



Swim England North-West Region Artistic Swimming Combination Team, Novice/Non-Regional Standard Figures and Routines and Masters Competition 2026

LICENCE NUMBER:

13th June 2026

Sir Jason Kenny Centre, Moor Lane, Bolton, BL3 5BN

COMPETITIONS CONDITIONS

A competitor must have been a registered member of a club in whose name they have entered at least 30 days prior to the first day of competition. The Club must be affiliated to Swim England and Swim England North-West Region.

The regional combination team competition shall be held annually, under Swim England Laws and Regulations and World Aquatics Technical Rules of Artistic Swimming.

The promotion of the Competition shall be the responsibility of the NWR Management Group (The Promoters). The Promoters shall decide any matter that is not covered by these conditions.

Competitors in teams must be members of the same club and may only represent one club.

Closing date will be 12 noon, 28 days prior to the first day of competition. **(16th May 2026)**

The age of all competitors is the age on the 31st December in the year of competition.

Events

COMBINATION TEAM - 100% Routine Score.

SWIMMERS MAY ONLY ENTER ONE COMBINATION TEAM

A Free Combination Team has a minimum of four (4) and maximum of ten (10) competitors who make a combination of routines.

Whilst it is recognised that at National level, combination Team events will be split into a range of different age groups, we will be using only 3 different age groups – 8-12, 8-15, 13-19. However, if you have a team that would be entered into the 13-15 section at Combo Cup, they should enter into the 13-19 category. The same applies to the 15-19 category, swimmers should be entered into the 13-19 category. There will be a division 1 event and division 2 event for each age group.

If a club would like to enter more than one (1) combination team in the same category, but do not have a full team of ten (10) swimmers, you WILL be able to enter another team in the same category due to age groups categories being combined together.

Age limits apply regardless of gender.

Time Limits and content for routines, including ten (10) seconds for deck work shall be:

(Timing of the deck movements shall end as the last competitor enters the water)

Category	Time Limit	Allowance	Grade Requirements	Total	Total Required Elements & Summary
8–12 DIV 1	3:00	+/- 5 secs	Figure OR Routine Grade 0-2	7	2 Team Acrobatics (with safety limit+) 1 x Solo Hybrid, 1 x Duet Hybrid, 3 x Team Hybrid (min of 4 athletes) Element parts can't occur simultaneous (i.e. Team Acrobatic occurs while solo hybrid starts)

8-12 DIV 2	3:00	+/- 5 secs	Figure OR Routine Grade 1-3	8	3 Team Acrobatics (with safety limit+) 1 x Solo Hybrid, 1 x Duet Hybrid, 3 x Team Hybrid (min of 4 athletes) Element parts can't occur simultaneous (i.e. Team Acrobatic occurs while solo hybrid starts)
8-15 DIV 1	3:00	+/- 5 secs	Figure OR Routine Grade 0-3	7	2 Team Acrobatics (with safety limit+) 1 x Solo Hybrid, 1 x Duet Hybrid, 3 x Team Hybrid (min of 4 athletes) Element parts can't occur simultaneous (i.e. Team Acrobatic occurs while solo hybrid starts)
8-15 DIV 2	3:00	+/- 5 secs	Figure OR Routine Grade 3+	8	3 Team Acrobatics (with safety limit+) 1 x Solo Hybrid, 1 x Duet Hybrid, 3 x Team Hybrid (min of 4 athletes) Element parts can't occur simultaneous (i.e. Team Acrobatic occurs while solo hybrid starts)
13-19 DIV 1 (incl. 13-15 & 15-19 Combo Cup Categories)	3:00	+/- 5 secs	Figure OR Routine Grade 0-3	8	3 Team Acrobatics (with safety limit+) 1 x Solo Hybrid, 1 x Duet Hybrid, 3 x Team Hybrid (min of 4 athletes) Element parts can't occur simultaneous (i.e. Team Acrobatic occurs while solo hybrid starts)
13-19 DIV 2 (incl. 13-15 & 15-19 Combo Cup Categories)	3:00	+/- 5 secs	Figure OR Routine Grade 3+	9	4 Team Acrobatics (with safety limit+) 1 x Solo Hybrid, 1 x Duet Hybrid, 3 x Team Hybrid (min of 4 athletes) Element parts can't occur simultaneous (i.e. Team Acrobatic occurs while solo hybrid starts)

