

Swimming WA Incorporated

Pool Competition Guidelines

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1. Pool Competition Guidelines

All Swimming WA Competitions shall be governed by these rules and entry requirements as well as other information as published in the meet information.

The competition information will be published before, or at the time of opening entries, for the relevant Swimming WA Competition.

Swimming WA may update the competition information at any time.

Swimming WA may set qualifying standards as a pre-condition for entry into any Swimming WA competition. These will be published on the Swimming WA website and in the competition information. A competitor wishing to enter such a Swimming WA Competition must comply with the relevant qualifying standards within the qualifying period indicated in the competition information or on the Swimming WA website.

If available, backstroke ledges will be used in individual events at the Open Medley Relays at the Age & Open State Championships at HBF Stadium.

The use of backstroke ledges outside of these competitions remains at Swimming WA's discretion at Swimming WA-hosted competitions. It is not recommended for junior competitions (under the age of 13).

All Swimming WA and Sanctioned meets will open for entries to the community one (1) month out from the competition starting. The only exception to this is the Swimming WA State Championship Meets will open two (2) months out from the start of the competition.

All other Swimming WA competitions (club-sanctioned competitions) will open under the Swimming WA Competition Policy.

2. Competitive Age Structure

Swimming WA aims to uphold Swimming Australia's Foundations, Talent, Elite, Mastery (FTEM) Pathway in the swimming environment to create a supportive and nurturing competitive environment that fosters swimming development provides challenges for swimmers of all ages and abilities and encourages swimmers to stay in the sport for as long as possible. While some swimmers may want to progress quickly, Swimming WA's responsibility is to ensure swimming in WA accommodates all levels of swimmers in a suitable format.

For the purposes of competition transition, junior competitive swimmers who are turning 13 years of age for girls, or 14 years of age for boys between the State Age Championships and Junior Championships and meet event entry qualifying requirements may enter the Swimming WA State Age Championships in the 13 or 14 years age group via the provided method indicated in the competition information.

In addition, a substantively 13 years of age competitive swimmer whose entry has met the administrative criteria for the Age meet and holds the event entry qualifying requirement/s, may also swim up in Open age events only.

3. Extended Eligibility

Eligibility for entry into any Swimming WA Competition shall be prescribed in the relevant Competition Information found in the event details on Swim Central or Swimming WA Website.

For all Age Group Competitions, a Competitor's age shall be calculated as on the first day of the Competition, unless stated otherwise in the Competition Information. Verification of age to the reasonable

satisfaction of Swimming WA may be required.

No more than two Visiting Competitors may swim in an 'A' final or in the fastest heat of a timed final in all Swimming WA-hosted Championship Meets.

To be eligible to compete at Country Championships a competitor must be a primary member of an Entity registered with a Region as listed in the Membership Policy.

To be eligible to compete at any Region Competition, individuals must be primary members of a Region registered with Swimming WA unless the Region decides to extend the invitation to other surrounding clubs as visitors.

Unattached Members may compete in Open Meets where they achieve the qualifying standard as outlined in the Competition Information.

4. Athletes with Disability

Any athlete with a disability may compete in any Swimming WA Competition.

Athletes with disability wishing to compete in events published as Multi-Class must hold a classification according to the Classification database held by Swimming Australia.

In addition, an athlete who has previously, within 12 months, held a now expired classification according to the Classification database held by Swimming Australia may compete as an S17 classed athlete.

In addition to the previous clauses, an athlete who has not yet received a formal classification according to the classification database held by Swimming Australia can supply medical documents/evidence of having a disability in accordance with the Classification process and swim with a state provisional classification.

In addition to the previous clauses, if (or when) an athlete has been judged as 'Not Eligible' at a formal classification, however, they still can supply medical documents/evidence of having a disability as defined in the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and may compete as an S17 classed athlete.

All athletes with disability competing in Multi-Class events are subject to the performances being judged against the Swimming Australia Multi-Class Point Score and relevant other benchmark times as advertised in the Competition Information.

In a meet where Multi-Class races are held, athletes may choose to compete in either able-bodied or Multi-Class events. This is done with the caveat that if a Multi-Class option is available this is the only place their classification exceptions will be recognised in the Multi-Class events and not the able-body events. If there is no Multi-Class event option then their exceptions will be recognised in the able-body event.

5. Relays

Unless the names of each member of a relay team have been submitted as part of the online relay entry process and such members remain unchanged, a team sheet on the appropriate form must be delivered to the recording area at least one hour before the commencement of the session in which the relevant Event is to be conducted or as outlined in the Competition Information.

Any Club may enter a maximum of two teams in any one relay Event in the Swimming WA Short Course and Long Course Championships.

6. Withdrawals

Any Competitor wishing to withdraw from a final at a Swimming WA Competition must do so on the prescribed form, within thirty minutes of the results of the heats for Event being posted.

Any Competitor who does not comply with the above clause and who does not compete in the relevant final may be ineligible to compete in their next individual Event at the same Swimming WA Competition. If the Competitor is not entered in any subsequent races at the SWA Competition, then Swimming WA may impose such sanction as it sees fit.

7. Competition Swimwear

Swimming WA acknowledges the World Aquatics approved list, Swimming WA will allow competitors to wear swimsuits that have not been approved by World Aquatics provided they meet the guidelines relating to textile material, fastening devices and coverage.

Swimmers aged 13 years and over will be permitted to wear swimwear in line with the World Aquatics by-laws.

Junior swimmers: Swimmers aged 12 years and under are not permitted to wear technical/performance swimsuits at any Swimming WA-sanctioned competition.

