

Development/Level 3 Meets Survey Data Snapshot

Here is a snapshot of the feedback received through our recent survey of the Swimming Auckland Northland membership from the 12th – 26th of June. Thank you to all those who contributed their thoughts on the matter. It is clear from your responses that you place a lot of value in these meets, and the fee structure we have been operating under.

Overall feedback comments:

“Level 3 provides a fun introduction to competitive swimming. It is inclusive and allows children to try competitive swimming without the huge financial commitment from parents. Kids try lots of sports let’s continue to allow them to try swimming”

“No point pushing kids up and putting them off. Costs are getting too high and killing the sport.”

“Going straight into higher level meets would discourage our children, and they would be unlikely to compete - instead going into other sports like surf lifesaving or waterpolo”

“Again, please keep the price of entry to the sport as low as possible until swimmers have worked out if racing is for them. We need to encourage kids and parents to give it a go.”

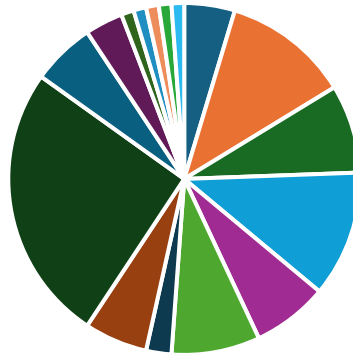
“Your pushing kids out of swimming by being greedy with the money.”

“My child is borderline level 2 in some events but would be put off if needed to swim in large open events as the only option.”

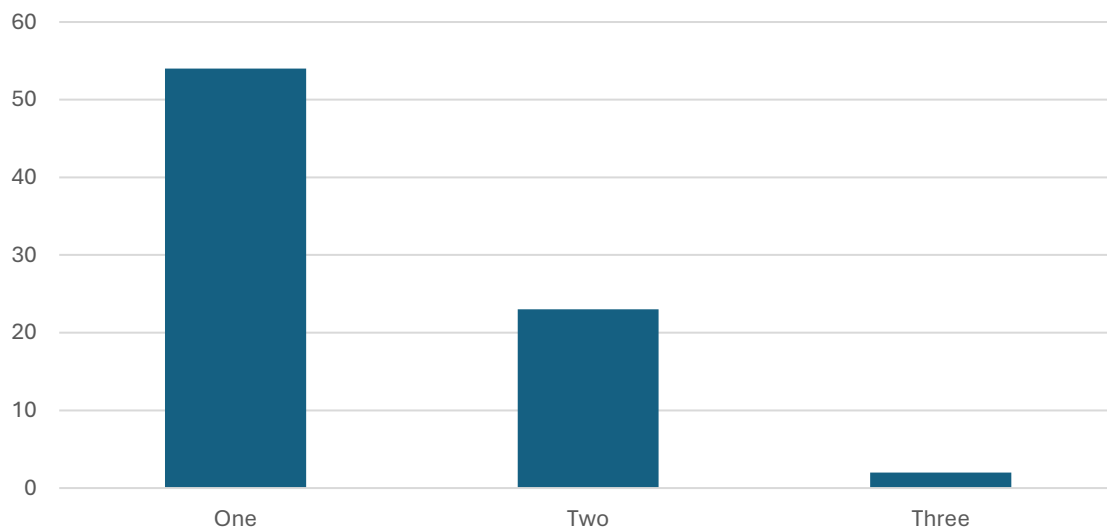
“Joining the Development / Level 3 swim meets have been very beneficial to my child's swimming growth. The swim meets have given her the exposure and real-life experience on the requirement of a professional swimming competition. Such exposure built her confidence in herself, and she has a target to work hard toward to better her own personal best times for each swim segment. She won butterfly swim segment in interschool swimming competition as a result of her experience gained in Development / Level 3 swim meets. Therefore, it's essential for my child to continue in her swimming progress at the Development / Level 3 swim meets and for the greater good of developing the future New Zealander swimmers.”

“Think of the long term development of NZ swimmers - we need Div 3 competition to grow and nurture this. Our kids need exposure to more racing not less.”

