



Kent County Amateur Swimming Association

2026 Kent Swimming Championships

Incorporating Para-Swimming Multi Classification Inclusive events

Licensed at Level 1

1LR260191 – 1LR260192 – 1LR260193 – 1LR260194

Meet Promoter – John Handley – john.handley@kentswimming.org

Meet Entries Manager: Lynn Gates - lynn.gates@kentswimming.org

Lead Referee – John Burdett – john.burdett@kentswimming.org

Any questions/queries regarding the 2026 Championships must be directed to the Promoter in the first instance. The Promoter will liaise with the Lead referee where necessary.

General Conditions

1. The Kent Swimming Championships shall be run under Swim England Laws and Technical Rules, the relevant World Para Swimming Rules, and these Promoter's conditions.
2. The Kent Swimming Committee reserves full powers over the Kent Swimming Championships.
3. The championships will be run in Long Course pools and licensed at Level 1.
4. All the following conditions shall apply to the Para-Swimming Events except where varied by the Supplementary Para-Swimming Conditions and Entry Standards.
5. A swimmer who has competed in swimming championships of another County shall not be eligible to compete in the Kent Swimming Championships in the same calendar year.
6. A swimmer must be a Swim England Club Compete registered member of a Kent club in whose name the swimmer is entered at the date of making the initial entry and (subject to the provisions of condition 7) remain so continuously until the championships in which the swimmer is taking part have been completed.
7. A swimmer who joins a second Kent club and wishes to compete for the new club, or who resigns from one Kent club and joins another, after the competition closing date, must immediately notify the promoter of any events that they have entered in which case
 - 7.1 points scored (under the provisions of Condition 53) before the swimmer changes club shall be awarded to the original club.
 - 7.2 thereafter, the swimmer may compete in individual events but will not score points for their original club or their new club.
8. The age of each swimmer shall be as at 31 December 2026
9. A secondary stroke will be available at K2 Crawley and LAC Stratford
10. Swim down facilities may only be available at certain times.
11. The Kent Swimming Committee shall decide any matter not provided for in these conditions and will determine the appropriate action against those concerned if any of these conditions are contravened.

How to enter

12. There are two closing dates for entry
 - 4th January 2026** for 800m Freestyle at K2 Crawley
 - 14th January 2026** for 1500m Freestyle at Crawley and for 50/100/200/400m events at LAC Stratford
13. The entry fee for individual events is
 - 13.1 £11.00 per event up to and including distances of 400m
 - 13.2 £15.00 per event for 800m and 1500m freestyle.
14. Entries will be processed electronically using Sportsystems.
15. There will be 1 Sportsystems entry file –
 - 15.1 one copy of which shall be used for entries for 800m freestyle at K2 Crawley (closing date 4th January 2026)
 - 15.2 and another copy of which shall be used for entries at LAC Stratford and for 1500m freestyle

at K2 Crawley (closing date 14th January 2026)

Instructions as to how to use the entry file will be made available on the Kent Swimming website.

Please contact Lynn Gates for the relevant electronic files lynn.gates@kentswimming.org

16. Para Swimmers will use an entry form for their entries to be submitted manually via their club.

17. The following provisions shall also apply to entries:-

17.1 Entry will be made by the appropriate club official

17.2 **NO** individual entries will be accepted.

17.3 Completed entry file and summary sheet will be sent to lynn.gates@kentswimming.org

18. Incorrect entries will not be refunded.

19. Payment will be requested in two tranches once accepted entries have been notified to clubs. Clubs will **only** be invoiced for accepted entries and payment **must** be paid in full

19.1 by 11th January 2026 for the 800m freestyle event

19.2 by 20th January 2026 for all events at LAC Stratford

Payment must not be made until requested to do so - payment will be made by bank transfer and bank details will be shown on the invoice.

20. Failure to provide full payment when requested will **exclude** all a club's entries to the championships.

Meet Programme

21.

21.1 There will be separate events for open/male and female except 800m/1500m Freestyle which will be swum as mixed, and results subsequently separated out to open/male and female.