	<i>Acro DD</i>		<i>Acro DD</i>
<i>Youth – Group A</i>	<i>2.65</i>	<i>12U – Group A</i>	<i>2.0</i>
<i>Youth – Group B</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>12U – Group B</i>	<i>2.1</i>
<i>Youth – Group C</i>	<i>2.45</i>	<i>12U – Group C</i>	<i>2.1</i>
<i>Youth – Group P</i>	<i>2.50</i>	<i>12U – Group P</i>	<i>2.3</i>

Teams may be mixed.

If the lack of a reserve reduces the Combination Team to less than four (4) swimmers, then the team shall be disqualified.

Judging of Combination Team Events

Judging will be complete by:

- 5 x Artistic Impression Judges
- 5 x Elements Judges
- 1 x Assistant Ref (if available)
- 1 x Referee
- 1 x Difficulty Technical Controller
- 3 x Synchronisation Technical Controllers.

Coach Cards will be required to be submitted to list the order of the elements to be swum, no codes or difficulty declarations are needed. The correct number of Technical Required Elements should be adhered to. All hybrids will be set at a Basemark of 1.5 and acro's will be set at a Basemark of 1.0. Coaches should focus on the quality of execution and synchronisation without the need to worry about adding difficulty at this stage.

Coach cards must be emailed to the event organiser by midnight on 30th May 2026.

Scoring will be completed in 0.25 increments.

NOVICE/NON-REGIONAL STANDARD FIGURES

Competition entries will be based on the figure grade attained by the swimmer on the date of entry rather than the age of the swimmer although grades 0/1 and 2 will be split into two age categories who will all compete at the same time. There are no routine grade requirements for this event.

Figure Grade	Age Group	Figures
0/1	8-12 13-19 (20 for males)	1. Front Layout to Front Pike (DD 1.0) 2. Back layout to bent knee position returning to back layout (DD 1.0) 3. Back tuck somersault (Fig 310 DD 1.1) 4. Fishtail position held for 5 seconds (DD 1.0)
2	8-12 13-19 (20 for males)	1. Ballet leg (Fig 101 DD 1.6) 2. Somersault back pike (Fig 303 DD 1.4) 3. Blossom (Fig 302 DD 1.4) 4. Neptunus (Fig 344 DD 1.6)
3	13-19 (20 for males)	1. Barracuda (Fig 301 DD 1.8) 2. Front Ariana (Fig 359 DD 2.2) 3. Swordfish (Fig 401 DD 2.1) 4. Waterdrop (Fig 363 DD 1.8)
4	16-19 (20 for males)	1. Cyclone, Open 180° (Fig 437 DD 2.6) 2. Whip Continuous Spin 720° (Fig 356f DD 3.0) 3. Albatross Spin Up 360° (Fig 240i DD 2.5) 4. Ipanema Spinning 180° (Fig 440d DD 3.1)

***NB In all figure sections:** If, due to time/judge constraints, it is necessary to reduce the number of figures being swum, swimmers will only swim three figures from their category. The figure that will NOT be swum will be drawn 3 days prior to the event.

NOVICE/NON-REGIONAL STANDARD ROUTINES

Swimmers must take part in the novice/non-regional standard figure competition.

The results of the figure competition will be used to qualify for entry into the routine competition. The highest-placed eight (8) solo swimmers will swim their solo routines for each grade/age category. The eight (8) duets with the highest placed combined figure score in each grade/age category will qualify to swim their routines. 100% Routine Score.

