

Swimming

NATIONAL WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS 25M

Swim England National Winter Championships (25m) 2026

10 - 13 December 2026, Ponds Forge, Sheffield

CONDITIONS

1. General Conditions

- a) The Swim England Swimming Leadership Group ("the Group") reserves full powers over the Swim England National Winter Championships (25m), including but not limited to cancelling, postponing or changing the Championships venue and/or format due to reasons beyond its reasonable control.
- b) The Championships shall be held under Swim England Regulations and Technical Rules of Swimming.
- c) Entries may only be accepted from competitors registered as members of Swim England, Scottish Swimming or Swim Wales ('British Competitors') or competitors from one of the countries affiliated to World Aquatics (AQUA) ('Overseas Competitors'). British Competitors and Overseas Competitors shall be collectively referred to as 'Competitors'. Where required to do so, competitors shall present their passport for age verification to the National Event Officer, or other authorised person, not later than 15:00 hours on the day before the Championships begin.
- d) A British Competitor must be a registered member of the club in whose name they are entered, at the date of making the initial entry. This club must be offered by the online entry system. Competitors may enter in the name of one club only. Competitors who are members of British clubs must enter via their British club.
- e) Ages at midnight on the 31 December 2026.

2. The Events

- a) Individual events:
50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and 1500m Freestyle
50m, 100m & 200m Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly
100, 200m & 400m Individual Medley
- b) Relay events:
Mixed 4x 50m Freestyle Relay
Mixed 4x 50m Medley Relay

3. Entries

- a) Entries shall be received no later than the 'closing date' i.e. 12 noon on Wednesday 25 November 2026, accompanied by the appropriate entry fee, which will be published in the Entry Pack.
- b) All individual events entrants must have equaled or bettered the qualifying times. All individual times from Swim England, Scottish Swimming and Swim Wales entrants must be recorded in the British Rankings from Swimming Competitions designated or licensed at Levels 1 or 2 since 1 September 2025.
- c) The fastest time recorded in British Rankings will be accepted for entry (Level 1 long course or Level 2 short course – whichever is quicker). Times will not be converted.
- d) The Female category is for birth sex females in accordance with Swim England's Transgender and Non-Binary Competition Policy. By entering the 'Female' category, a swimmer confirms that their birth sex is female.
- e) Overseas Competitors must submit entry times that are recorded in World Aquatics

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Rankings or in official meet results from a National Governing Body sanctioned competition and be achieved since 1 September 2025.

- f) The Group has the authority to adjust the number of entries accepted to ensure the smooth running of the Championships.

4. Administration

- a) Coaches, team managers and chaperones will be required to obtain a poolside accreditation pass by means of an online application in advance of the closing date. Coaches, team managers and chaperones must print their own pass.
- b) Competitors must print their own accreditation. A link will be provided in the email sent to them confirming acceptance of their entry. Overseas Competitors will be required to supply a suitable photograph.
- c) Admission to the pool and athlete only areas will only be allowed with a valid accreditation.
- d) Should a competitor withdraw from all events they have entered then their accreditation will become invalid and entry to the athlete areas will not be permitted.
- e) A charge will be levied for lost, mislaid or forgotten passes.

5. Individual Events

- a) All individual events shall have heats and A, B & 17 & under (Junior) Finals, with the exception of the 800m & 1500m, which shall be Heat Declared Winner events.
- b) The fastest ten competitors from the heats, irrespective of age, shall be allocated places in the A Final.
- c) The next ten fastest competitors from the heats will be allocated places in the B Final.
- d) The next fastest ten competitors, aged 17 & under, will be allocated places in the Junior Final.
- e) There will be two reserves declared for all finals.
- f) A competitor in the Junior Final may also be a reserve for the B Final and will be moved to the B Final as necessary.
- g) Only two overseas competitors may progress to the A Final.
- h) There is no restriction on the number of overseas competitors who may progress to the B or Junior Final.
- i) Competitors whose entries have been accepted will be expected to swim unless they have complied with the withdrawal procedure.
- j) Medals shall be awarded to the first, second and third placed British competitors in each A Final.
- k) Medals will also be awarded to the first, second and third placed 17 & under (Junior) competitors. Competitors within the A Final will be ranked above those in the B Final and then above those in the Junior Final.
- l) In Heat Declared Winner events, medals will be awarded to the overall first, second and third ranked competitors, and the first, second and third-placed 17 & under (Junior) competitors once all heats have been completed.
- m) Commemorative Medals will be awarded to Overseas Competitors placed first, second or third in accordance with 5j) or 5k).

6. Relay Events

- a) Three heats will be offered for each event, which will be heat declared winner and will take place in the Final sessions of the Championships.
- b) The top three fastest teams will qualify for awards.

