



# ENGLISH SCHOOLS' SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales

## South East Division - Primary Schools' Team Championships

### 1) **Regulations** (Effective from January 2023)

The Primary Schools' Team Championships shall take place under Swim England Judicial Regulations and Technical Rules of Swimming as amended by the ESSA Technical Rules of Swimming for these championships (see website for details). **The ESSA Technical Rules provide important amendments for the championships and it is essential that a copy of these is provided to all Referees and Promoters of galas held as part of the qualification rounds.**

### 2) **Eligibility**

- a) Entry is open to all Schools in England.
- b) Competitors must be 'on the roll' of the School entering the Championship and in full-time attendance there on the closing date for Divisional entries.

### 3) **Transfers**

- a) Pupils that transfer from one school to another between qualification stages and the Championship finals are only eligible to swim for the School for which they were first entered.

### 4) **Age**

- a) Competitors must be aged 9 or 10 years as at midnight August 31<sup>st</sup>/September 1<sup>st</sup> at the commencement of the academic year of the Championships.

### 5) **Control**

- a) The sole control and management of the South East Division's Championships will be in the hands of the ESSA South East Division.
- b) Arrangements for the SE County qualification stage of the Championships will be in the hands of the ESSA SE County organisations.

### 6) **School Size Categories**

- a) For the purpose of these Championships there will be three entry categories:
  - i) **Small Schools** are defined as being those which have no more than a combined total of 60 in curriculum years 5 and 6.
  - ii) **Medium Schools** are defined as being those which have a combined total of 61 to 100 in curriculum years 5 and 6.
  - iii) **Open Schools** are defined as being those from any size school.
- b) **Schools may enter only one category, and cannot change category in the year of competition after their first qualifying stage gala.**

### 7) **Entries**

- a) Entries shall be made through the ESSA County in which the school is located. Entries may be made to surrounding counties/divisions where they have space to accommodate them, at the host organiser's sole discretion.
- b) The fastest two teams in each event from each SE County will automatically qualify for the SE Divisional Championships. The next fastest teams from each event across the SE Division will be invited to fill any available lanes.
- c) Entries shall close on a date set by the organiser and must be made on the official entry form. It is the responsibility of the school organiser to ensure that the Head Teacher is aware of the swimmers' participation.
- d) **Events: (Note: all events are team events and are 4x25m)**
  - i) **Small Schools** may enter:
    - (1) one Freestyle team of 4 boys, or 4 girls, or any combination of both;
    - (2) one Mixed Stroke team of 4 boys, or 4 girls, or any combination of both;  
(*stroke order*: Backstroke, Breaststroke, **Any Stroke**, and Front Crawl).
  - ii) **Medium Schools** may enter:
    - (1) one Freestyle team of 4 boys, or 4 girls, or any combination of both;
    - (2) one Mixed Stroke team of 4 boys, or 4 girls, or any combination of both;  
(*stroke order*: Backstroke, Breaststroke, **Butterfly or Breaststroke** and Freestyle\*).

iii) **Open Schools** may enter:

- (1) one Freestyle team of 4 boys;
- (2) one Freestyle team of 4 girls;
- (3) one Mixed Stroke team of 4 boys;  
(*stroke order*: Backstroke, Breaststroke, **Butterfly or Breaststroke** and Freestyle\*);
- (4) one Mixed Stroke team of 4 girls;  
(*stroke order*: Backstroke, Breaststroke, **Butterfly or Breaststroke** and Freestyle\*).

\* Freestyle in Mixed Stroke events is defined as any stroke other than Backstroke, Breaststroke or Butterfly.

## 8) **Team Lists**

- a) At each gala a signed team nomination form shall be handed to the Organiser by a representative of the School. The form shall include:
  - i) the names and dates of birth of all swimmers representing the school, and
  - ii) a statement certifying conformity with these conditions.
- b) Substitution of reserves is permitted between each gala, and between heats and finals. The names and dates of birth must be included in the relevant signed form in 7)d)iii)a) above.

## 9) **Conduct of the Championships**

### a) **Notification**

- i) SE County organisers shall submit full details of entries and results of their County gala to the SE Division organiser by the date set.
- ii) Times submitted should be recorded to one hundredth of a second on the official form for each school.

