



Pathway to Performance



An agreement to enable a transition for swimmers between Sheffield City SC and the Sheffield Council Swim Training Scheme / City of Sheffield Swim Squad¹

The aim of the **Sheffield Pathway to Performance** scheme is to provide a structured pathway for talented swimmers wishing to develop their full potential in a performance-swimming environment.

How does the scheme work?

- **1. Selection:** The Sheffield City Council Swim Training Scheme Head Coach will identify swimmers to be invited on to the scheme.
- **2. Preparation:** A period where the Sheffield City SC head coach works in consultation with Swim Training Scheme. This enables the swimmer and their coach to become familiar with the type of training they will encounter at the Swim Training Scheme.

The preparation will include an information pack about the Swim Training Scheme, and an initial visit to a training session, where the swimmer will be met and greeted by a named representative from the Scheme.

- **3. Transition:** A period where the swimmer trains primarily with the Swim Training Scheme. Close co-operation between the coaches will be necessary to ensure that the child is getting the appropriate level of training.
- **4. Completion:** After a successful 1 month period, the aim is that the swimmer will transfer to full time training with the Swim Training Scheme.

How is a swimmer selected?

The Swim Training Scheme Head Coach will select swimmers, usually aged 9-12yrs and normally of County finalist standard. Selection may occur following Yorkshire Championships or other local galas, or from recommendation of Sheffield City SC Head Coach. The Sheffield City SC Head Coach and Secretary will be informed in writing of the selection.

The swimmer will then be invited onto the programme for a one month free trial if all parties (including the swimmer and parents/guardians) are in agreement that it is in the swimmers best interest for future development.

¹ City of Sheffield Swim Squad is the competitive outlet for the Council Swim Training Scheme, i.e. swim training takes place within the Training Scheme and swimmers enter galas as City of Sheffield Swim Squad swimmers.

What will it cost?

We recognise that paying two sets of fees will be difficult for many swimmers and so the swimmer will be offered a 1 month free trial.

What happens at the end of the 1 month period?

After the 1 month period, the swimmer's parents will have a meeting with the coaches from both programmes and decide on one of two options:

- **Option 1:** Join the Swim Training Scheme full time and become dual members of City of Sheffield Swim Squad and Sheffield City SC.
- **Option 2:** The swimmer to remain at Sheffield City SC if it's decided that performance swimming is not the correct option at this time.

After transferring programmes, will the swimmer still be able to compete for Sheffield City?

Both Clubs support dual registration of swimmers because it is important for both swimmers and clubs in recognising their contribution in the swimming pathway process. This also means that swimmers are able to continue to compete for Sheffield City. However, swimmers would be expected to have City of Sheffield as their 'ranked' club.

Termination

As Swim21 underpins this agreement (see background), this agreement will be terminated if the Swim21 status of either Club is suspended or is not renewed.

Background

[Swim 21](#) is the ASA's club development model, a planning tool that enables clubs to help swimmers, coaches and administrators achieve their full potential. It is centred on the needs of the swimmer, aiming to provide them with the best possible environment at each stage of their development. It is regarded as the backbone of the ASA's development programme.

As each Club has differing capabilities the Swim 21 accreditation reflects this and has defined four specific levels

- **Teaching Club**
- **Skill Development Club**
- **Competitive Development Club**
- **Performance Club**

As part of the Swim 21 programme, it is the duty of each 'level' of club to provide a pathway for every swimmer to achieve their goals; whether this is social swimming or competitive/performance swimming.

Sheffield City SC is an accredited Skill Development Club, developing the skills of swimmers following their time on a Learn to Swim programme.

The City of Sheffield Swim Squad is the competitive outlet for the Sheffield City Council Swim Training Scheme. It is an accredited Performance Club with a long established history of producing top level swimmers. The programme aims to enable swimmers to reach their full potential and compete at National and International level. Its training and competition programmes are built on the principle requirements of the ASA [Long Term Athlete Development programme](#), which is the cornerstone for all performance swimming development.

At the Swim Training Scheme, talented swimmers have the opportunity to develop their skills and follow the development pathway towards the British Swimming [World-Class programmes](#).

The Sheffield Pathway to Performance scheme is designed to help put individual swimmer needs first by creating a mutually co-operative relationship between Sheffield City SC and the Council Swim Training Scheme, to assist talented swimmers fulfil their potential. In doing so the scheme aims to help smooth the transition from a Skill Development club, to a Performance Club and help provide the pathway to possible future National and International success.

We acknowledge and undertake to implement this agreement :

..... Chair, Sheffield City SC

..... Chair, City of Sheffield Swim Squad

..... Head Coach, Sheffield City SC

..... Head Coach, Sheffield Council Swim Training Scheme