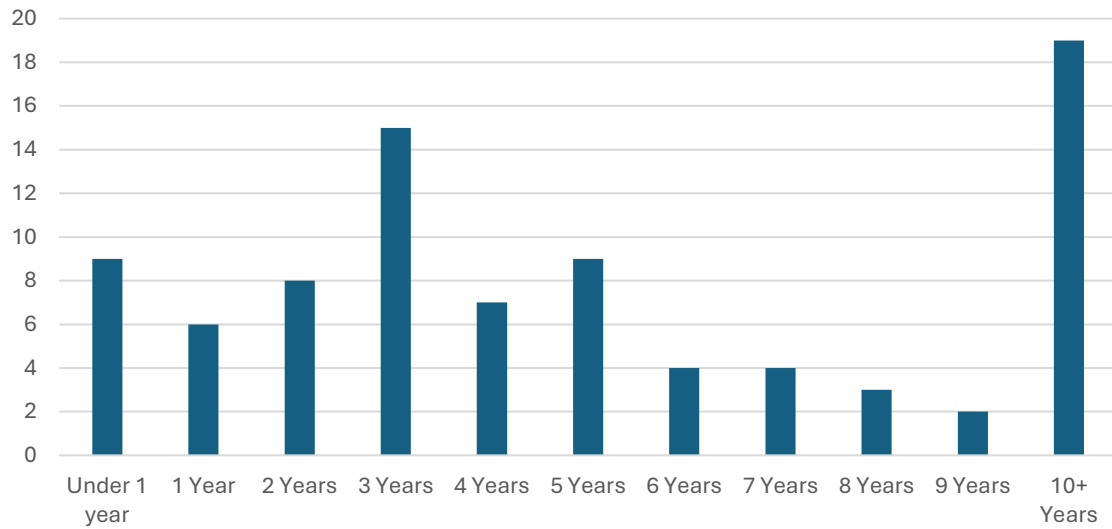
Clubs our respondees belong to:



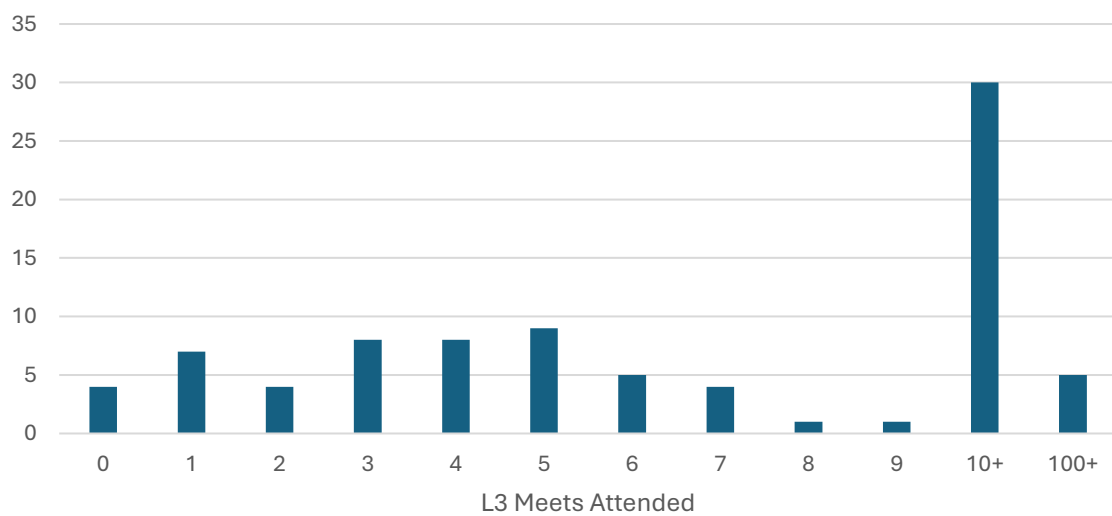
How many of your children currently take part in Swimming Competitions?



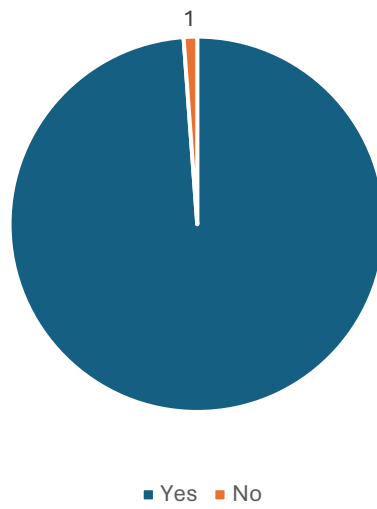
How Long Have You or Your Child/Children Been Swimming?



How Many Development/Level 3 Meets Have You Attended?



Are Development Meets Beneficial To You/Your Swimmers?



