown our national champion, as well as major opportunities to be selected to represent New Zealand on international teams.

Competitive - Tier 2

This level of the competition pathway has progressed to the intra and inter-regional level of racing as the major stepping stone toward racing at national championships. This is an important level within the pathway, providing valuable and quality racing opportunities to encourage development and competitive racing for swimmers.

As part of Recommendation 3 of the Competition Review, this level of racing has been designed to be spread out in the lead up to national championships and provide more opportunities for swimmers to race at this level.

Club

This level of the competition pathway is integral for the delivery and enjoyment of our sport. Not only is this level of racing crucial for developing skills, it's also a level that provides opportunity for variety of race formats. This level of racing would be held regularly across the country and clubs can work together to create engaging races for their members to develop and enjoy.

Within this level, there are also great opportunities for clubs to create a community and social environment, as well as fundraising opportunities for the club.

Foundation

This level of the competition pathway is the introduction level to competition. The opportunity to give swim races a go is an important first step in a swimming journey. This level is most commonly delivered through Have a Go Meets, school carnivals or Club Nights.