21.2 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 the swimmer confirms that their birth sex is female.

22. The Programme will be as set out in Appendix 1

23. Age Groups

23.1 400m Individual medley, 800m and 1500m Freestyle 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17+years

23.2 50m/100m/200m all strokes and 400m Freestyle 10/11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17+years

24. There will be finals for each age group in all the 50m and 100m events – 10/11, 12, 13, 14,15, 16, 17+. All other events will be Heat Declared Winner.

Supplementary Para Conditions

25. These championships shall be run with multi classification para swimming inclusive events.

26. The minimum age for entry will be 11 years as of 31 December 2026.

27. All para swimmers must have an authorised IPC Swimming, British Swimming, INAS-FID or British Blind Sport classification, which is held on the British Swimming or IPC Swimming classification database at the time of entry.

28. There will be no qualifying standard for para swimming competitors but times entered must be achieved between 1st January 2025 and 13th January 2026 and recorded on Swim England Rankings – submitted times may be long course or short course

EVENT	Eligible Classifications
50m Freestyle	S1 – S14
100m Freestyle	S1 – S14
200m Freestyle	S1 – S5 and S14
400m Freestyle	S6 – S14
50m Backstroke	S1 – S5
100m Backstroke	S1, S2 & S6 – S14
50m Breaststroke	SB1 – SB3
100m Breaststroke	SB4 – SB9, SB11 – SB14
50m Butterfly	S1 – S7
100m Butterfly	S8 – S14
200m Individual Medley	SM5 – SM14

29. A Para Swimming competitor who qualifies for a final may swim in that final. There will be no finals for Para Swimmers swimming in multi classification events. There will be no separate heats for Para swimmers. All Para events will be heat declared and final positions based on the relevant BD points.

Seeding

30. All events will be swum as combined age groups listed slowest to fastest.
31. Heats for events with finals will be seeded using cyclic seeding for the last 3 heats. All other heats will be spearheaded.
32. All heats in HDW events will be spearheaded.

Finals

33. The fastest 10 competitors from the heats in each age group will be allocated a place in their respective age group final and 2 next fastest shall be named as reserves.
34. For each final, a minimum of 10 lanes will be used.
35. In the event of two or more swimmers tying for the final place(s) a swim off may be required to determine who swims in the final.
36. Swimmers and reserves are required to present themselves to marshalling when called. If a finalist does not wish to take part, they should advise the marshal and a reserve will be offered a swim in the same lane as the finalist who is withdrawing. If a reserve does not present themselves to marshalling, they will not be offered the available swim.

Technical and Non-Technical officials

37.
37.1 The championships cannot run without people to fill both technical and non-technical roles on the day. With this in mind, clubs are requested to provide volunteers, both qualified and licensed officials and field of play roles such as competitor stewards/spectator entrance/poolside refreshments/medals table/admin desk.
37.2 All Swimming Officials will be offered expenses – contact jean.scott@kentswimming.org for more details.

Qualification Entry times

38. For events of a distance of 400m or less automatic qualifying times and consideration times are set and for 800m and 1500m events consideration times are set. All such times are as shown in Appendix 2.
39. All submitted times must be the fastest time achieved at events licensed at level 1, 2, 3, 4 during the qualifying window and must appear on the Swim England database.
40. Converted short course times to long course are accepted – Sportsystems does this automatically.
41. In all events of a distance of 400m or less
41.1 all entries by swimmers who have achieved the automatic qualifying time shall be accepted for that event.
41.2 Swimmers who enter and have not achieved the automatic time for an event, but have achieved the consideration time may be accepted up to the following numbers of swimmers per age group and event:
41.3 Should there be an insufficient number of entries that have achieved the consideration time in any age group the unused number of spaces will be back filled from other age groups up to a maximum aggregate number of entries across all age groups as outlined in below in this condition 41
41.4 For the purposes of 41.3 those swimmers whose times are closest to the automatic times (across all age groups) shall be accepted first.

