



Open Meet Licensing News

The ASA Technical Swimming Committee in conjunction with the England Talent Team has recently commissioned a working group to look at competition and the calendar. Other bodies involved included British Swimming, English Schools Swimming Association, British Swimming Coaches Association and the National Swimming League. The group made a number of recommendations to re-shape the calendar to provide year round appropriate competitions for all levels of swimmer within the same timelines as part of a progressive programme.

The TSC approved the group's recommendations at their meeting in March 2010 with implementation from **1st January 2011**. These changes will provide a more structured programme to ensure time to attend the Talent Camps, as well as competitions allowing training cycles to be effective.

A summary of the changes is included below.

1. The competition calendar will be re-structured to include specific training days/periods that coincide with the England and British Swimming Talent camps. Camps are scheduled to take place in each competition year in early September, January and during Easter. This will enable coaches and athletes of all levels and abilities to concentrate upon training at these times. As a consequence there may be some restrictions placed upon what competition will be permitted on these dates. This will impact largely upon those Open Meets licensed at levels 1 and 2.
2. A new competition will be introduced at the end of January. This will be organised on a multi-regional basis and follow a standard format. The competition may be promoted by a Region or a club from within the specified geographical area and will be restricted to athletes from within that same area. A full Olympic Programme of events will be provided (no 50m form strokes or relay events). There will be qualifying standards for three age bands for males and females. These bands will correspond with the age groupings for the European Youth Olympic Festival, the European Junior Championships and Open. This will enable all athletes who are close to achieving the respective qualifying standard for entry into the British Championships the opportunity of qualification following a period of training.
3. Certain Championships and competitions within the calendar may be re-located. One such event is the Regional Winter Short Course Championships that will move from November to the first weekend of December.
4. County Championships will remain within the same timeframe although the number of weekends allocated to them will reduce in order to make way for relocated ESSA events, however, this is yet to be finally confirmed.
5. Meets licensed at Levels 1 and 2 will be permitted on the first weekend of July each year. This will enable swimmers- particularly those of Youth ages whose competition has been restricted from the end of May a competitive opportunity as part of their preparation for the forthcoming National Championships. It must be noted that qualification for the forthcoming National Age and National Youth Championships will not be possible from performance at these competitions as the weekend will be outside the qualification period for those respective Championships, however, such times will be recorded in the Rankings and may be used for other National Championships as appropriate.
6. A calendar has been produced detailing the levels of meets permitted on the various weekends. It also includes dates for Country, Regional and National events until 2012.
<http://www.swimming.org/library/document/swimming-calendar>

Points to note when applying for your Meet Licence:

1. Apply in good time. All applications must be submitted to your Regional Organiser at least 3 months in advance of the competition. This is to ensure your Region has adequate time to sanction your competition and forward details for publication on the British Swimming website. If you wish to advertise your meet in the Swimming Times then you need to ensure your application is with the Regional Organiser at least 3 months in advance of the date of publication of the relevant edition of the magazine in which you wish to advertise.
2. Ensure you have read the Licensing Guidelines.
3. Complete the correct application form.
4. Ensure you have submitted qualifying standards where appropriate. There are set minimum standards for meets Licensed at Level 1 and Level 2 and upper and lower times for level 3 meets.
5. All Licensed Meet results must be submitted to Rankings within 5 working days of the respective competition.
6. All information concerning Licensed Meets can be found via the link. <http://www.swimming.org/britishswimming/swimming/licensed-meets/>

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The document "Success is Long Term" provides an excellent information guide for all those entering the world of competitive swimming. Copies have been distributed to all Counties earlier in the year. Anyone wishing to obtain additional copies please contact jane.davies@swimming.org

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