

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

**Held under Swim England Regulations
and under Swim England Open Meet Licensing Criteria**

Licence Numbers: 2ER260010, 2ER260011, 2ER260012, 2ER260013

10th, 17th, 18th, 24th, 25th and 31st January 2026

Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre, Holywell Hill, St Albans, AL1 2DL

MEET CONDITIONS

1) General conditions

- a. The competition is licensed by Swim England East Region as a level 2 meet.
- b. Any matter not covered by these conditions will be determined by the promoter, lead referee and meet director, subject to Swim England (SE) Regulations.
- c. The promoter of this event is Karen Huckle, on behalf of Swim England Hertfordshire (SEH), promoter@swimherts.org
- d. Any queries regarding the Championships should be directed to the promoter in the first instance.
- e. The pool length is 25m, with 10 lanes, anti-turbulence lane ropes, Swiss Timing electronic timing and an external strobe.
- f. Heats will be swum in two tranches, 10-14 year olds and 15 and over and will be seeded within those age groups on submitted times. Age is as at 31st December 2026.
- g. Over the top starts will be used at the discretion of the referee.
- h. 50m and 100m events shall have heats progressing to finals for each age group.
- i. All 200m events shall have heats progressing to a Championship final.
- j. 400m, 800m and 1500m events shall be swum as Timed Finals
- k. The top 10 swimmers will be called for finals. The next 2 swimmers will be called as reserves.

2) Eligibility

- a. The competition is only open to SE Club Compete members, or the equivalent membership with the other home countries, who are members of swimming clubs in the county of Hertfordshire.
- b. A competitor must be a registered member of the club in whose name they are entered at the date of making the entry. Where swimmers are members of multiple clubs, they must opt to compete in the name of one club only throughout the Championships – this applies to both individual and relay events.
- c. Individuals forming relay teams must be eligible to enter the competition but do not have to be swimming in individual events to be able to swim as part of a relay team.
- d. Entry times must be achieved between 17th May 2025 and 7th December 2025 and appear on the Aquatics GB Rankings database.
- e. Club entries must be submitted using the online entry system and comply with eligibility requirements.
- f. Disability Qualifying Times have been set for swimmers with a formal classification.

- g. Entry times may be swum in either 25m or 50m pools. If an entry time is swum in a 50m pool, it will automatically be converted within the entry management software.

3) Categories

- a. In individual events, the competition shall be swum in two categories
 - a. Open
 - b. Female

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, a swimmer confirms that their birth sex is female.

Entries will be made using Female and Open competition categories.

4) Age groups

- a. Individual events
 - 10/11 years, 12 years, 13 years, 14 years, 15 years, 16 years and over.
- b. Relay events
 - 10-13 years inclusive, 10-15 years inclusive, 10 years and over
- c. Age as at midnight on 31st December 2026.

5) The events

Entry into an individual event automatically, without further cost, includes entry into the Junior Championships for 15 years and under, and entry into the Championships for all ages.

a. Individual events

Ages 10/11

50m, 100m, 200m and 400m Freestyle
100m and 200m Individual Medley
50m, 100m and 200m, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly

Ages 12 and over

50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and 1500m Freestyle
100m, 200m and 400m Individual Medley
50m, 100m and 200m, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly

b. Team events

Age Group (10 to 13)

4 x 50m Freestyle Relay, 4 x 50m Medley Relay, 4 x 50m Mixed** Freestyle Relay and 4 x 50m Mixed** Medley Relay

Junior Championship (10 to 15)

4 x 50m Freestyle Relay, 4 x 50m Medley Relay, 4 x 50m Mixed** Freestyle Relay and 4 x 50m Mixed** Medley Relay

Championship (10 years and over)

4 x 50m Freestyle Relay, 4 x 50m Medley Relay, 4 x 50m Mixed** Freestyle Relay and 4 x 50m Mixed** Medley Relay

** Mixed Relay teams must have 2 swimmers from each category, swimming in any order.

6) Entry procedure

Individuals

- a. All entries for individual events must be submitted using the online entry system by the closing date of 23:59 on Wednesday 10th December 2025, in one application per club.
- b. No alternatives or new entries can be submitted after the closing date.

