

Dear Club Secretaries and Membership Secretaries,

British Swimming Biographical Data and Home Country Membership Check

It has been brought to the attention of Scottish Swimming that a small number of parents and clubs are concerned with the level of information available on the Home Countries Membership Check and other British Swimming supported databases.

The main purpose of the web based databases is to ensure that data needed and used in the sport is accurate. Once a member competes in competitions this is critical and it is impossible to maintain ranking data without it. If there is a desire to restrict information on some swimmers this is possible but it must not restrict the ones that want their data releasing.

In the time that the website has been available, the numbers of negative comments British Swimming and Scottish Swimming receive are very small. So far only 10 people have hidden their details where as 87 have expanded their entry and there are over 1700 who have added biographical data.

Displaying a registered member's Name and DOB are not in breach of the Data Protection Act. ***British Swimming and ASA sought advice from the Data Protection Agency before launching the service and only display data that is permitted.*** There is a facility to allow members to block their own data should they wish and this is an important part of the database security.

Scottish Swimming believes it is important that clubs notify their members of the databases and the facility available to check their online membership details and to block their details on the website should the individual so wish. We would ask that you communicate this information to your members in your club correspondence, by email, notice boards, etc.

To assist with the process it is important that member's registered their email address with the Membership Secretary who will add this information into the Club Membership System (CMS). Once the email address has been registered with Scottish Swimming and in turn British Swimming, the member will be able to expand their details or block them.

Alternatively, should a club wish to remove all their members details from these databases, the club will need to get written permission from each member. This information can then be sent to Scottish Swimming and we will arrange for British Swimming to remove the club.

Home Country Membership Check

www.scottishswimming.com/ (scroll down – press Home Countries Membership Check button)

British Swimming

<http://www.britishswimming.org/vsite/vnavsite/page/directory/0,10853,5157-182582-199800-nav-list,00.html>

1. All members who have a recorded email address may block their own data revealed in the Home Country Membership check and the Swimmers Biography web pages. This is set up and can be used today.
2. British Swimming is happy to manually block the information of any person (or their children) who does not have a registered email address and can not do it themselves, however permission from these members or Parent/Guardian in the case of a minor must be obtained by the club in writing before making this change.
3. Dates of birth are also displayed on the public rankings web pages. The only way this can be blocked is to remove swimmer's data from rankings. This should only be done on an individual basis requested by a swimmer or their Parent/Guardian in the case of a minor. British Swimming will need the member's numbers to remove. So far British Swimming has not received any requests from members for this to be done. Member's seems to be very happy with the rankings service and it is one of the most popular web pages within swimming.