Cheshire County WP & SA

2027 County and Age Group Swimming Championships (25m)

Championship Conditions

Swim England License Numbers: TBC
Level 2 Meet

1. General Conditions

1.1. The Cheshire County Water Polo and Swimming Association reserves full power over all Cheshire County Swimming Championships herein after referred to as 'the Championships'). Event management and Promoter's responsibilities shall be delegated to the Swimming Committee and their nominated representative at the event.

1.2. The Swimming Committee have the authority to cancel, postpone or change the Championships venue and or form should it be deemed necessary due to circumstances beyond their control.

1.3. The structure, programme and delivery of the event will be subject to Government (National or Local) Swim England or Facility guidelines.

1.4. The Championships shall be held under Swim England Regulations and the relevant World Aquatics/World Para Swimming rules.

1.5. The Championships shall be competed annually on dates decided by the Swimming Committee and confirmed by the County Executive Committee.

1.6. The entry fees will be set annually by the County Swimming Committee and confirmed by the County Executive.

1.7. Any question or dispute (excluding Protests) arising from these conditions or disputes related to matters not covered in these conditions shall be determined by the Promoter's representative at the event and may be referred to the County Swimming Committee at a later date.

2. Events

2.1. Individuals Events:

2.1.1. 50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and 1500m Freestyle
2.1.2. 50m, 100m, 200m Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly
2.1.3. 100m, 200m and 400m Individual Medley

2.2. All individual events will be available for both Open/Male and Female competitors.

2.3. Team Events

2.3.1.	4x50m Freestyle Team	Open/Male & Female
2.3.2.	4x50m Medley Team	Open/Male & Female
2.3.3.	4x50m Mixed Medley	
2.3.4.	4x50m Mixed Freestyle Team	
2.3.5.	8x50m Mixed Cannon Team	

2.4. The schedule of events shall be published in addition to these conditions.

3. Entries

3.1. Individuals

3.1.1. In line with the Swim England transgender and non-binary competition policy the following definitions apply:

3.1.1.1. Female Athletes with a birth sex of female.

3.1.1.2. Open/Male Athletes with a birth sex of male, trans or non-binary competitors and any competitor not eligible for the female category.

3.1.1.3. By entering the 'Female' category, an athlete confirms that their birth sex is female.

3.1.2. Entries may only be accepted from competitors registered with Swim England as a member of a club affiliated to Cheshire County WP & SA as of 1st January in the year of the Championships. Entries may also be considered by invitation to foreign competitors.

3.1.3. Swimmers shall be considered as foreign who are not members of a County affiliated Club but are competitors from one of the countries affiliated to World Aquatics.

3.2. No individual may compete in the Championships if he/she has competed or entered in an equivalent Championship of another English County in the same calendar year.

3.2.1. Championship events for each of the Open/Male and Female categories will comprise Open and Junior awards. A Junior swimmer shall be aged 16 years or under as at midnight on the 31st December in the year of the competition.

3.2.2. Individual entry times must have been achieved at a Level 1, 2, 3 or 4 licensed Swim England event between 1st January 2026 and the closing date for entries. Times from events of a similar standard will be acceptable.

3.3. Teams

3.3.1. Team Championships shall be open to all clubs affiliated to the County who may enter one team per event.

3.3.2. All teams shall consist of four members except for the Cannon relay which is eight.

3.3.3. A swimmer entered in the name of one club in the individual events may not compete in the name of another club in the team events.

3.3.4. Swimmers are only eligible to compete in their age group relay they may not participate in any other age group but can be part of an 'Open' team.

3.3.5. Mixed Teams must consist of 2 Open/Male & 2 Female competitors. Apart from the Freestyle Cannon which is 4 Open/Male & 4 Female competitors, comprising of 1 swimmer from each age group. The competitors can swim in any order.

3.3.6. A list of swimmers who could potentially be selected by a club to compete in a team event must be submitted by the closing date for entries. This includes swimmers who may be 'relay only' not having entered an individual event.

3.3.7. All Team entries must include either an actual or realistic estimated entry time.

3.4. Ages as at 31st December in the year of the competition.

4. Submission of entries

4.1. The use of Sportsys Entry Manager for submitting electronic entries is the only method of entry to these championships. The relevant Sportsys entry file can be downloaded from the County website. The completed entry file is to be sent to swimchamps@swimcheshire.org

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4.2. In addition to the electronic entries generated by clicking the 'Export' tab on the Sportsys Entry Programme an electronic Entry Report must be submitted for checking purposes. This can be produced by selecting the 'Reports' tab on the programme and clicking 'Report Entries'. An overall Summary of Entries must be completed as per the pro forma supplied.

4.3. Electronic entries will be not accepted until the summary of the entry form(s) AND entry fees have been received by the Championship Secretary/Treasurer.