Further comments to the above:

“Level 3 was our way into swimming. It was fun and the ribbons meant the kids kept coming back. Many of their friends came for Level 3 meets and didn't go on but got the experience of swimming fast and would not have done that if they had been obliged to pay big fees and have to go through lots of hoops. Parents have limited time and money and the easier the route to swimming the more kids will get to swim.”

“We have a competitive swimmer competing at national level and another in the early stages. The younger swimmer loves swimming but is unsure about competing. Having the ability to enter a level 3 meet before making the commitment is beneficial, mainly to see if they are wanting to compete or not. This and the fact that swimming has become a very expensive sport (all most elitist) Maybe having a limit on the number of meets a non-affiliated swimmer can enter would be better than scrapping it all together.”

“These meets are critical to develop the skills for racing, learn the whistles, what over starts are and to get a taste for racing. It's far too hard and too much of a leap to go to a higher level and expect too much of younger swimmers.”

“L3 meets are a fantastic introduction to competitive swimming for both child and parent. It allows us to learn the process of a meet and competition rules in a friendly environment.”

“The option of the recreational level 3 grade had given a level of access that had enabled my children to have a taste of competitive swimming. My children do not swim in a squad yet, so the level 3 meets have been perfect to allow them to experience swim meets without feeling intimidated by the older stronger and faster kids.”

“Without the development/Level 3 meets I don’t see how my children would be willing to even attempt higher level.”

“Level 3 meets are fun and inclusive, and a great way for new swimmers to become comfortable with the competitive environment. They are the most supportive and relaxed of all the meets we attended and give young swimmers a soft entry into the world of competitive swimming”

“Really gentle introduction to competition for a nervous swimmer as little focus on the individual during the event”

“Help them to grow and work on their own times.”

“We have found the level 3 meet to be huge incentive and motivator for my daughter. Not only has she taken so much more interest in swimming as a sport compared to when she was just attending learn to swim lessons but also it gives her real clarity on how much progress she has made and helped her grow as a swimmer and also as an individual. We meet our friends who go to different schools at these meets and the camaraderie and healthy competition between kids is really great to see.”

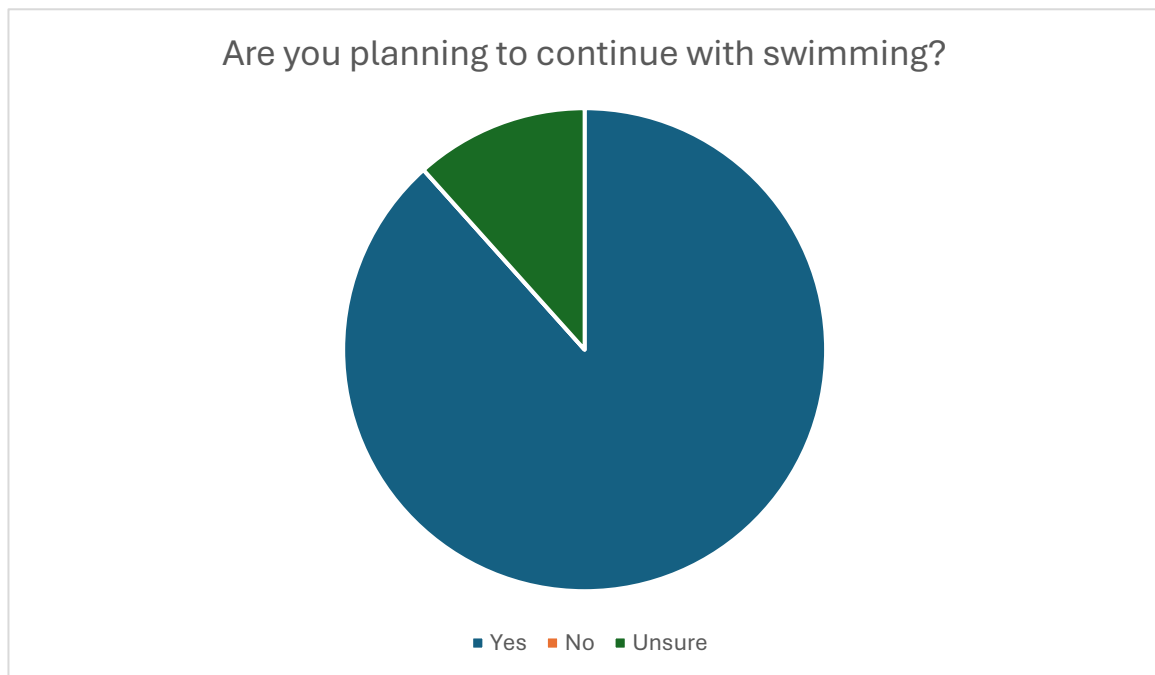
“Development and L3 meets are a great chance for our kids to experience meets without too much pressure. They have really enjoyed these, and they are an important step in introducing kids to competitive swimming and keeping them involved.”