The swimmer may only swim in one Duet in the Duet competition, both swimmers must be registered and competing for the same club in the same grade category.

Solos

Figure Grade	Age Group	Time (+/- 5 sec)
0	9-12	1:15
0	13-19 (20 for males)	1:15
1	9-12	1:15
1	13-19 (20 for males)	1:15
2	9-12	1:15
2	13-19 (20 for males)	1:15

3	13-19 (20 for males)	1:45
4	16-19 (20 for males)	1:45

For the ease of the Officials, all 9-12 grade 0's, 1's and 2's will compete in the same event then all 13-19 (20 for males) grade 0's, 1's and 2's will compete. Finally, all grade 3's and 4's will compete in the same event.

Duets

Figure Grade	Age Group	Time (+/- 5 sec)
0	9-12	1:30
0	13-19 (20 for males)	1:30
1	9-12	1:30
1	13-19 (20 for males)	1:30
2	9-12	1:30
2	13-19 (20 for males)	1:30
3	13-19 (20 for males)	2:00
4	16-19 (20 for males)	2:00

For the ease of the Officials, all 9-12 grade 0's, 1's and 2's will compete in the same event then all 13-19 (20 for males) grade 0's, 1's and 2's will compete. Finally, all grade 3's and 4's will compete in the same event.

If swimmers in a duet are different grades then they would compete in the category of the higher graded swimmer. For this event, same-sex and mixed duets will be judged in the same category and only be eligible for one set of medals.

Judging of Novice/Non-Regional Standard Events

Coach cards are not required for any event in this category of the competition.

Judging of figures will be completed by a panel of five (5) judges for each figure being swum.

Judging of all routines will be completed by two (2) panels of five (5) judges:

1. Execution
2. Artistic Impression

Scoring for all figure novice/non-regional standard events will be completed in 0.1 increments.

Scoring for all solos, duets and combo routines will be in increments of 0.25

MASTERS ROUTINE EVENTS

The average age of the competitors in a routine shall be determined by adding the ages of the actual swimmers, dividing by the number of swimmers (not including the reserves) and dropping any resulting fraction or decimal.

Team shall consist of a minimum of four (4) members and a maximum of eight (8) members.

Free Combination shall consist of a minimum of four (4) members and a maximum of ten (10) members.

All competitors in Duet, Team, and Free Combination must be from the same club.

Event	Age Group	Time
Technical Solo	18-34 / 35+	2:00
Technical Duet	18-34 / 35+	2:20
Technical Mixed Duet	18-34 / 35+	2:20
Technical Team	18-34 / 35+	2:50
Free Combination	18-34 / 35+	3.30

There shall be no minimum time limit. Time limits include 10 seconds for the deck work. The walk-on time is a maximum of 30 seconds.

Judging of Masters Events

Coach cards are not required for any Masters events. Elements 1–5 must be completed in the order listed.

Judging of all Masters technical routines will be completed by three (3) panels of five (5) judges; one panel each for Execution, Impression and Elements.

- Elements panel judges shall award one score each for Technical Required Elements 1-5 for execution and synchronisation.
- Execution panel judges shall award one score for execution and synchronisation of everything that is not Technical Required Element 1-5.
- Impression panel judges shall award one score for difficulty of everything that is not Technical Required Element 1-5 and choreography, music interpretation, and manner of presentation of all movements including elements.

Judging of Masters combination team routines will be completed by three (3) panels of five (5) judges, one panel each for Execution, Artistic Impression and Difficulty.

- Execution panel judges shall award one score for execution and synchronisation,
- Artistic Impression panel judges shall award one score for Choreography, Music Interpretation, and Manner of Presentation.
- Difficulty panel judges shall award one score for Difficulty.

Scoring for all Masters events will be completed in 0.1 increments.

The referee and/or the assistant referee will monitor that the required elements have been completed.