4.4. Entries, accompanied by the appropriate entry fee must be received by the specified closing date. **For 2027 this is 23:59 hours on Wednesday 23rd December 2026**.

4.5. All entries must be signed by an authorised person from the submitting Club to verify the accuracy of the entry information.

4.6. Accompanying Consideration Times will be applied to all events and form part of these conditions.

4.7. Entry times must be:
- 25m times, or
- 50m times converted to 25m times.

All converted times must use the SE Equivalent Performance Tables (use of the SE Tables section on http://www.pullbuoy.co.uk/times/ is permissible).

Where times are converted the second decimal place can be disregarded and entry times should be shown to one decimal place.

4.8. The competitor's club shall be responsible for:
- Checking and validating the entry forms and fees.
- Entering the information from the entry forms into a database using a computer programme (Sportsy) provided.
- Returning the appropriate Sportsys entry file to the Championship Secretary.
- Returning the completed summary of the entries and entry fees to the Championship Secretary by the closing date.

4.9. The Championship Secretary reserves the right to correct any time conversion calculations that are found to be incorrect in order that competitors are seeded correctly.

4.10. The Championship Secretary reserves the right to restrict entries in the interests of safety, time constraints and to ensure the smooth running of the competition. Where this rule is invoked the swimmers with the fastest submitted times in each age group shall take precedence. Events chosen for restriction will be at the discretion of the Championship Secretary.

4.11. The Championship Secretary has the right to accept entries outside the qualifying criteria in extenuating circumstances.

4.12. Submitted entry times shall be used for seeding and rejection purposes as required.

4.13. Refunds will only be given:
- Where a competitor whose entry has been accepted, has to withdraw on medical grounds subject to an appropriate medical certificate being received by the Championship Secretary.

4.14. Once an entry has been submitted improved times will not be accepted.

4.15. It is permissible for split times to be used for entries providing that the split time is less than or equal to the appropriate consideration time. Evidence of the achievement of this split time must accompany the entry.

4.16. Confirmation of entry
4.16.1 Accepted swimmers, details will be posted onto the Cheshire County website as soon as possible after the closing date for the competition. These should be used to cross check the accuracy of swimmer entries and to allow any necessary corrections to be made.

5. Meet Procedure

5.1. 50m and 100m individual events shall have Heats and Finals. All other events shall be competed as Heat Declared Winner (HDW) events.

5.2. Heats and Finals will be seeded in accordance with World Aquatics rules. The fastest eight swimmers in each age group 10/11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs, 14yrs, 15yrs, 16yrs and 17yrs/over will compete in their respective Final. Two reserves for each final will, where possible, be identified.

5.3. In Team events, the names of competing swimmers and the order of swim shall be submitted to the Championship Secretary not less than 7 days before the advertised start time of the session in which the relevant event takes place. Changes to the declared team must be submitted to the Recorders not less than 60 minutes before the advertised start time of the session.

5.4. Competitors whose entries have been accepted will be expected to swim unless they have complied with the withdrawal procedures.

5.5. Should a swimmer withdraw on grounds of illness or injury, they will not be eligible to compete in any other events during that day of competition. Once a withdrawal has been made due to illness or injury the swimmer cannot be reinstated.

5.6. Upon reaching the end of their lane prior to the start of a race competitors are required to remove outer clothing to swimwear without delay.

6. Para Swimmers

6.1. The Championship Conditions for the Cheshire County WP & SA 2027 County Swimming Championships shall apply to Para competitors except when varied by supplementary Para Swimming conditions to the Championships.

6.2. A supplementary ‘Flash’ strobe light for race starts will be provided subject to availability.

7. Withdrawal from Heats

7.1. Withdrawals from Heats must be made no later than 60 minutes before the advertised competition start time of the relevant session.

7.2. Competitors or their representatives must withdraw if they do not intend to swim. Notification may be by: SMS message to 07759162364 or by completing the '*Heat Withdrawal Form'* and submitting to the Recorders Desk.

7.3. Withdrawal messages must state NAME, CLUB, EVENT(s) and COMPETITOR NUMBER.

7.4. Any swimmer who has previously withdrawn can be reinstated before the appropriate withdrawal closing deadline without penalty.

7.5. There will be no refund of entry fees for such withdrawals unless the withdrawal is for medical reasons in which case an appropriate certificate must be provided.

7.6. Should a swimmer withdraw from an event on medical grounds they will be removed from all other events to be held that day.

7.7. Swimmers who fail to withdraw in the prescribed manner shall be removed from that day's remaining events in which they have been entered.

8. Withdrawal from Finals

8.1. Finalists and reserves not wishing to compete in the final must withdraw no later than 20 minutes after the announcement of the Finalists for the event. Withdrawal must be by use of the official *Final Withdrawal Form* available online or from the Recorders Desk and submitted to the Recorders Desk.

