

Swimming competition

Guidance for running safe events

Introduction

Covid-19 has had a dramatic effect on the sport of Aquatics and it could be some time before we return to what most of us would consider to be 'normal'.

This document is intended to support clubs and organisers running events following the lifting of Government restrictions.

The guidelines that follow are intended to mitigate the transmission risk of Covid-19 and safeguard swimmers, coaches, officials, spectators and volunteers as we continue to return safely to competition.

Swim England will continue to assess the situation and will provide regular updates on any changes or adaptations to the guidance. This document refers to current Government guidance for England only and is subject to change.

Clubs attending meets in other Home Nations or Countries must follow the Covid-19 Laws and Regulations for that Country.

In the meantime, please remember anyone who is deemed vulnerable in respect of Covid-19 is reminded to follow the Government's guidance, only returning to Swimming activity when it is right for them to do so. There is no pressure to return. Everyone's health, wellbeing and safety are the priorities.

IMPORTANT: If you are showing symptoms of the virus or have been in contact with someone displaying symptoms, then you must follow Government guidance.

Swim England is aware of the potential for further Government mandates in response to the most recent Covid variants. In the space below we will advise of any prevailing guidance that those associated with the management of competitions should be aware of in addition to the guidance covered in the remainder of this document.

Swim England encourages all athletes, coaches, volunteers and spectators in school year seven and above to wear a face covering to indoor swimming lessons/training sessions/competitions when not physically competing/training or teaching/coaching, unless medically exempt. Officials should wear a face covering if their role allows them to do so.

Test and Trace

NHS Test and Trace has been introduced by the Government to help return life more to normal, in a way that is safe and protects our NHS and social care. The service allows them to trace the spread of the virus and isolate new infections and plays a vital role in giving us early warning if the virus is increasing again, locally or nationally.

All venues are encouraged to display the official **NHS QR code posters** so that visitors to the venue can 'check-in' using this option, as an alternative to providing their contact details, using the NHS Covid-19 App. To cater for those who do not have a mobile phone, or have not downloaded the app, an alternative option for people to leave their contact details may be provided.

Transmission Risk - Guiding Principles

In every sport and leisure activity there are risks of Covid-19. To return safely, an assessment has to be carried out of the transmission risk that competitive activity presents.

Equipment used both during training and competition phases of sport can act as fomites, a vehicle for carrying the virus, and therefore impacting on the transmission of Covid-19 between individuals. Throughout this document we aim to assist individuals and organisations in assessing the implications and requirements of the return to competitive swimming and we make recommendations as to how this route of transmission might be mitigated.

Covid-19 can actually be transmitted in three ways:

- Droplet transmission when in close contact with others.
- Fomite transmission by sharing or transferring equipment like backstroke ledges, water bottles.
- Population – the number of participants likely to take part in proposed activity.

A fomite is an object or materials which are likely to carry infection, such as clothes, utensils, and furniture.

Assessment process:

Step one: Identify

- Identify fomites (equipment) used in activity.
- What is it? (Name).
- What is it made of? (Material).
- How is it cleaned safely, repeatedly and effectively without degrading it? (Cleaning).

Step 2: Use

- Consider how the fomite is used in activity and how its use might be changed.
- Reduce overall use.

- Personal use only.
- Change fomite to a version which poses less transmission risk.
- Estimate risk of use and impact of mitigation.

Step 3: Clean and protect

- Cleaning and protection protocols for fomites.
- Where – identify high traffic areas.
- When - between or during sessions?
- How - time, chemical, heat or light.
- Protect - Use by individuals (possibly screened) with high levels of personal hygiene and facial coverings.

Step 4: Educate and monitor

- Educate and audit.
- Educate, re-educate and remind staff and competitors regarding change in behaviours and use of fomites.
- Monitor effectiveness.

These four steps are addressed in more detail in future sections of this document, as well as other methods of transmission of the disease.

We recommend that anyone organising a competition makes the safety of everyone involved their primary consideration.

Based on research undertaken on competitive swimming race based analysis, expert advice from the sport and the fact that our sport usually takes place in a chlorinated environment, we believe that swimming competitions present a low level risk as a sport.

