



MASTERS SWIMMING AUSTRALIA

National Championships - Multi-Class Results Policy

June 2026

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Document History	Approved	Summary of Changes
Policy Name:	National Championships - Multi-Class Results	
Introduced	4 June 2026	MSA Board of Directors – 18 February 2026

Overview

At the 2027 National Championships in Perth, and subsequent national championships events, Masters Swimming Australia (MSA) will be adopting new measures to better recognise the swimming abilities for MSA member swimmers registered with a Multi-Class (MC) classification.

MSA has a modest but dedicated membership of MC swimmers. At present, these swimmers are eligible to participate in National Championships events but their individual performance has been inadequately recognised. Competing against able-bodied (AB) swimmers means a MC-classified swimmer is less likely to medal, even though their individual performance when compared to others would warrant the award of a medal, and the awarding of points and eligibility for awards.

From 2027 this will change. Under the new arrangements, MC-classified swimmers will have their individual performances benchmarked against AB swimmers' performances (using World Aquatics points). Where the individual MC swim would result in the awarding of a first, second or third place in that event and age category, an additional medal and points will be awarded to the MC swimmer. MC swimmers will also be able to set records for their swims.

Please see the below FAQ's for further details and examples on how this works.

This arrangement will ensure better recognition for MC swimmers and is intended to further uplift the spirit of fair competition and camaraderie which exists at National Championships events.

MSA appreciates the work of the National Disability and Inclusion Committee (NDIC) for their extensive work in reviewing and refining the arrangements and looks forward to the enhanced participation of MC-classified swimmers in future National Championships events.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is Multi-Class (MC)?

MC is an internationally recognised independent accreditation for athletes with an underlying health condition that leads to an Eligible Impairment which is permanent.

MC classification is undertaken with and administered by Swimming Australia; further information can be found here:

- <https://www.swimming.org.au/performance/elite/classification>
- [Multi-Class Swimming Engagement Portal](#) - *Swimming Australia has developed the Multi Class Swimming Engagement Portal to assist swimmers with disability to **Get Classified, and Get Involved***

Further, a MC swimmers' classification will need to be lodged and managed by Swimming Australia in the *Swim Central* database.

As a first step please contact your State / Territory organisation to assist you in seeking a classification via the Swimming Australia national network - per the following links:

- NSW: <https://mastersswimmingnsw.org.au/>
- NT: <https://mastersswimmingnt.org.au/>
- QLD: <https://mastersswimmingqld.org.au/>
- SA: <https://mastersswimming.sa.org.au/>
- TAS: <https://mastersswimmingtasmania.com.au/>
- VIC: <https://mastersswimmingvic.org.au/>
- WA: <https://mswa.asn.au/>
- Masters Swimming Australia: <https://mastersswimming.org.au/msa-national-championships-multi-class-results/>

What does the MSA MC competition policy apply to?

The MSA MC policy only applies to the MSA National Championships.

Please check in with your State / Territory organisations on their specific policy for meets held in the applicable jurisdiction (as there may be variance).

Does this mean an able-bodied (AB) swimmer will lose a medal or points?

No. Under this model, the top three ranked AB swimmer in any event/age group category will still be awarded their medal and points accordingly. The MC-classified swimmer will receive an additional medal and points in recognition of their overall place in the event as calculated by a comparison between the MC points and the points awarded by World Aquatics for the event. No AB swimmers' placing will be displaced or adjusted under this change.

How are the MC benchmarking points calculated?

Points are calculated based on an established formula, details available on the MSA website at <https://mastersswimming.org.au/msa-national-championships-multi-class-results/>

In summary, all swimmers' performances, including both AB and MC-classified swimmers, will be converted to points using an established World Aquatics-based formula currently utilised by Masters Swimming NSW since 2019. Under this system, swimmers' times are compared against the applicable World Record reference time for their event, age group, and classification, with points then allocated accordingly.

AB swimmers are assessed against the corresponding World Record for their age group and event, and in the same manner, MC-classified swimmers are assessed against the relevant World Record for their specific classification and event with an adjustment for the swimmer's age.

This approach enables all swimmers to be ranked together on a consistent points-based system while recognising the differing classifications within multi-class swimming.

Where an MC swimmer's points place them within the top three rankings for their age group and event, they will receive medals, and competition points will also be applied accordingly, while AB swimmers will continue to receive their respective medals and points, too.

This method of MC results calculation is based on that used by Masters Swimming NSW since 2019.

