

Dear Colleagues

I hope this finds you well.

You will note from the regional website that entries have opened in respect of the Swim England East Region Short Course Championships 2026. The event will be held at Luton on 6-8 November, as planned. Entries can be made here:

<https://www.swimmingresults.org/events/eastregion26sc/index.php>

You may also be aware that the facility at Luton recently developed a mechanical fault, meaning that only half of the 50m pool (the end usually used for training/warm up) is usable. This means that, on this occasion, we will not have continuous warm-up and swim down during competition sessions. There will still be a warm-up for swimmers before each session. The usual period of swim-down will also be provided at the end of the session.

When the region first heard of the issue at the pool, we explored a range of alternative venues; none were available on the weekend of 6-8 November. Only one pool offered us an alternative weekend (14-15 November) but this is an Arena League weekend. Swim England East Region clubs swim across three separate leagues for Arena; it would have been impossible to rearrange our competition around these commitments.

We are fortunate to have a long and positive association with Inspire Luton Sports Village, its management and the clubs that hire it. To this end, we have accepted an invitation to attend a Team Luton open meet being held at the venue prior to the regional weekend, to enable us to plan effectively for our competition. We do not envisage rejecting swimmers from the meet, as our total number of planned swims falls well within the time limits allowed by licensing, and there is plenty of space to accommodate swimmers on deck.

Finally, for the first time since the region formed in 2005, I will not be attending the competition as I have another swimming commitment elsewhere. I will however be supporting the appointed Meet Director, Jane Howell and the Swim England East Region Swimming Leadership Group to deliver a successful competition. I know that the entire regional swimming family will also support these colleagues, as it always does.

I would like to thank you all for your patience as we worked through these challenges. I will be in touch with further updates in the weeks prior to the championships.

With all good wishes

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