Risk Summary		
Droplet and airborne transmission	Fomite transmission	Population
Risk Factor		
<p>Swimmers</p> <p>Minimal risk during individual swim races, where swimmers start off individual starting blocks or in the water (backstroke), with one swimmer per starting block and lane. Each lane width is 2-2.5 metres. Swimmers compete one per lane for the duration of the race.</p>	<p>Swimmers' equipment</p> <p>Swimmers' entry into the water requires the use of Starting blocks or Backstroke ledges. Time handling per swimmer is approx. 20 seconds. Electronic touch pads for confirming time/results are partially submerged in chlorinated water and touched by swimmers on finish with their wet/chlorinated hand.</p>	<p>Swimmers</p> <p>During the individual swimming race, the maximum number of swimmers is limited, varying upon the total number of lanes in the pool. With one swimmer per lane, 2-2.5 metres apart, the maximum will be 10 swimmers in total, across 10 lanes in the pool.</p>

<p>Over the top starts should be used wherever possible with the swimmer who has completed their race moving 2 metres along the lane rope and exiting the pool by the side when the next race has started keeping a distance from other swimmers where possible..</p> <p>In relay races, the risk slightly increases, as swimmers (consisting of four individuals), congregate behind the starting block with the first swimmers on the starting block or in the water (backstroke). One relay swimmer races in the lane at a time.</p> <p>Consecutive relay swimmer dives over the top, as the previous relay swimmer proceeds to exit the pool by same manner as individual swimming described above.</p> <p>Swim down areas should be controlled environments for numbers and participation.</p>		<p>In a relay race, the maximum number increases to 40 swimmers in total maximum.</p> <p>Efforts should be made to minimise the congregation of swimmers in results areas.</p>
<p>Officials</p> <p>Officials are positioned per lane, behind starting blocks, at each end of the lane, 2-2.5 metres apart from one another. Additional officials, inc.</p> <p>Referees, are positioned at sides of the pool, with some moving along pool deck in line with the swimmers during the race. A mixture of radio and verbal communication is used.</p>	<p>Officials' equipment</p> <p>Officials use: whistles, AOE back up buttons, stopwatches, bells, lap cards, clipboards and water bottles. Some may also use radios for communication. Starting system is also used to commence racing.</p>	<p>Officials</p> <p>Meet Manager, Referee, Starter, Timekeepers, turn/stroke/finish judges, recorders, Clerk of the Course may total approx. 30, subject to number of lanes.</p>
<p>Coaches</p> <p>Coaches usually position themselves along the opposite length of the pool, moving up and down the pool deck, verbally or shouting their support for their racing swimmers.</p>		

Risk Mitigations

<p>Swimmers</p> <p>1a. Chlorinated environment supports the mitigation of transmission.</p> <p>1b. Event organisers and venue operators to work collaboratively to ensure capacity guidelines are followed at all times.</p>	<p>Swimmers</p> <p>This risk may be mitigated by rinsing/splashing the equipment between swimmers with chlorinated water, which acts as disinfectant, and swimmers submerging their hands into water.</p> <p>Hand sanitizing points are available throughout the venue.</p>	<p>Swimmers</p> <p>Minimal risk when individual race swimmers compete in individual lanes, mitigated further by chlorinated environment.</p>
<p>Officials</p> <p>1a. Officials at the lanes may want to maintain social distance from one another and also swimmers who assume position on starting blocks or in water. Officials to check swimmers' names at a distance. Other officials alongside the pool deck may want to maintain social distance when moving along pool deck and to sit on single seating. The number of these officials to be kept to a minimum.</p> <p>1b. Verbal communication to be kept to a minimum, using radios where possible and appropriate, using mitigating actions against fomite transmission.</p>	<p>Officials</p> <p>1a. All officials equipment to be used by one person at a time, with whistles and water bottles designated for personal use only. Prior to any change of use of other equipment, it should be thoroughly sanitised.</p> <p>1b. No rotation of officiating positions during a session.</p> <p>1c. Equipment sanitised between users.</p> <p>Hand sanitizing points are available throughout the venue.</p>	
	<p>Coaches</p> <p>Stop watches should not be shared, nor should programmes, start sheets and result sheets. These should be printed prior and displayed so swimmers are able to view with no hand touching.</p> <p>Hand sanitizing points are available throughout the venue.</p>	

Event organisers must always ensure that the safety and welfare of all participants involved with the swimming competition is paramount.