The exception to this rule is when the swimmer is competing in a State Championship event as an age group swimmer; then they will be permitted to wear swimwear in line with the World Aquatics by-laws.

There is also an exception to this rule when the swimmer is competing under the Swimming Australia Inclusive Swimwear Policy 2022.

8. Swimming WA State Championships

Should a swimmer not achieve the qualifying time in a heat or semi-final leading to a final of a State Championship event, they shall be ineligible to compete in the final of the State Championship event.

The winner, second, and third placegetters in each State Championship or Swimming WA Meet shall receive a medallion reflecting their final place position, provided they meet the qualifying time during the final for the event.

The first swimmer to finish in each State Championship who is not a Visitor shall receive the title of "State Champion". In the event of a Visitor gaining 1st, 2nd or 3rd place, a medallion shall be awarded similar to that given by SWA to any eligible swimmer gaining such a place. No medal or points shall be awarded if the placegetter fails to achieve the qualifying time set for the event.

In all events except for the 1500m, 800m and 400IM, B-Finals will only occur at a Swimming WA Open State Championship where there is a minimum of 24 participants, in the relevant age and gender category, during the heats of the event.

9. Swimming WA Sanctioned Meet Applications

Applications for Sanctioned Meets will open no later than 1 April each year and close on 30 April, these applications will need to be submitted to Swimming WA by the prescribed form.

Criteria for hosting sanctioned competitions.

- Three (3) Officials from the hosting entity, any official with any level of qualification.
- Regional hosts are exempt from the above clause, the regional host can nominate Officials from

their local region area by Swimming WA Member Policy boundaries.

- Provide three (3) potential dates as hosting options.
- Location of competition (i.e., pool)
- Specify Long Course or Short Course.
- Provide Swimming WA a copy at time of application a copy of the intended program of events.
- Agree to operate the competition within the Swimming WA Competition Policy (including event entry timeline).
- Time equipment to be used, i.e., Dolphin Timing / Omega.
- Understand and comply with the Swimming Australia National Integrity Framework.

Applications will be assessed by the Competition Planning Committee, TEO Committee and Swimming WA staff. Order of priority will be given as follows:

- Swimming Australia Competition
- Swimming WA hosted Competitions (i.e. State Championships, Open Water Series)
- Swimming WA Affiliated Region Competition
- Swimming WA Affiliated Clubs submitted during the application process
- Inter-club Competition Requests
- Time trials on a per-needs basis

The results will be confirmed in writing by Swimming WA, on 30 June. Clubs will then be invoiced 1 July.

Applications can be accepted outside of this timeframe and will be reviewed and assessed by the relevant committees during their prescheduled meeting dates. This date will be conveyed to the nominee after receipt of the completed application. The results will be confirmed in writing by Swimming WA seven (7) days after the prescheduled committee meeting.

10. Official Club Nights and Interclub Competitions

Clubs that are seeking Official times from their club nights, time trials and interclub are required to meet the following criteria.

10.1 Using four (4) lanes

- One (1) Referee.
- One (1) Starter.
- One (1) Judge of Stroke (accredited or completed first assessment).
- Three (3) timekeepers per lane.
- Recognition of Results form submitted in Swim Central. Appendix 1.
- Competition results are loaded into Swim Central for verification.

10.2 Using more than four (4) lanes

- One (1) Referee.
- One (1) Starter.
- Two (2) Judge of Stroke (accredited or completed first assessment).
- Three (3) timekeepers per lane.
- Recognition of Results form submitted in Swim Central. Appendix 1.
- Competition results are loaded into Swim Central for verification.

11. Results Verification

Results from Sanctioned meets and other competitions will be verified once all documentation has been uploaded. Including no matching errors within Swim Central once results are uploaded. Matching error corrections are the responsibility of the hosting entity to correct unless the backup competition file is provided to Swimming WA to assist.

If you require result verification ASAP post meet. This needs to be communicated BEFORE the commencement of the competition with Swimming WA staff.

12. Medals and Other Prizes

Medals will be awarded at Swimming WA Championship meets.

There is no requirement for clubs to provide medals at sanctioned meets or any other type of meet. Clubs can provide prizes and rewards (medals/ribbons/trophies) at their discretion.

13. Swim Central

Swim Central is the preferred platform for entry into all Swimming WA-hosted and Sanctioned Competitions.

Hosting entities are required to publish a PDF document to the meet page listing the below information.

- List of Swimming events and the order they will be in.
- Location of meet/which pool/s will be used.
- Time of the competition.
- Any special conditions or types of events that may be in place for the meet.
- Any timing or potential volunteer requirements that may be needed.
- Contact of person/club running meet.

This needs to be loaded onto Swim Central meet at least two (2) weeks before the opening of the entries.

14. Officials at Swimming WA & Sanctioned Competitions

Officials need to confirm their involvement in any meet no later than one (1) week from the start of the meet. This is to enable additional officials to be found if there are not enough or some withdraw from the meet.

15. Volunteers Roster

If there is a volunteer roster for timekeeping and other roles at the meet this needs to be evenly distributed across all participating clubs, with regards to who is competing at the time i.e. considerations for long-distance events such as representatives of who will be swimming will also be filling the timing roles.

This roster will be released no later than Wednesday at 5 pm before the meet.

16. Confidentiality and Reporting

Breaches of this policy must be reported to SWA Management within 14 days of any occurrence. Breaches of this policy must be kept confidential, and disclosure to any third party beyond SWA Management is not permitted.

17. Related Documents

Related documents include the following:

- SWA Competition Policy

18. Version Control

Version	Issue Date	Approved By	Approval Date	Review Date
1.0	September 2024	CEO	September 2024	April 2025