



**Scottish Swimming**  
**Regulations**  
for the  
**Open Water**  
**National Discipline Committee**

**Open Water Committee Regulations****INDEX**

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**OW1 General**

- OW1.1 The Scottish Open Water Committee (OWC), a National Discipline Committee of Scottish Swimming, shall comply with Company Article A3.1.3.
- OW1.2 The OWC shall conduct its business in accordance with Company Articles A3.1.3.2 & 3.
- OW1.3 The membership of the OWC shall be in accordance with Company Article A3.1.3.7.4
- OW1.4 The OWC shall have the following responsibilities in addition to those stated in Company Article A3.1.3.6.
- OW1.4.1 Draft and formulate Regulations for open water swimming activities held in Scotland.
  - OW1.4.2 Decide on the interpretation of Regulations pertaining to open water swimming and give rulings thereon.
  - OW1.4.3 Arrange, control and conduct open water swimming championships in Scotland.
  - OW1.4.4 Select and supervise the training of swimmers for open water swimming championships and similar events.
  - OW1.4.5 Regulate the training and retraining of open water swimming technical officials.
  - OW1.4.6 Support Districts in their promotion of open water swimming and the staging of competitions.
- OW1.5 Scottish Swimming and Company governance documentation shall apply with regard to Awards, Trophies, Eligibility, Fees, Protests and Complaints.
- OW1.6 All events shall be conducted under FINA Rules except where otherwise identified. The FINA Rules on Open Water Swimming which do not apply to Scottish Swimming Open Water events are identified and replaced with provisions in these regulations.
- OW1.7 FINA Rules on Masters Open Water Swimming will not be operative in Scottish Swimming 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 1 km,
  - b) 13 years in events greater than 1 km,

**OW2.3 Eligibility to Compete**

OW2.3.1 Eligibility is as defined in Company Rule R4.5.

**OW2.4 Licensing**

OW2.4.1 General

OW2.4.1.1 Open Water competitive events involving more than one club require to be licensed in accordance with Company Rule R4.4.

OW2.4.1.2 All swimmers must be members of the Scottish Swimming 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 either FINA Rules or Scottish Swimming Open Water Swimming Regulations.

OW2.4.1.4 The fee for each licence category will be set in accordance with Company Rule R3.4.1.

OW2.4.1.5 Application for a licence may not be granted if the date(s) clash with other open water swimming events promoted by:

- a) Scottish Swimming
- b) The Scottish Swimming District relevant to event venue

OW2.4.1.6 Should an event fail to achieve the required minimum standards as required by the Open Water Swimming Regulations and Event Organisation and Safety Guidelines, the OWC may suspend any outstanding licences, or refuse to issue a new licence in the name of the organising body.

- OW2.4.1.7 A club affiliated to the SASA which is found to have run an unlicensed open water event shall be reported to the Board of Directors who may decide to take appropriate sanctions.
- OW2.4.2 Licence Categories
- OW2.4.2.1 Event licences will be categorised as follows:
- Level 1 – International, National and District events.
  - 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 OWC is responsible for the issue of all licences for open water swimming events.
- OW2.4.4 Facility Requirements
- Level 1 Events must provide the following;
- Programme containing, as a minimum, the names and clubs of competitors and details of the course(s).
  - Results produced in electronic format.
  - First aid facilities provided by a qualified agency (e.g. Red Cross, St Andrews Ambulance).
  - Provision of safety craft and crews in accordance with Scottish Swimming Open Water Swimming Event Organisation and Safety Guidelines.
  - Drug testing facilities.
  - An appointed referee who is a qualified British Swimming Open Water referee.
- Level 2 Events must provide the following
- First aid facilities provided by a qualified first aider.
  - Results in electronic or printed format.
  - Provision of safety craft and crews in accordance with Scottish Swimming Open Water Swimming Event Organisation and Safety Guidelines.
  - The event referee must be a qualified British Swimming 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 Chair of the National Open Water Swimming 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 along with the licence number 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 Chair of the National Open Water Swimming for level 1 Events the results must be supplied in electronic format.
- OW2.4.7.2 A completed event report form and set of results must be returned, within seven days of completion of the event, to the Chair of the National Open Water Swimming.
- OW2.4.8 Requirements for Control and Monitoring
- OW2.4.8.1 The control and monitoring of licence compliance will be based on monitoring and reporting by the event referee and safety officer.

- 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.
- OW2.6 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 be 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 Rule OWS 4.6.1 shall not be operative for events where swimmers start in the water.
- OW2.8.3 FINA Rules OWS 6.15 (swimmers numbers displayed by escort craft), OWS 6.16.1 (time limits), OWS 7.1 (buoys at approach to finish), OWS 7.2 (finish apparatus and recording equipment), OWS 7.2.1 and (Automatic Officiating Equipment), OWS 7.2.2 (Transponders) will not be operative in Scottish Swimming Open Water events.