Relays

- a. All entries for relay teams must be submitted by the closing date 23:59 on Wednesday 10th December 2025, in one application per club.
- b. No alternatives or new entries can be submitted after the closing date.
- c. All potential relay swimmers must be entered using the online entry system by the closing date 23:59 on Wednesday 10th December 2025.
- d. Entry times must be entered for each relay team submitted.
- e. Any relay team entry failing to submit an entry time will NOT be accepted.
- f. For the relays on 10th January, the names of the swimmers in the order of swimming in relay events MUST be submitted using the relay event entry system by 18:00 on Friday 9th January 2026.
- g. For all other relays, the names of the swimmers in the order of swimming in relay events MUST be submitted using the relay event entry system by the start of racing of the session immediately prior to the session in which the relay is to be swum.
- h. Changes to relay teams will be accepted up to the start of warm up for the session in which the relay is being swum.
- i. Any such change can only be made on medical grounds
- j. Any such change can only include swimmers whose details have already been submitted.

General

- a. All clubs must submit two Club Contacts to the Promoter, giving contact details (email and mobile number) for two club representatives to be used during the Championships.
The club representatives will be added to a WhatsApp group for communications regarding County Championships.
They will be contacted and given the necessary access details for the online entry system.
For issues with the online entry system email events@swimherts.org.
The SEH entries manager will acknowledge receipt of entries as soon as possible after receipt.
 - b. Receipt of entries does not constitute acceptance.
 - c. A list of accepted entries and a list of scratched entries will be published on the SEH website www.swimherts.org as soon as possible after the entry deadline and will be notified to clubs.
 - d. Invoices will be issued, for payment of entries, on or before 5th January 2026. Payment must be received by 23:59 on Friday 9th January, otherwise the club will have all entries to the competition rejected.
 - e. Payment procedure:
 - Payment must be made via BACS to the SEH bank account
 - Account Name: Swim England Hertfordshire
 - Sort Code: 30-97-24
 - Account Number: 07128220
- Payment to be calculated as follows:
Each Individual entry: £10 per event
Each relay team £20 per entry

Supervisory passes will be provided FREE OF CHARGE.

Clubs should ensure the SE Team Manager/Coach/Chaperone Policy is adhered to with regards to the number of swimmers a club has at each session.

- f. Throughout this event SEH will have several authorised media partners taking static photographs and video footage. These images are intended solely for the purposes of promotion and celebration of the activities and will include live streaming on the internet. Images will be made available via our website and our social network sites.
- g. Consent is deemed to be granted by entering the meet.
- h. Under GDPR for data protection, the promoter requires confirmation that entered swimmers (or the swimmers' parents/guardians/carers) have granted consent to personal data (i.e. name, age and swim time) being published in the online programme and the meet results and being stored in electronic media. This consent will be given via a summary sheet signed by a club official. Personal data will be available for inspection during the meet, on application to the promoter. Meet administration software will be used.
- i. SEH expect all clubs to adhere to the SE Team Manager/Coach/Chaperone Policy <https://www.swimming.org/library/documents/6101/download>
- j. If clubs wish to share personnel to adhere to the above policy, they must organise such relationships themselves.

7) Individual entry limits

- a. Individual entries will be accepted on the following basis:
 - i. All valid entries to an event with times equal to or faster than the Qualifying Time for that event will be accepted for a swim in that event regardless of the limits set out below.
 - ii. Thereafter valid entries with a time equal to or faster than the Consideration Time will be accepted based on the fastest times submitted, up to the following maximum number of swimmers (including swimmers with Qualifying Times)
 - iii.

