



Swim England South West

OPEN WATER SWIMMING

(Under ASA / Swim England Laws and FINA Technical Rules)

General Conditions

G1. The Swim England South West Region Open Water (SE SWR) Championships will be held at Preston Beach, Weymouth on 7th July 2018. Entries are open to registered members of clubs affiliated to the ASA, Swim Scotland and Swim Wales or registered members of clubs from countries affiliated to FINA. Non-registered swimmers may apply for Swim England registration for the day.

G2. A swimmer shall have joined the club in whose name he/she is entered at least 60 days prior to the date of the competition.

G3. Entries

3.1 All competitors must read and sign the declaration on the entry form.

If completing an online entry, they must indicate that they have read the declaration

If completing a manual entry, the entry form must be signed and dated,

3.2 Entries must be received by the organiser on or before the closing date on the entry form. The Entry form will be found on the Swim England SWR website and is to be completed electronically on screen. An email address will need to be provided. Alternatively, you can request a manual form by emailing the meet organiser, the form can be printed and posted when completed.

3.3 Entry fees are to be made by BACS transfer. If paying by cheque it must be posted to the Swim England South West Regional office at Castle Road, Chelston Business Park, Wellington, TA21 9JQ. The payment method, date of payment and reference must be indicated on the Entry form. If using a manual Entry form payment must be paid in the same way indicated on the Entry Information. All payments must be supported with a reference to identify your payment, prefix your last name with 'OW', e.g. OWPodbury.

G4. Competitors must have their competition number written on shoulders, upper arms and backs of hands. When wetsuits are worn competitors must have their competition number written on the back of hands. In addition, they will be given a numbered hat and wristband; both shall be worn throughout the race and the wrist band shall be handed in when leaving the water. Competition numbers may be applied by writing, stencil or transfer.

G5. No competitors shall be permitted to use or wear any device which may be an aid to their speed, endurance or buoyancy. Goggles, caps (maximum 2), nose clip and earplugs may be used. Where 2 caps are worn, the numbered hat provided by the organisers must be worn on the outside so that the competition number is clearly visible.

G6. Costumes must comply with FINA Swimwear rules for Open Water. Information on the latest FINA Open Water Rules relating to costumes is on the last page below, identified as **Appendix A**.

15 years

40 to 49 years

16 years

50+ years

C3. The 12-year-old and 13-year-old band only applies to the 2km event for all other events the minimum age is 14.

C4. Time limits will be applied as follows:

2km must finish within 45 minutes after the first finisher.

3km must finish within 45 minutes after the first finisher.

5km must finish within 60 minutes after the first finisher.

Should the start be split into male and female for any event, the time limit will apply to the first finisher in gender.

1km Taster Event Conditions

T1. Competitors must be between 11 and 14 years of age as of 31st December in the year of competition.

T2. There will be a time limit of 45 minutes after the start.

T3. Wetsuits are compulsory for all competitors when the water temperature is below 18 degrees C, optional when water temperature is below 20 degrees C and not permitted if water temperature is 20 degrees C or above.

T4 All competitors who complete this event will receive a certificate. In addition, awards will be made to the first three competitors in each SESW age band, male and female.

SWIM ENGLAND NATIONAL SUMMER OPEN WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS QUALIFIER CONDITIONS

N1. The 2018 Swim England National Open Water Championship events will be held at Rother Valley Country Park on Monday 30th July 2018. Entries will be accepted from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd swimmers, boys and girls, in each of the following ages and distances from the regional open water competition.

12 years	2km
13 years	2km
14 years	3km
15 years	3km
16 years	5km
17/18 years	5km
19+	5km

National Open Water Championships conditions can be found on the Swim England website.

N2. All ages on 31 December in the year of competition.

N3. Wetsuits are compulsory for all competitors when the water temperature is below 18 degrees C, optional when water temperature is below 20 degrees C and not permitted if water temperature is 20 degrees C or above.

N4. The Open Water secretary will forward the names of all qualifiers to Swim England Open Water events who will invite each individual to submit their entry for the Nationals.

APPENDIX A

1. Water Temperature & Swimwear

- (a) Water Temperature 20 degrees or above: - Swimming costumes must comply with FINA Open Water Rules below.

BL 8.2 In pool and open water swimming competitions the competitor must wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces. No additional items, like arm bands or leg bands shall be regarded as parts of a swimsuit. All swimsuits (including wetsuits for open water competitions) shall comply with the requirements set forth in these By-Laws and the FRSA.

BL 8.3 For pool swimming competitions swimsuits for men shall not extend above the navel nor below the knee, and for women, shall not cover the neck, nor extend past the shoulder, nor below knee. The swimsuits shall be made from textile materials.

BL 8.4 For open water swimming competitions with water temperature from 20 C swimsuits for both men and women shall not cover the neck, nor extend past the shoulder, nor extend below the ankle. Subject to these specific shape specifications, swimsuits for open water swimming competitions shall further comply with all other requirements applicable to swimsuits for pool swimming competition

- (b) Water Temperature 18-19.9 degrees C: - Competitors may choose to wear a Wetsuit, or a Swimming Costume. Both must comply with FINA Open Water Rules.
- (c) Water Temperature 16-17.9 degrees C: - Competitors must wear a FINA approved Wetsuit.

BL 8.5 From January 1, 2017, for open water swimming competitions in water with temperature below 20 C, men and women may use either swimsuits (BL 8.4) or wetsuits. When the water temperature is below 18 C, the use of wetsuits is compulsory.

For the purpose of these rules, wetsuits are swimsuits made of material providing thermal insulation. Wetsuits for both men and women shall completely cover torso, back, shoulders and knees. They shall not extend beyond the neck, wrists and ankles.

- (d) A competitor shall wear a costume underneath a wetsuit which should comply with FINA Open Water Rules

2. **Swim Gear:** No competitor shall be permitted to use or wear any device, which may be an aid to their speed, endurance or buoyancy. Goggles, cap, nose clip and earplugs may be used.

3. Guidance from British Swimming on the use of Wetsuits

The following guidance has been issued by the British Swimming Officials Group relative to the suitability of Wetsuits in Open Water Competition:

“This rule change has been brought about to increase safety for competitors in water between 16° - 18° (compulsory) and 18° - 20° (optional). In accordance with other swimsuit rules British Swimming will conform to the intention of the rule. We do not provide interpretation of FINA rules – only FINA as the governing body can interpret their own rules.

However, to provide guidance, coverage of the shoulder. An informed view is that to ensure complete coverage of the shoulder the wetsuit must include a sleeve, as a minimum polo or ‘T’ shirt length covering the full shoulder and upper arm in order to maintain shoulder cover during swimming, full arm to wrist has been suggested although elbows do not feature in the rule, whereas coverage of knees as a mid-limb joint in respect of leg length of a wetsuit is.

As in all Open Water events held in the home counties of England Scotland and Wales the Chief Referee will have responsibility for the overall management of the rules.”