

What is Second Claim Membership in Ovens and Murray

Under swimming Victoria and NSW rules a person can be a member of many swimming clubs at any time however one can only compete for a single club, and this is referred to as the primary or first claim club.

The intention of a secondary or second claim club is to allow a swimmer who moves to a central division club for better facilities and coaching, to support their original Farrer or Southern division club.

For the purpose of competition at Ovens and Murray Interclubs only, Ovens and Murray will recognise a second club, referred to as second claim club provided the swimmer is first claim with an Ovens and Murray club. A swimmer may only swim for a single club for pennant competition unless they officially transfer to another club however a first claim member of a club who chooses to swim in another division as second claim cannot then decide to swap to their first claim club, or vice versa i.e. after swimming a pennant for one of their member clubs they cannot swim for the other unless they cancel their membership and have no other club to represent.

Am I Insured for Competition with my second claim club

Second claim does not effect insurance as affiliation to Swimming NSW or Swimming Victoria provides insurance for any sanctioned swimming competition and training.

Becoming a second claim swimmer

The first step in becoming a second claim swimmer is to register with your first claim club. The second claim club registrar can then request permission from the first claim club to have the swimmer as a second claim member. The second claim club can then take this approval to the state body, who will then set the swimmer up as a second claim member for the second claim club.

Any membership fee to the second claim club is directly payable to that club.

The second claim club must then notify the Ovens and Murray registrar that the swimmer will be swimming pennants for their club ([link here](#)).

Guidelines for second claim

- A swimmer cannot swim pennants for more than one club in a season, except where the rules allow it. E.g. Club transfers.
- A swimmer who is first claim outside the district can swim at district meets as an exhibition swimmer only i.e. a swimmer must be a first claim member of an Ovens and Murray club to swim Pennants and Championships, however an exemption to rules can be applied for and granted where arguments of exceptional circumstances are made. E.g a swimmer transfers first claim out of Ovens and Murray after qualifying for Championships.
- A swimmer that swims first claim for one club at Ovens and Murray Championships must swim for that club at Ovens and Murray Relays. This is because Relays are classified as day 3 of Championships. Note that as per above exemption to rules can be applied for and granted where arguments of exceptional circumstances are made. Also Note that swimmers may swim for another club at relays under the combination rules where there are not enough swimmers in that age group at either club to support a relay entry.