

SCOTTISH AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION LIMITED

REGULATIONS

OPEN WATER SWIMMING

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OW1 GENERAL

- OW1.1 The responsibilities of the Open Water Swimming Committee (OWSC) are set out in Section 9.11 of the Company Articles.
- OW1.2 The OWSC shall conduct its business in accordance with Section R11.0 of the Company Rules.
- OW1.3 SASA and Company governance documentation shall apply with regard to Awards, Trophies, Eligibility, Fees, Protests and Complaints
- OW1.4 All events shall be conducted under FINA Rules except where otherwise identified. The FINA Rules on Open Water Swimming which do not apply to SASA Open Water events will be identified and replaced with provisions in these regulations.
- OW1.5 FINA Rules on Masters Open Water Swimming will not be operative in SASA Open Water events and will be replaced with the provisions of these regulations.

OW2 EVENTS HELD IN SCOTLAND

This section applies to all Open Water Events.

OW2.1 Age Definition

- OW2.1.1 Age is defined as at 31st December in the year of the competition.

OW2.2 Minimum Age

- OW2.2.1 The minimum age (as defined in OW2.1.1) in open water swimming events is;
 - a) 12 years in open events not greater than 1km,
 - b) 13 years in events greater than 1km,

OW2.3 Eligibility to Compete

- OW2.3.1 Eligibility is as defined in Company Rule R13.5.

OW2.4 Licensing

OW2.4.1 General

OW2.4.1.1 Open Water competitive events require to be licensed in accordance with Company Rule R13.4.

OW2.4.1.2 All swimmers must be members of the SASA or be registered members of another FINA affiliated country, prior to competing in any licensed event.

OW2.4.1.3 All licensed events must be held under FINA Rules and SASA Open Water Swimming Regulations.

OW2.4.1.4 Application for a licence to hold an open water event is free of charge.

OW2.4.1.5 The control and monitoring of licence compliance will be based on self-assessment and monitoring and reporting by the event referee.

OW2.4.1.6 Application for a licence, may not be granted if the date(s) clash with other open water swimming events promoted by:

- (a) The SASA
- (b) The SASA District relevant to event venue

OW2.4.1.7 Should an event fail to achieve the required minimum standards as required by the Open Water Swimming Regulations the Open Water Swimming Committee may suspend any outstanding licences, or refuse to issue a new licence in the name of the organising body.

OW2.4.2 Licence Categories

Event licences will be categorised as follows:

- (a) Level 1 – International, National and District events.
- (b) Level 2 – All other events with the exception of events where only one club competes.

OW2.4.3 Jurisdiction

OW2.4.3.1 The National Open Water Swimming Committee is responsible for the issue of licences for open water swimming events.

OW2.4.4 Facility Requirements

Level 1 Events must provide the following;

- a) Programme containing, as a minimum, the names and clubs of competitors and details of the course(s).
- b) Results produced in electronic format.
- c) First aid facilities provided by a qualified agency (e.g. Red Cross, St Andrews Ambulance).
- d) Provision of safety craft and crews in accordance with SASA Open Water Swimming Safety Guidelines.
- e) Drug testing facilities.
- f) An appointed referee who is a qualified SASA Open Water referee.

Level 2 Events must provide the following

- a) First aid facilities provided by a qualified first aider.
- b) Printed Results.
- c) Provision of safety craft and crews in accordance with SASA Open Water Swimming Safety Guidelines.
- d) The event referee must be a qualified SASA Open Water referee or judge.

OW2.4.5 Applying for a Licence

OW2.4.5.1 Application must be made on the appropriate form available from the Company.

OW2.4.5.2 Application for a licence must be made to the National Open Water Swimming Convener a minimum of 8 weeks prior to the event.

OW2.4.5.3 When a change to the details on an application (e.g. change of venue or format) is required, a new application must be made.

OW2.4.6 Notification

OW2.4.6.1 Confirmation that a licence has been granted will be sent to the applicant within 30 days of receipt of the application.

OW2.4.6.2 Where a licence application is refused, the applicant will be advised within 30 days of receipt of the application and the reason of refusal stated.

OW2.4.7 Requirements for Results and Reports

OW2.4.7.1 The organiser of a licensed event must provide a set of results to the National Open Water Swimming Convener. For level 1 Events the results must be supplied in electronic format.

OW2.4.7.2 A completed event report form must be returned, within seven days of completion of the event, to the National Open Water Swimming Convener.

OW2.4.8 Requirements for Control and Monitoring

The control and monitoring of licence compliance will be based on self-assessment by the organising body and endorsement by the event referee.