	10/11	12	13	14	15	16	17+
50m events	34	34	34	34	34	34	46
100m events	21	21	21	21	21	21	24
200m events	16	16	16	16	16	16	18
400m events	14	14	14	14	14	14	14

42. The following provisions apply to the 800m and 1500m freestyle events where only consideration times have been set :-
- 42.1 In the 800m freestyle swimmers who shall have achieved a consideration time shall be considered for acceptance initially up to a maximum of 10 per age group per gender – the fastest entries per age group per gender shall be accepted first
 - 42.2 In the 1500m freestyle swimmers who shall have achieved a consideration time shall be considered for acceptance initially up to a maximum of 5 per age group per gender – the fastest entries per age group per gender shall be accepted first
 - 42.3.1 Should there be an insufficient number of entries that have achieved the consideration time in any age group the unused number of spaces will be back filled from other age groups of that same gender up to a maximum number of entries across all age groups of that gender of 60 swimmers for the 800m freestyle and 32 swimmers for the 1500m freestyle
 - 42.3.2 For the purposes of 42.3.1 those swimmers whose times are fastest relative to the consideration times across all age groups of that same gender shall be accepted first.
 - 42.4.1 Should there still be an insufficient number of entries that have achieved the consideration time in any age group the unused number of spaces will be back filled from other age groups irrespective of gender up to a maximum number of entries across all age groups and genders of 120 swimmers for the 800m freestyle and 64 swimmers for the 1500m freestyle
 - 42.4.2 For the purposes of 42.4.1 those swimmers whose times are fastest relative to the consideration times across all age groups and genders shall be accepted first.
43. Notwithstanding the above conditions in the interests of pool safety to meet licensing conditions and to ensure the smooth running of the championships, the promoter reserves the right to restrict the number of entries in any event, should the need arise, in which case, the swimmers with the fastest times in each age group will take precedence.
44. The qualifying window will be:
- 1 January 2025 – 3rd January 2026 for 800m Freestyle.
 - 1 January 2025 – 13th January 2026 for all other events.
45. Subsequent improved times will not be accepted after the relevant closing date.
46. Time trials will not be permitted.
47. Clubs/individuals that are found to have entered unsubstantiated entry times will be referred to the Swimming Committee and the meet promoter reserves the right to remove any awards or points that may have been awarded for the swim in question.

Medals, trophies, awards and points

- 48. In Heat Declared winner events medals will be awarded to swimmers placed first to eighth in each age group – open/male and female.
- 49. In events with finals medals will be awarded to swimmers placed first to tenth (and who shall have competed in the relevant final) in each age group – open/male and female
- 50. Medals will be awarded to Para swimmers placed first to eighth – open/male and female - who compete in the Para swimming inclusive events.
- 51. If a trophy exists for an Open event, it will be awarded to the swimmer ranked first across all age group finals once the times have been ranked or the swimmer achieving the fastest time in the case of HDW events.
- 52. If a Trophy exists for a Junior – defined as 16 years or under as at 31 December 2026 – it will be awarded to the Junior swimmer ranked first across all age group finals up to 16 years once the times have been ranked or the Junior swimmer achieving the fastest time in the case of HDW events.
- 53. Points will be awarded based on 8pts -1pt to swimmers ranked 1st – 8th in each age group in HDW events and each age group from a final – open/male and female. There will be a separate points table compiled for Para swimmers.
- 54. There will also be a medals table indicating the number of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place medals achieved by each club.
- 55. The Mick Geer salver will be presented on the last day of the individual championships to the swimmer who has achieved the highest number of World Aquatics points in an individual swim (as at the date of the swim in question).

