

# Swim England North West/Swim England North East

Open Water Regionals Swimming Championships – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## 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 World Aquatics (WA) Technical Rules of Open Water. Para athletes will compete under current World Para Swimming (WPS) Rules and Regulations
- 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 Countries affiliated to World Aquatics other than those from countries that World Aquatics or the UK Government have deemed ineligible to compete (provided they are insured by their home federation).
- e. Entries will be on a first come first served basis and the championship manager reserves the right to close entries early should the maximum capacity be reached.

### 2. Events

- a. Individuals Events:
  - i. 12 years – 2km
  - ii. 13 Years – 2km
  - iii. 14/15 years – 3km
  - iv. 16 and Over – 5km
  - v. Para Swimmers S7 to S14 – 2km (sight impaired swimmers who need a guide are responsible for providing a guide).

Age as 31 <sup>ST</sup> December 2026	Regional Qualifying Event for Nationals	National Championship Race Distance
12 years	-	-
13 years	2K	3K
14/15 years	3K	5K
16 years +	5k	7.5k

The first four finishers from SENE and SENW in each of the National Age Groups and competitions category's (Female and Male) will be eligible (by invite) to swim at the National Age Group Championships.

- b. Senior Age Category 18 – 24 years (can only enter one):
  - i. 1.5km
  - ii. 3km
  - iii. 5km
- c. Master Events (can only enter 1 event)
  - i. 1.5 km
  - ii. 3km
  - iii. 5km
- d. Age categories for the Masters events are: 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64 and in 5-year age bands as required.
- e. Para Swimmers (S7 – S14); can only enter 2km event.
  - i. Sight impaired swimmers who need a guide are responsible for providing a guide.
- f. All individual events are available for both open/male and female competitors.
- g. The schedule of events shall be published in addition to these conditions.

### 3. Entries

In line with the Swim England transgender and non-binary competition policy the following definitions apply:

**Female** Athletes with a birth sex of female

**Open** Athletes with a birth sex of male, trans or non-binary competitors and any competitor not eligible for the female category.

By entering the 'Female' category, an athlete confirms that their birth sex is female.

- a. Individual Events
  - i. Entries may only be accepted from competitors registered with Swim England, Swim Scotland, Swim Wales as a member of an affiliated club or those competitors entering by virtue of condition (1d) at the closing date for entries.
- b. **Ages as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026.**
  - i. Senior Age Group must be 18 years old on the day of the competition
  - ii. 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.
  - i. Entries together with the appropriate fees must be received by the Championship Manager no later than the published closing time and date.  
**Closing date for entries is Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**
- d. A Para Swimmer who is a vision impaired swimmer and requires a guide **will not** be required to pay an extra fee for the guide.

- e. 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 off time limit for each event is listed on the competition schedule and will 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.
  - i. Timing Chips go on both wrists with a safety pin through to secure them, please ensure these are secure after registration as the cost of replacing the pair is very high. Any issues on the day please return to the registration area as soon as possible.
- c. Where athlete numbers require, swimmers will be started in waves/groups. These waves/groups may include mixed ages, including masters and based on 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.
- e. Masters Swimmers may be required to swim with age group swimmers to ensure the timely running of the event.

#### **5. Registration and Safety Briefing**

- a. Swimmers must sign in at the registration desk at the appropriate times.
- b. 14/15 3km, Senior 18-24 3km, Masters 3km - **10.30am - 11:15am on Saturday 27<sup>TH</sup> June 2026.**
- c. 12/13 2km, S7-S14 2km, 1.5km masters, 18-24 1.5km - **12.00pm - 12:45pm on Saturday 27<sup>TH</sup> June 2026.**
- d. Open 5km, Masters 5km and 18-25 5km at **1.30pm – 2:15pm on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**
- e. Prior to the initial briefing a "Roll Call" of participants will take place. This will be followed by a "second check" of participants at the registering desk. There will be a third check of participants as they collect the "chip timing"
- f. Non attendees at the briefing will not be permitted to swim. The briefing is part of the safety measures in place for the competition, therefore this is non-negotiable.

#### **NON ATTENDANCE AT THE BRIEFING EQUALS NO SWIM**

- g. Any swimmer representative (coach or chaperone) not in attendance at the briefing will result in the swimmers not being allowed to swim.

