

## Inter-Regional Championship Conditions 2023

The Inter-Regional Championships competitions shall be competed for under Swim England Regulations and Technical Rules.

The Championship Committee reserves full powers over the competition, including but not limited to cancelling, postponing or changing the competitions venue and/or format due to reasons beyond its control.

### DEFINITIONS

A “Team” shall comprise of players who are all affiliated to the same Swim England Region or of Scottish Swimming, Swim Wales or Swim Ireland.

“Competition Director” shall be a person appointed by the Committee for the purpose of managing all aspects of these competitions.

The “Committee” shall comprise of a Competition Director, Finance Manager and Administration Manager, herein referred to as “the Committee”. The Competition Director shall consult with the other committee members when required and appropriate.

### 1. COMPETITION

- 1.1 The following Championships may be conducted annually, and open to Regions affiliated to Swim England, and by invitation only to Scottish Swimming (SASA), Swim Wales (WASA) or Swim Ireland:
- Women’s U18 Inter-Regional Championships. This competition shall be for players under the age of s eighteen years at midnight on December 31 in the year of competition.
  - Men’s U18 Inter-Regional Championships. This competition shall be for players under the age of eighteen years at midnight on December 31 in the year of competition.
  - Women’s U16 Inter-Regional Championships. This competition shall be for players under the age of sixteen years at midnight on December 31 in the year of competition.
  - Men’s U16 Inter-Regional Championships. This competition shall be for players under the age of sixteen years at midnight on December 31 in the year of competition.
  - Women’s U14 Inter-Regional Championships. This competition shall be for players under the age of fourteen years at midnight on December 31 in the year of competition.
  - Men’s U14 Inter-Regional Championships. This competition shall be for players under the age of fourteen years at midnight on December 31 in the year of competition.

### 2. MANAGEMENT

- 2.1 The Championships shall be conducted in accordance with the following conditions.
- 2.2 Anything not covered by these conditions shall be determined by the Competition Director, who shall also have the authority to determine any matter arising from any ambiguity or uncertainty within the published conditions.

### 3. RULES OF THE GAME

- 3.1 All games shall be conducted in accordance with the FINA Technical Rules of Water Polo, except where varied from time-to-time by these conditions.
- 3.2 For the purposes of these competitions, the teams shall start each game with seven players, one of whom shall be the goalkeeper.
- 3.3 The field of play shall be as near as practicable to the full size but shall not be less than 20m long, 11.0m wide and 1.8m deep.

- 3.4 Where a competition is played as a series of groups, each team shall play each other team in their group once. Two points shall be awarded for a win and one point for a draw.
- 3.5 Should the scores be level at full time in any game for which a definite result is required, there shall be a penalty shoot out to determine the result in accordance with FINA Rules.
- 3.6 Where two or more teams have equal points the placing shall be decided by considering the following factors in order until a precedence is established by using FINA By Law 9.8.3 Tie-breaking:

#### BL 9.8.3 Tie Breaking

BL 9.8.3.1 If two (2) teams shall have equal points, further classification shall be established as follows:

BL 9.8.3.1.1 The team winning the game between them shall be placed higher.

BL 9.8.3.1.2 If the game between them was tied, then the results against the highest placed team(s) in the group shall be considered.

BL 9.8.3.1.3 The first comparison shall be based on goal difference, and if still tied, then based on goals scored.

BL 9.8.3.1.4 The comparison shall be made first compared to the highest placed team (or teams, if tied) in the group.

BL 9.8.3.1.5 If still tied, the results against the next highest placed team (or teams, if tied) shall be used in succession until all results have been considered.

BL 9.8.3.1.6 If still tied, the teams shall shoot penalty shots to determine which team shall be placed higher. Each team shall nominate five (5) players and a goalkeeper who will participate in the penalty shoot-out. The team shall shoot five (5) penalty shots at the goal of the other team, alternating shots. If a tie exists after each team has taken five (5) shots, then teams shall take sets of alternate shots until one team scores and the other does not. The procedure shall be conducted following the final game of the round or at the first practical opportunity.

