



Tatjana Schoenmaker in action. Photo: Reg Caldecott.

Tatjana's studies are a priority

In spite of qualifying in all three breaststroke events, local swimming star Tatjana Schoenmaker from TuksSwimming will in all probability not compete in December at the Fina World Short Course Swimming Championships in Hangzhou, China.

Rocco Meiring, her coach, said no final decision had been made, but he reiterated that Schoenmaker's studies were her main priority at the moment.

Meiring said she had not been doing the necessary training to ensure that Schoenmaker would be truly competitive over 25m.

"Our focus should have been more on power and speed work, and that is not what we are focusing on at the moment," he said.

"The other reality is that Tatjana is not a good short course swimmer.

"Her turns are not effective enough."

During the recent South African Short Course Championships, Schoenmaker won the 200m breaststroke (2:18.93), the 100m breaststroke (1:05.12) as well as the 50m breaststroke (30.39).

Her effort in the 50m is a new South African record.

Meiring said the main aim during the national championships was to evaluate Schoenmaker to see where she is at after the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

"I am satisfied with her performance over 200m," he said.

"I was hoping she would be a little faster in the 100m. Tatjana and I have not spoken about the 50m.

"However, I was hoping she would dip under 30 seconds. Overall, I am satisfied, especially considering that Tatjana's personal life has slightly been in turmoil since she returned from the Commonwealth Games."