OW2.8.4 All swimmers shall have their competitor's number clearly displayed in waterproof ink on their upper back and/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.

OW2.8.5 Any official shall have the power to order swimmers from the water upon the expiry of any time limit specified in the event information except that the referee may allow a competitor outside the time limit to complete the course but not have their time included in the results or be eligible for awards.

## **OW2.9 Team Events**

OW2.9.1 Promoters may arrange team events between clubs or districts to a format of their choice.

## **OW2.10 Technical Officials**

OW2.10.1 Number of Officials Required

OW2.10.1.1 FINA Rule OWS 2 will not be operative in Scottish Swimming Open Water events, and is replaced by paragraphs OW2.10.1.2 to OW2.10.1.4

OW2.10.1.2 An Event Referee will be appointed to have overall control of an event held at a given venue on a single day or over consecutive days.

OW2.10.1.3 The following officials' duties must be covered at any race

- a) Referee (who may be the Event Referee)
- b) Safety Officer who must hold an appropriate first Aid qualification
- c) A Starter
- d) Finish Judge(s)
- e) Race Judges
- f) Turning Judges if necessary
- g) Timekeeper(s) (of whom 1 will be also appointed Chief Timekeeper)
- h) A Course Officer
- i) A Recorder

OW2.10.1.4 The number of officials required for a given function is at the discretion of the Event Referee

OW2.10.1.5 Where an event consists of more than one race, officials may be assigned on a race by race basis.

OW2.10.1.6 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 References to "FINA Rules" are replaced by "Scottish Swimming Regulations"

OW2.10.2.3 References to "Chief Referee" are replaced by "Referee".

OW2.10.2.4 FINA Rules OWS 3.12. (assigning timekeepers to positions), OWS 3.13 (synchronising watches), OWS 3.14 (timekeeper cards), OWS 3.15 (examination of cards), OWS 3.24 (judges in escort craft), OWS 3.34. (provision of tide/current charts) and OW3 3.51 (reporting of violations).

OW2.10.2.5 The Event Referee shall have full control over all officials and shall approve their assignments and instruct them regarding all special features or regulations related to the competition.

OW2.10.2.6 The Referee shall enforce all the Regulations and decisions of the Scottish Swimming and shall decide all questions relating to the actual conduct of the competition, the final settlement of which is not covered by these Regulations.

OW2.10.2.7 The duties of the Chief Referee as defined in FINA Rules OWS 3.2 to OWS 3.8 will be undertaken by the Referee.

OW2.10.2.8 The duties of the Chief Judge as defined in FINA Rules OWS 3.20 and OWS 3.21 will be undertaken by the referee.

OW2.10.2.9 Watches need not have print out capability but otherwise must conform to the requirements of FINA Rule OWS 3.17.

OW2.10.2.10 Competitor number and times shall be recorded on sheets provided by the promoter.

OW2.10.2.11 Duties of the Medical Officer as defined in FINA Rules OWS 3.36 to 3.38 will be undertaken by the Safety Officer.

**OW3 Scottish Championships**

**This section applies to events run by the Company.**

**OW3.1 General**

- OW3.1.1 The Championships shall be managed by a committee appointed by and under the jurisdiction of the OWC.
- OW3.1.2 The date, venue and closing date for entries will be determined annually by the OWC 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 and available on the Company web site, 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 or if they consider that a swimmer has insufficient ability given the length and nature of the course.

**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
- OW3.2.4 Events specified in OW3.2.1 and OW3.2.2 will be swum on circuit courses.
- OW3.2.5 The events specified in OW 3.2.1 and OW3.2.2 may be swum as with male and female competitors in separate races or concurrently at the discretion of the organising committee.
- OW3.2.6 Event OW3.2.3 may be held over a circuit course or alternatively a "point to point" 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 the Scottish Open Champion.
- OW3.3.2 The fastest swimmer in each category of each Championship with National eligibility as defined in Company Rule R4.5 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 – 1<sup>st</sup>  
(provided the individual is not also the Scottish Open Champion)

**OW3.5 Technical Officials**

- OW3.5.1 The Event Referee and Safety Officer will be appointed by the OWC at least eight weeks before the first day of the championships.
- OW3.5.2 Technical officials will be appointed as required by the Event Referee in accordance with OW2.10.1.

**OW3.6 Jury of Appeal**

OW3.6.1 The OWC 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 R11.3 & R11.4.

**OW3.7 Expenses**

OW3.7.1 Expenses may be claimed in accordance with Company Rule R3.7.

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 authorised by the Chair of the Open Water Committee.

**OW4 Technical Officials****OW4.1 Training**

OW4.1.1 Training and qualification of officials will be in accordance with the requirements of British Swimming.

OW4.1.2 Officials participating in events in Scotland will be provided with copies of the Scottish Swimming Regulations and other appropriate documents sufficient for them to be aware of distinctions between FINA Rules and Scottish Swimming Regulations.