SER OPEN WATER 2012 CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RULES

1) **Eligibility:** Open to all swimmers affiliated to an ASA Club aged 12 years and over as at the 31st December 2012 whom are category 2 registered competitors.

2) **Qualifying events (6):**
   - Sat. 07th July - SER Championships, Chichester Water Sports Centre, Westhampnett (3*, 2, 1.75 & 1.5 km) – (*The 3 km is the Championship Series event)
   - Sun. 08th July - Dover Regatta (2 km)
   - Sat. 21st July - Brighton pier to pier (1 km)
   - Sat. 18th August – Sussex open (5 km) – Incorporating SER 5 km Championships
   - Sat. 19th August – Eastbourne (2 km)
   - Sat 02nd September – Southsea pier to pier (2 km)

3) **Points:** Will be awarded to the first six women and men swimmers from any Region to finish in each age group as follows:-

1st = 10 points	4th = 3 points
2nd = 7 "	5th = 2 "
3rd = 4 "	6th = 1 "

4) **Dead heat:** Should swimmers dead heat the available points shall be equally shared.

5) **Discard event:** Subject to 4 competitions or more taking place, a swimmers best results from the number of events held, less one, will be counted.

6) **Awards:** To be made at the final event of the series as follows:-
   - Open age Championship challenge trophies to the woman and man swimmers with the highest number of points.
   - Open age individual prizes and certificates to the three women and men with the highest number of points.
   - All age groups (per paragraph 8) prizes and certificates to the three women and men with the highest number of points.
   - All awards are made subject to competitors having completed a minimum of 2 qualifying events.
   - SER Championship Series awards will not be made if less than 3 qualifying events are held.

7) **Championship placing if points are equal:** Should two or more swimmers achieve the same points total, placing shall be decided by:-
   - The number of times each swimmer has finished in front of the other when competing head to head**.** Should the swimmers still be tied then -
   - By the order the swimmers finish at the SER Championship 3 km event (NB. If a competitor does not swim at the SER Championships they are no longer a contender in an equal points situation).

8) **Age Groups:** (All ages taken as at 31st December 2012)

- Open = 12 years+
- Junior = 12 ~ 16 years (NB. In accordance with ASA regulations 12 year olds can only compete in the 2 km length and under races)
- 17 ~ 24 years
- 25 ~ 34 years
- 35 ~ 44 years
- 45 ~ 54 years
- 55 ~ 64 years
- 65 years+

9) **Entry into events:** It is every competitors responsibility to make timely entries and the authority of individual competition promoters to limit numbers of swimmers in accordance with their events Risk Assessment is final.

10) **Swimwear:** Costumes shall be in accordance with FINA General Rules on Swimwear in force on the dates of the competitions which currently state –

"Open Water Swimwear, for both Men and Women, shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor shall extend below the ankle. All Open Water swimsuits shall comply with the FINA Criteria for Materials and Approval procedures"