Key requirements for a Covid-secure activity

- Read and understand this guidance in full and apply it to local circumstances.
- Risk assess the activity in conjunction with the facility operator's own Risk Assessment and operating procedures.
- Requirement for the facility management to agree with the event Covid-19 action/operation plan.
- Develop and activate a risk mitigation activity plan.
- The maximum occupancy of each indoor facility may be limited and event organisers should consult with the venue operator about the relevant capacity limit for their venue.
- Facility operators (via **NHS QR Code 'check in' system**) should record all participants' contact details for the NHS Test and Trace programme. Meet promoters/Event organisers should liaise with their facility operator to ensure this process is in place.
- Avoid large areas of congregation – arrive, warm up, race, depart.

Summary of guiding principles for swimming and para-swimming competitions

- Event organisers need to adapt their plans for hosting competitive activity, with the guiding principle being to ensure that the safety of participants and volunteers is paramount.
- Event organisers with limited poolside space need to consider innovative ways of scheduling their competitions, to manage the number of competitors per session. Organisers may want to consider organising single age group or single gender sessions, for example, with competitors swimming all of their events in a reduced time frame.
- Prior to commencing any detailed planning, the event organiser should discuss and agree with the facility at the earliest opportunity the proposed event and explain the type of planned activity and the likely movement of different groups. This will enable the venue provider to determine the maximum number of people that can be in the building for the purposes of the swimming competitive activity at any one time. This will enable the event organisers to make decisions about how to organise race schedules and how many people are able to attend.

Swimming Competition

Action plan

The event organiser and the facility operator should ensure that the following guidance is considered when planning an event.

Area	Guidance
Before competition	
Overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event organisers should complete an action plan and Risk Assessment prior to any competitive activity taking place. The meet organiser will be responsible for clearly communicating all relevant guidance to all participants. Swimmers must be registered members of Swim England.
Risk assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A thorough Risk Assessment must be developed for each competition in conjunction with the facility operator's own Risk Assessment and in adherence with any Government guidelines and PHE advice.
Venue plans and flows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event organisers should work closely with the facility operator to review the venue layout and flows, determining maximum permissible capacities, identifying safe ways to access/egress the venue, addressing each participant group's (athletes, officials, volunteers, coaches and spectators) requirements. Consideration could be given to zoning areas around the venue to reduce the cross-over between participant groups. It may also be possible for event organisers to house swimmers in adjoining sports halls or gymnasiums, or in outdoor space or marquees. Where the number of competitors per session permits it, swimmers may be accommodated on the poolside. In this instance, consideration must be given to those participating or officiating in the gala being able to do so safely, despite the presence of teams of swimmers on the pool deck.
Event conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competition technical rules, 'event conditions', should be developed in addition to the Risk Assessment. Conditions should be submitted to the appropriate Swim England Regional Licensing Officer with the licensing application.
Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking into account the safety measures and facility operators Risk Assessments, the event schedule for the competition may also consider: staggered arrivals/departures, phased starts, time trials, breaks e.g. longer gaps between heats, to avoid the likelihood of congestion within all areas of the venue. A list of event timings should be distributed, if facilities allow swimmers should arrive to warm up, race and depart.
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event organisers should frequently communicate with all participants ahead of the competition with specific competition plans, outlining health and safety procedures, and exact protocol for pre-, during- and post-activity to familiarise all with the procedures in advance and avoid face-to-face briefings/congregations on venue. The plans should refer to, but not be limited to, arrival process reminding event attendees to follow venue's

<p>Communication (continued)</p>	<p>NHS Test and Trace procedures, floor plans and participant flows, departure protocols.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Competition Health Declaration Form should also be sent to all participants for them to comply with before they attend the event. This should be returned to the meet organiser, via the promoting club, no more than 1 week before the competition start date.
<p>Entries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event organisers must review entries capacity against the Risk Assessment and the total maximum capacity permissible on venue. • Entries and withdrawals should be accepted online in advance of competition only. No entries are to be taken on the day of competition to safeguard against breaching capacity restrictions and wider impact on competition operations.
<p>Officials and volunteers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event organisers should review the core number of officials and volunteers required to deliver the competition. • Recruit the number of officials that are actually needed and are compliant to licensing guidelines. • Ensure officials and volunteers are fully briefed ahead of the competition on their roles, any safety measures and ensure their health and welfare is maintained. • Ascertain if there are any critical roles where there is close contact and plan how you may want to mitigate this with PPE and provision of disinfectant/sanitising products.
<p>Pre-attendance symptom check</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participants (or parents) will be aware of the increased risk associated with taking part in competitive activity. • All participants (swimmers, officials, volunteers) should have completed the Competition Health Declaration Form which will have been sent to all participants prior to the event. • Should an individual have demonstrated any such symptoms related to Covid, they must not participate. Instead they should follow NHS and PHE guidance on self-isolation. • If an individual is symptomatic and/or living in household with possible Covid-19 infection they should follow NHS/PHE guidance on self-isolation and testing. In addition, any participants who have been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace, must not exercise outside their home or garden and must not exercise with others. • Under no circumstances can a swimmer who has been instructed to self-isolate by a health care practitioner or PHE participate at a swimming competition. • Should participants have had Covid-19, a clear period of self-isolation and appropriate training time to allow for safe competition needs to have been completed.

