



**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 swimmers for development squads and teams funded by Scottish Swimming and make arrangements for them to compete in selected competitions.
  - 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 or Temporary 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 or district 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
- OW2.4.4.1 Level 1 Events must provide the following;
- Programme containing, as a minimum, the names and clubs of competitors, a timetable and details of the course(s). Programmes should be available on the day and sufficient numbers produced so that, as a minimum, each swimmer and each person acting in officiating or supporting capacity can be provided with a copy.
  - 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 Meet Referee who is a qualified British Swimming Open Water referee.
- OW2.4.4.2 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 Meet Referee must be a qualified British Swimming Open Water referee or official at Judge 2 level.
- 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 and must be accompanied by a copy of the Risk Assessment for the Meet.  
(Note that amendments to the assessment may be made after this time.)
- OW2.4.5.3 When a change to the details on an application (e.g. change of venue, date 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 Meet Documentation
- OW2.4.7.1 The following documents must be returned to the Chair of the National Open Water Committee within seven days of the completion of the Meet.
- Completed event report
  - A set of results in electronic format
  - A list of officials
  - A copy of the final version risk assessment
  - Any incident report forms
- In addition for Level 1 events the following must be provided

f) A copy of the event programme

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 Meet Referee and Safety Officer.

## **OW2.5**

### **Safety**

OW2.5.1 Primary safety cover must be provided by a fast rescue boat.

OW2.5.2 Fast rescue boats must be piloted by a crew member who holds "Royal Yachting Association Powerboat - Level 2" or greater certification.

OW2.5.3 The number and specification of fast rescue and escort craft, where necessary, must be 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 The safety personnel will have available radio equipment through which rescue and recovery activity can be co-ordinated. The users of the rescue radio equipment shall consist of the rescue boat (s), the safety officer and the shore based medical crew. All users of the rescue radio equipment must be suitably qualified in its use.

## **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. Such information may be included in the entry form or other communications issued between the entry date and the date of the meet.

OW2.6.2 A briefing meeting shall be held at a time and venue indicated in the Meet information.

OW2.6.3 Competitors failing to attend the briefing meeting will be prevented from starting the event unless the Referee is satisfied that such competitors are aware of the course layout and that there are no adverse safety implications.

## **OW2.7**

### **Course**

OW2.7.1 FINA Rule section OWS5 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 Meet 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 to the competitors at the briefing and be either a vertical face, a line between two fixed points or a single fixed point.

## **OW2.8**

### **Race**

OW2.8.1 Conduct of the race will be in accordance with FINA Rules OWS4, OWS6 and OWS7 with modifications as set out in paragraphs OW2.8.2 and OW2.8.3.

- OW2.8.2 Costumes worn in open water competitions shall comply with the requirements set out in FINA rule BL 8.4 unless it is specified in the meet information that wetsuits may be worn.
- OW2.8.3 FINA Rule OWS4.6.1 shall not be operative for events where swimmers start in the water.
- OW2.8.4 FINA Rules OWS6.15 (swimmers numbers displayed by escort craft), OWS6.16.1 (time limits), OWS7.1 (buoys at approach to finish), OWS7.2 (finish apparatus and recording equipment), OWS7.2.1 and (Automatic Officiating Equipment), OWS7.2.2 (Transponders) will not be operative in Scottish Swimming Open Water events.
- OW2.8.5 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.
- OW2.8.6 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. The format must be specified in the meet information.

## **OW2.10 Technical Officials**

- OW2.10.1 Number of Officials Required
- OW2.10.1.1 FINA Rule OWS2 shall be complied with at all meets with the exception that an individual may act in more than one capacity where it is practical to do so.
- OW2.10.1.2 A Meet Referee will be appointed by the meet organisers 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 number of officials required for a given function is at the discretion of the Meet Referee.
- OW2.10.1.4 Where a meet consists of more than one race, officials may be assigned on a race by race basis.
- OW2.10.1.5 The Meet Referee must be satisfied that the number of officials is sufficient to swim the races fairly and safely, must indicate this on the licence and must justify this opinion to the satisfaction of the OWSC.
- OW2.10.1.6 Notwithstanding the other regulations in OW2.10.1, there must be a minimum of four officials available for each race who are qualified British Swimming Open Water official at Judge 1 level or above.
- OW2.10.1.7 The OWSC will review the provision of officials at licenced meets and give guidance for future events if they believe the provision of officials is insufficient.
- OW2.10.2 Duties of Officials
- OW2.10.2.1 Duties of Officials will be in accordance with FINA Rule OWS3 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 OWS3.12 (assigning timekeepers to positions), OWS3.13 (synchronising watches), OWS3.14 (timekeeper cards), OWS3.15 (examination of cards), OWS3.24 (judges in escort craft), OWS3.34 (provision of tide/current charts) and OWS3.51 (reporting of violations) are not operative in Scottish Swimming Open Water events.
- OW2.10.2.5 The Meet 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 Watches need not have print out capability but otherwise must conform to the requirements of FINA Rule OWS3.16
- OW2.10.2.8 Competitor number and times shall be recorded on sheets provided by the promoter.

### **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 Events may be swum 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.
- OW3.2.7 Team events may be included at the discretion of the organising committee and to a format stated in the meet information.

**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 1st

(provided the individual is not also the Scottish Open Champion)

**OW3.5****Technical Officials**

OW3.5.1 The Meet 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 Meet 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 claim 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.