ALL COMPETITION EVENTS

Duet and Team Declarations

Duet and team declarations are to be completed and given to the Registration Team at the start of the competition day. Changes after this time may only be made in the case of sudden illness or accident of a member of the duet or team, and if the reserve is ready to compete without delaying the event. If a reserve is not ready to compete without delay to the event the duet or team shall be disqualified.

Please note that if a swimmer is unable to swim on the day for any reason including, but not limited to, physical injury, then they must not be included on the declaration form and will not be eligible for a medal.

Order of appearance

The order of appearance for all events shall be selected by a random draw. All qualified grade 0/1 will swim in the same event irrespective of age and all qualified grade 2 soloists will swim in the same event irrespective of age and all qualified grade 3 and grade 4 soloists will swim in the same event, with a maximum of 48 swimmers swimming in these groups. The same will apply to duets.

Medals

Medals will be presented for:

1. Combination Teams – ages 8-12, 8-15 and 13-19 for both Division 1 and Division 2.
2. Novice/non-regional standard figures – Grade 0 age 8-12, grade 0 age 13-19 (20 for males); Grade 1 age 8-12, grade 1 age 13-19 (20 for males); grade 2 age 8-12, grade 2 age 13-19 (20 for males), grade 3 age 13-19 (20 for males) and grade 4 age 16-19 (20 for males).
3. Novice/non-regional standard solo routines and duet routines – Grade 0 age 9-12, grade 0 age 13-19 (20 for males); Grade 1 age 9-12, grade 0/1 age 13-19 (20 for males); grade 2 age 9-12, grade 2 age 13-19 (20 for males), grade 3 age 13-19 (20 for males) and grade 4 age 16-19 (20 for males).
4. Master's technical solo routines, technical duet routines, technical mixed duet routines, technical team and combination team routines – age groups 18-34 and 35+ apply for all Masters event categories.

Music

All music information must be registered with The Limited Manufacturing License, Mechanical Copyright Protection Society (MCPS). A copy of the license certificate should be brought to the competition.

All music must be uploaded to the NextCloud account by midnight on 30th May 2026. Email links will be issued to all club coaches within seven (7) days of the final entries being received. Late entries will not be accepted resulting in the routine not being able to be swam.

If the sound level of the competitor's accompaniment is found to be incorrect during the deck work the competitor may stop and, after adjustment of the music, restart without penalty.

The accompaniment and judging shall begin upon a signal from the referee. After the signal, the performance shall continue without interruption.

Competition attire

For the figure competition: A plain black one-piece swimsuit (no logos, coloured piping, etc.) and a plain white swim cap (again no logos) must be worn. Goggles and nose clips are permitted.

For routine swims: Team costumes and headdresses should be in good taste and conform to World Aquatics and Swim England Law. Swimsuits may represent the character or theme of the music. No excessive nudity, swimwear must be dignified and appropriate for athletic competition. Nose clips are permitted - goggles may only be worn for Novice and Combination Team events if the competitor provides a doctor's note. Goggles are permitted for Master's routines. Full event costumes can be worn for Masters Technical Routines.

Jewellery: Only small studs are permitted. Remove any dangling jewellery before the start of the event. Nail varnish must be removed for the figure's competition only, the referee's decision is final.

Makeup: Natural makeup that represents the athlete's unique personality and/or the theme of their routines may be used.

Photography

Professional Photographers will 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. Photographs will be available for parents to purchase after the event via the photographers website with use of a unique password which will only be provided to those in attendance at the event.

Any athlete's not wishing to be photographed, please contact clubdevelopment@swimnorthwest.org prior to the event taking place.

Competitors are reminded not to get changed on poolside or in the balcony, please ensure changing room facilities are used at all times.

Safeguarding

In order to ensure the safety of all swimmers and as per Swim England's Wavepower guidance - the use of mobile phones or other photographic devices is prohibited in the changing rooms. Team Managers must make sure your club is aware of and adheres to this rule.