Safety Briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meet organiser must ensure a safety briefing is provided before the commencement of any competitive activity. This briefing will remind swimmers, officials and volunteers about their responsibilities in complying with the Code of Behaviour set out in Appendix 1 of this guidance.
Local Lockdowns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event of any restrictions being placed on a locality, Swim England event organisers must follow local Government guidelines according to the specific implications for a swimming competition in their area. Entries must only be accepted from those swimmers eligible to compete under the current Government guidelines. Additionally, contingency plans should be in place should local restrictions impact on availability of officials/volunteers, participating swimmers, venue availability. Communication of impact of the local restrictions should be swift to all participants. Swimmer's entry fees should be refunded if they are unable to attend due to Government imposed local restrictions.
Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents who wish their children to take part in a swimming competition should have already provided written consent to the club and or coach for their child to take part. Parents should ensure they are comfortable with the event organisers' planning arrangements before attending the competition. Parents will already understand that a period of isolation may have resulted in some children becoming anxious or unsure whether to resume previous activities. Parents should only support their child's return to activity when they feel confident to do so and feel the activity is safe and right for them. Swimmers should bring their own water bottle, equipment, including hand sanitiser, all clearly marked with their name. Should it be necessary for Swimmers to have snacks on the poolside, for medical reasons or otherwise they should not be shared with other swimmers. Preferably there should be no snacks taken onto the poolside. Parents are asked to ensure their child/children know how to maintain good hygiene and hand washing. All persons with responsibility for the safeguarding of children aged under 18, must have an in-date DBS Check, and should have completed the appropriate safeguarding training. Coaches must ensure the ratio of coaches to children is appropriate – see Swim England safeguarding policy, Wavepower.

Day of competition

<p>Arrival</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event organisers/facilities should consider further mitigations to ensure safe arrival at venues. • Facility operators are encouraged to display the official NHS QR code posters so that all participants, aged 16 or over, can 'check-in' upon arrival at the premises. • Event organisers should signpost event attendees to follow venue's NHS Test and Trace procedures upon arrival. • Manual and paper registrations should be avoided and digital methods should be used wherever possible. • Clear signage (e.g. for one-way systems, hygiene, should be visible to manage entry and general movement around the venue. • All participants' personal items. Such as water bottles, training and officiating equipment, medicines, should be for personal use only, not shared and clearly labelled where possible. • If a welcome desk is required to provide competition information, volunteers should be provided with PPE and sanitisation products. • Paper processes should be limited where possible.
<p>Changing areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to risk assessments and agreement with the facility provider, changing facilities may be provided for swimmers and operated in line with the operator's safety procedures. • Safeguarding provisions, as required by Wave Power must be complied with at all times.
<p>Warm up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm-ups should be planned accordingly and marshals should be present throughout the warm-up to ensure participant safety. • Event organisers could offer a dry land warm-up in addition to the pool warm-up, with appropriately qualified coaches being responsible for ensuring that swimmers are adequately prepared. Event organisers should provide a clearly designated area for this. • Dry land areas should be supervised to ensure that numbers do not exceed agreed capacity. • Event organisers may also consider a blend of dry land and short pool-based warm-up sessions, with competing teams being allocated lanes according to their size of entry. • The maximum number of swimmers in a lane in a warm-up should be agreed with the venue in line with the risk assessments. • Warm-up marshals should be appointed to control the pool based warm-up safe activity. • Event organisers should set expectations as regards the equipment that is permitted during warm-up and swim down.
<p>Team Managers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All competing teams with swimmers under the age of 18 must have a responsible Team Manager/Managers complying with Wavepower. Team Managers are responsible for ensuring their swimmers' safety at all times.