10/11 years	50m, 100m 200m 400m	top 17 entrants Top 16 entrants top 8 entrants
12, 13, 14, 15 years	50m and 100m 200m 400m	top 25 entrants top 20 entrants top 14 entrants
16&over	50m and 100m 200m 400m	top 33 entrants top 24 entrants top 16 entrants
800m	12 years 13, 14 years 15,16+ years	top 9 entrants top 15 entrants top 18 entrants
1500m	12 years 13, 14 years 15,16+ years	top 4 entrants top 8 entrants top 10 entrants

8) Relay entry limits

- a. Each club is allowed to enter a maximum of two teams in EACH relay event.

9) Meet administration

- a. Swimmers must be supervised by their coaches/team managers during warm up and whilst in the poolhall and building. Team managers will be responsible for the behaviour of their swimmers at all times.
- b. SEH accept no responsibility for loss or damage to any clothing or other articles.
- c. In accordance with SE's Safeguarding Policies and Procedures any parents or carers of swimmers under the age of 18, who wish to take photographic or video images, are requested to focus on their own child as much as reasonably possible and to avoid including other children in those images, particularly if those images are being shared with family and friends through social media platforms.
- d. No use of any mobile devices is permitted in the changing village.
Anyone seen with a mobile in the changing village may be removed from the competition and reported to the SE Safeguarding team. In cases where it is believed images may have been recorded, the police may be called.
- e. All participants must observe the safety precautions in operation at the venue.
- f. Admission to the pool area for non-swimmers will only be allowed with a valid supervisory pass.
- g. Only swimmers competing in a specific session are allowed in the pool area.
- h. Coaches/team managers/chaperones must apply for accreditation in advance and must have an up-to-date Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and a valid Safeguarding qualification.
- i. Equipment such as massage benches are not allowed in any area hired by the promoter.
- j. Any club wishing to bring such equipment to the event must make alternative arrangements with the pool provider.
- k. Corridors must be always kept clear.
- l. The warm-up protocol will be issued to clubs in advance via email to the nominated club contacts and will be available on the SEH website.
- m. The results will be circulated to clubs, will be on the SEH website and will be uploaded to the Aquatics GB Rankings Database.
- n. Any club requiring a Hy-Tek compatible results file must request this from the Meet Director (chairman@swimherts.org).

10) Withdrawal process

- a. An online withdrawal system will be in operation for the duration of the competition.
- b. If a swimmer is not going to swim in an event it is the responsibility of the club entering the swimmer to make the withdrawal using the online system, no later than the end of the session preceding the session in which the event is to be swum.
- c. For the Long-Distance sessions, withdrawals must be made using the online system no later than 18:00 on the Friday prior to the session.
- d. Any swimmer not present when required to swim will incur a £10 administration fee.
- e. Swimmers not present will be identified from the results where DNC is recorded against them.
- f. After the Championships, the club, in whose name the competitor has entered the competition, will be invoiced for the administration fee, and will have 28 days in which to make the payment. If the payment is not made within the 28 days, the fee will be increased to £20 per missed swim, and no entries will be accepted from that club for any county swimming events until the fee is paid.
- g. Finalists and reserves not wishing to swim, shall notify the event team of their intention to withdraw when the team circulate round the clubs to confirm finalists/reserves.
- h. There will be no refunds for late arrivals or withdrawals after the closing date.
- i. Refunds will only be issued where a swimmer cannot compete in every event they have entered during that weekend.

11) Awards

a. CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship awards are open to ALL swimmers regardless of age.

- i Championship medals will be awarded based on the times achieved in the finals of the 50m, 100m and 200m events.
- ii Championship medals will be awarded based on the times achieved in the heats of the 400m, 800m and 1500m events.

Championship medals will be awarded to the relay teams placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall in the relay heats for the Championship (10&over) relays.

b. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Junior Championship awards are open to all swimmers aged 15 years and under as at 31st December 2026.

