

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the closing date so early that it excludes meets being held over the Easter weekend?

The closing date is not any earlier relative to the start of the competition than in previous years, but Easter is early this year. With a closing date of 4th of April, we have allowed 13 working days before the first day of competition. To include meets held over Easter, the closing date would have to be Wednesday 12th April (to allow for times to be loaded onto rankings). That would leave just 7 working days to process entries. Sometimes, as we saw for last year's Short Course Championships, problems are encountered when processing entries. The Region Swimming Group feels that there is an unacceptable level of risk associated with just 7 days to process entries.

Why working days? We use third party services to provide our entry portal. Neither that service, nor the Swim England Rankings staff are available over weekend.

Why are we accepting fewer Boys/Men than Girls this year?

We are planning on accepting slightly **more** male than female swimmers. This competition has 6 age group categories. 11/12 years, 13 years, 14 years, 15 years, 16 years, 17 and over. For the first time, we can have the same number of entries in every age group.

For females, we have 3 age groups in the Age Group competition and 3 in the Youth. For males we have 4 age groups in the Age Group competition and 3 in the Youth. That means we will have more males than females in the Age Group competition and more females than males in the Youth.

We have done this to allow us to take more older swimmers and reduce the number of occasions when a swimmer, who would qualify for a national summer competition, cannot get accepted for the region championships.

Why has the 18/over age group been introduced for male swimmers and not females?

There are now 3 male age groups in the Youth Championships. Male swimmers develop later than females. We have introduced the 18/over age group, to ensure that 17 year olds get an opportunity to swim finals and win medals. In 2022 relatively few 17 year old boys have reached the 17/over final.

Why are there fewer entries being accepted for male 16, 17 and 18/over?

Overall, we have 7 age groups for male swimmers and 6 age groups for females. To avoid accepting considerably more male swimmers than female, we have chosen to reduce the quota of swims for the oldest 3 male age groups.

Take 50m swims as an example: The quota for 2 age groups would be $2 \times 34 = 68$ swims.

The Region Coaches' Forum has recommended that we allocate that quota equally over 16, 17, 18/over swimmers. We are actually offering $3 \times 24 = 72$ swims. We took the same approach in 2022. The quota of swims in 2023 is equal to or higher than the equivalent numbers in 2022.

Why is there no competition at K2?

At K2, there is no convenient area for swimmers between events other than the pool deck. The number of swims we can accept is limited by the capacity of the pool deck.

At both Wycombe and Winchester, we can hire a large sports hall with direct access to the pool. That means that the number of swims we can accept is limited only by the time available.

When will para swimmers be competing?

As para swimmers (those with disability classifications) are also eligible to be placed in the overall competition, they will be competing in their own age group this year, rather than all in the Wycombe weekend.

It is still likely that most para swimmers will be competing in the Wycombe competition. If there are no younger swimmers in a particular event, we will award medals during the Wycombe weekend. If calculation of results for any event is held over until the completion of events at Winchester, we will arrange for medals to be delivered to swimmers who are not there.

What is a “base (consideration) time”?

A consideration time is the slowest time that a swimmer must post to be **eligible** to enter an event in the championships. It does NOT mean that the entry will be **accepted**. There is a target number of swimmers for every event; the fastest swimmers up that number will be accepted. For most events, we expect that more swimmers will have achieved the consideration time. The slowest swimmers will not be accepted. We have taken this approach to enable us to accept the maximum number of swimmers possible within the target session lengths, and to minimise the number of swimmers rejected. Many rejections is a problem for us, because it stresses the entry system, and a problem for clubs, who collect entry fees in advance and then need to make refunds.

How have session lengths been established?

We have a target that no session will exceed 4 hours in length, including the mandatory break required for any session longer than 3 hours. This was based on a survey of officials in the region. We have also included 15 minutes contingency, so that unforeseen problems that arise do not cause the session to exceed 4 hours. These issues could include problems with the timing system, medical issues, recalls, which happen at every meet. That means that if nothing goes wrong, sessions will be no longer than 3h 45m.

How were consideration times established?

Consideration times were based on the pattern of entries in 2022.

Will there be live video streaming of the championships?

That is our intent. Obviously, we are dependent on the technology working. At Wycombe and Winchester, we have had no problems in the last 2 years.