Marshalling areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a small gala, it may be possible to operate with no marshalling. In this case, a clearly defined protocol needs to be in place to avoid overcrowding at the start end of the pool. • For larger galas, it may be safer, and confer greater order, to operate a stricter marshalling system to ensure that there is no overcrowding of swimmers and permissible capacities can be maintained. The event organisers may decide to enforce this via rows of chairs, with competitors being guided to the start area by volunteers. • If swimmers are marshalled away from the pool area, event organisers should consider whether the volunteer marshals may wish to use PPE. • Swimmers should arrive at the marshalling area race-ready. Event organisers may choose to allow the wearing of a tee-shirt and the carrying of water bottle for swimmers with a disability. • Swimmers should collect their own belongings at the conclusion of a race. • Swimmers should also be briefed on how to exit the pool at the conclusion of their swim, collect equipment and leave the poolside.
Officials/ volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon arrival, officials and volunteers may wish to leave their personal items in their cars, or store them elsewhere, such as in lockers, if they are available. • Event organisers should have provided officials and volunteers with comprehensive competition plans, role descriptors, safety and hygiene procedures and venue flows ahead of the competition day electronically. If a further briefing is necessary on the day of competition, it should be conducted safely and preferably outside. • Officials should avoid being in close proximity to swimmers wherever possible to do so, names should be checked from a distance. • Officials can be encouraged to judge double lanes at the turn end – for example - the maximum number of officials judging at the turn end at a pool where eight competition lanes are in use, can be four. • Trainee officials can be accommodated for mentoring and assessment purposes. • There should be only one starter appointed per competitive session, to ensure the microphone remains appropriately sanitised. • The hand-held microphone, chairs and secondary timing buttons should be cleaned with sanitising product at the conclusion of each competition session. • Similarly, any remote strobes should be sanitised between uses. • Timekeepers/J1 should bring their own stopwatches, pens and clipboards. If secondary timing buttons are in operation, their use should be restricted to one person per lane per session. • Lap cards, bells, stopwatches and whistles should again be used by one person at a time, and sanitised prior to any change of use.

<p>Competition</p>	<p>Swimming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All equipment to be sanitised before use including starting blocks and backstroke start devices. • Competition standard lane ropes to be used and inspected for damaged discs before the start of any session. • Chairs can be provided for swimmers. • Over the top starts should be encouraged. • Kit boxes should not be provided. • Every time a backstroke starting ledge is used the adjustment device should be sanitised by either using a sanitising agent or dipped in the chlorinated water. • The cross bar of the starting block to be splashed frequently to reduce the risk of infection. • Competitors' cards or individual timing slips should be avoided where possible. <p>Para-Swimming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is acknowledged that para swimmers and those with a disability may need additional support. In instances where an additional adult is required, these individuals are permitted poolside. • Support staff (chaperones/support staff/tappers) shall be Swim England members and shall not count as team personnel – they are to be considered additional to appointed team managers. • Para swimmers and/or support staff (not officials) are responsible for the fitting and removing of equipment such as starting devices as allowed by the rules. Tapping devices must only be handled by the “Tappers”. • Personal items/aids such as crutches, walking sticks, wheelchairs etc. should only be handled by the para swimmer or support staff. • Prosthesis (artificial arms, legs and hands) shall only be handled by the swimmer or support staff. Should a swimmer not be accompanied by support staff a volunteer will need to be appointed to move prostheses, particularly if the race finishes at the opposite end of the pool to the start. • Consideration will be required for events of one length, or para medley races which have no butterfly stroke (75m and 150m). The swimmer will start and finish at different ends of the pool. • Personal aids/wheelchair may still be at the start end of the pool. These should only be handled by support staff, club personnel or the appointed volunteer.
<p>Event management areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wherever possible race timing and recording activities should take place away from the pool deck area. • Nominated individuals to operate, maintain and repair equipment as necessary during competition. • The number of people used should be kept to a minimum to maintain any capacity restrictions.