8.2. Reserves will be released upon publication of the confirmed final start list.

8.3. Should a reserve be brought in at short notice the event will not be re-seeded.

9. Marshalling

9.1. Swimmers must report to the Competitor Stewards in the marshalling area for Heats and Finals and follow their directions. It is the competitor's responsibility to report in sufficient time to be available for their event.

9.2. All competitors are required to report 'race ready' as under normal circumstances having entered the marshalling area, they should remain in the confines until led on to the deck for their race.

10. Awards

10.1. Awards shall be made to the competitors placed first, second and third in each age group, together with Junior, and Senior Championship events.

10.2. Any foreign competitor placed first, second or third in any age group, Junior or Senior Championship event will be awarded a commemorative medal.

10.3. In respect of those events in which Finals take place the Open Champion and Open medal winners shall be the fastest three swimmers in any of the finals or HDW events for the respective event regardless of age.

10.4. In respect of those events in which Finals take place the Junior Open Champion and Junior medal winners shall be the fastest three swimmers aged 16yrs or under in any of the finals or HDW events for the respective event regardless of age.

10.5. A 'Top Open/Male' and a 'Top Female' award will be made to the respective swimmers who have achieved the highest total of World Aquatics points based upon their best three events.

10.6. Cheshire County Category (CheshCat) Awards

10.6.1. Cheshire County Category awards will be made on the following basis.

10.6.1.1. Ages 10/11yrs, 12yrs, 13yrs - Female and Open/Male

10.6.1.1.1. 1st to 6th place based upon the accumulated individual highest World Aquatics points gained in any:

- SPRINT event (50m)
- FORM event (200m Backstroke, Butterfly, or Breaststroke)
- MEDLEY event (100m, 200m or 400m)
- FREESTYLE event (200m. 400m, 800m or 1500m)
- 100m event (Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly, Freestyle

10.6.1.2. Ages 14yrs, 15yrs, 16yrs - Female and Open/Male

10.6.1.2.1. 1st to 3rd place based upon the accumulated World Aquatics points in the swimmer's top three events.

10.6.1.3. The highest points score for either a Heat or a Final as applicable to the categories will accumulate towards the individual's total.

10.7. Wallace Aggregate Trophy

10.7.1. The Wallace Aggregate Trophy shall be awarded to the Club obtaining the highest number of points during the Championships each year.

10.7.2. Points shall be awarded per event as follows.

1st = 9 points	2nd = 7 points	3rd = 6 points	4th = 5 points
5th = 4 points	6th = 3 points	7th = 2 points	8th = 1 point

10.7.3. One additional point shall be awarded to each swimmer who establishes a new record time for an event.

10.8. Hugh Laughland Age Group Aggregate Trophy

10.8.1. The Hugh Laughland Aggregate Trophy shall be awarded annually to the Club obtaining the highest number of points in the Age Group competitions each year for the 16 years and under age groups.

10.8.2. Points shall be awarded per event as follows.

1st = 9 points	2nd = 7 points	3rd = 6 points	4th = 5 points
5th = 4 points	6th = 3 points	7th = 2 points	8th = 1 point

10.8.3. One additional point shall be awarded to each swimmer who establishes a new record time for an event.

10.9. Most Improved Club Trophies

10.9.1. The County Trophies for the 'Most Improved Club' (Senior & Junior) with the 'Most Improved Age Group Club' will be awarded to the Clubs which have the highest increase in points gained during the Age Group competition and Championships compared to the points it won in the preceding year's competition.

10.9.2. The overall winners of the championships are excluded from the results for "Most Improved Club" in each of the respective categories shown in 10.9.1.

10.9.3. Clubs competing for the first time will not be included.

Supplementary Para Swimming Conditions

1. Entries

- **a.** Para Swimmers may enter events:
  - **i.** Where they do not meet able-bodied consideration times but must submit a time for seeding purposes.
  - ii. For the S15 category, the Para Swimmer Competitor must meet the able-bodied consideration time for the event entered.
- **b.** At the time of entry, competitors must indicate their classification or provide a valid Certificate of Exception issued by Swim England.

2. Meet Procedure

- **a.** The competition format will be based upon Disability/Para Swimmers inclusion within the schedule of events. Swimmers will be seeded within the able-bodied programme on their submitted times.
- **b.** Disability/Para competitors will be included within the results for their age group.
- **c.** Where possible the County will endeavour to provide an official who had undertaken disability event officiating training to act as liaison where Disability/Para swimmers are competing

3. Awards

- **a**. Medals will be awarded to Para Swimmer competitors placed first, second and third in each event based upon British Para Swimming Points (S1 – S14).
- **b.** Where there is a single competitor in an event, that competitor must achieve faster than their entry time to receive an award.