



Peak and Plain Swimming League

The Peaks and Plains Swimming League is run by affiliated swimming clubs from Cheshire East and Cheshire West. Operating under the affiliation of Swim England North West Region, the league organises team swimming competitions. These team galas, designed for inexperienced swimmers, typically last less than two hours and offer a gentle yet lively introduction to competitive swimming.

This document is designed to help all affiliated clubs with the administration and rules to follow when attending the galas.

Gala Dates and Venue

Typically, the league holds 3 galas per year between January and May. Currently the venue for these galas is a Crewe Lifestyle Centre as this is an 8-lane swimming pool. However, this can be reviewed, if necessary, each year at the league's Annual General Meeting.

Finances

The league's finances are funded by its affiliated clubs. Each club is required to pay an annual affiliation fee, currently set at £75.00 (£25.00 per gala), which must be paid before the first gala of the year. This fee is subject to annual review by the committee during the Annual General Meeting. Additionally, a spectator fee of £3.00 per person (with no concessions) is charged at each gala. This fee is also reviewed by the committee annually at the Annual General Meeting.

Other financial obligations for the league are reviewed and followed as per the constitution for the league.

Gala / Swimmer Entries

Computer System

For each gala, affiliated clubs are required to submit their race entries using the Hytek computer software system. The corresponding computer file must be submitted by the Thursday evening prior to the gala to the gala administrator via email. No alternative software systems are permitted. If a club includes a swimmer who is ineligible to compete, the club must ensure that the swim is designated as an exhibition swim.

Swimmers Eligibility

Affiliated club swimmers may participate in up to six events per gala, comprising four individual events and two relay events. Swimmers who have achieved Cheshire County Swimming Times and Regional Swimming Times are permitted to compete; however, they may only enter events in which they have not attained a Cheshire County or Regional Time. It is important to emphasise that this should only be considered as a last resort for clubs, as the league is designated as a novice gala.

Relay events are mixed, allowing affiliated clubs the flexibility to field teams with swimmers of different sexes or teams. However, only in exceptional circumstance then a team of same sex swimmers can be submitted. Should a team have a swimmer pull out at the very last minute due to illness or alike then the team may swim 3 swimmers but the swimmer who swim first must swim the last leg of the relay.

However, it is important to emphasise again that this option should only be utilised as a last resort by clubs.

Volunteers

The galas rely heavily on the support of volunteers and could not take place without their assistance. All affiliated clubs are expected to provide as many volunteers as possible for each gala. However, it is acknowledged that some clubs may face challenges in recruiting volunteers. As a minimum requirement, each club must supply two timekeepers. While it is preferable for the timekeepers to be qualified, it is not mandatory, as these galas are unlicensed. If affiliated clubs are unable to provide qualified judges, volunteers may be assigned to other administrative tasks to ensure the smooth running of the events. It will be requested prior to the gala from all clubs what volunteers will be available for individual galas prior to the event

Gala Set Up / Poolside Access

There will only be allowed up to 4 officials allowed on poolside to set up the gala and to ensure that all Health and Safety requirements for each gala are followed as per Swim England Guidance. All swimmers, coaches, Team Managers and officials are requested not to enter poolside until confirmation has been provided and confirmed by the referee that the gala is able to proceed following their Health and Safety Inspection.

Gala Results

As much as possible the results from each gala will be streamed via the website during the gala, however this is dependent on technology available at each gala.

The final results after each gala will be announced at the end of the gala. However, a review of the results and timekeeping slips will take place and all affiliated clubs must be aware that the results could change if necessary.

Trophies

Trophies will be awarded to the winning club at the conclusion of each gala. However, if the results of the gala are revised, the initial announced winning club is required to promptly return the trophy to the newly designated winning club.

It is the winning club's responsibility to collect their trophy at the end of the gala.

Certificates

Certificates will be provided to every swimmer who wins their event including relay events, in each age category. Speeding Tickets will also be provided to swimmers who swim out of their event age category.

Certificates are to be collected by club representatives after each gala once certificate writers have confirmed that they are happy they have finished writing up all events.

Mobile Phones / Photography / Filming at each Gala

As per Swim England's policies and welfare guidance, the use of mobile phones or any other device able to take photographs or films are not to be used in the Changing rooms by any swimmers, or any adults in attendance at each gala.

Requests to film swimming for GCSE coursework must be submitted via email to the League Secretary at least 10 days prior to each gala. Upon receipt, the Secretary will consult all club representatives to determine whether any objections to filming exist. If even one club raises an objection, filming will not be permitted.

Late requests—submitted after the 10-day notice period—will not be considered.

In instances of unauthorised filming—such as recordings for GCSE coursework—the individual responsible will be reported to Swim England, the pool provider's management team, and any other relevant authorities as appropriate.