OW2.5 Safety

- OW2.5.1 Primary safety cover must be provided by a fast rescue boat with a minimum engine capacity of 30 horsepower.
- OW2.5.2 The fast rescue boat crew must include at least one person with a Royal Yachting Association safety certificate.
- OW2.5.3 Escort craft must be provided, where necessary, to the satisfaction of the Referee, and Safety Officer.
- OW2.5.4 At all Open Water Championships/Events shore based medical cover must be provided. As a minimum, this must include a person with a first aid qualification and a means of transport to higher level medical facilities.
- OW2.5.5 Emergency services will be informed when an event is to be held in their area.

OW2.6 Information and Briefing Meeting

- OW2.6.1 Event information shall be issued to every entrant before the briefing meeting. Any conditions laid down in this information must be adhered to.
- OW2.6.2 A briefing meeting shall be held at a time and venue indicated in the Event information.
- OW2.6.3 Competitors failing to attend the briefing meeting may be prevented from starting the event at the Referee's discretion.

OW2.7 Course

- OW2.7.1 FINA Rule section OWS 5 is replaced by Paragraphs OW2.7.2 to OW2.7.9
- OW2.7.2 The course may be in salt or fresh water.
- OW2.7.3 The promoter will take reasonable steps to ascertain that the quality of water is suitable for swimming and that the course is clear of any other hazards.
- OW2.7.4 The minimum depth of water at any point on the course shall be 0.6 metres and more than 1 metre for more than 90% of the length of the course
- OW2.7.5 The water temperature shall be a minimum of 13°C.
- OW2.7.6 In events where swimmers are not individually accompanied by escorted craft the water temperature shall be a minimum of 14°C.
- OW2.7.7 The Referee must be satisfied that the minimum water temperature is in accordance with OW2.7.5 or OW2.7.6 as appropriate.
- OW2.7.8 All turns/alterations in direction of circuit courses shall be clearly indicated.
- OW2.7.9 The finish shall be clearly defined as either a vertical face, a line between two buoys or a single buoy.

OW2.8 Race

- OW2.8.1 Conduct of the race will be in accordance with FINA Rules OWS 4, OWS 6 and OWS 7 with modifications as set out in paragraphs OW2.8.2 and OW2.8.3
- OW2.8.2 FINA Rules OWS 6.14 (international codes displayed on caps), OWS 6.16 (swimmers numbers displayed by escort craft), OWS 7.1 (buoys at approach to finish), OWS 7.2 (finish apparatus and recording equipment) and OWS6.15 (display of swimmers number) will not be operative in SASA Open Water events;
- OW2.8.3 All swimmers shall have their competitor's number clearly displayed in waterproof ink on their upper back or arms in events where more than 20 swimmers are racing simultaneously. In events with fewer swimmers, this requirement is at the Referee's discretion.
- OW2.8.4 Any official shall have the power to order swimmers from the water upon the expiry of any time limit specified in the event information.

OW2.9 Team Events

- OW2.9.1 FINA Rules OWS 8.1 and OWS 8.2 will not be operative in SASA Open Water events and are replaced by paragraphs OW2.9.2 and OW2.9.3
- OW2.9.2 Promoters may arrange team events between clubs or districts.
- OW2.9.3 Results of team events may be determined by a system of points relating to finishing position or by cumulative time.

OW2.10 Technical Officials

OW2.10.1 Number of Officials Required

- OW2.10.1.1 FINA Rule OWS 2 will not be operative in SASA Open Water events, and is replaced by paragraphs OW2.10.1.2 to OW2.10.1.4
- OW2.10.1.2 The following officials' duties must be covered at any event
- (a) A Referee
 - (b) A Starter
 - (c) Finish Judge(s)
 - (d) Race Judges
 - (e) Turning Judges if necessary
 - (f) Timekeeper(s) (of whom 1 will be also appointed Chief Timekeeper)
- OW2.10.1.3 Other officials who should be appointed include;
- (a) A Course Officer
 - (b) A Safety Officer who must hold an appropriate first Aid qualification
 - (c) A Recorder
- OW2.10.1.4 An individual may act in more than one capacity where practical to do so but there must be a minimum of four officials.

