The organisation of the Swimming Championships shall be in the hands of the NDSA Management Board with powers delegated to The Championship Administrator. The Championships shall be held under the relevant FINA/ASA Technical & Judicial Rules/Laws.

The Championships shall be open to all bona fide members of Clubs affiliated to NDSA who hold a valid ASA Swimmer Registration and where required the relevant Entry Time. A swimmer may only represent one Club throughout the Championship year.

No individual may compete in more than one ASA Counties Championships in any one calendar year.

For age group purposes a swimmer’s age is their age **as at the last date of the Individual Championships.**

For the purpose of the Youth Championships a Youth swimmer is defined as swimmer aged 15-18yrs old. This applies to both male and female swimmers.

Standard Entry Times (SET) shall be fixed annually for all individual events. A swimmer’s entry time must have been achieved between 01 January 2012 and the closing dates for the Championships (see below for closing dates).

All times used for 10yrs/over swimmers must be obtained from British Swimming Rankings. For 9yrs their entry times must be verified from a meet result sheet and will not be used for seeding purposes.

 In the Multi-disability Events for swimmers with a valid Disability Classification, Championships Entry Standards will be determined as required by the ASANER Disability Development Officer.

The entry fees shall be set annually by the NDSA Management Board. For 2013 Individual Entry Fee is £6.50 and Team Entry Fee £10.00.

Championship entries must be made by the relevant Club Official using the Sportsystems Entry Manager system, which is available upon request, from the NDSA Administrator at ndswimmingentry@hotmail.co.uk and must reach the Championship Administrator no later than the published closing dates. Payment and the Club Summary Form must also reach the Championship Administrator no later than the published closing dates.

For the 2013 Championships the closing dates are: Gala 1 and 2 Wednesday 16 January 2013 and Gala 3 and 4 Wednesday 13 February 2013.

Additional entries may be accepted after the closing date at the discretion of the Championship. The Entry Fee for such entries shall be £10.00 per event.

Submitted entry times will be used for seeding and rejection purposes where necessary.

The Championship Administrator has the authority to adjust the number of entries accepted to ensure the smooth running of the Championships.

The order in which the events will take place will be published annually in the schedule of events, which will be shown on the NDSA website no later than 31 December preceding the Championships.

A draft programme will be posted on the NDSA website at least 7 days before the meet takes place.

The maximum number of lanes available will be used for both heats and finals.

In all NDSA Championship events a Secondary Entry system will be in operation. Heat Start Lists will be produced prior to the start time of the Session. If a swimmer is NOT going to swim in an event it is the responsibility of the Club entering the swimmer to inform the Recorders of the withdrawal no later than 1 hour prior to the relevant session start time. Should a swimmer who has not been withdrawn from an event fail to swim, the club entering the swimmer shall incur an administration fee of £10.00.

 Clubs may enter more than one team in all team events. An individual swimmer may only swim for one club team in an event. Each competing club shall submit a list of the names of swimmers in each team, in swim order, to the Recorders no later than 60 minutes prior to the start time of the session in which the event takes place. Any club failing to submit a team sheet will forfeit their right to swim the event.

Team staff requiring access to the poolside must be in possession of a Pass issued by the NDSA. The fees for 2013 are £25 this covers the whole Championships. It is expected that all Team Staff can comply with the relevant ASA Child Protection Procedures and have attended a Team Managers Training Course.

For insurance purposes, please be advised that only coaches, team managers, competitors and Event staff will be allowed on poolside. On no account should any other persons be on poolside.

NDSA will NOT be responsible for any unaccompanied swimmers on the poolside. The responsibility falls on the club entering the swimmer.

It is the intention of the NDSA to provide a warm-up/swim-down facility at the Championships. These will be supervised by venue staff/warm-up marshals. Swimmers using these facilities must follow any instructions issued by these persons. Clubs via their coaches/team managers will be held responsible for the behaviour/actions of their swimmers using these facilities.

Photography – The rules and standing operating procedures (SOPs) of the facility where the Championships are being held must be observed and anyone wishing to use photographic equipment (including still, video, digital and mobile phone cameras) at any Championships Meet will be required to sign the ASA Video/Photography Book.

Names of finalists and reserve swimmers will be published in the pool hall and announced over the public announcement system.

Qualifying swimmers/teams **including the two reserves** not wishing to take part in a final are required to inform the Recorders no later than 15 minutes after the last individual/team event in the Session.

Withdrawals made after this time will be subject to a £15.00 administration charge. The responsibility of payment shall rest with the club under whose name the entry has been made. Exceptions may be made in special circumstances accepted by the Championship Administrator or their deputy.

NDSA medals shall be awarded to places 1-3 in all Championship events. (Excluding the 800 and 1500 metre events).

NDSA Youth Champions shall be declared as follows: In HDW events the Youth placings shall be determined from the heat results. In events with finals, should one Youth swim in the final they shall be declared the Youth Champion, should two or more Youths swim in the final their relative final positions shall determine the Youth placings. If required other Youth placings shall be determined from the heat results.

**Open and Youth Championship Overall Category Awards.** These shall be made to the swimmers (Top 3 male & female) who achieve the highest FINA points score in an individual event, (excluding the 800 and 1500 metre events).

No swimmer shall receive more than one award. Where a youth swimmer is one of the top three placings in both the Open and the Youth categories, that swimmer will receive the award which is for the higher monetary value; no award will be made for the placing which is for the lower monetary value.

**BAGCAT Category Awards.** These shall be made to the swimmers (Top 3 Boys & Girls in each age group) who achieve the best category scores. The category awards shall be determined by the current BAGCAT categories using the current FINA points table, (excluding the 800 and 1500 metre events).

The NDSA Board has the power to vary the Championship Conditions prior to an event closing date.

If in doubt please contact the Championship Administrator at ndswimmingentry@hotmail.co.uk

The Lead Referee for the 2013 Championships is Mrs E York who can be contacted at: ndswimmingentry@hotmail.co.uk

**Tom Randall Memorial Trophy**

The Tom Randall Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the club scoring the highest points total in BAGCAT Age Group Events. Individual points shall be awarded 10 to 1 for competitors placed 1 to 10 for BAGCAT Age Group Events that have finals or from the heats of a heat declared winner event.

**Guy North Trophy**

The Guy North Trophy will be awarded to the club winning the most gold medals across Bagcat and Open events (including Youth). In the event of a tie the trophy will be awarded to the club winning the most gold and silver.

**Mark Latimer Memorial Trophy**

The Mark Latimer Memorial Trophy will be awarded to the club scoring the highest points total in the Open Championships. Individual points will be awarded 10 to 1 for competitors placed 1 to 10 in the finals of open events or from the heats of a heat declared winner event.