



Water Polo

NATIONAL AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS U17/U19

CONFIRMATION PACK

2 – 3 MAY 2026 | GL1, GLOUCESTER



Water
Polo



Funding Partner



Official Kit Partner



WILL JOHNSTON
PHOTOGRAPHY



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Introduction

This document contains the required information for all those who are due to compete at Swim England Water Polo National Age Group Championship Finals (U17 / U19) 2026. Please ensure you read this document carefully as some information may be new to you.



Contacts

Swim England	Venue
Events Officer	Finals Weekend
Laura Tatham Email: NationalEvents@swimming.org	GL1 Leisure Centre Bruton Way Gloucester GL1 1DT
Designated Welfare Officer	
Email: safeguarding@swimming.org Tel: 07581 065265	Tel: 01452 396666
Championship Website	
Swim England Water Polo National Age Group Championships (U17/U19) 2026	



Key Dates and Timings

Membership / Player queries	No later than 12 noon, Wednesday 22 April 2026
- Player Declarations Open - Player Declarations Close	12 noon, Monday 20 April 2026 12 noon, Wednesday 29 April 2026
Championships (Semi-Finals and Finals)	Saturday 2 May 2026 Sunday 3 May 2026

Outline Schedule

Detail schedule and order of play can be found on [p.9.](#)

Saturday 2 May		Sunday 3 May	
Start Time	Event	Start Time	Event
09:30	Technical Meeting - U17s Open	08:15	<i>First Match Warm-up</i>
09:45	<i>First Match Warm-up</i>	08:30	Competition Start
10:00	Competition Start	20:00	Competition Finish
11:30	Technical Meeting - U17s Female		
14:30	Technical Meeting - U19s		
20:00	Competition Finish		

***Please note: the event schedule is subject to last minute changes.**



Privacy Policy and Photography Consent

All individuals attending Swim England events are asked to complete the photo consent form below, prior to attending the event:

PHOTOGRAPHY CONSENT FORM

To view further details about how Swim England manages your data, please refer to Swim England Privacy Policy (Policy: [SE1046 Privacy Policy](#)).



Travel Insurance

Affiliated Swim England clubs and members thereof have the benefit of third party and personal accident insurance effected by Swim England. However, this does not include travel insurance for trips in the UK or abroad, in particular, there is no cover for travel or accommodation costs for the cancellation of an event.

Some clubs and members may already have the benefit of their own group or personal travel insurance. For those that do not have travel insurance for this event and wish to get a Sport Travel Insurance quote please contact Howden directly on 0121 698 8052. Alternatively, you can seek cover from another insurance provider.

Unfortunately non-Swim England members do not have the benefit of third party and personal accident insurance effected by Swim England and would therefore need to seek insurance coverage separately.



Competition Information

Event Conditions

Event conditions are available to view in the Entry Pack on the [Competitor Information Page](#).

Rules

- Swim England Water Polo Championship Conditions
- World Aquatics Technical Rules of Water Polo Rules (issued June 2025)

Match Duration	Half Time	Time Out
4 x 8 mins period (stopping clock)	3 mins	2

Please note – flying substitutions will be in use at this event.

All matches will be played to a result, therefore penalties will be taken following a draw and start times may vary if the previous match goes to penalties.



Player Declarations

Player declarations will need to be submitted in line with the following deadline and using the online facility.

To be able to declare players, and as per Championship Conditions, clubs are required to ensure that all players are:-

- Swim England **Club Compete** members or Scottish Swimming, Swim Wales or Swim Ireland equivalent at the time of player declaration for each round;
- are members of that club;
- comply with any age conditions for the Championships, that the person making the application accepts on behalf of the club the Championships Conditions and that all the information given is correct.

