



Talent ID Policy

The talent ID was set up in 2014 as a result of Mark Craig from Swim Ulster visiting the clubs around Ulster and attempting to address the major concerns that the majority of Swim Ulster support was based in the Greater Belfast area and that many clubs had a lack of pool time.

'Purpose of the Talent ID sessions is to offer sessions to extend the pool time of swimmers beyond what the club can currently offer within a 1-hour drive from their local pool.'

In terms of what I'm looking for in an athlete-

- 1. A love for, enjoyment of and a commitment to the sport.*
- 2. A desire to learn and improve and explore their own potential.*
- 3. Motivation to apply learned information after the session has concluded.*
- 4. A developing understanding that sport is a journey of personal improvement rather than single moments of success or failure.*
- 5. Currently maximising what their club has to offer and looking to progress beyond that*
- 6. Swimmer as the driving force and supportive parents.*
- 7. Strong understanding of a work/reward relationship.*
- 8. Prioritises doing it right over doing it fast when requested.*
- 9. Enthusiastic about exercise and sport and doesn't see it as pulling them away from sedentary activities*
- 10. Sufficient water confidence to make significant stroke adjustments and attempt new things.*

Additionally, I like to see swimmers that are active, take part in other sports, work hard in education and are supportive of team mates.' Courtesy of Mark Craig Swim Ulster

Strule Dolphins Swimming Club and Talent ID Programme

All parents will be notified when a session is due to start. Parents must reply within the stated time frame. Late applications will not be considered unless there is a free place after all other applications have been dealt with.

Applicants will be considered by the Head Coach.

If, however the number of interested children does exceed the number of places, allocation of places will be determined by the following criteria.

: results from on-going skills assessment carried out by Strule Dolphins coaches

: how a child maximises club training opportunities already available to them

: ongoing attendance at Development Galas.

If a child shows commitment and is making significant improvement they will be allowed to continue with the programme, at the coach's discretion, until they have reached the required score to move to the Swim Ulster Development Training Programme.

In the absence of commitment, the place will be offered to another child.

In the event of a place becoming available at very short notice and an urgent selection needs to be made, Strule Dolphin coaches will decide to whom the place should be allocated.

Dated: September 2025 Date of Review: September 2026