

2016 County Championships De-Brief

at Bicester Leisure Centre on Tuesday 5th April 2016

Present: P.Shaw , I.Powell , H.Patrick , J.Murphy , S.Wrenn , W.Patrick & reps from Abingdon Vale ,
Ayelsbury , City of Milton Keynes , City of Oxford , Maxwell , Newport Pagnell , Thame ,
Witney and 4Shires Swimming Clubs.

Apologies: A.Evans , Z.Staines (Bourne End) , S.Barber (Aylesbury)

1. Dates for 2017.

IP proposed the following dates for 2017.

Sunday 8 th January 2017	1500/800 / Boys AG Relays	Bletchley **
Sunday 15 th January 2017	400's/Girls AG Relays	Aylesbury
Sat/Sun 4 th /5 th February 2017	Main Champs	Aylesbury
Sat/Sun 11 th /12 th February 2017	Main Champs	Aylesbury

** The Leys Pool , Oxford to be investigated as an alternative.

2. Qualifying Times

The standard has increased to the point that IP will have to base QT's for 2017 on ASA 2009 A Grade times and not the currently used B times. Considered times will be based on the 2016 Accepted times (applied). IP has issues with the 10/11 yr old times at the moment but they will be resolved.

3. Closing Date

Proposed closing date for entries is Monday December 12th 2016

4. Order of Finals

It is proposed that the order of the Sunday's Finals is altered to separate the 200m Finals for the gender with 2 x 200 Finals that Session. The Sunday session will start with one of the 200m Finals

5. It is proposed that there will be 4 Reserves for each of the 200m Finals to ensure full Finals.

6. Investigate moving 100IM back to Sundays and reverse genders. Maybe not be possible as Sunday mornings are now heavier than Saturday mornings.

7. Event Entry Fee for Individual and Relay events to remain at £5.50.

8. For 1500 / 800 / 100IM events (restricted entries events) once accepted entries have been sent out/posted to website no changes will be accepted for these events , even if an entry has been made by the Club Data Entry person.

9. Currently a swimmer must have been a registered member of the Club in whose name he/she is entered at least 60 days prior to the first day of competition. The following is proposed:-

A swimmer must have been a registered swimmer of the club in whose name he is entered by the closing date for entries. The registered date will be the date as recorded on the (visible) ASA Membership database.

10. Currently Relay Team Declaration Forms must be submitted to the Promoter 15 mins after the start of warm up. To ease the admin process it is proposed that:

Relay Declaration Forms must be submitted to the Promoter NO LATER THAN THE START OF THE WARM UP FOR THAT GALA. The form must give the names of the four members of the team and their correct swimming order, no substitutions will be allowed.

11. Relays (contd)

There were issues in the Finals warm ups on the first Main weekend due to the number of swimmers. For the 2nd weekend we altered the warm ups to 4 x 15 mins, which improved things considerably. The issue is caused by the Relay swimmers who are not competing in the Individual Finals. IP has assessed that there are on average, 80 extra swimmers in the Finals warm ups who are not competing, and on one evening there were 96 !.

Firstly , and this will apply to the Age Group Relays also , the 2 Relays per Club rule that has had to be applied recently will now become a formal Condition.

Secondly , to aid us to determine the numbers expected on Pool side and also to assist the Admin process “ on the night “ IP proposes that , albeit a provisional selection , TEAMS ARE PROVIDED AT THE TIME OF ENTRY.

It was requested by all attendees that it would be very preferable if those original selections do not appear on the programme , to , amongst other things , manage parental expectations and issues. IP to investigate.

12. Medical Withdrawals & Refunds

Condition 13 to read:-

Once entries have been Accepted, the entry fee shall become non refundable

- a) Swimmers, who have sustained injuries after the Accepted entries have been posted to the website/Clubs , may apply to the Swimming Championships Secretary for a Medical Withdrawal and Refund.
- b) A Refund will be given on production of Medical Evidence and will be for ALL remaining Championship events that the swimmer has entered.

AOB

1. City of Oxford provided Volunteer feedback from their parents, referring to the equal distribution of tasks and moving the distribution of tasks around the 6 days so that e.g. COSC do not always whip (in the Studio at Aqua Vale) the same sessions each year. They also requested that formal acknowledgement be given to the Mum who mans the door at AV before each session. SW commented that that was now recognised in the Volunteer Rota.

Sandra Wrenn , in her first year in this Role , inherited the Volunteer Schedule. A very steep learning curve was managed admirably and SW has appraised the situation and I am sure will deal with the issues raised.

COSC also asked about the necessity of whippers to have a DBS check. The answer is YES.

2. Oliver Stockland (Aylesbury & District) asked re Volunteers paying to get in. SW responded that in 2017 a list will be provided at the front desk indicating whom is required not to pay due to their volunteering. With regard to warm-up Marshalls they also will be exempted IF they do additional duties.

OS also wondered whether the down time for the Officials between sessions could be utilised for educational purposes. IP responded that in the past this had been tried but firstly the educators are not necessarily free during the Officials break as issues can continue for a considerable time after the Session has ended. Secondly in the past , IP noted , the educators , having to concentrate during the break found the whole day overall too tiring. IP to discuss with AE and consider.

3. Ian Blyth (Thame) suggested the introduction of a 17/18 yr age group to keep the post 16 yr olds interested.

This to be investigated further but initial thoughts are:- It would increase the number of Finals by 4 per Finals Session. It would increase the numbers in warm up by potentially 32. It could possibly mean that the 17/18 yr old and/or Open finals will not be filled (needs further investigation as above) if the 17 / 18 yr olds have their own Finals.

As far as the new Swimming Competition Structure that has been implemented over the 2015 and 2016 Championships that we have adhered to, is concerned , the ASA would prefer it if we went the other way and incorporated the 16 yr olds in to the Open category! That would mean 15 yrs would be the oldest individual age group.

4. It was commented that Volunteers marshalling 'big bags' and shoeless swimmers in the balcony should be aware that swimmers and coaches have to sit in the front row of the balcony . It was suggested that any future issues of over-zealous volunteers should be referred to Sandra Wrenn in the first instance and the Promoter in the second.
5. Jo Murphy suggested , with the demise of the Skins , a prize is given to the Top Individual Swim by a Boy and by a Girl , based on Fina Points. It was suggested that the prize would be in the region of £50 - £100 per gender.
6. Wayne Patrick (Newport Pagnell) asked
 - a) Whether the Coach Pass charge of £25 for all 18 Sessions could be reduced if the Chief Coach did not want the food.
 - b) As Awards Trustee he asked for feedback regarding the quality of the Awards this year. Clubs to poll their swimmers and revert to WP.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

These De-Brief minutes will be discussed at the Executive Meeting on Tuesday May 17th.

Peter Shaw

20.04.16