BL 9.8.3.1.7 If there is more than one tie in a group, the highest placed tie shall be determined first.

BL 9.8.3.1.8 If it is the situation where there is more than one tie in a group and it is not possible to determine the highest placed team then all results within the group shall be used to determine the highest placed team.

BL 9.8.3.2 If three (3) or more teams shall have equal points, further classification shall be established as follows:

BL 9.8.3.2.1 The results among the tied teams shall determine which team is placed highest.

BL 9.8.3.2.2 If, at any time during the application of the procedure set out in this BL 9.6.3.2, the number of tied teams is reduced to two (2), then BL 9.6.3.1 shall be used to determine which of the two (2) remaining teams is placed higher.

BL 9.8.3.2.3 The comparison shall be made first, upon the points of the games among the tied teams, second, the goal difference, and third, based upon goals scored.

BL 9.8.3.2.4 If still tied, the games played against the highest placed team (or teams, if tied) shall be considered.

BL 9.8.3.2.5 The first comparison shall be based on goal difference, and if still tied, then based on goals scored.

BL 9.8.3.2.6 If still tied, the results against the next highest placed team (or teams, if tied) shall be used in succession until all results have been considered.

BL 9.8.3.2.7 If still tied, the teams shall shoot penalty shots to determine which team shall be placed highest. Each team shall nominate five (5) players and a goalkeeper who will participate in the penalty shoot-out. Each team shall shoot five (5) penalty shots at its opponent's goal in alternate succession. The first team shall take its first penalty shot and then each other team shall take its first penalty shot, etc. If a tie shall exist after that procedure, the teams shall then take sets of alternate shots until one team misses and the other(s) score. The procedure shall be conducted following the final game of the round or at the first practical opportunity.

BL 9.8.3.2.8 If there is more than one tie in a group, the highest placed tie shall be determined first.

BL 9.8.3.3 For the purpose of calculating either goal difference or goals scored, the goals in any penalty shoot out will not be taken into consideration.

#### **4 ENTRIES AND ELIGIBILITY**

- 4.1 A team may enter more than one team into the competition. However, the Committee reserves the right to refuse entries of second and subsequent teams to avoid the event being oversubscribed.
- 4.2 Teams wishing to enter the championships shall do so by completing the entry form which shall be submitted together with the appropriate electronically transmitted entry fees and submitting electronic confirmation that the entry fees have been paid to the appropriate body.
- 4.3 As part of the entry, each team shall submit a list of the players of 15 from whom the team of 13 players will be selected, with their current registration numbers. By submitting the player registration form the team makes a declaration that all the players on the list:
  - (a) Are Category 2 members of Swim England or equivalent of Scottish Swimming, Swim Wales or Swim Ireland at the time of entry,
  - (b) Have a home postcode within the Region and that shall determine for which team the player is eligible to play in the Championships. A player may choose to represent the Home Nations. The eligibility criteria is set out in the Swim Ireland Eligibility Policy, Swim Wales Rules document and Scottish Swimming Governance Documentation document <https://www.swimming.org/waterpolo/home-nations-eligibility/>.
  - (c) Complies with any age conditions for the competition, that the person making the application accepts on behalf of the team the competition conditions and that all the information given is correct.
- 4.4 A confirmation will be issued within 21 days after the closing date for entries indicating whether the entry has been accepted or not.
- 4.5 The player registration list must be completed and returned by the deadline stated on the entry form. There shall be no interchange of players between teams during the competition.
- 4.6 The minimum age of a player shall be 11 years at midnight on the day of the match.
- 4.7 The Committee reserves the right to close entries ahead of the published entries deadlines to avoid event being oversubscribed.
- 4.8 Entry fee per team is £450 and this should be submitted in accordance with the entry form.
- 4.9 Each team is required to supply a qualified referee. Failure to do so will incur an additional fee of £150.

#### **5. THE DRAW**

- 5.1 The draw for each competition shall be made within 28 days of the closing date for entries. The Committee shall notify all teams of the result of the draw, for each competition entered.