	Declarations Open	Declarations Close
Finals	12 noon, Monday 20 April	12 noon, Wednesday 29 April
2 & 3 May 2026	<i>Membership Queries by Wednesday 22 April</i>	
PLEASE NOTE:	- A maximum of 15 players can be added up until the declaration deadline. If a player needs to be removed from the list, please contact Laura Tatham before then. - No changes can be made after the player declaration deadline.	
<p>*Goalkeeper (GK) Rule Clarification: Please consider when submitting the Player declaration list: Team can select up to 14 players per game. If 14 players are selected, then 2 players (1 and 13) MUST be goalkeepers. If less than 14 are selected and the 13th player is to play outfield, then they MUST wear no 14. Numbers 1 and 13 are for goalkeepers only.</p> <p>If 13 players are selected and the named GK is injured, any of the other 12 players can go in goal. We will NOT allow players to change to GK other than an instance of injury.</p> <p>Clubs are required to select their eligible 15 players.</p> <p>Players' accreditations will be emailed after players declarations have closed to the main contact email address, which was used at the time of team entry.</p> <p>The team for each match and assigned cap numbers shall be declared via the online Team Sheet system no later than 1 hour before the start of each match.</p>		

Players' Eligibility

- A player can only play for **one** club in each Championships and must be a member of that club at the time of player declaration for each round. **Each age group is considered a separate Championship.** Players can therefore play for different clubs in the U17 and U19 Championships.
- It is the club's responsibility to check that the players being submitted as part of the team are not competing for another club during the Championships.
- The minimum age for players is 11 years at midnight on the day of the Championships.
- Players will only be visible if they:
 - o have the correct membership category and Club (see [p.5](#));
 - o are a registered member of the selected club;
 - o photograph uploaded on their bio page (see [p.6](#)).

Uploading an Accreditation Photo

All players are required to upload a photo of themselves for accreditation purposes in order to be available for team declarations within the online entry system for the Finals Weekend. (see *Accreditation* section, [p.7](#) for further information).

Photos should be uploaded via the [BIOGS PAGE](#).

If the photo is deemed to be unsuitable (either on the grounds of poor quality or wrong identity) entry into the event may not be permitted.



Player Membership Queries

All membership queries must be brought to the attention of Membership team as soon as possible to ensure these can be resolved in time.

NOTE: If a competitor needs registering as a new *Club Compete* member or needs upgrading, and their membership needs processing (to allow them to enter the Championships) prior to the club completing their renewals batch with the Membership team, the club will need to make the necessary amendments via the Online Membership System (OMS) and then complete the Fast Track Membership form (Club use only):

Membership Queries:	Wednesday 22 April 2026 T: 01509 640 727 E: support@swimming.org
All membership queries must be brought to the attention of the Membership team by no later than:	
Online Membership Check	MEMBERSHIP CHECK
Online Membership System	Online Membership System

Withdrawals

See Championships Conditions, **Point 9** outlining Withdrawal procedure, which can be viewed/downloaded online in the Entry Pack which can be found under the key documents [here](#).



Accreditation

Accreditation will be required for the **Finals Weekend on 2 & 3 May 2026**.

Accreditation must be worn at all times inside the venue within accredited areas, which will be issued on an individual and event basis and is non-transferrable.

Players

All clubs will then be sent their players accreditations to the email address provided after player declarations have closed and ahead of the event.

The following guidelines should be followed to ensure the competitor accreditation is correct:

- Competitor accreditation must be printed in advance and brought to the event.
- Once printed, the accreditation should be folded twice so that the photo is visible on the front and back.
- At the event, lanyards and accreditations pouches will be available from collection points for accreditation passes.

Accreditation checks will be carried out at the event and entry into the event may be denied without the accreditation pass.

Coaches, Team Managers and Chaperones Accreditation

Poolside Accreditation Pass	£15 (available from 12 noon, 21 April 2026)
Overseas Accreditation Applications:	No later than 12 noon, Monday 27 April 2026
Swim England Accreditation Queries:	No later than 12 noon, Monday 27 April 2026

Coaches, team managers and chaperones requiring access to poolside must purchase a poolside accreditation pass in advance of the event. Clubs/teams must follow the guidance as set out in the current version of [Wavepower](#) and individuals may only act in one role at the event and fulfil the following criteria:

- 1. DBS:** You must have a valid Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) with Barred List check.
- 2. Safeguarding Certificate:** All coaches, team managers and chaperones are required to have an approved and in date safeguarding certificate recorded with the Swim England's Membership department.
- 3. Minimum Qualification/Requirements (specific to the role):** Coaches must have a qualification in line with the Swim England [Coaching Policy](#). Team Managers must have the appropriate Team Manager module for the competition and Chaperones must only be in attendance on a 1:1 support basis for an athlete as per the [Team Manager, Coach and Chaperone Policy](#).