OW2.10.2 Duties of Officials

- OW2.10.2.1 Duties of Officials will be in accordance with FINA Rule OWS 3 with modifications as set out in paragraphs OW2.10.2.2. to OW2.10.2.6.
- OW2.10.2.2 The duties of the Assistant Referee(s) and Chief Judge as defined in FINA Rules OWS 3.7 to OWS 3.9 and OWS 3.20 and OWS 3.21 will be undertaken by the referee.
- OW2.10.2.3 Watches need not have print out capability but otherwise must conform to the requirements of FINA Rule OWS 3.17.
- OW2.10.2.4 Duties of the Medical Officer as defined in FINA Rules OWS 3.36 to 3.38 and the Course Officer as defined in FINA Rule OWS 3.40 will be undertaken by the Safety Officer.
- OW2.10.2.5 FINA Rules OWS 3.13 (assigning timekeepers to positions) and OWS 3.34 (provision of tide/current charts) will not be operative in SASA Open Water events.
- OW2.10.2.6 The Referee will allocate the responsibilities of the Clerk of the Course as defined in FINA Rules OWS 3.44 to OWS 3.49 to one of the officials.

OW3 SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

This section applies to events run by the Company.

OW 3.1 General

- OW3.1.1 The Championships shall be managed by a committee appointed by and under the jurisdiction of the OWSC.
- OW3.1.2 The date, venue and closing date for entries will be determined annually by the OWSC and published at least twelve weeks before the first day of the championships.
- OW3.1.3 Time limits set on swims will be notified in the meet information.
- OW3.1.4 Entries shall be made on official entry forms, available from the Company office, in accordance with the published entry information.
- OW3.1.5 The organising committee reserves the right to reject entries in order to limit the number of competitors to comply with safety requirements.
- OW3.1.6 Competitors who withdraw more than three days prior to an event may have a proportion of the entry fee refunded. The proportion refunded will be specified in the entry information.

OW3.2 Events

The following Open Championships shall be held;

- OW3.2.1 A 2 Km championship with the following categories for men and women:
13-14 years, 15-16 years, 17-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years, 55 years and above and a concurrent event open to all age groups
- OW3.2.2 A 5 Km championship with the following categories for men and women:
13-14 years, 15-16 years, 17-24 years, 25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years, 55 years and above and a concurrent event open to all age groups
- OW3.2.3 A championship, over a distance of between 10 km and 25 km for men and women aged 17 years and over.
- OW3.2.4 Events specified in OW3.2.1 and OW3.2.2 will be swum on circuit courses.
- OW3.2.5 The categories of events specified in OW 3.2.1 and OW3.2.2 may be swum as separate races, with starts in separate waves or concurrently at the discretion of the organising committee.
- OW3.2.6 Event OW3.2.3 may be a “straight line” course where swimmers will be individually accompanied by escort craft suitable for the conditions of the event.

OW3.3 Titles

- OW3.3.1 The fastest swimmer in each category of each Championship shall be Scottish Open Champion.
- OW3.3.2 The fastest swimmer in each category of each Championship with National eligibility as defined in Company Rule R13.5 shall be Scottish National Champion.

OW3.4 Awards

- OW3.4.1 Medals shall be presented in each category as follows:-
(a) Scottish Open Championship – 1st, 2nd and 3rd
(b) Scottish National Champion – 1st (provided the individual is not also the Scottish Open Champion)
- OW3.4.2 Certificates shall be presented to all competitors completing the course.

OW3.5 Technical Officials

- OW3.5.1 Technical officials will be appointed as required by the organising committee in accordance with OW2.10.1

OW3.6 Jury of Appeal

OW3.6.1 The OWS Committee shall appoint or arrange for the appointment of a Jury of Appeal in advance of each Scottish Championship Event.

OW3.6.2 The procedure and treatment shall be in accordance with Company Rules R15.3 and R15.4.

OW3.7 Expenses

OW3.7.1 Expenses may be claimed in accordance with Company Rule R 12.7.

OW3.7.2 Claims must be made on the official form available from the Company Office.

OW3.7.3 Claims will not be processed unless the form is signed by Open Water Committee Convenor.

OW4 TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

OW4.1 Training

- OW4.1.1 The Open Water Committee shall arrange for the training/retraining and examination of technical officials in accordance with Company Articles 9.11.2.4 and 9.11.2.5
- OW4.1.2 Candidates for training and examination must be 16 years of age and registered with the SASA prior to commencing training.
- OW4.1.3 Application for training as an Open Water Referee may only be made by persons with previous experience as a Judge, and Starter.
- OW4.1.4 Workshops will be arranged after which an examination will be held between April and June.
- OW4.1.5 Applicants will be provided with briefing notes which will cover the syllabus for the examination
- OW4.1.6 The pass mark and duration for each examination is as follows
- | | | |
|------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| a) Judge | Pass Mark – 75% | Duration - 1 hour. |
| b) Referee | Pass Mark – 75% | Duration - 1½ hour. |

(In view of the current shortage of officials and the need to train suitable persons to undertake the various duties, the Open Water Committee may accept applications from suitable persons for immediate training in any of the categories. This dispensation will only be allowed until October 2005.)