## 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. Wetsuits

- a. As per World Aquatics Rules 7.2 and 8.1.6.3:
  - i. Water Temperature 18°C – 31°C: wetsuits are not permitted.
  - ii. Water Temperature 16°C – 17.9°C: the use of wetsuits is compulsory.
- b. Wetsuits and swim suits must comply with World Aquatics Open Water Rules.
- c. **Approved Swimwear**. Athletes are responsible to check the list.

## 8. 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 who have been unable to compete.
- c. No refunds will be offered for any other expenses incurred in relation to the Championships.

## 9. Awards

- a. SE North West and SE North East medals will be awarded to the first 3 open/male and female swimmers, from the respective region, in each of the following age groups; 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17/18 and 19/over.
- b. Cheshire County WPSA; Lancashire County WPSA; Northumberland & Durham SA; and Yorkshire ASA medals will be awarded to the first 3 open/male and female swimmers, from the respective county, in each of the following age groups: 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17/18 and 19/over.
- c. SE North West and SE North East medals will be awarded for Masters Events for the first 3 open/males and females, from the respective region, for each age category as listed in condition 2d.
- d. SE North West and SE North East medals will be awarded for Para Swimmers (S7 – S14) for the first 3 open/males and females, from the respective region, for each category as listed in 2a.
- e. Cheshire County WPSA; Lancashire County WPSA; Northumberland & Durham SA; and Yorkshire ASA medals will be awarded for Masters Events for the first 3 male and female swimmers, from the respective county, in each age category as listed in condition 2c.

- f. Swimmers outside of SE North West; SE North East and the above counties can enter but will not be awarded medals. This condition also applies to competitors who enter the event by virtue of condition 1.d.

## **10. Photography and Streaming**

Professional Photographers may be in attendance at this event. All official photographs will be taken in line with Swim England Wavepower guidance (pages 94-100). Some of these photographs may be used by the Region on their Website or Social Media Platforms for future communications and marketing purposes.

Many events are now streamed online; Swim England North West Limited strives for excellence and looks to provide a fantastic experience for all who attend our events. This event may be live streamed and if so, will be available to view via our official YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/@SwimEnglandNorthWest>

All swimmer/parents/guardians/coaches and all swim clubs attending our competition agree by entering to allow all their swimmers to appear on the live stream. We will not be able to edit the live stream once it has been uploaded to YouTube therefore, if anyone does not wish for images of their children to be seen we advise them not to enter this meet.

There will be no refunds for withdrawals for this reason once entries have been submitted.

The stream will also remain online to view once the swim meet has concluded. The stream/video will be controlled by Swim England North West, and as the meet organiser we reserve the right to remove the stream from the internet should we feel necessary. This will be at the discretion of Swim England North West.

Should anyone have any concerns or questions in relation to this or data privacy then please contact [swimnorthwest@swimming.org](mailto:swimnorthwest@swimming.org)

We strive to ensure that our online events are held safely without technical hitches however it is impossible to eliminate these completely, so we apologise in advance should there be any disruptions. We hope that everyone attending our events appreciate this enhancement to our event which will allow swimmers to rewatch their races and share their success with friends and family.

Competitors are reminded not to get changed in view of the live stream or photography, changing facilities are provided at the venue.

## **11. 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 Championships will be subject to Government (National or Local), Swim England or facility guidelines.

## **12. Withdrawals**

Withdrawing from the event must be completed prior to the event/session in which the individual is due to compete. Any failure to withdraw or notification of withdrawal received later than the event withdrawal cut off time will result in no refund being processed.

Individuals who have withdrawn from events due to either a medical reason or injury – refund will be considered by application and submission of appropriate evidence (e.g. note from doctor or note from physio). Submission of additional supporting evidence must be sent to [events@swimnorthwest.org](mailto:events@swimnorthwest.org)

## **13. Data Protection Statement**

Entries to the meet will be held on computer and consent, as required by the Data Protection Act 2018, to the holding of personal information on computer will be deemed to have been given by the submission of an entry. You agree that we may publish your Personal Information as part of the results of the competition.

Your information will only be shared in relation to your participation in the event, e.g. the list of entrants, results and event reports and may be shared on the SENW website, social media pages or in emails sent by the organiser.

[SENW privacy policy can be found here.](#)

We may pass such information to the governing body or any affiliated organisation for the purpose of insurance, licenses or for publishing results either for the event alone or combined with or compared to other events.

Information may include but not be limited to name, club affiliation, events, results & age category.

Pre-event zoom briefing will be recorded to provide proof of content if required.