Membership Check	MEMBERSHIP CHECK
Further info and How to Guide	Accreditation Information
Apply for Accreditation – England	Apply for Accreditation
Apply for Accreditation – Scottish, Welsh & Overseas By no later than 12 noon, 27 April 2026	Apply for Accreditation
Membership Queries: All membership queries must be brought to the attention of Membership team by no later than 12 noon, 22 April 2026 to ensure resolution ahead of the Championships Finals Weekend.	T: 01509 640 727 E: support@swimming.org

Lost or Forgotten Accreditation Passes

A £10 charge will be applied on all lost or forgotten passes if a swimmer arrives at the event without their accreditation.

Championships Weekend



Schedule*

Saturday 2 May					
			White		Blue
M1	10:00	U17 Open Semi-Final 1	City of Manchester	v	Caledonia
M2	11:15	U17 Open Semi-Final 2	North London	v	Sedgefield
M3	12:30	U17 Female Semi-Final 1	City of Liverpool	v	Beckenham
M4	13:45	U17 Female Semi-Final 2	West London Penguin	v	Cheltenham
M5	15:00	U19 Open Semi-Final 1	Caledonia	v	City of Manchester
M6	16:15	U19 Open Semi-Final 2	North London	v	West London Penguin
M7	17:30	U19 Female Semi-Final 1	City of Bristol	v	Cheltenham
M8	18:45	U19 Female Semi-Final 2	West London Penguin	v	City of Liverpool
	20:00	Close			

**Please note: the event schedule is subject to last minute changes.*

Sunday 3 May					
			White		Blue
M9	08:30	U17 Open Bronze Medal Match	Loser SF1	v	Loser SF2
M10	09:50	U17 Open Final	Winner SF1	v	Winner SF2
U17 Open Presentations					
M11	11:15	U17 Female Bronze Medal Match	Loser SF1	v	Loser SF2
M12	12:35	U17 Female Final	Winner SF1	v	Winner SF2
U17 Female Presentations					
M13	14:00	U19 Open Bronze Medal Match	Loser SF1	v	Loser SF2
M14	15:20	U19 Open Final	Winner SF1	v	Winner SF2
U19 Open Presentations					
M15	17:00	U19 Female Bronze Medal Match	Loser SF1	v	Loser SF2
M16	18:20	U19 Female Final	Winner SF1	v	Winner SF2
U19 Female Presentations					
	20:00	Close			

**Please note: the event schedule is subject to last minute changes.*

On Arrival

Upon arrival, please collect a lanyard and accreditation pouch from the Front of House desk, which will be clearly sign posted.

Front of House desk Opening Times:

- **Saturday 2 May:** 08:45
- **Sunday 3 May:** 07:30

If running late on the day, please notify [Laura Tatham](#) or WhatsApp on 07581 026327 at the earliest opportunity.

Changing Rooms

The changing rooms are an open space. Players are encouraged to use lockers to safely store all personal belongings. Swim England and GL1 will not be responsible for any lost, damaged or stolen personal items left unattended.

Mobile Phones

Swim England members and volunteers are reminded that the use of mobile phones or devices in changing rooms is prohibited.

Swim England's *Keep it in Your Locker* campaign raises awareness of the change, which has been introduced to help protect members from instances of inappropriate photos or video footage being taken.



To find out more, and watch a video, please scan the QR code above or click [here](#).

Technical Meeting

The Technical Meetings will be held as follows on **Saturday 2 May**:

- **09:30** (U17 Open)
- **11:30** (U17 Female)
- **14:30** (U19 Female and Open)

The technical meeting will take place in the Workforce break area, situated on the ground floor, which will be clearly signposted on venue. Coaches and Team Managers are encouraged to attend this meeting to receive a comprehensive brief on the latest information from the Championships Director.



