



GCASA CHAMPIONSHIP & AGE GROUP CONDITIONS

Mission Statement

The County Blocks which are held each year are to enable individuals to enter a full range of events. The competition brings together swimmers with a range of abilities, all competing together in the same pool.

General

- 1) All Competitions shall be staged annually under ASA Laws and ASA Technical Rules.
- 2) Dates, venues and closing dates shall be decided by the Meet Manager. Entry fees shall be agreed at the AGM.
- 3) Any question as to the proper interpretation and application of these rules shall be decided by the Meet Manager, whose decision shall be final. All other matters relating to County Swimming Competitions not covered by these rules and not covered by ASA Law and thus falling to the decision of the Promoter shall be determined by the Emergency Committee.
- 4) Officials shall be appointed in accordance with ASA Laws and requirements for the purpose of licensing and shall be selected by the Hon. Secretary for Swimming Officials.
- 5) All competitors shall be registered as per ASA Law.
- 6) Wherever possible the length of the course shall be 25 metres.
- 7) Any failure to comply with these conditions will be assessed by the Meet Manager and may result in entries being rejected and the entry fee(s) forfeited.

Eligibility

- 8) All competitions shall be open to competitors who are eligible under current ASA Laws and who are, on the closing date of entry, a registered member of the ASA in the name of the club they are to represent and:
 - a) who have been born within the County (as defined in the County Constitution), or
 - b) who have resided within the County (as defined above) for 3 continuous months immediately prior to the closing date of entry, or
 - c) who hold the longest unbroken membership of a club affiliated to Gloucester County ASA for 2 continuous months immediately prior to the closing date of entry, or
 - d) Who are members of HM Forces, whose unit is affiliated under ASA Law and based within the County (as defined above) and whose name is on the books of that unit at the closing date of entry.
- 9) No swimmer who shall have been a competitor in County Age-group or Championship events of another English county in the current year of competition shall be eligible.
- 10) All competitors will have their ASA Membership checked. A competitor who fails this check shall have their entries rejected.
- 11) If required, proof of eligibility will be requested.
- 12) A competitor may represent only one club in the year of competition.
- 13) For clarification, a competitor is so regarded as soon as his/her entry has been received by the Meet Manager and shall cease to be a competitor only if the entry is rejected or withdrawn by written notice received by the Meet Manager before the closing date for entry. In these circumstances, the entry fee will be refunded.

Year of Competition

- 14) The year of competition is 1st April to 31st March inclusive and age grouping shall be determined as age on 31st March in the year of the competition. (As an example, the competition year for 2008 runs from midnight on 31st March 2007 to midnight on 31st March 2008).
- 15) Swimmers may compete only in events, including team events, for their own age group.

Qualification for Regional Competitions

- 16) Swimmers whose birth date falls between 31st March and the age qualifying date for the Regional Competitions and whose coach is of the opinion that the swimmer has a realistic chance of gaining the regional qualifying time will be permitted to enter the GCASA Competitions for the purpose of achieving Regional qualification. They will not be eligible for any award.

Entries & Seeding

- 17) Swimmers must enter on the prescribed form provided by the County, which should be submitted to their club by the date indicated on the form. If any part of the information required on the entry form is not clear, not in the correct space provided, has been altered or is found to be materially incorrect, the entry(s) shall be void and the entry fee forfeited.
It will be the swimmer's responsibility to ensure accuracy of all information provided.
- 18) Using SportSystems Entry Manager, clubs must transfer their entries to the media, provided by the County. Media, original entry forms, correct fees and any other required information must reach the Meet Manager by the relevant closing date or your club/swimmer(s) entries **will be rejected**. Entries may only be submitted once.
- 19) For individual events, competitors will be accepted providing their entry time is within, or equal to, the relevant Qualifying Time. Times **must** have been achieved after 1st May in the current year of the competition
- 20) Cards will be issued for the control of entries. Cards must be posted for the relevant session only and in the box provided by the time indicated on the card, failure to do so will result in the competitor/team losing their right to swim.
- 21) The stations of the competitors (seeded in time order slowest to fastest) shall be as follows:
 - a) In Championship Events, spearheaded on the basis of times achieved in the Age-group event.
 - b) In Age-group events with a single age group, spearheaded in the fastest heat.
 - c) In Age-group events with multi age groups, cyclically seeded in the last 3 heats, spearheaded in all other heats provided there are 5 or more heats as published in the programme, otherwise 21,b shall apply.
 - i) Note: This will not apply for combined events: e.g. Boys 10/12 or Girls 10/11, (21,b shall apply).
 - d) In Team events, heats shall be random and by spearheading in finals using the times achieved in the heats.
- 22) Requests for time trials will not be accepted at any time.