A designated Welfare Lead will be in attendance at all Swim England North-West Regional Competitions. This person is responsible for ensuring that all safeguarding principles are adhered to, and any welfare/safeguarding concerns are managed appropriately. The Welfare Officer along with an appropriate volunteer will complete regular/random checks of the changing rooms to ensure that mobile phones or other photographic devices are not being used in restricted areas. In the event of any safeguarding concerns being raised during an event, they will be the first point of contact.

Protests

Swim England/World Aquatics Penalties will apply. Protests may be made and dealt with as detailed in Swim England Laws.

PLEASE NOTE: EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF ENTRIES.

Appendix – Required Elements for Masters Routines

General Requirement

Supplementary elements may be added.

Unless otherwise specified in the description of an element

1. All figures or components thereof shall be executed according to the requirements described in this Appendix;
2. All elements shall be executed high and controlled in uniform motion with each section clearly defined.

Technical Solo Required Elements

Elements 1 to 5 have to be performed in the order. Element 6 may be performed at any time during the routine.

1. FISHTAIL – from a **Front Layout Position**, a *Front Pike Position* is assumed; one leg is lifted to a **Fishtail Position** the second leg is lifted to a **Vertical Position** (ending is optional).
2. SPLIT POSITION – followed by a *walkout front or walkout back*.
3. SPINNING 180° – from a **Bent Knee Position**, a *Spin 180°* is executed as the legs are joined to a **Vertical Position** at the ankles followed by submergence.
4. FLAMINGO – a *Ballet Let* is assumed. The shin of horizontal leg is drawn along the surface of the water to assume a **Surface Flamingo Position**
5. BARRACUDA BENT KNEE – from the **Back Pike Position** with the legs perpendicular and the toes just below the surface, a *Thrust* is executed as one leg is drawn along the inside of the other extended leg to assume a **Bent Knee Vertical Position**. A *Vertical Descent* is executed in a **Bent Knee Vertical Position** at the same tempo as the *Thrust*.
6. TWO (2) FORMS OF PROPULSION – Must include Egg Beater travelling sideways and/or forward (arms optional).

Technical Duet and Mixed Duet Required Elements

Elements 1 – 5 have to be performed in the order listed. Elements 6-7 may be executed at any time during the routine. **Routine Required Elements for Duet 1 to 6 as above for Solo plus.**

7. **JOINED ACTION** – where the swimmers are connected (touching) in some manner to perform one of the following:
 - a. A connected figure or a connected float or connected stroking
 - b. Action must be performed simultaneously. Minor action is permitted.

With the exception of the **DECK WORK** and **ENTRY** and as noted in the **JOINED ACTION**, all elements, required and supplementary, **MUST** be performed simultaneously and facing the same direction by both swimmers. Variation in propulsion and direction facing are permitted during pattern changes.

Technical Team Required Elements

Elements 1 – 5 have to be performed in the order listed. Elements 6 – 9 may be executed at any time during the routine. **Routine Required Elements for Team 1 to 7 as above for Duet plus.**

8. CADENCE ACTION – identical movements performed sequentially, one by one, by all team members. When more than one cadence action is performed, they must be consecutive and not separated by other optional or required elements. A second cadence action may begin before the first cadence action is completed by all team member's but each team member must do the action of each cadence.
9. PATTERNS – must show one circle and one straight line. Elements may be performed when in the circle or the straight-line patterns.

With the exception of the **DECK WORK, ENTRY, CADENCE** and as noted in the **JOINED ACTION**, all elements, required and supplementary. **MUST** be performed simultaneously and facing the same direction by all swimmers. Swimmers need not face the same direction in the circle pattern. Variation in propulsion and direction facing are permitted during pattern changes. Mirror actions are not permitted except in the description of the elements.

Free Combination Team Required Elements

1. At least two (2) parts must have fewer than three (3) competitors and at least two (2) parts must have eight (8) to ten (10) competitors