

Open Water Masters Championship Conditions 2026

2026 South East Region Open Water Masters Championship
Distance 2km & 3km

1. A competitor must be a Swim England Club Compete member or equivalent SASA or WASA member at the time of entry and on the day of competition. Overseas competitors will be accepted if they are members of a national association affiliated to World Aquatics.
2. In the absence of appropriate registration, a Swim England Temporary Membership must be purchased.
3. The Female category is for birth sex females in accordance with [Swim England's Transgender and Non-Binary Competition Policy](#). By entering the 'Female' category you confirm that your birth sex is female.
4. Entry fee of £30 is payable on entry.
5. There will normally be a maximum number of entries accepted in each event as detailed below.
3km 2 waves x 50 swimmers (maximum 100 swimmers)
2Km 2 waves x 50 swimmers (maximum 100 swimmers)

If it becomes necessary to restrict entries, the following priorities will be used.

- i. Rejection of Temporary Members
 - ii. Rejection of swimmers from outside the region
 - iii. Final consideration will be based on first come first served basis.
6. Swimmers must seek appropriate medical advice if they have any concerns as to their state of health. By entering, swimmers confirm that they have not been informed by any medical practitioner and do not have any knowledge of any medical condition which would make it inadvisable for them to participate in Open Water Swimming. Accordingly, they certify that they are physically fit to participate. They undertake to inform the Promoter of any medical condition which may affect their participation in the event.
 7. Swimmers must be aware of and appreciate the inherent risks involved in open water competition, including the possibility of injury or accident. They undertake to always conduct themselves in a responsible manner.
 8. Swimmers undertake to inform the Referee of any concerns they may have as regards safety.
 9. Swimmers acknowledge that during Open Water Swimming events the Swim England South East Region cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to personal belongings.
 10. Swimmers agree to abide by and be governed by the rules of the Amateur Swimming Association and all other laws and regulations applicable including the ASA Safety Laws and the Conditions of Swim England South East Region.
 11. Swimmers must attend registration, get checked by Clerks of the Course and attend the briefing for their event. Failure to attend the briefing will prevent the swimmer from participation in the race.

12. Photographs of the event may be used for publicity purposes and may be put on the website and social media.
13. In the event of cancellation by the organisers, any refund of entry fee may be subject to an administration charge. If the cancellation is for a reason outside the control of the organiser, Swim England South East Region Open Water Committee will decide whether refunds will be offered.

Swimmers withdrawing from the event before the closing date will only be offered refunds in exceptional circumstances. All refunds must be authorised by the event manager. No applications for refunds will be considered after the closing date (Tuesday 16th June 2026).
14. The Masters age groups for both the 2km & 3km events are:
19-24yrs, 25-29yrs, 30-34yrs, 35-39yrs, 40-44yrs, 45-49yrs, 50-54yrs, 55-59yrs, 60-69yrs and 70yrs+.
15. The first 3 open/male and 3 female swimmers in each Age Group will be awarded medals. Should any Para swimmers enter these events, then medals will be awarded accordingly. It is the responsibility of each swimmer to collect their awards by the end of the event. Awards not collected may not be retained.
16. A maximum duration cut off time limit will be in force taken from the start of each race heat, where more than one heat is swum.
Cut off times are:
 - 2km - 60mins
 - 3km - 90mins.Swimmers exceeding these times may be allowed to finish at the discretion of the referee, but no result will be recorded.
17. Competitors must have their number clearly displayed on their back, upper arms and the back of each hand, plus wear the timing band, wristband and hat provided. Location of numbers may differ if wetsuits are being worn. The hat provided by the organisers is latex; competitors with a latex allergy must inform the organiser on entering the event.
18. No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device, which may be an aid to their speed, endurance or buoyancy. Goggles, cap, nose clip and earplugs may be used. Only one costume is allowed and must comply with World Aquatic Open Water Rules:
 - For Open Water Swimming competitions in water with temperature below 18°C, the use of wetsuits is compulsory.
 - Wetsuits are not permitted in Open Water Swimming competitions in water with temperature 18.0°C and above, except, when conditions are hazardous for the competitors, the Chief Referee may, upon recommendation from the Safety Officer & Medical Officer, declare wetsuits as mandatory in temperatures up to 20.0°C.

Wet suit definition:

For the purposes of World Aquatic Rules, a wet suit is defined as a swimsuit made of a material providing thermal insulation. A wet suit shall completely cover torso, back, shoulders and knee. They shall not extend beyond the neck, wrists or ankles.

The guidance provided by Swim England as an interpretation is that any wet suit would be approved provided it meets the minimum coverage requirements stated above and that the outer surface does not include any shapes such as ridges or fins.

Guidance Note:

The water temperature will be measured and announced at the start of the briefing.

Since the Championships started, the water temperature has not been low enough for wet suits to be worn.

NOTE: wet suits will not be provided or available to rent from Swim England South East Region or Aqua Sports on the day of competition.

19. Grease can be used or other substances such as sunscreen. HOWEVER, IT MUST NOT be applied before marking up with competitor number has been completed and it is not deemed excessive by the Chief Referee.
20. Closing date for entries is Tuesday 16th June 2026. After this date, no changes will be made in the event of an incorrect entry due to the requirements for the electronic timing.
21. Region Open Water Age Groups use age on 31st December 2026 for all entries.
22. If an event has to be abandoned for the safety of competitors and/or officials, swimmers who are still in the water at the time of abandonment being announced will be deemed to have not finished even if their safest means of exit from the water is via the finish.
23. Where an event is abandoned, results will only be announced and medals presented where all competitors in an age group had the opportunity to complete their swim, or if in the view of the organizer, those not able to complete their swim would not have influenced the outcome.
24. Drone technology cannot be used at this event for safety reasons. The use of a drone by a swimmer, their support team or their club may result in the swimmer being disqualified.
25. The entry forms and entry procedure documents form part of these conditions.