

Everything you need to know about entering a Swim Meet!

Types of Meets

Upper Deeside Club Meets – these are run twice a year, Summer Sprints (May) and Winter Meet (December). Only Upper Deeside swimmers compete at these. There are no Meet Fees for these Meets. These two meets are the two Club Championships and are appropriate for all levels of swimmers from the earliest new-comers to the club to the most experienced swimmers.

SAS League 1 – 4 – these are run 4 times a year, usually February, March, April and May. Swimmers generally between the ages of 9 - 12 from the 4 SAS Teams compete (UD, Stonehaven, Westhill and Banchory). This is a free event, and is an ideal low-key introduction to competitive swimming. Each club takes its turn to organise one of the meets each year.

Upper Deeside Junior Challenge and Upper Deeside Challenge Meet – these are hosted by UD and outside Clubs are invited to compete. The Junior Challenge Meet is for age groups 8 – 12 year olds and is held in June, and the Challenge Meet is generally for faster swimmers, age groups 11 and over, and is held in November. They are the main fundraisers for the Club and consequently are very important events. Money is raised through swimmer entry fees and raffles prizes and make a significant contribution to keeping the swim fees as low as possible. Even though your swimmer may not be eligible to swim in these at the moment, you will still be asked to help out. All funds raised benefit all the swimmers in the Club. Meet Entry Fees apply (see below)

External Club Meets – these are Meets hosted by external Clubs. An eligibility report will be produced and if your swimmer is eligible they will be invited to compete. Meet Entry Fees apply (see below)

Meet Entry Fees – Meet Entry Fees are calculated by the number of swims you enter. Generally, the higher graded the Meet is, the more the fees are per swim. Relay Team fees are covered by the Club. Some Meets, like our Challenge Meets are calculated slightly differently – all information regarding fees for each Meet can be found in the Meet Information sent out with the Invitation to swim, and these details can also be found on the North District website; www.sasanorth.org.uk

There are no meet entry fees for the two Club Championships or for the four SAS League Matches.

Meet Deadlines – Our Meet Secretary Jenny Cox will email invitations out to eligible swimmers along with the relevant Meet Information. Please read all this information, including all attachments. A deadline date will also be stated on the email for you to reply. We need a reply whether your swimmer can attend or not to make sure you have received the email. Please reply by this date to give Jenny time to get our entry into the Host Club. Once the deadline has passed swimmers cannot be added on. Chasing emails is time consuming. From August 2015, no reminder emails will be sent out – if you have not replied your swimmer will not be entered for that Meet.

STO Deadlines - (Scottish Technical Officials – or timekeepers, judges etc). All meets require a large number of volunteers to ensure they run smoothly, and these volunteers are all swimming parents. Once you have signed your swimmer up to a meet you will be contacted by our STO Convenor asking if you are available to officiate (Time-keep, Judge etc) please reply directly and help if you can. Lack of officials means children cannot get accredited times, or potentially that the meet will have to be cancelled. UD runs a number of STO courses throughout each season to allow parents to become qualified.

Oversubscribed/Scratched and Reserve swims – Some Meets are oversubscribed and swimmers do not get all the swims (Scratched) they have entered or are on a waitlist (Reserve) for that swim. Reserve swims can be confirmed on the run up to the Meet or on the day of the Meet. Reserve swims will only be invoiced if they are confirmed.

Withdrawals – If for some reason you cannot attend a Meet you have entered please give the Coaches or Meet Secretary as much notice as possible. You will still be invoiced for your swims as the Hosting Club will still charge the Club. The exception to this is if the swimmer has to withdraw as a result of a medical condition, in which case, the swim fee will not be charged. A doctors line may be requested. Please also bear in mind if you are in a Relay Team and you withdraw, the whole Team may need to withdraw if there are not enough swimmers to fill your space. If you have to withdraw the morning of the Meet please get in touch with the Coach as they will be expecting you. Just not turning up is not fair to the Coach, other Team Member or swimmers waiting for Reserve swims to be confirmed.

Information sent before the Meet – an email will be sent the week of the Meet with a Table of confirmed and reserve Swims if applicable, kit needed etc. It will also let you know which Coaches will be there on the day. There will also be a no later than time you need to arrive at the pool. It is important to be there by this time. The Coaches have to fill in a Withdrawal Form before Warm Up to allow any reserve swims to be allocated to other swimmers attending. If you do not arrive on time, you could be withdrawn from the Meet.

Meet Results – Times for swims, positions etc are generally posted on the wall somewhere at the gala event. You can also find a full record of your swimmers times on the SAS Data Website; www.southaberdeenshireswimming.org

Swim Meets are great fun and swimmers meet new friends from other Clubs that they will see time and time again throughout the years.

Please follow the guidelines and read email/Meet information sent to you. This will help your understanding of how the meets run, what is expected of you and your swimmer, and make it a less time consuming process for all our volunteers.

You can also find further information regarding upcoming Meets on the Dates for your diary on the Club Notice Board.

Other sources of information:

South Aberdeenshire Swimming Website

<http://www.southaberdeenshireswimming.org/>

North District Swimming Website

<http://www.sasanorth.org.uk/>

Swim Scotland Website

<http://www.swimscotland.co.uk/>

Scottish Swimming Website

<http://www.scottishswimming.com/>

If you have any other questions please feel free to email/call/text me.

Thanks

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