

DURHAM & DISTRICT JUNIOR LEAGUE

SECTION A: LEAGUE OBJECTIVES AND ORGANISATION

1. AIM:

- 1.1. To find the best junior team competing in the League.
- 1.2. To introduce young swimmers to competitive swimming.

2. CHILD PROTECTION:

The League shall in accordance with ASA Laws adopt the ASA Child Protection Procedures; and shall recognise that the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and that all children and young people have a right to have fun, be safe and be protected from harm. Members of the League shall in accordance with the ASA Laws comply with the ASA Child Protection Procedures.

3. AREA OF THE LEAGUE AND CLUB ELIGIBILITY:

- 3.1. The League is open to Clubs affiliated to Northumberland & Durham SA.
- 3.1. Each affiliated Club can only enter 1 team. 'A' and 'B' teams from the same club are not permitted.
- 3.2. Smaller clubs are permitted to enter one composite team formed from the members of two or more affiliated clubs.
- 3.3. The Durham & District Junior League shall affiliate to the national junior league.

4. SWIMMER ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1. The League is open to swimmers who have been bona-fide members of an affiliated Club for at least 4 (four) weeks before the date of any League gala in which they intend to swim.
- 4.2. No competitor shall compete for more than one Club in any year.
- 4.3. All swimmers who intend to compete must be registered with the League by 31st December prior to each year of competition.
- 4.4. Additions to the list will be accepted for League qualifying heats provided that the swimmers are registered two (2) weeks before their first gala, on the appropriate form and signed by the Team Manager or Coach.
- 4.5. No poolside registrations will be accepted.
- 4.6. The last day for registration of swimmers will be two weeks before the last heat gala.
- 4.7. Only swimmers registered for the heat galas are eligible to represent their Club in the Final.
- 4.8. Information required by the League registration secretary shall be:
 - 4.8.1. Name of Club
 - 4.8.2. Swimmers Name
 - 4.8.3. Date of Birth
 - 4.8.4. Date of Joining Club
- 4.9. The Junior League competition secretary must be informed BEFORE a gala starts if there is to be an unregistered or ineligible swimmer entered in the competition, allowing a team to compete in an event for no points.
- 4.10. Clubs are expected to show scrupulous honesty in registering swimmers. Team managers should not knowingly register swimmers at an incorrect age and should not collude with parents to do so.

5. LEAGUE SIZE:

- 5.1. There will be three Divisions forming the league; Division One shall have 8 Clubs, Division Two shall have 6, 7 or 8 Clubs and Division Three shall have 5 or more, up to 8 Clubs.
- 5.2. The structure of the League will be changed at the AGM to match the number of teams competing.
- 5.3. Where Division Three falls below 5 Clubs, said Clubs will join Division Two to make 12 with the top 6 going into Division Two final and the bottom 6 into a Division Three final.

6. GALAS:

- 6.1. There will be up to six teams per gala.
- 6.2. Where there are 8 clubs in the division, there will be four heats with each team competing in three of these heats/galas and a final.
- 6.3. Where there are 5 or 6 teams in Division Three each team shall compete in each of the 3 heats.
- 6.4. Where there are 12 teams in Division Two there shall be 6 heats and each team shall compete in 3 of the heats.
- 6.5. The top six teams in each division qualify to a final for each division.
- 6.6. The final is used to determine the League winner and promotions.
- 6.7. Galas will normally be swum during the first or second quarter of each calendar year, normally during February to April.

7. DRAW:

- 7.1. The draw is to determine which of the heats each team will compete in.
- 7.2. The draw will take place at the AGM, or prior to this meeting by the gala secretary.
- 7.3. Position in the league/ division is determined by the previous year's placing.
- 7.4. Any new teams will start in Division Three, subject to 5.3.

8. GALA ORGANISATION

- 8.1. Should a team wish to host/ organise a gala they should email or write to the junior league secretary indicating their interest accordingly. Galas are normally booked 6-12 months in advance so an application to host would normally be for a season beyond the next.
- 8.2. The gala secretary shall make a draw to determine the hosting teams from those who have applied.
- 8.3. It is normal to hold two heats within the north of the league area and two heats within the south of the area. The dividing line between 'north' and 'south' is just north of Durham City, thus Consett, Chester-le-Street and Sunderland are 'north', whilst Durham and Peterlee are 'south'. This division is subject to hosting applications.
- 8.4. The junior league shall select the venue and negotiate with a hosting club for the finals.
- 8.5. Teams that are successful in their application to host a gala shall agree a date in conjunction with the gala secretary. The hosting team is responsible for pool hire, marshalling of spectators, negotiations with the pool management etc but can keep the proceeds from entry fees, raffles etc for club funds.
- 8.6. Teams may be asked by the league gala secretary to host 3 division galas or 2 division galas on the agreed date depending upon how many teams are in each division.
- 8.7. Hosting pools shall normally have sufficient spectator space 250-300 people.
- 8.8. Hosting pools club shall provide anti-wave lane ropes, starting blocks and a starting system. Electronic timing and timing pads are not required for the heats but are required for the final.

