

Swimming Competitions Explained

Where can I find out what events we can enter?

The Event Diary on the club website lists all the events which the club either holds themselves or attends at other swim clubs.

How do I know if the event is appropriate for my swimmer?

The Event Diary explains which squads should attend each meet. If in doubt, ask a coach or the competition secretary.

How do we enter?

For every event on the Event Diary the club will send out an email with the event pack as attachments. We will tell you the deadline for entries each time we send a meet pack out with a reminder about a week before the deadline. These docs are also available on the website in the members area.

What's in the meet pack?

Usually the main event programme setting out the dates, venue, event timetable, qualifying times and entry form. We will also usually attach an eligibility list for our own club swimmers so you can check which events they qualify for.

What do we do with our entry form?

We collect in all the completed and signed paper or emailed entry forms and transfer all the details into an electronic file and send off to the host club.

Why is the CBH deadline different to the one in the meet pack?

This is to allow us time to check the entries, chase payments, correct errors and transfer all the details into the electronic file and send off to the host club.

What's a 'qualifying time'?

Most events have qualifying times which can be a time that a swimmer needs to be faster than or a time they should be no faster than, which is called a "cut off time". This is to ensure all the swimmers are at the appropriate level and nobody is too fast or too slow.

What if we don't have a time for an event?

The main event programme should explain whether swimmers with 'No Time' are permitted. Often, they are but they may need to get an estimated time from their coach. Talk to your coach if unsure.

What do Short Course and Long Course mean?

Short Course is a 25m pool and Long Course is a 50m pool

What do the Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 for each meet?

These relate to the purpose of the meet, the pool length and the entry criteria. Level 1 is the highest and Level 4 is the lowest.

What's a licenced event?

A licenced event is one which conforms to specific rules for the levels mentioned above (Level 1, 2, 3 and 4). There are some events, like the Diddy Gala, which are just for our own club and don't have the official licence. These are primarily to develop our own swimmers and prepare them for the licenced events.

What is the British Rankings database?

If your swimmer is ASA registered and swims at a licenced event, then their times will be logged on the British Rankings database. You can access it online at <https://www.swimmingresults.org/>

What is the ASA membership?

ALL swimmers at the club need to be registered with the ASA for insurance purposes. This is usually Category 1 to start with, which will be sufficient for all non-licenced events such as the Diddy Gala and Level 4 meets such as our own Club Champs and Invitational Meet. An upgrade to Cat 2 membership is required when the swimmer wants to compete in Level 1, 2 or 3 events.