<p>Event management areas (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing equipment and meet management systems should be linked electronically. • The use of pieces of paper should be kept to a minimum. • Results should be posted electronically. • Volunteers and coaches entering any enclosed area should comply with any venue procedures in place for such areas, any venue capacity restrictions and may be required to wear a mask. Entry should be restricted to essential entry only. • All people involved in the process should follow the guidance in force at the time. Irrespective the wearing of masks is suggested. • If these processes have to be carried out within the pool area, it may restrict the number of people who can be involved. • A robust action plan needs to be written to deal with the unfortunate scenario where electronic timing fails, cannot be repaired in a reasonable time and manual timing has to be adopted.
<p>Medical and Covid support</p>	<p>Pre-existing medical conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any swimmers with pre-existing medical conditions, which may result in them requiring further support, should notify the event organiser in advance of the competition. If necessary a care plan or Risk Assessment should be conducted in advance of the competition. It is the event organiser's responsibility to pass on details of advised medical conditions to the lead referee and the pool management in advance of the competition. <p>Injury treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injuries during activity should still be treated, participant health and safety is of the utmost importance. • The best form of protection is through rigorous cleaning, personal hygiene and regular hand hygiene. An increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and equipment is encouraged. • If there is a team physio, first-aider or other medical personnel present, they may wish to be equipped with some form of PPE to protect themselves and others if they need to provide medical assistance. • After contact with an injured participant, the person who has administered first aid should clean their hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol hand sanitiser at the earliest opportunity. • This advice is applicable to all situations, regardless of whether there was close contact. • The first aider should also avoid touching their mouth, eyes and nose. Any medical practitioner (or equivalent), should keep a record of each participant they have come into contact with for test and trace purposes. • If a participant becomes symptomatic during the activity, they should immediately remove themselves from the activity and return home as soon as possible. • Further information for those who may need to act as a 'first responder' role in a sports setting, appears here.

<p>Medical and Covid support (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS guidance on further management of symptoms should be followed. <p>Covid-19 support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If anyone attending the event reports having developed Covid-19 symptoms whilst at the competition, they should leave the venue immediately. If the symptoms require urgent care, a room should be provided on the ground floor of the facility, ideally close to the fire exit, or close to an exit point that can be easily reached by ambulance. The room should be deep-cleaned following it being used to temporarily house someone with suspected Covid-19. PPE should be provided for all those required to enter this room. The wearing of masks is to be encouraged, but not obligatory. Event organisers must notify the appropriate authority if a Covid-19 case is confirmed within attendees.
<p>Catering</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People should not share food or drink with people beyond their immediate family. Where food and drink is distributed, it should be individually portioned and packaged. The current Government guidelines, in force at the time, must be complied with.
<p>Results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper results should not be used. Results should only be published electronically, and not posted within the venue, unless they can be viewed safely.
<p>Prizes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is preferred that formal presentations are not made at the competition. If necessary prize and award collection should be accommodated ideally elsewhere in the venue, to maximise available space. Any medals/prizes should have been sanitised/quarantined for an appropriate time prior to distribution.
<p>Spectators</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current Government guidelines allow for spectators to attend the competition. Participants, supporters, parents and spectators' capacity should be carefully determined in line with the total competition and facility limits. The Risk Assessment must cover this area of operation.

Appendix 1. – Code of Behaviour

Code of behaviour

Covid-19 is a highly infectious and dangerous disease. The continuation and expansion of competitive training and competition is only achievable if those involved create and maintain a controlled environment that minimises the threat of infection.

Risk in sport cannot be completely eradicated but with caution and care these risks can be reduced.

Each swimmer will need to decide when to return to competitive training and competition, based on their own circumstances and the arrangements that have been put in place for a safe return.

This is particularly the case for swimmers from ethnically diverse communities or those with underlying health conditions. All those returning must adopt the following code of behaviour:

- Be aware of your own personal health. If you show any of the Covid-19 symptoms you must stay at home and seek medical advice.
- Be responsible.
- Practise good hygiene. Wash your hands regularly.
- Support NHS Test and Trace. Scan the QR code with the your Covid-19 Contact Tracing App or you will be asked to provide your details so that in the event of a Covid-19 outbreak those potentially infected can be traced. This is to everyone's benefit so please co-operate if asked to do so.
- Avoid shouting or raising your voice if face to face with others.
- After the competition, leave the venue safely at the earliest opportunity and be aware that other users may be waiting to use the facilities.
- Changing rooms use may be restricted.