- i. Junior Championship medals will be awarded based on the times achieved in the finals of the 50m, 100m events
- ii. Junior Championship medals will be awarded based on the times achieved in the heats of the 200m events where no eligible swimmer competes in the Championship final. If one or more 15 or under swimmers compete in the Championship final they shall be awarded the medal(s) accordingly. Swimming in the final overrides heat swims
- iii. Junior Championship medals will be awarded to swimmers placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the overall heat results in 400m, 800m and 1500m events.
- iv. Junior Championship medals will be awarded to the relay teams placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Junior Championship (10 to 15 year old) relay heats.

c. AGE GROUP

Age group awards are open to all swimmers according to their age as at 31st December 2026.

- i. Age group medals will be awarded to those placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the finals of the 50m and 100m events.
- ii. Age group medals will be awarded to those placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the overall heat results in 200m, 400m, 800m, and 1500m events.
- iii. Age group medals will be awarded to the relay teams placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Age Group (10 to 13 year old) relay heats.

d. OVERALL AWARDS

The overall top swimmers in each age group will be acknowledged and rewarded -

- i For 10 and 11 year-olds there will be 4 event categories, and to be placed in the overall awards swimmers MUST compete successfully in at least one event from each category

Category 1	50m Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Freestyle
Category 2	100m Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Freestyle
Category 3	200m Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Freestyle
Category 4	100m and 200m Individual Medley

- ii For 12 year-olds and over there will be 5 groups of events, and to be placed in the overall awards swimmers MUST compete successfully in at least one event from each group.

Category 1	50m Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Freestyle
Category 2	100m Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Freestyle
Category 3	200m Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Freestyle
Category 4	400m, 800m and 1500m Freestyle
Category 5	100m, 200m and 400m Individual Medley

See separate document describing how the top 10 awards will be decided.

8) Para Swimming Conditions

- a. The general conditions for the SEH County Championships shall apply to Para competitors, except where varied by any of the following conditions.
- b. Para swimmers who have not achieved the SEH County Championship consideration standard in any event are invited to enter.
- c. Swimmers with the indicated classifications will be accepted for the following events only:

50m, 100m	Freestyle	S1 – S14
200m	Freestyle	S1 – S5, S14
400m	Freestyle	S1 – S14
50m	Backstroke	S1 – S5
100m	Backstroke	S1 – S2, S6 – S14
50m	Breaststroke	SB1 – SB3
100m	Breaststroke	SB4 – SB14
50m	Butterfly	S1 – S7
100m	Butterfly	S8 – S14
200m	Individual Medley	SM5 – SM14

- d. Each Para competitor shall be a Swim England Club Compete member or an equivalent member of Swim Scotland or Swim Wales whose membership record shows a S1-15, SB1–SB14 or SM1–SM14 World Para Swimming (WPS) classification, which is held on the Aquatics GB or World Para Swimming Classification database at the time of entry.
- e. Competitors should indicate on their entry their relevant:
 - I. WPS classification or Aquatics GB classification
 - II. UKSA or INAS classification (accompanied by the relevant number)
 - III. British Blind Sport classification
 - IV. UK Deaf Sport classification
 - V. Exception codes
- f. Competitors are advised to bring to the competition a printed copy of their exception codes with them in case there are any queries.
- g. Qualifying times for Para competitors are in a separate document and must have been achieved during the specified qualifying period.
- h. Personal Care Attendants and Coaches will be permitted for swimmers in the following classes: S1, S2, S3, S4 and S11. All coaches, chaperones and personal care attendants must conform with the Swim England Child Protection procedures.

15) Competition format

- a. The competition format will be based on disability inclusion within the able-bodied format.
- b. All swimmers will be seeded in the heats according to their entry times.
- c. Para competitors will be included within the results for their age group.

16) Awards

- a. Medals will be awarded to Para swimmers on a multi-classification timed basis based on British Disability points, regardless of age.
- b. If there are fewer than 4 competitors in an event the minus one rule shall apply.
If there is only one competitor in any one event, the swimmer needs to improve on their entry time to medal.