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- c) Club relay team applications must consist of two Open/Male and two Female athletes.
- d) Athletes will be eligible for club relay team selection once they have entered the Championships via one of the following entry options:
 - i. Athletes competing in individual events at the Championships are required to submit an online individual entry.
 - ii. Athletes competing in club relay team events only at the Championships are required to submit an online individual entry as a 'relay only athlete'.
- e) Club relay team application time will be based on the combined individual athlete times. Only times in British Rankings will be accepted as part of the entry process.
- f) Applications must be submitted by the published deadline within the event entry pack.
- g) The fastest 30 club relay teams, based on their cumulative athletes' fastest times for each event, will be invited to compete in the events once applications have closed. The invited clubs wishing to accept the invitation will be required to accept and pay the entry fee by the published deadline.
- h) A maximum of three teams per club per event will be permitted.
- i) An athlete can only swim in one club relay team per event.
- j) On the day of the event, all teams will be required to declare their final athletes, order of the athletes and reserves by the deadline published in the event entry pack, via the online system.

7. Withdrawal from Heats

- a) Withdrawals must be made by 12 noon 9 December 2026, the day of the Team Leader Meeting, for day one swims, and by 12 noon on the day before for all subsequent days.
- b) An online Withdrawal process will be used, with the process to be detailed in the event Entry Pack.

8. Withdrawal from Finals

- a) Finalists, not wishing to swim, shall notify the Chief Recorder of their intention to withdraw no later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the last individual event in the Heat Sessions. The Sessions with 800m & 1500m events will be classed as a different session for this purpose. The withdrawal shall be made via the official online process. There will be no paper withdrawal forms.
- b) Reserves will be released 30 minutes after this time.

9. Call Room

- c) Competitors must report to the competition stewards in the Call Room for heats and finals and follow their direction. It is Competitors' responsibility to report in good time for their event.
- d) Finalists are required to report to the Call Room in sufficient time and be available to parade for their event. They must enter the Call Room 'race ready' as under normal circumstances having entered the Call Room they should remain in its confines until lead onto the pool deck for their race. Upon entry, Competitors must ensure that they report to a Steward and be registered as being present in the Call Room.
- e) Coaches, team managers and chaperones will not be allowed in the Call Room area during the finals at any time.

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10. Doping Control

- By entering this event, Competitors consent to report to Doping Control if requested at any time during this event. Competitors also agree to abide by Aquatics GB & UKAD Anti-Doping Rules. (For further information, see [Link](#).)
- Competitors are required to bring and have with them at all times either a passport or other form of identity incorporating their photograph. Competitor accreditation will be acceptable.

11. Team Leader Meeting

- It is a requirement for a representative from all clubs with Competitors entered in this Championships to attend the Team Leader Meeting, which will take place on the evening of 9 December 2026. The time and location will be notified in the Competitor Confirmation Pack.

Para Specific Conditions

12. Para Swimming

- The general conditions for the Championships shall apply to the Para-Swimming events except where varied by any of the following conditions.
- The Events:

Event	Open/Male & Female
50m Freestyle	S1-S13
100m Freestyle	S1-S14
200m Freestyle	S1-S5 & S14
400m Freestyle	S6-S14
50m Backstroke	S1-S5
100m Backstroke	S6-S14
50m Breaststroke	SB1-SB3
100m Breaststroke	SB4-SB14
50m Butterfly	S1-S7
100m Butterfly	S8-S14
150m Individual Medley	SM1-SM4
200m Individual Medley	SM5-SM14

13. Eligibility

- All competitors must have an authorised World Para Swimming Classification, Aquatics GB Classification, Virtus-FID or British Blind Sport Classification, which is held on the British Competitors membership database at the time of entry.
- Minimum Age is 11 years at 31 December 2026.
- Entries will only be accepted from Competitors who have a swim recorded in British Para Rankings with a British Para-Swimming Points (BPSP) as follows: S1 – S4: 350 points, S5-S10: 500 points, S11 – S13: 500 points, S14 650.
- All Para events will be competed as Mixed Classification Events.
- Finalists (10) shall be determined by the BPSP scores from the heats according to the competitors' classification, the stroke and the distance.
- In the event of a dead heat of equal points which results in the number of finalists exceeding ten, a swim-off shall take place to determine which of those swimmers shall go forward to the final.
- Finals will be seeded by time.
- The competition shall take place under the relevant World Para Swimming (WPS)

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Rules and Regulations.

14. Accreditation

- a) All personal care attendants must have accreditation. Personal care attendants will only be permitted for swimmers where assistance is permitted on their code of exceptions. Such attendants will be excluded from any restrictions and will be given the same accreditation as the swimmer for whom they have personal care responsibilities.
- b) A competitor who has assistance as specified above may have both a coach and a personal care attendant present. The personal care attendant accreditation will be free of charge.

15. Medals

- a) Medals shall be awarded on a multi-class basis to the competitor placed 1, 2 and 3 in each event by using BPS scores for each event.
- b) If there are less than four swimmers in any event then a minus one ruling shall apply. If there is only one competitor in an event then a medal shall be awarded if they break the British Record for their classification.
- c) Medals shall be awarded during the relevant session that the event has taken place.