

# COUNTRY PENNANTS RULES

Amended and approved 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

May 2023

The Swimming WA Country Committee, on behalf of all Regional Clubs,  
acknowledge the Rules approved or amended prior to 2019.

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## Country Pennants Rules

### 1. The Competition

The name of the competition is Country Pennants. The purpose of the event is to create meaningful competition between Regional Clubs in Regional areas of Western Australia (WA).

### 2. Swimming WA

Swimming WA (SWA) will hold the Rules for the competition to ensure confidence in the consistent application of the Rules.

### 3. Swimming WA Country Swimming Committee Responsibilities

The SWA Country Swimming Committee shall be responsible for leading and directing the management of Country Pennants.

The appointed host Club will be directed by the SWA Country Swimming Committee. The SWA Country Swimming Committee shall ensure that the host Club communicates effectively to the Committee on all aspects regarding organization of the event.

The Country Coordinator will advise the SWA Competition Planning Committee of the date and location of the event to allow inclusion in the overall SWA Calendar of Events. This will occur prior to the closing date for listing of events in the SWA Almanac and available resources.

The nomination fees (non-refundable deposit, individual and relay entry fees) shall be reviewed and set by the SWA Country Swimming Committee no later than 31 October of the year prior to the competition.

### 4. Aquatic Specifications

The competition is to be held annually in a pool of 50 metre length with a minimum of six (6) lanes.

**Diving blocks preferably at both ends of the pool.**

The pool must comply with facility rules as per Swimming Australia (SAL) and SWA competition requirements.

Clubs are to follow the SAL Diving Entry for Competitive Swimming Policy and utilize the Diving Competency checklist.

### 5. Host Region Responsibilities

The Country Pennants can only be hosted by Regions which are affiliated with SWA. The SWA Country Swimming Committee will confirm with SWA in advance of the Meet that compliance has been achieved.

The event will be conducted on a rotational basis around WA country Regions. The roster of Regions is as follows:

- Midwest
- Great Southern
- Gascoyne
- Wheatbelt
- Goldfields
- Southwest
- Pilbara/Kimberley.

The host Region shall determine the host Club/s by way of election and notify the SWA Country Swimming Committee. The selected Region must notify the SWA Country Swimming Committee two (2) years prior to their roster date if that Region is unable to host the Country Pennants event. Should the Region be unable to host the competition, the competition shall move to the next rostered Region.

## 6. Date of Competition

The competition shall be held during the March Labour Day weekend unless decided otherwise by the SWA Country Swimming Committee.

All grades where possible, shall have an equal number of Clubs participating.

## 7. Competitor Eligibility

All entrants must be **Current Financial SWA Members** in accordance with SWA current seasons membership category allowing Competition Entry. The competition is for members of Regional Clubs. A Regional Club is a club within a Regional area as defined by the SWA By-Laws.

## 8. Eligible Age Groups

**Events:** Nine (9) years to Open.

The age for the competition shall be the age of the swimmer on the first day of the Meet. Age shown for an event shall include swimmers up to and including that age.

**8yr old swimmers may ONLY be entered into the 9yr old events for Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke and Butterfly. 8yr old swimmers may ONLY be entered into the 10 & under Relays. 8yr old swimmers may **NOT** swim in any other age group or open events.**

**Multi-Class Events: MC Events will be 50 metres Girls & Boys in all four (4) strokes. MC Swimmers can compete in either of the Standard or MC events but cannot swim more than FOUR (4) individual events as per normal CP rules. The MC events will not include relays. MC swimmers can be included in their Club Relay teams.**

A senior swimmer is seventeen (17) years and over for all grades. The term 'Open' for this event means a swimmer above the age of nine (9) years.

## 9. Regional Club Responsibilities

### 9.1 Club Application

Clubs may enter an application to enter on the proviso that the Club will commit a team with **no less than ten (10)\* swimmers** in their respective grade.

\*Refer to Voluntary Amalgamation if Club cannot commit to minimum swimmers.

Clubs shall forward notice of intention to compete to the host Club by 30 November in the year prior to the competition. Application shall be via the Country Pennants Application Form and accompanied by a non-refundable deposit fee.

This fee will constitute part payment of the total nomination fee. Clubs who fail to attend annually\* may, at the discretion of the SWA Country Swimming Committee, lose their right to compete.

All nomination fees must be provided to the host Club as per the SWA Almanac listing and no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the first day of competition.

Clubs that do not attend Country Pennants will forfeit their nomination fees.

\*Refer to Limited Lane Capacity – Tiered System.

### 9.2 Nomination of Competitors

Nominations naming competitors and reserves shall be in the hands of the host Club as per the SWA Almanac listing and no less than 14 days prior to the first day of competition.

## 10. Method of Nomination

The method of nomination shall be via electronic method (Team Manager).

