

Swim England North West / North East

Open Water Regionals Swimming Championships

2022 Meet Conditions

1. General Conditions

- a. The Swim England North West Regional Management Board (the Board) reserves full powers over all Regional Swimming Championships. Management and Promoters responsibilities shall be delegated to the Swimming Management Group and their nominated representative at the event.
- b. The Event shall be held under Swim England Regulations and the relevant FINA/World Para Swimming rules.
- c. A competitor must be a registered member, or equivalent of the club in whose name he or she is entered, at the date of making the initial entry. Swimmers may enter in the name of one club only.
- d. Foreign competitors will be accepted if they are from one of the Counties affiliated to FINA.

2. Events

- a. Individuals Events:
 - i. 12/13 Years – 2km
 - ii. 14/15 years – 3km
 - iii. 16 and Over – 5km
- b. Masters Events (can only enter one):
 - i. 1.5km
 - ii. 3km
- c. Age categories for the Masters events are: 18-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64 and in 5-year age bands as required.
- d. All individual events are available for both male and female competitors.
- e. The schedule of events shall be published in addition to these conditions.

3. Entries

- a. Individual Events

- i. Entries may only be accepted from competitors registered with Swim England, Swim Scotland or Swim Wales at the closing date for entries as member of an affiliated club.
- b. Ages as at 31st December 2022.
 - i. Masters must be 18 years old on the day of the competition.
- c. All competitors are required to comply with the entry process and pay the required fees.
- d. Entries together with the appropriate fees must be received by the Competition Manager no later than the published closing time and date.
 - i. Closing dates for entries – To Be Confirmed.
- e. Priority will be given to those who have Open Water experience i.e. Entry times must have been achieved at a recognised Open Water event or entries must be signed off by a qualified Open Water Coach, between 29th June 2019 and the closing date for entries.
- f. Individuals will also be able to enter by a pool event (i.e. 800/1500). The top ranked swimmers will be selected for the entries.
- g. The Championship Manager has the authority to adjust the number of entries accepted to ensure the efficient running of the Championships in compliance with Open Water Safety requirements.

4. Meet Procedure

- a. A cut of time limit of 30 minutes after the first swimmer in each event has finished may operate at the referee's discretion.
- b. Competitors must have their number displayed on their swimming cap (provided), back or upper arms. Swimmers must also wear the electronic chip and/or wristband provided. When wetsuits are in use, only the hats will be numbered.
- c. Where athlete numbers require, swimmers will be started in waves/groups. These waves/groups may include mixed ages and submitted entry times.
- d. Swimmers shall be allowed to use grease or other substances providing these are not deemed excessive, in the opinion of the Referee.

5. Registration and Briefing

- a. Swimmers must sign in at the registration desk at the appropriate times which will be published in the briefing information following the closure of entries.
- b. Any swimmer representative (coach or chaperone) not in attendance at the briefing (either face to face or delivered virtually) will result in the swimmers not being allowed to swim.
- c. The briefing may be delivered face to face or virtually.

6. Safety Conditions

- a. Water temperature will be monitored in the run up to the Championships
- b. On the day of the competition, prior to the start, the course will be inspected and water temperature measured to ensure all of the safety requirements are met and the conditions are suitable for staging the championships.
- c. Reasonable modification may be made to the course or the manner in which the Championships is conducted based on the conditions at the time.
- d. For guidance regarding water temperature please see information in Entry Pack.

7. Cancellations

- a. If the conditions are deemed to be unsuitable and not safe, then a decision may be made to cancel or stop the Championships.
- b. Full refunds of entry fees will be offered to all competitors.
- c. No refunds will be offered for any other expenses incurred in relation to the Championships.

8. Awards

- a. North West and North East medals will be awarded to the first 3 male and female swimmers in each of the following age groups; 12 13, 14, 15, 16, 17/18 and 19/Over
- b. North West and North East medals will be awarded for Masters Events for the first three males and females for each age category as listed in condition 2c.
- c. Swimmers outside of the North West and North East region can enter but will not be awarded medals.

9. COVID and other Protocols

- a. The Championship Manager has the authority to adjust the number of entries accepted to ensure the event is compliant with safe conduct of a competition.
- b. The structure, programme and delivery of the meet will be subject to Government (National or Local), Swim England or facility guidelines.