

Junior 'Diddy' League 2019

The 2019 edition of the Junior League is fast approaching with Morpeth's young athletes working hard to develop the skills and technique required to swim fast. We are regularly asked questions about the format of the Junior League and many other Junior League related questions. Please read below to find out more.

What is it?

Morpeth compete in the Northumberland and Durham (N&D) County Division of the National Junior League which is often called the 'Diddy League' (it's the same thing). There are 3 divisions in Northumberland and Durham and Morpeth are in the second division alongside Derwentside, Richmond Dales, Durham, South Tyne, Darlington and Alnwick. There are 3 qualifying rounds throughout the year with the top 6 teams progressing to the N&D Division 2 final which is now held in September. The winner is promoted to Division 1 for the next season (2020). Our goal is to work towards gaining promotion! (The team who finished lowest rank after the rounds is relegated).

Division 1: The top team in Division 1 go through to a Northern Final where if they finish top 4 they qualify for the National final. In 2017 I was lead coach for Tynemouth ASC who reached the National Final and finished 7th (out of over 200 teams nationally).

Morpeth ASC History

Morpeth ASC have climbed the Junior League ranks over the last two seasons. In 2016 the team finished 5th in Division 3 final. In 2017 a new strategy was applied to the team resulting in more swimmers taking part than ever before and the club ensuring a place in the Division 3 final in 2nd place. The team competed well in the 2017 Division 3 final successfully winning the overall title and gaining promotion to Division 2 for the first time since joining the league. In 2018 Morpeth's team held their own in Division 2 qualifying for the final in 3rd place. The team weren't quite able to take the top spot in the final but finished a fantastic 2nd just 18 points away from promotion to Division 1. Our 11 year old team won their category though and we won the 'Cannon' too. Now with a well established squad structure we are now gearing up to challenge once again for promotion to Division 1.

Format

The Junior League is a team competition where swimmers compete in short individual and/or team events in a 49 event programme which lasts less than 2 hours. It is a fantastic competition to introduce young swimmers to competitive swimming and great for skill development. It is something that Morpeth's youngest swimmers strive to compete in, it is a priority for our youngsters. Swimmers are aged between 9 and 12 (age at the end of the year) so the swimmers competing in 2019 will be born between 2007 and 2010.

There are 3 'rounds' and the top 6 teams after the rounds qualify for the final on **15th September 2018** (put the date in your diary!).

Selection Policy

Our goal is to have our fastest possible team swimming in the final in September. The swimmers will be chosen from each age category 9 – 12 years (age at the end of 2019). In order to find our fastest team and help the development of as many athletes as we can, we believe in providing a large number of young athletes an opportunity to compete in the qualifying rounds. Swimmers attendance, attitude and their performances in training, in other competitions (such as time trials, development meets, local meets) and in the Junior League

itself are what we base our selection on. The fastest team will be selected for the final. Obviously in some cases this may be disappointing for swimmers who could've previously competed in some of the rounds, but ultimately this is the fairest way to select any team and should encourage swimmers to listen and work hard in training. Any swimmer who competes in the rounds but does not make the final team is invited to attend the final and cheer on their team mates.

Expectations

Swimmers:

All selected swimmers are expected to compete when selected for the Junior League team.

All swimmers travel to and from the venue on the team bus.

All swimmers wear Morpeth kit which includes racing in a club swim cap.

All swimmers are to remain on poolside for the duration of the event, including the announcement of scores. (If they need to use the toilet then they must inform the team manager)

All swimmers are expected to give 100% in all of their events and to cheering their team mates on.

Parents:

If swimmers are not available for any of the rounds parents **MUST** let me know at least **2 weeks prior to that round**. This is to ensure another young athlete can be given the opportunity to compete. During 2018 others athletes repeatedly missed out on the opportunity to compete and be part of the team due to parents not informing anyone until it was too late to call on another athlete.

Morpeth parents are expected to be the loudest group of parents during the competition! And cheer for every swimmer on the team!

2019 Dates

To ensure we can field a full team at each round and make the final please keep the following dates free:

Round 1 – 20th January

Round 2 – 10th March

Round 3 – 31st March

2019 Final – PLEASE KEEP THIS DATE FREE!

Sunday 15th September 2019