**Competitors may be nominated as a swimmer for no more than four (4) individual events, but can be listed as a reserve for as many events as they are eligible to swim by age.**

**Swimmers may not swim in more than four (4) individual events.**

**Only one swimmer per Club may compete in each individual event.**

**Swimmers may compete in as many relays as they qualify for by age.**

Clubs are responsible for confirming that their entry file is correct and meets the requirements set out in the Country Pennants Rules. This includes the following:

- **Individual Meet Entries Report by Event including relays (PDF).**
- Entry Fee Report (PDF).
- Team Manager Entry File (TM).

### 10.1 Relay Competitor Nominations

**In accordance with SWA competition rules, swimmers for relays must be named at the time of nomination.**

There may be only one (1) relay team per Club in each relay event.

An individual electronic entry or hard copy Nomination Form shall be used for any member of a relay team who is not included in an individual event. Such a Form shall be cleared marked 'RELAYS ONLY'.

Note: If a swimmer is found not to be a SWA annual Member, swims in the wrong age group, or the event has not been included on the summary sheet by the Club concerned, the Club will lose all points gained for that event and may face fines up to the value of that Club's total nomination costs, and/or suspension from the competition for a period of up to two (2) years. The consequence will be at the discretion of the SWA Country Swimming Committee (subject to the normal right of appeal).

### 10.2 Reserves

Clubs may nominate:

- Two (2) reserves for individual events.
- Two (2) reserves for freestyle relay events. - Four (4) reserves for medley relay events.

**All individual event reserves and ALL Relay Reserves for both Freestyle and Medley Relays need to be listed at the time of nomination.**

Nominated reserves for individual events may be substituted any time up to thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the event. Scratching Sheets must be handed to the scratching table within the time limit of the scheduled start time of the event.

For Country Pennants all team members, including reserves, shall marshal at the due time together with their relay list of names in the order in which they will swim. All reserves must be named. No other swimmer may compete.

The list may be presented to the Marshal at that time. NO LIST – NO SWIM. (Events are marshalled approximately 15 minutes prior to the swim).

### 10.3 Volunteers

Each Club shall provide adults on a pro-rata basis to assist with the running of the competition. One (1) Official for every ten (10) swimmers, or part of the number nominated.

Clubs shall advise the host Club of the qualification of these Officials when requested.

## 11. Amalgamation and Voluntary Amalgamation

Clubs may amalgamate to form a combined team. Amalgamation shall require the consent of the SWA Country Swimming Committee prior to entry into the competition and shall be subject to the following:

1. The Clubs in their own right are unable to field a team of at least ten (10) swimmers in their respective grade.
2. Application for Regional Club amalgamation is made in writing with supporting documentation, prior to 30 November in the year preceding the event.
3. Supporting documentation from each Club will accompany the application and include the number of combined Club competitors, evidence of each Club's SWA affiliation, each swimmer's SWA annual Membership and a reason for amalgamation.
4. Nomination to enter the event as an amalgamated team the following year is not guaranteed.
5. Nomination for the amalgamated team or Club/s to re-enter in the designated grade the following year is not guaranteed and is at the discretion of the SWA Country Swimming Committee.
6. A maximum of two (2) Clubs may form an amalgamated team.

In the event of lane adjustments according to the capacity of the host venue i.e. the situation of accommodating entries from an eight (8) lane pool to a six (6) lane pool, the amalgamation of Clubs may be required. The SWA Country Committee will review all nomination applications and advise Clubs of their options for participating.

## 12. Limited Lane Capacity – Tiered System for Club Entry

The process of a tiered system for Club nominations may be utilized in the event of lane adjustments in line with the capacity of the host venue (e.g. from an eight (8) lane pool to a six (6) lane pool).

The Club tier system is as follows:

- Tier 1: 20 or more participants (repetitive annual attendance, high team numbers).
- Tier 2: 10 – 19 participants (regular annual attendance, low team numbers).
- Tier 3: <10 participants (occasional annual attendance, low team numbers).
- Tier 4: Forfeit nomination for the following year.

The SWA Country Swimming Committee will place Clubs each year into the tiered system after nominations close.

In the event that a Club nominates and does not attend the event, that Club will forfeit future nomination and will be placed in Tier 4.

This Rule will be applied at the discretion of the SWA Country Swimming Committee with consideration to maximizing participation.

### 13. Second Teams

Clubs may field a second team in the competition at the discretion of the SWA Country Swimming Committee. Such teams shall be subject to the following:

1. Inclusion in any year shall be subject to lane availability after all first Club teams' applications are placed.
2. Second teams shall be classed as an individual team and as such, are required to meet all requirements of Regional Club responsibilities.
3. Consideration by SWA Country Swimming Committee will include, but it not limited to, the priority for the host Club to enter a second team, and the tier of the Club requesting a second team.
4. Nomination for a second team to re-enter in the designated grade in subsequent years is not guaranteed.

