

## What is BAGCATs?

This is the UK's approach to measuring and comparing the performances of swimmers across a range of age groups and events. The acronym stands for British Age Group CAtegory.

In this measurement system, points are scored for particular times in individual events based on their relative performance to top 10 historic all time performances. BAGCATs are comparative performance tables adjusted for age (younger swimmers find certain events harder).

In some competitions (e.g. Oxford and North Bucks County Age Group Championships) 'Top Boy' or 'Top Girl' trophies are awarded based on the total BAGCAT points scored by swimmers in a selection of events. The original intent of this was to encourage younger swimmers to compete in a wide range of events and not specialise too early.

Events are grouped together and only the swimmers highest point score in each group of events will count. These will be grouped as best sprint (50m), best 100m, best Individual Medley, best distance (200m+) and best non-Freestyle performance (known as a 'Form stroke'). The stroke groups change as swimmers get older (set out below).

British Age Group Category County Awards (BAGCATS)				
	Boys		Girls	
9 years	Sprint Form Distance IM	Best 50m Best 200m form stroke 200m Free Best 100/200m IM	Sprint Form Distance IM	Best 50m Best 200m form stroke 200m Free Best 100/200m IM
10 years	Sprint Form Distance IM	Best 50m Best 200m form stroke 200/400m Free Best 100/200/400m IM	Sprint Form Distance IM	Best 50m Best 200m form stroke Best 200/400m Free Best 100/200/400m IM
11 years	Sprint Form Distance IM	Best 50m Best 200m form stroke Best 200/400m Free Best 100/200/400m IM	Sprint 100's Form Distance IM	Best 50m Best 100m Best 200m form stroke Best 200/400/800/1500m Free Best 100/200/400m IM
12 years	Sprint 100's Form Distance IM	Best 50m Best 100m Best 200m form stroke Best 200/400/800/1500m Free Best 100/200/400m IM	Sprint 100's Form Distance IM	Best 50m Best 100m Best 200m form stroke Best 200/400/800/1500m Free Best 100/200/400m IM
13 years	Sprint 100's Form Distance IM	Best 50m Best 100m Best 200m form stroke Best 200/400/1500m Free Best 100/200/400m IM	Sprint 100's Form Distance IM	Best 50m Best 100m Best 200m form stroke Best 200/400/800/1500m Free Best 100/200/400m IM
14 years	Sprint 100's Form Distance IM	Best 50m Best 100m Best 200m form stroke Best 200/400/1500 Free Best 100/200/400m IM	Girls 14 years and over plus boys 15 years and over will start to specialise in individual events which will have individual awards.	