Team Information

- **Mobile phones** are not permitted to be used in the changing rooms or poolside.
- There will be no access to the field of play during periods of play.
- Players should be dry, wearing footwear and a T-shirt at all times in the venue except when on poolside.
- Team staff/coaches must wear their event accreditation to gain access to poolside.
- **Personal Belongings:** Players and team staff are encouraged to minimise number of personal items to be brought on venue. However, if needed, lockers are available on venue and should be used to safely store belongings. Belongings brought into the venue are brought at players and team staff own risk. Swim England and GL1 will not be responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged items.
- Bags are not to be left on poolside near to the pitches if players are not competing.
- **Athlete Seating:** Teams must sit away from poolside if they are not involved with the games during periods of play.
- **Warm up:** will be available 15 minutes prior to the first game and before each game, unless otherwise directed by the Championship Directors or Field of Play Manager.
- Please make sure that the team is capped up and ready to start on time. If worn, players must wear matching plain swim caps in the same colour to match their water polo hats.
- Do not approach the tables or table officials directly throughout the competition. If you wish to discuss any problems relating to the table, please approach the Championships Director separately.
- Players should not change on poolside.

Awards

Medals will be presented to the players in the first, second and third placed teams immediately after the Final. Medalling teams must present themselves promptly post-match for medal ceremonies.

Teams must ensure that the team kit is accessible and ready for the presentations; players must wear club tops and shorts/tracksuits or team robes.

In line with Swim England Trophy Regulations replica trophies will be presented to the winners at the final. Replica trophies will be retained by Swim England. An online trophy cabinet will display a list of the annual trophy winners on swimming.org.

Most Valuable Player, Top Goal Scorer and Top Goal Keeper awards will be presented for each gender upon the completion of these competitions.

Live Scoreboard

To keep up to date with the live scores during the Finals Weekend, don't forget to visit the [Live Scoreboard](#) page on the Water Polo hub.

Anti-Doping

Anti-Doping Rules	Anti-Doping Rules
Swim England – further support	antidoping@swimming.org
Information on medications	UKAD website, click here
Medications check	Global DRO, Medications Check
How to apply for TUE	UKAD website, click here
National TUE Pool check	UKAD website, click here

By entering this event the athlete consents to report to Doping Control, if requested, at any time during this event and agrees to abide by the Aquatics GB Anti-Doping Rules (2021), which Swim England is signed up to.

If an athlete is tested through doping control at an event, they should ensure they provide detail of all medications (prescribed or over the counter and including dosage) and supplements taken within the last 7 days in advance of the test on the Doping Control Form. Any previously disclosed medications or supplements to the athlete's club and/or talent programme are still required to be included on the doping control form.

Medications

- Medication should be checked via Global DRO (see above).
- If the medication being taken is prohibited in or out of competition, a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) may be required.

Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE)

- If an athlete IS WITHIN the National TUE Pool they are required to obtain a TUE before using a prohibited medication or method. Athletes can check if they are within the National TUE Pool via UKAD website (see above) and by selecting 'aquatics'.
- If an athlete is NOT within the National TUE Pool but using a prohibited medication or method and is subject to doping control they are required to apply for a retroactive TUE as soon as possible after doping control. A retroactive TUE must be submitted to UKAD (UK Anti-Doping) within five (5) working days of the testing taking place.

All athletes are subject to 'Strict Liability' which means an athlete is wholly responsible for any banned substance found in their system, no matter how it got there.



General Information

All updates and additional information will be uploaded to the [Water Polo Hub](#).

Venue Information

[GL1 Leisure Centre](#)

Bruton Way
Gloucester
GL1 1DT

Tel: 01452 396666

Car Parking

We are pleased to offer convenient all-day parking for attendees at the **Asda Car Park opposite GL1**, available for **£6 per day**. You may park **in any part of the car park**.

Please ensure to **book your parking in advance** by following the below instructions:

1. **Visit Horizon Parking**
Click the link: [Horizon Parking – Horizon Parking Management](#)
2. Select **“Book a Parking Space.”**
3. Search for and select:
Gloucester Asda
4. Then choose:
Parking at Asda Gloucester GL1
5. Enter the **date and times** you wish to park.
6. Proceed to **payment** to confirm your booking.