### 14. Technical Officials and Timekeeping

Technical Officials (qualified and developing) will be required for the duration of the event as well three (3) timekeepers per lane.

If competitors are seeking official qualifying times, this will necessitate nomination (by the Club Team Leader), to the Chief Referee to accommodation specific officiating requirements as per SWA Policy. The approval of request is not guaranteed.

### 15. Programme of Events

The programme for the competition shall be as follows:

**Day One:** Medley relays followed by  
**Individual Breaststroke and Freestyle events.**

**Day Two: Individual Butterfly and Backstroke events** followed by Freestyle relay events.

No changes to this order shall be allowed on the day of competition. Butterfly events shall be in accordance with the program and current SWA policies.

#### Mixed Relays

Mixed relay events listed in the program will be swum as follows:

Relay teams: Grade A, B, C, D, and E.

Combinations: Two (2) males and two (2) females.  
One (1) male and three (3) females.  
Three (3) males and one (1) female.



## 16. Points

Points awarded for the competition shall be:

6 Lane Pool: Individual – 10, 8, 6, 5, 4, 3

Relay – 12, 10, 8, 6, 5, 4

8 Lane Pool: Individual – 10, 8, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1

Relay – 12, 10, 8, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2

## 17. Awards

Pennants shall be awarded each year to the Club earning the highest combined points in each grade. All Clubs shall be graded in order of both individual and relay events in each grade.

A Perpetual Trophy will be awarded to the Club gaining the highest points for relay events in each grade. A replica trophy shall be awarded to the recipients.

Country Pennant Perpetual Trophies shall be awarded to the male and female competitors attaining times closest to or better than, the best time set by a Western Australian swimmer for (a) 50 metre event and (b) 100 metre event. Records used shall be the Western Australian Residential Record. A replica trophy shall be awarded to recipients.

There shall be no age differential in determining the trophy winners.

All perpetual trophies are returned to the **SWA Office** at the completion of the presentation and it is the responsibility of **SWA** to ensure trophies are engraved and delivered to the next host Club for the following year.

The host Club is required to forward an electronic file of all results to the SWA Competition and Records Officer.

## 18. Disqualifications and Protests

All disqualifications are to be announced. The host Club must ensure the announcer is in close proximity to the Referee to facilitate the timely announcement of any disqualification/s.

In accordance with FINA Rules, protests are possible:

1. If the rules and regulation for the conduct of the competition are not observed.
2. If other conditions endanger the competition and/or competitors.
3. Against decisions of the Referee, however, no protest shall be allowed against decisions of fact.

The Protest must be submitted:

1. To the Referee;
2. In writing;
3. By the responsible Team Leader only;
4. With a deposit of \$50.00;
5. Within thirty (30) minutes following the announcement of the disqualification of the respective event.

If conditions causing a potential protest are noted prior to the competition, a protest must be lodged before the signal to start is given.

The Referee shall consider all protests. If the Referee rejects the project, the Referee must state the reasons for the decision. The Team Leader may appeal the rejection to the Jury of Appeal whose decision shall be final.

If the protest is rejected, the deposit, will be forfeited to the management body of the competition. If the protest is upheld, the deposit will be returned.

The Jury of Appeal should be made up of three (3) nominated and suitably qualified SWA Officials

The Referee to whom the protest was made should not be appointed.

Guidelines for the conduct of Swimming Juries of Appeal as issued by SAL, together with the Protest Procedures, shall form the basis of the hearing.

The competition shall be conducted under FINA, SAL and SWA competition rules.

## 19. Entry to the Country Pennants

Entry to the event is restricted to SWA annual Members of SWA Regional affiliated Clubs in WA. A Regional Club is a Club within a Regional area as defined in the SWA By-Laws.

## 20. First Claim/Second Claim Membership

SWA Members who meet the requirements of first/second claim Memberships, stated in the SWA By-Laws, are eligible to enter in the event.

## 21. Fees

The SWA Country Swimming Committee will set the nomination and entry fees on an annual basis. The host Club will communicate the fees to Clubs through the Information Package.

## 22. Amendment to Rules

These Rules shall only be amended in discussion with and following presentation of, a draft to the SWA Country Swimming Committee. The Committee representatives will be responsible for seeking and providing feedback to the Committee by an agreed set date. If no feedback is received by the set date, then the Rules presented will be final. If feedback is received, the content will be reviewed and discussed by the Committee prior to finalizing the updated Rules.

These Rules are to be read in conjunction with:

### Country Pennants Guidelines for Host Clubs

#### Appendix Two – Programme of Events

All Country Pennant venues shall be an **ALCOHOL/SMOKE FREE ZONE**.

The area shall be defined as follows, the external boundaries of the complex and all areas enclosed therein.

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

HANCOCK PROSPECTING PTY LTD