Registration and marshalling

56. The championships will be operating a withdrawal system - withdrawals **must** be made by an accredited Team representative – on the day of competition, withdrawals **must** be made prior to the start of any indicated warm up time.
57. Failure to withdraw a swimmer resulting in races being swum with empty lanes will incur a fine of £20 for each failure, payable by the club. This will be reduced to £10 for each failure if the fine(s) is paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice request to the club. If the club wishes to dispute a fine(s), the club must provide evidence that the swimmer(s) was withdrawn in accordance with the meet procedure.
58. Announced finalists and reserves not intending to swim shall withdraw by completing a withdrawal form as soon as possible and in any case no later than 10 minutes after the announcement or time determined by the Promoter.
59. If a finalist withdraws within the allotted time, the final will be reseeded. Where a reserve is brought in after this period, the reserve will occupy the vacant lane and there shall be no changes made to the allocation of other lanes.
60. Warm up marshals will be appointed, and their instructions must be followed at all times.
61. It is the swimmer's responsibility to report to the Competition Stewards in the designated marshalling area in good time for their event. Failure to report in timely fashion to marshalling may result in the swimmer being excluded from their event without any refund,
62. Heat start lists for each event will be posted on-line and in the Marshalling area before each session starts and it is the swimmer's responsibility to ensure their name appears on the list prior to the start of the session.
63. Upon entering the Marshalling area, the swimmer must ensure that they report to the Competition Stewards and be registered as present. Swimmers must follow the directions of the Competition Stewards at all times.
64. All swimmers must enter the Marshalling area 'race ready' and should remain in this area until allowed to enter the pool deck for their race.
65. Coaches/chaperones/team managers will not be allowed in the Marshalling area at any time

Poolside access

66. Clubs must ensure that there are enough adults with valid passes to provide adequate supervision of athletes – application for passes will be made to John King, john.king@kentswimming.org — accreditation applications must be received by 8th January 2026. Payment details will follow.
67. Details of the Swim England Club Supervision ratios and FAQs can be viewed from the following link <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/swim-england-relases-supervision-ratios-policy/>
68. Personal Care Attendants will only be permitted for para swimmers where assistance is permitted on their code of exceptions. A swimmer who has assistance may have both a coach and a Personal Care Attendant present. The Personal Care Attendant will need to apply for a pass – it will be free of charge.
69. The cost per pass will be £15 for the whole championships. The pass may be retained and used for any future events that may be organised by Kent Swimming in 2026.

Photography

70. All those attending the championships (competitors, coaches, team managers, spectators, officials, volunteers, contracted staff etc) wishing to use cameras, video or digital imaging capturing devices (including mobile phones) should only do so after reference to their obligations and the recommendations laid down in Wavepower published 3 January 2024, the Swim England Child safeguarding Policy and Procedures and other Swim England guidance. Photographic equipment must not be used anywhere in the changing rooms.
71. Use of a mobile phone or other device in the changing rooms is strictly prohibited. Any breach of this condition shall be reported to the Promoter and/or the County Welfare Officer who shall be entitled to take such action as they deem appropriate
72. Photographs of the meet may be taken by representatives of the promoters of the event and may be used for promotional purposes. Entry into the competition implies acceptance of this condition.
73. Livestreaming may take place throughout the championships.

Data Protection

74. By submitting and accepting entries to the meet consent is hereby given, as required by the Data Protection Act 1998, to the holding of personal information. The personal information supplied with your entry will be retained securely and will only be used for the legitimate purposes of running the event. This data will be shared by form of results with Swim England (Rankings) and the clubs who have entered the meet. A full copy of the results will be published on the website after the meet. Please be aware that links from our website may take you to external websites that are not covered by our policies. Please ensure that you review their privacy policies before any data is submitted. If any persons want to exercise their right to erasure or processing of their personal data they will need to make a written request to the promoter. We will only hold competition data for 12 months after which it will be destroyed and erased from our systems.

Publicity

75. All communications and information relating to the conduct of the Championships will be published on the Championship page of the Kent Swimming website <https://www.kentswimming.org/spage-swimming-championships62.html>. Individual messages (including (without limitation) lists of acceptances and rejections and times of warm up and swimming sessions) will not be sent to Clubs and it is therefore the duty of Clubs to ensure that the Kent Swimming website is regularly checked. Any queries regarding acceptances and rejections should initially be raised with Lynn Gates lynn.gates@kentswimming.org. All such queries should be raised if possible prior to the date on which the event(s) to which such queries relate is/are due to be swum.