“Absolutely! This has been the perfect introduction to racing for my daughter encouraging her to continue and challenge herself to better times. Kids of the same or similar ages each racing with the same or similar goals. This is an ideal development ground for our future swimmers”

“It’s a great place for a competitive swimmer to start out. Warnings rather than disqualifications and an emphasis on beating your own time is really good for the kids.”

“Essential for grass roots swimming”

“These meets are crucial for the health of this sport in New Zealand. They are a good networking opportunity, a good window into how competitions work, how the kids rank against their previous times and other swimmers. They encourage healthy competition and foster club teamwork.”



Further Comments to the above:

“Yes, for development meets.”

“It seems a lot to pay for someone who is starting out and trying the sport, compared to someone who is a seasoned competitor.”

“We were Level 3 8-10 years ago but needed that introduction and then chose to continue and upgrade membership once we'd reached Level 2. I don't think we would have started competing at that age for that cost unless the kids begged us. I think we would have reached that point and looked for another sport.”

“Has become too expensive”

“Considering how many start not knowing if the kids will like it, the existing structure allows the grassroots to actually happen.”

“The cost in totality would not make sense for us as a family.”

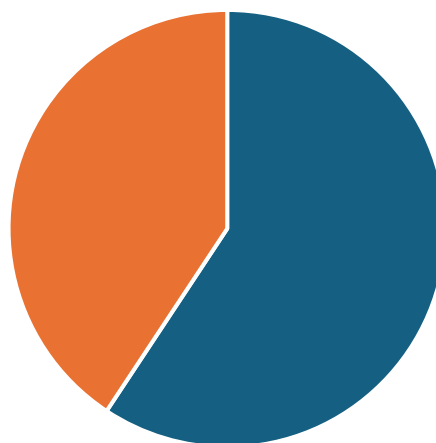
“Swimming is becoming so expensive. Club fees, coaching fees, annual pool membership, gears, levys, competition fees... They do add up to quite a large sum every year. We have seen a few families drop swimming because they cannot afford it anymore within our circle of family friends.”

“Our eldest's times mean she is no longer allowed to compete at level 3 meets, but our youngest is due to start squad. Without level 3 meets, a less competitive swimmer (like our youngest) would potentially not look to compete. Level 3 meets are such an important friendly and low-pressure way for the children to begin to navigate the world of competitive swimming.”

“If there is no other choice, sure, it seems 'okay' but if I wanted to give it a go, it's a pretty steep investment.”

“It's just SNZ lining their pockets because they are broke.”

If there were no Development Meets, would you still continue to take part in swimming competitions?



■ Yes ■ No

Further comments to the above:

“We’ve just qualified for Div 2, BUT had it not been for her time in Div 3, she wouldn’t be swimming at the level she is today. It’s a small cost for a massive development period for our swimmers - why would you not want to maintain or grow that?”

“Development and level 3 meets are essential for our young swimmer to develop their skills and understand how racing and competing works. Being a senior official. Younger swimmers will turn up and get a DQ at a higher level meet, which may discourage them to keep competing. Give them the fun level 3 meets to learn and develop before being thrown into the higher level meets.”

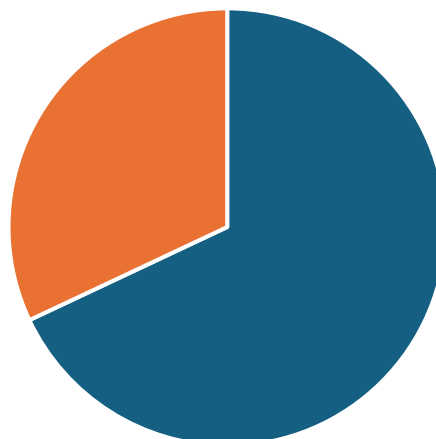
“It's great having this entry pathway in such an elitist sport”

“Yes, but probably not until my swimmer was older and more confident of the rules and the process of a meet.”

Not enough open meets that are available and at suitable times for us to make. Level 3 meets are short and at convenient times.

“The only way to develop the kids, we have to keep this structure.”

Would you consider the next level of competition too advanced for your swimmers at their current level?



■ Yes ■ No