How does this change affect swimmers with a Medical Disability?

Swimmers with a recognised Medical Disability (MD) are eligible to swim in National Championships events however they will not be eligible for any further recognised/dispensation under these changes.

How many more medals will be awarded under this model?

An analysis of results from the past two MSA National Championships has been completed with the following outcomes:

- 2025 MSA National Championships held in Melbourne showed that, had this model been in place, an additional **three** medals would have been awarded to **two** swimmers in **three** different events.
- 2026 MSA National Championships held in Brisbane showed that had this model been in place an additional **thirteen** medals would have been awarded to **eight** swimmers in **thirteen** events.

How will MC swimmers' record times be recognised?

MSA has agreed in principle to the creation of a MC records database, with records starting from 2022. For the calculation of points for the purpose of awarding medals and points, the reference record time will be the one held by World Aquatics for the classification, age and event.

Example Scenarios:

Scenario 1 – Additional medal awarded to an MC swimmer

MC swimmer (James Carter – S10) initially finished in 4th place, outside the top three able-bodied (AB) swimmers.

After the MC calculation was applied, James moved up one place, from 4th to equal 3rd.

Men					
place	name	club code	meet points	WA/MC points	official time
* indicates an advance in place on MC points					
65-69					
1	Anderson, Liam	WCM	10	854	2:14.35
2	Bennett, Oliver	QSW	9	757	2:19.86
3 *	Carter, James (S10)	QRB	8	743	2:31.35
3	Davis, William	VMV	8	605	2:30.67
4	--				
5	Foster, Benjamin	QMM	6	591	2:31.92
6	Garcia, Alexander	QMM	5	555	2:35.10
7	Hayes, Mason	VDC	4	519	2:38.64
8	Irwin, Ethan	NTN	3	503	2:40.22
9	Jenkins, Jacob	QCT	2	463	2:44.78
10	King, Michael	NWG	1	443	2:47.15

Outcome:

- James is awarded a bronze medal and associated individual meet points and club points.
 - This would be counted as an 'additional' bronze medal.
 - The original 3rd placed swimmer (William Davis) remains in (equal) 3rd place, with a bronze medal and associated meet points.
 - No 4th place would be awarded.
 - Similarly, if the MC swimmer had moved from 7th place to 3rd place, no 7th place would be awarded.
 - All other swimmers are still awarded their same medals and meet points, as before the MC calculation was applied.
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Scenario 2 – Multiple additional medals for one MC swimmer

Over the course of the Meet, a MC swimmer competed in several events including the 50m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly and 100m Freestyle.

After the MC calculation was applied to each event, all three performances qualified the MC swimmer into medal positions and points.

Outcome:

- The MC swimmer is awarded medals and meet points across the three events.
- This demonstrates that the model can recognise consistent, high-quality MC performances across the Meet program.

Scenario 3 – Upgraded medal awarded to an MC swimmer

MC swimmer (Charlotte Baker – S14) originally placed third overall.

After the MC calculation was applied, Charlotte's comparative performance ranked higher and therefore, their medal placing and points awarded improved one rank.

Women					
place	name	club code	meet points	WA/MC points	official time
★ indicates an advance in place on MC points					
25-29					
1	Anderson, Sophia	VBS	10	773	4:36.48
2	★ Baker, Charlotte (S14)	VDC	9	475	5:49.58
2	Carter, Mia	WCM	9	400	5:44.24
3	--				
4	Evans, Harper (S14)	WSF	7	279	6:57.58

Outcome:

- Charlotte's medal would be upgraded from a bronze to a silver medal, along with associated individual and club meet points.
- No extra medal is added.
- The original 2nd placed swimmer (Mia Carter) remains in (equal) 2nd place, with a silver medal and associated points.
- No 3rd place would be awarded.
- All other swimmers will receive the same place and meet points, as before the MC calculation was applied.

Scenario 4 – Multiple medal upgrades

A MC swimmer who had already achieved overall medal placings in events such as the 400m Individual Medley and 200m Individual Medley improved their final ranking positions once the MC calculations were applied.

Outcome:

- Existing placings were upgraded to a higher placing and associated points.
 - No extra medals are awarded to AB swimmers in these events because the MC swimmer was already within the original top three medal placings.
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Scenario 5 – Relays

Relay teams made up partly or entirely of MC swimmers do not receive separate MC medals or points. Medals and points are awarded to the three fastest teams overall under the existing system / as applied in 2026 and previous years.