Age-group Events

- 23) In all Age-group Events, event placing, event and category awards for each age group shall be declared on heat times, (adjusted as necessary to accord with the heat placing) and there shall be no separate Age-group final.
- 24) Events of 800m and over shall be swum collectively in age groups, 12/Over for boys and 11/Over for girls.
- 25) All other Age-group Events shall be swum separately for age groups 10 to 12yrs Boys and 10 and 11yrs Girls, (Note: with exception of events, that are combined due to a low number of entries) and collectively for Boys aged 13/Over and Girls aged 12/Over.
- 26) Ages for Individual Events shall be:

Girls 10/Over	Boys 10/Over	50m All Strokes, 100m & 400m IM, 200m All Strokes & 400m Free
Girls 11/Over	Boys 12/Over	100m All Strokes, 800m & 1500m Free

Championship Events

- 27) For distances of 50m, 100m, 200m and 400m for Boys 13/Over and for Girls 12/Over, a Championship shall be held. Times achieved may not rank as Age-group Best Times and will not affect age-group placing or awards earlier determined.
- 28) On completion of the relevant Age-group event, 8 swimmers and 4 reserves shall be selected for the Championship. Within 15 minutes of the allocation announcement, any of these 12 swimmers who are unable to compete, must inform the Announcer by completing a Request To Withdraw Form, whereupon the event will be reprocessed to include any reserve swimmer(s).
Any selected competitor that fails to notify the Announcer in the stipulated time of their intent to withdraw or who then do not compete in that event, will incur a penalty charge of £50 and will also be withdrawn from all subsequent events until the penalty charge is paid in full.

County Senior and Junior Champions

- 29) The County Champion will be selected from the age groups 13/Over boys and 12/Over girls, the Senior Champion will be selected from the age groups 16/Over and the Junior Champion will be selected from the age groups 13 to 15yrs boys and 12 to 15yrs girls.
- 30) Where there is a separate Championship Event, the winner will be the County Champion, the Senior and Junior Champion will be the highest placed Senior and Junior.
Where there is no qualifying Junior/Senior in a Championship Event, the Junior/Senior Champion will be the eligible swimmer returning the fastest time in the relevant Age-group Event.
- 31) Where there is not a separate Championship Event, e.g. 800/1500m Free, the County, Senior and Junior Champion, will be the eligible swimmer returning the fastest time in the relevant Age-group event.

Team Events

- 32) There will be an Interclub Team Events Age-group Competition, organised in heats and finals. Each club may enter up to three teams.
- 33) Events shall be swum as per programme, i.e. there will be no straight finals.
- 34) In finals, the 8 fastest clubs, based upon times achieved in the heats, shall compete, i.e. clubs may only be represented by one team in any final.
- 35) Teams shall consist of 4 eligible swimmers from the club, each of whom shall swim the designated distance. The name, date of birth and order of swim for each swimmer shall be recorded on the event registration form by each club. Any change shall be notified to the Meet Manager by writing the changes on the reverse of the event card, before the card is posted.
 - a) Swimmers are not interchangeable between heats and finals.
 - b) Any team whose swimmers do not swim as recorded will be disqualified.
 - c) Any first leg swimmer wishing to use their time for qualification, ranking or record purposes, must inform the Referee at least 15 minutes before the event.
- 36) All other relevant conditions for Team events are the same as for Individual events.
- 37) In addition to Age-group Team events there will be Men's and Women's Team Championship events. For these events a club may only enter one team per event.
- 38) Age-groups for Team events shall be:
Boys & Girls, 4x50 Freestyle Team and 4x50 Medley Team – 9/10yrs, 11/12yrs, 13/14yrs & 15/16yrs.
Mixed (2 Female & 2 Male), 4x50 Freestyle Team and 4x50 Medley Team – 17/Over.
Championship/Men & Women, 4x100 Freestyle Team and 4x100 Medley Team – Open.

Awards

- 39) An award shall be made to swimmers competing in a Championship event. These awards shall be Championship – 1st, 2nd, 3rd & Championship Finalist. An Award shall also be made to the County, Senior and Junior Champion.
- 40) An award shall be made to competitors who swum in the Team Championship Finals. These awards shall be Team Championship – 1st, 2nd, 3rd & Team Championship Finalist.
- 41) An award shall be made to competitors who are placed in the first 3 places in all Age-group Individual events. These awards shall be Age-group 1st, 2nd and 3rd.
 - a) Age-groups shall be: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18/Over.
 - b) In addition, awards shall be made in Individual events to competitors placed 4th to 8th, in the BAGCAT age groups, i.e. 10 to 13yrs girls and 10 to 14yrs boys. These awards shall be Age-group 4th – 8th.
- 42) An award shall be made to competitors who swum in the Age-group Team Finals. These awards shall be Age-group Team – 1st, 2nd, 3rd & Age-group Team Finalist.
- 43) BAGCAT Awards: up to 8 awards per age group, male/female.
To gain a BAGCAT award, a competitor must compete successfully in all sections of the award schedule.
See Category Awards sheet.
- 44) Stroke Category Awards: up to 3 awards per category per age group, male/female. These awards will be Back, Breast, Fly, Free, Distance and IM.
To gain a Stroke award, a competitor must compete successfully in all sections of the award schedule.
See Category Awards sheet.
- 45) To gain an award, where applicable a swimmer must achieve the relevant Qualifying Time.
On completion of an event, if necessary the event will be re-run and any swimmer failing the Qualifying Time will be disqualified 'DQM'. This is to ensure they are not included in any of the awards.
- 46) The winner of any perpetual trophy that may be awarded for an event shall provide satisfactory security to the Trophy Controller. While the winner holds such trophy, its safekeeping shall be the sole responsibility of that winner.
Any such trophy shall be returned clean and in good condition immediately upon request from the Trophy Controller.
- 47) Any swimmer or team who do not present themselves, or arrange for a substitute to receive an award during the presentations, will lose that award.