If the Asda car park is full, the nearest alternative is Station Road Car Park:

<https://www.gloucester.gov.uk/parking-transport-and-streets/parking/gloucester-city-car-parks/station-road/>

Please note that payment at this location requires the installation of the MiPermit app on your mobile phone for cashless parking. On Sunday, parking at GL1 is free of charge, subject to availability. Alternatively, Station Road Car Park offers all-day parking for £4.

Accessibility

- Ramp access
- Accessible parking
- Accessible toilets and changing facilities
- Hearing loops in reception.

Cafe

The café offers a choice of hot and cold food and drink options. The café is located in the venue foyer near to reception.

Front of House Desk

The Front of House Desk will be located on the upper level, before you enter the spectator gallery.

Opening Times:

- Saturday 2 May: 08:45
- Sunday 3 May: 07:30

Security

Spectators and competitors are asked to be extra vigilant and take care not to leave their belongings unattended. Bag searches will be conducted on entry. Any concerns should be reported to event or venue staff.



Spectator Ticketing

Tickets can be pre-ordered online ahead of the event. Tickets can be purchased online and sales will remain open, subject to availability, up to and throughout the Championships.

Purchase Tickets Online HERE	
Ticket Type	Price
Finals Weekend: Day Ticket	£10.50
Finals Weekend: Championship Ticket - includes Saturday & Sunday	£17.00

Children under twelve can attend free of charge with a paying adult. No other concessions apply.

Tickets will also be available to purchase on venue from 09:00 on 2 May and 07:45 on 3 May, subject to availability.

All ticket holders will be issued with a wristband(s) from the Front of House Desk on presentation of their ticket booking confirmation - digital or paper format is accepted.

Event Merchandise

A limited selection of event hoodies and t-shirts, plus Swim England merchandise will be available to purchase at the event, subject to availability.



Event Photography

Official event photography will be provided by [Will Johnston Photography](https://www.willjohnstonphotography.com). Please see below for the exclusive offer open to competitors of Swim England:



W I L L J O H N S T O N P H O T O G R A P H Y

Will Johnston Photography is proud to be the official photography provider for this event.

Have specific requests?

Please text us on 07777 764684 details of competitors, cap number, and heat and lane numbers we will do what we can to focus on them.

Photographs are available on our website:
[willjohnstonphotography.com](https://www.willjohnstonphotography.com)



Prices increase by 20% within 48 hours of event so order today!

email: pictures@willjohnstonphotography.com **telephone:** 07777 764684 **@whjjohnston**
www.willjohnstonphotography.com

Lost Property

Swim England are not responsible for lost property. All lost property will be handed to the front reception desk at the Venue.

Security

Spectators, players and team staff are asked to be extra vigilant and take care not to leave their belongings unattended. Any concerns should be reported to event or venue staff. Random bag checks may be carried out by venue security staff on entry to the venue.

Medical

Pool staff will be available to administer first aid where necessary. If medical assistance is required, please approach the nearest Swim England staff member, volunteer or member of GL1 staff, who will contact a first aider.

The nearest hospital is located approx.1 mile away:

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Great Western Road
Gloucester
GL1 3NN
0300 422 2222

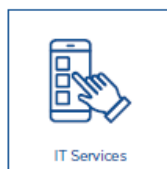
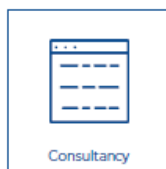
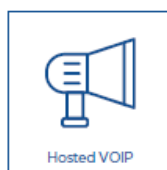
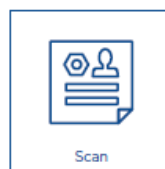
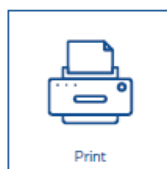
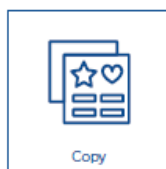
Thank You

We would like to thank all our volunteers, officials and event stakeholders for supporting the planning and delivery of Swim England Water Polo National Age Group Championships (U17/U19) 2026.

Office problems?

At SOS Group we have the knowledge to iron out the niggles and help make you and your business as productive as it can be.

Copiers Printers Scanners | VOIP & Mobile | IT Solutions | Workspace Solutions



IS YOUR OFFICE A SMART OFFICE?

E swim@sosgroup-ltd.co.uk | **T** 0345 230 8080 | **W** www.sosgroup-ltd.co.uk