#### **6. GAME OFFICIALS**

- 6.1 The Committee shall co-ordinate the provision of sufficient table officials for each game.
- 6.2 In the case of an event where a Delegate is appointed, the Delegate shall nominate the referees for each game from the list of appointments.

#### **7. MATCH RECORD SHEETS**

- 7.1 Each team representative shall declare to the Competition Director, at the technical meeting or no less than 30 minutes before the game is due to start, a list of up to 13 players for the competition, with cap numbers.
- 7.2 Match record sheets will be completed and will outline the names of all officials, players and other standard details required before the start of the game, and a record will be maintained. At the end of the game, the match record sheet will be given to the referees, who shall check and sign it.
- 7.3 Competition results will be confirmed and announced at the event.

#### **8. TROPHIES AND MEDALS**

- 8.1 Trophies, where appropriate, shall be presented to the winners on the day of the final.
- 8.2 For each competition the winning teams shall receive up to thirteen gold medals. The runners-up shall receive up to thirteen silver medals and the third placed team shall receive up to thirteen bronze medals.
- 8.3 Only those players listed on the match record sheet and in attendance shall be presented with medals on the day of the final. In instances of misbehaviour or other extenuating circumstances, medals may be withheld from a team or individual by the Championship Director, in consultation with the Delegate (if appointed).

**9. EXPENSES**

- 9.1 Each team shall be responsible for its own travelling and any other expenses incurred as part of the competition.
- 9.2 The promotional expenses of the competition shall be borne by the Committee from the entry fee.

**10. WITHDRAWALS**

- 10.1 A team that withdraws from the competition:
  - (a) prior to the initial draw shall not be penalised;
  - (b) after the draw has been made and more than 10 clear days before the competition, shall be fined £100.00 and/or shall pay such expenses as the committee may decide;
  - (c) with less than 10 clear days' notice before the competition, shall be fined £200.00 and/or shall pay such expenses as the Committee may decide;
- 10.2 In the case of a team withdrawing from or failing to participate in the competition, the competition shall be contested by the remaining teams.

**11. DELAYED START**

- 11.1 If the start of a game is delayed beyond 5 minutes of the published start time the team responsible for the delay may be fined £25.00 and if the start of a game is delayed beyond 15 minutes, condition 12.1 will apply.

**12. FAILURE TO FULFIL A FIXTURE**

- 12.1 If a team fails to have 7 players available to start a game at the appointed start time, the game may be cancelled by the Competition Director and deemed to be a non-fulfilment if the start is delayed beyond 15 minutes of the published start time. The team will be withdrawn from the Championships.
- 12.2 In the case of any other non-fulfilment, the Competition Director, shall have the power to order any of the following:
  - (a) the award of the game to the non-offending team;
  - (b) the payment of a fine of £200.00 by the offending team;

**13. FINES AND EXPENSES**

- 13.1 All fines and expenses ordered under these conditions shall be sent to the Committee and made payable to Swim England West Midlands, within 21 days of the date of the notification of the decision.
- 13.2 Failure to comply with this condition shall result in an additional fine of £20.00 and the team may be disqualified from the competition by the committee.
- 13.3 Failure to pay the whole of the outstanding monies within a further 14 days of the notification of the additional fine may be dealt with under Swim England Regulations.

**14. INELIGIBLE PLAYER**

- 14.1 A team playing one or more ineligible players may be deemed to have lost the game, forfeit any points gained in the game to their opponents, may be fined £100.00 and shall pay such expenses as the Committee may decide. An ineligible player, for the purposes of this rule, also includes players not listed on the list of players declared to Competition Director, as per rule 7.1.
- 14.2 The non-offending team shall have the option of recording a 5 – 0 score in its favour or maintaining the score as recorded on the match record sheet.

**15. SCOTTISH, WELSH & IRISH TEAMS**

- 15.1 By completing the online entry a team affiliated to Scottish Swimming or Swim Wales, or Swim Ireland shall undertake to accept the jurisdiction of Swim England in all matters affecting these Championships.