

## Athletes' Competition Eligibility and Event Sanctioning

### Eligibilities in participating Local Competition

Athletes should register with HKGSA (to respective discipline) as "Competition Athlete" and meet respective competition requirements and standard before they are eligible to participate in any HKGSA swimming competition. Please refer to respective rules of "Athletes Registration" and "Competition Rules".

Swimming - Championship Eligibility: Swimmers who were not born in Hong Kong should continuously reside in Hong Kong for over one year and have to submit one-year residency evidence\* to HKGSA.

\* Swimmers who were born in Hong Kong or Hong Kong permanent residents are exempted from this rule.

### Eligibility Rules for Representing Hong Kong & Holding Hong Kong Records

1. Registered "Competition Athletes" (hereafter referred to "Swimmers") must belong to one of the following categories to be eligible to hold Hong Kong Records and to represent Hong Kong in local and international competitions.
  - I. Swimmers who were born in Hong Kong and have not represented any other country in any sport at any level previously.
  - II. Swimmers who were born in Hong Kong and have represented another country in one or more disciplines of sport. These swimmers must reside in Hong Kong for over one year\* and file a petition to HKGSA to change their sports nationality to Hong Kong. Swimmers must continue to meet the General Residency Requirements.
  - III. Swimmers who were not born in Hong Kong. These swimmers must reside in Hong Kong for over one year\* and file a petition to HKGSA for Hong Kong sports nationality. Swimmers must continue to meet the "General Residency Requirements".

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*\* The one year residency rule stipulates that the swimmer must have resided in Hong Kong continuously for at least one year before the date of application deadline of competition (absence from Hong Kong up to a maximum of 56 days during the one-year period is treated as residence in Hong Kong) when submitting the swimmer's registration/petition to HKGSA as a Hong Kong swimmer. Passport of the swimmer's claimed Nationality should be provided as evidence of residency. Any other documents submitted in lieu of passport will be validated and approved by the Swimming Committee.*

### Hong Kong Best Time

Subject to the discretion of HKGSA, swimmers who do not fulfill the eligibility requirements of holding HK record by the time he/she achieved faster than the Hong Kong record, it will be considered as Hong Kong Best Time.

## General Residency Requirements

Swimmers must belong to one of the following two categories in order to satisfy the Residency Requirements:

- I. Swimmers who generally reside in Hong Kong; or
  - II. Swimmers who need to leave Hong Kong and temporarily reside elsewhere due to further education must fulfill the following:
    - A. Swimmers must not represent any other country in any sport at any level during his/her further education abroad
    - B. Swimmers must stay in touch with the HKGSA through their respective club, coach, or National Coach.
    - C. Swimmers' family must reside in Hong Kong.
2. Representing Hong Kong: Swimmers are required to meet the above rules as well as the conditions listed below before they can represent Hong Kong:
- 2.1 Swimmers participating in Multi Games, World Aquatics Meets must be SAR Passport holders
  - 2.2 Fulfill eligibility rules<sup>#</sup> as set by International Olympic Committee ("IOC"), World Aquatics, Asia Aquatics and Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China ("SF & OC") and HKGSA and applied to respective competitions;
  - 2.3 Attain required qualifying standard as set by the World Aquatics and/or the HKGSA;
  - 2.4 **Must** participate in **at least one** of the three local major competitions namely: - a) Hong Kong Open Swimming Championships, b) Hong Kong Age Group Long Course Swimming Championships and c) Festival of Sports – Hong Kong Long Course Time Trial Swimming Competition organized by HKGSA in Hong Kong to be eligible for consideration for the Hong Kong Swimming Team.
  - 2.5 Nominated by HKGSA Member and successfully being selected by HKGSA;
  - 2.6 Successfully selected by the SF & OC (if applicable).

<sup>#</sup> Respective eligibility rules can be downloaded at HKGSA website.

**Should any dispute arise from the above rules or if any situation occurs which is not covered by the above rules, a final decision will be made by a duly constituted meeting of HKGSA.**

### Overseas Meet and Result Sanctioning

3. Unless swimmer has obtained prior sanction from HKGSA to compete in overseas meets, otherwise **RECORDS** and results obtained in overseas competitions will not be recognized by HKGSA.
  - 3.1 Swimmers who apply for clearance letter should submit meet information, programme and application fee of HK\$100 per person to HKGSA office.

4. Swimmers who apply for meet sanctioning shall submit two weeks in advance including the application letter from swimmers' respective club, meet information, event programme with entry list to HKGSA office. Those meets should conduct under World Aquatics rules, electronic timing system and by current listed World Aquatics officials. Approved meet does not mean that results of which is recognized by HKGSA, which is subject to the respective discipline Committee's approval and compliance of the rules below.

4.1 Swimmers who apply for result sanctioning should submit two weeks in advance the Meet Sanctioning and Record Ratification Application Form, meet information and programme, entry list and application fee of HK \$80 per event to the HKGSA office. Application with competition results submitted within one month after the competition will be forwarded to the respective disciplines' Committee for decision. Fee paid will not be refunded in any case.

4.2 HKGSA shall only recognize results and Hong Kong Records make in Sanctioned NATIONAL/OPEN Overseas meets, conducted under World Aquatics rules, electronic timing system and by current World Aquatics listed officials.

'Open Overseas meets' shall be swimming competitions open to swimmers from all countries.

'National Overseas meets' shall be National Championships organized by the Nation's Swimming Federation /or Association.

4.3 Swimmer who makes a new Junior/ AG records in sanctioned NATIONAL/OPEN overseas meets shall submit the official results with application fee of HK\$ 300 of each event to HKGSA office within two weeks after the conclusion of Competitions. Special permission for deferral of the submission of results will be granted if apply in writing by clubs. Failing which, results shall not be recognized.

4.4 Swimmers who claim to break Hong Kong Record in Sanctioned NATIONAL/OPEN Overseas meet shall submit the completed Hong Kong Record Application form together with valid doping test report, the official meet results duly signed by the World Aquatics referee with name printed, officiating the event to the HKGSA within two months after the conclusion of Competitions.

#### Reference Letter

5. Swimmers could apply for reference letter from HKGSA only if those meets are sanctioned by HKGSA.
  - 5.1 Swimmers who apply for reference letter shall submit the official results with application fee of HK\$ 50 of each event to HKGSA office (Minimum fee of HK\$ 100). HKGSA would complete the process of an application within 10 working days after receiving all necessary documents and application fee. (Except Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays).

#### HKGSA Swimming Competition Result (Soft copy)

6. Affiliated clubs could apply for swimming competition result in soft copy only if those meets are organized by HKGSA.
  - 6.1 Interested clubs please submit an application letter with authorized club signature and club chop and the application fee (\$50 per meet / per club or \$50 per person) to HKGSA office [recent 2 years results]. The requested result by club will be sent in excel or team manager format and the result by athlete will be sent in pdf format to the club's contact email within 10 working days after receiving all necessary documents and application fee. (Except Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays).