AFTER bitterly quitting the national team last year despite meeting the Olympic standard timing for the women's 50-metre freestyle, swimmer Chui Lai Kwan is rekindling her dream.

The Sabahan, who is a former Sea Games champion, is back to fight for a ticket to the London Olympics.

In her first competition in six months, Lai Kwan splashed two gold at the National Age-Group Championships which ended in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

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In her first competition in six months, the Sabah swimmer bagged gold medals in the 50m freestyle and 50m backstroke with times of 26.70 and 30.91 respectively.

Lai Kwan had already beaten the Olympic invitational time for the 50m freestyle at the World University Games. She then recorded 26.02 to dip below the Olympic invitation time of 26.15.

“I quit the team because I was not given a longer break from training after the University Games. I was in Sabah then and I requested for an extra four days but the Amateur Swimming Union of Malaysia rejected it,” said Lai Kwan in Bukit Jalil yesterday.

“I took a break for six months and only returned to the pool three weeks ago. I want to train harder as there are only a few Olympic qualifying competitions left.”

Lai Kwan, a third-year food science undergraduate with University Putra Malaysia, now trains under former national assistant coach Peh Gin Hai in Bukit Jalil.

The former Sea Games gold medallist said she did not regret her decision to quit the national team.

“I will go in full pursuit to improve on my 50m freestyle timing in next month’s Malaysian Open and most likely at the Southeast Asian Championships in Singapore in June,” she said.

Hong Kong emerged overall champions at the National Age-Group Championships with a haul of 52 gold, 39 silver and 47 bronze medals followed by Selangor (37-33-25) and Kuala Lumpur (27-27-21).