### b) **Pool Length**

- i) 25m pools will be used at all stages of the Championship.
- ii) Each swimmer will swim one length.
- iii) All starts at the shallow end of the pool (swimmers in leg 2 and 4) shall start in the water.  
Clarification on in-the-water starts is provided in the attachment to these conditions.

### c) **National Finalists**

- i) The SE Divisional Organiser will select up to the 3 fastest teams in each division to swim in the National Finals.
- ii) The SE Divisional Organiser will notify all finalists direct. All other schools may obtain results from their Divisional Representative or the ESSA website.
- iii) A requirement of qualifying to compete in the National Finals is the return of the acceptance form not later than the date specified on the form. After this date reserve teams may be invited.
- iv) Where Reserves are called up, these shall be from those listed on each Division's official entry form and will be contacted directly by the National Organiser.

### d) **Code of Conduct**

- i) All participants (swimmers, parents, school/team staff, officials, organisers) are expected to abide by the code of conduct as published on the ESSA website (About Us | Welfare Policy)

## 10) **Awards**

- a) SE Divisional Championships:
  - i) Teams placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> : Each member of these teams will be awarded a medal.
- b) Qualifying stages:
  - i) Awards at galas during the qualifying stages is at the sole discretion of the organiser of that gala.

## 11) **Expenses**

- i) Each competing school will be responsible for its own expenses.

## 12) **Responsibility**

- a) A qualified school teacher, or suitable adult as approved by the Head of the School, must accompany each team at all stages of the competition.
- b) Adults accompanying a team may be required to complete an accreditation process as directed by the organiser.

## 13) **Photography/Video**

- a) An official photographer may be used during Championship events; selected photographs will be made available for purchase from a password protected website and may be used for promotional purposes.
- b) Championship events may be videoed; images will be streamed live to the internet and made available for later playback. Access is not password protected.
- c) Schools must make sure that parents of swimmers are made aware and any welfare or privacy issues raised with the organisers and/or the ESSA welfare officer as required on the entry details for each gala.
- d) Any child welfare/protection issues that arise subsequent to the gala should be raised to the attention of the ESSA welfare officer at the earliest opportunity.

## **Relay start and takeover further information.**

In order to aid the Team Managers to prepare their teams for this event and to attempt to make the interpretation as simple as possible for schools thereby minimising the numbers of disqualifications in Relay take-overs, the following information is provided.

Where multiple galas are used within a division's qualifying stage and one or more of the pools used for those galas has a pool depth that does not permit safe diving for inexperienced swimmers, the division may impose additional conditions to ensure consistency and fairness in the qualification process.

This is the approach taken in the South East Division, where diving is not permitted at the shallow end of the pool in any qualifying stage gala within their Division. Where races are started at the Deep end of the pool and the pool depth is sufficient for it to be safe to do so, swimmers 1 and 3 are permitted to dive as long as they have satisfied the conditions of the Swim England Preliminary Start Award criteria.

### **Interpretation of rules for in the water starts or takeovers:**

- 1: In the following text, the *extended starting platform* is any of the starting block, the pool wall at the end of the lane, or a pad attached to the pool wall at the end of the lane; Where two hands are in contact, they can be with any combination of the block, wall or pad
  - 2: For swimmers starting the race in the water (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> leg) at least one hand of the swimmer starting in the water must remain in contact with the *extended starting platform* until the start signal is issued.
  - 3: For relay races for swimmers starting their leg (other than 1<sup>st</sup> leg) in the water, at least one hand of the swimmer starting in the water must remain in contact with the *extended starting platform* until the incoming swimmer has completed their length and touched the end of the lane.
  - 4: No physical restraint of the outgoing swimmers intended to prevent that swimmer leaving their starting position before the incoming swimmer has touched the wall is permitted. Any such occurrence may result in the team being disqualified for pace-making (SW 10.16). This includes, but is not limited to, holding any part of the body.
- i.e. *The team of the swimmer who is starting their relay leg in the water and has neither hand in contact with the **extended starting platform** before the preceding swimmer touches the end of the lane (before the start signal is given for 1<sup>st</sup> swimmer if starting in the water) may be disqualified.*

Examples:

When the incoming swimmer touches, if the outgoing swimmer is:

- Holding with one hand = good takeover – No DQ
- Holding with two hands = good takeover – No DQ
- Not holding with either hand = illegal takeover – DQ

Note: The position of the feet is immaterial to the decision for a swimmer starting their leg in the water.