Version one to two

Page 2

~~No Major Open Meet Competition has taken place since March 2020.~~

~~This initiative was impacted by the National Lockdown introduced in November but resumed in December. The second series will come to an end on 31 August 2021. Full details can be found [here](#).~~

~~In October 2020 we introduced Level X Racing and this became an immediate success.~~ This initiative was impacted by the National Lockdown introduced in November but resumed in December. The second series will come to an end on 31 August 2021. Full details can be found [here](#).

Page 9

- All participants (swimmers, officials, volunteers **and spectators**) **should must** have completed the Competition Health Declaration Form which will have been sent to all participants prior to the event. ~~No one should leave home to participate in any form of Swimming if they, or someone they live with, has any Covid symptoms~~
- Should an individual have demonstrated any symptoms **related to Covid**, they must not participate. Instead they should follow NHS and PHE guidance on self-isolation.
- If an individual is symptomatic and/or living in household with possible Covid-19 infection they should ~~remain at home and~~ follow NHS/PHE guidance **on self-isolation and testing**. In addition, any participants who have been asked to isolate by NHS Test and Trace **because they are contact of a known Covid-19 case**, must not exercise outside their home or garden and must not exercise with others.

Version two to three

Page 2

Added:

Swim England is aware of the potential for further Government mandates in response to the most recent Covid variants. In the space below we will advise of any prevailing guidance that those associated with the management of competitions should be aware of in addition to the guidance covered in the remainder of this document.

Swim England encourages all athletes, coaches, volunteers and spectators in school year seven and above to wear a face covering to indoor swimming lessons/training sessions/competitions when not physically competing/training or teaching/coaching, unless medically exempt. Officials should wear a face covering if their role allows them to do so.

Disclaimer

When referring to any documents and associated attachments in this guidance, please note the following:

1. Reliance upon the guidance or use of the content of this website will constitute your acceptance of these conditions.
2. The term guidance should be taken to imply the standards and best practice solutions that are acceptable to Swim England.
3. The documents and any associated drawing material are intended for information only.
4. Amendments, alterations and updates of documents and drawings may take place from time to time and it's recommended that they are reviewed at the time of use to ensure the most up-to-date versions are being referred to.
5. All downloadable drawings, images and photographs are intended solely to illustrate how elements of a facility can apply Swim England's suggestions and should be read in conjunction with any relevant design guidance, British and European Standards, Health and Safety Legislation and guidance, building regulations, planning and the principles of the Equality Act 2010.
6. The drawings are not 'site specific' and are outline proposals. They are not intended for, and should not be used in conjunction with, the procurement of building work, construction, obtaining statutory approvals, or any other services in connection with building works.
7. Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy of all information, Swim England and its agents, including all parties who have made contributions to any documents or downloadable drawings, shall not be held responsible or be held liable to any third parties in respect of any loss, damage or costs of any nature arising directly or indirectly from reliance placed on this information without prejudice.
8. The views expressed are not intended to take away or diminish the responsibility of the user to comply with appropriate current or future legislation or standards and if there are any conflicts between the views expressed in any of Sport England's design guidance material and other appropriate current or future legislation, the latter shall take precedence.

This guidance is provided for general information only. Swim England is not your adviser and any reliance you may place on this guidance is at your own risk. Neither Swim England, nor any contributor to the content of this guidance, shall be responsible for any loss or damage of any kind, which may arise from your use of or reliance on this guidance. Care has been taken over the accuracy of the content of this note but Swim England cannot guarantee that the information is up to date or reflects all relevant legal requirements. The information and drawings contained in this guidance note are not site specific and therefore may not be suitable for your project, facility or event. We recommend that you obtain professional specialist technical and legal advice before taking, or refraining from, any action on the basis of information contained in this note. This guidance is not intended for, and should not be used in connection with, any procurement activities, or for obtaining planning or other statutory approvals.

IP

The content contained within this guidance document is owned by Swim England and the Intellectual property rights are owned by Swim England. The content cannot be reproduced for any educational purposes or be made available on any educational platforms or any digital educational platforms without permission from Swim England, this includes adaptations or modifications in either hard copy or digital format.



Pavilion 3, SportPark, 3 Oakwood Drive, Loughborough University, Leicestershire LE11 3QF
Tel: 01509 618700 | swimming.org