9. AFFILIATION FEES AND MEMBERSHIP:

- 9.1. The current affiliation fee payable for new Clubs joining, or re-joining the league after an absence is £6.00.
- 9.2. The current annual membership fee is £15.00 per club and is payable on or before the Annual General Meeting. The committee may at its discretion, waive the annual membership fee for continuing members.
- 9.3. **New clubs should include their annual membership fee with their affiliation fee.**
- 9.4. Acceptance of clubs into the league is at the discretion of the junior league committee.
- 9.5. Fees shall be returned if a club is not accepted into the League.
- 9.6. Non-acceptance will only be in the case of the league not being able to schedule teams into heats on an equitable basis.
- 9.7. A proposal to amend fee levels shall be made by the league treasurer for the approval of the AGM.

10. PENALTY FOR ILLEGAL SWIMS:

- 10.1. The Recorders shall maintain a check on the number of swims per swimmer at each gala.
- 10.2. In the event of the Recorders finding that a swimmer has swum an illegal swim that swimmer shall be disqualified from all events he/she has wrongly competed in. The points gained from such events shall be

deleted from his/her team score. In addition twelve (12) points are to be deducted from the overall team score of the team penalised for the illegal swim.

10.3. Illegal swims shall comprise: swimmers in more than the allowed number of swims; swimmers in events for which they are not eligible; unregistered or incorrectly registered swimmers.

11. LEAGUE TABLE:

11.1. The league table will be used at the end of the heats to determine the teams to compete in the League Finals Galas.

11.2. If after the final heat any two or more teams are on equal League Table points, then the number of individual and team wins in all of the year's heats will be used to determine the order of placing in the league table. If this team win count does not satisfactorily resolve the placing, then the count of proceeding places will be progressively used until placing is determined.

12. FINALS GALAS:

12.1. The final gala will comprise of the top six teams in each division at the end of the final heats, provided that the team has competed in their three designated heats.

12.2. The final gala will normally be held in the 2nd quarter of each year, traditionally at the end of June.

12.3. Any team that has not competed in all three heats will not compete in a final.

12.4. In the final, the teams will swim in spearhead order with the top placed team from the heats in lane 3, the second team in lane 4, third in lane 2, fourth in lane 5, fifth in lane 1 and sixth in lane 6.

12.5. The team winning the first division final shall represent the league in the regional or national final later in the year.

13. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION:

13.1. Inter Division promotion will be 1 up 1 down between Divisions One, Two, and Three.

13.2. Promotion will be determined by the League Table at the end of the FINALS but relegation will be determined by the League Table at the end of the HEATS.

13.3. The top team in Divisions Two and Three shall be promoted. The bottom team in Divisions One and Two shall be relegated.

13.4. Further teams may be promoted, based upon their position in the final, if teams in a division above resign from the league.

14. EXPENSES:

14.1. Each Club is responsible for its own travelling expenses.

14.2. Each club is responsible for its own coach/ team manger/ official expenses.

15. TROPHIES:

15.1. All trophies are and remain the property of the Durham & District Junior League.

15.2. Trophies will be awarded to the top team in each division. Trophies will also be awarded to the top team in each age group in each division.

15.3. All trophies awarded at the previous seasons final must be returned by the holding club to a League Committee Member present at the last HEAT at which the team holding the trophies are swimming.

15.4. All Clubs will be fined £50.00 per trophy, at the discretion of the league treasurer, for the non-return of any trophies by the last heat that they are competing at. Payment of such a fine does not absolve the responsibility of the club to return the relevant trophy. Should a club fail to pay the fine within 14 days of their last heat and fail to return the trophy by this time that team will not be permitted to swim in their final and a substitute club shall be invited to swim in their place. The league may use the fine to obtain a replacement trophy to be presented at the finals.

15.5. All trophies must be returned engraved. Trophy engraving is the responsibility of the holding Club.

15.6. If there is any damage to the trophies the cost of repair must be paid for by the holding club.

16. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

This will be arranged by the Junior League Committee and will take place each year in third or fourth quarter of each year to elect Officers, review rules and carry out any necessary business.

17. APPOINTMENT OF LEAGUE OFFICERS:

- 17.1. The League shall be managed by a Committee comprising;
 - 17.1.1. Hon. Chairman
 - 17.1.2. Hon. Secretary
 - 17.1.3. Hon. Treasurer
 - 17.1.4. Gala Secretary
 - 17.1.5. A minimum of six other members.
- 17.2. The committee shall be elected annually at the AGM. In the event of their being more nominations than spaces for committee officers or members then voting shall be by secret ballot from those present in person at the AGM. Proxy votes are not valid.
- 17.3. All candidates for the committee shall be nominated and seconded by member clubs or committee members. Candidates shall sign the nomination form to confirm their agreement to be nominated.
- 17.4. Committee meetings are to have a quorum of five.
- 17.5. The Committee may co-opt as necessary.
- 17.6. Meetings shall be called as may be required by the chairman or secretary, giving the committee members a minimum of two weeks' notice of the venue and time.

18. PHOTOGRAPHY

- 18.1. Virtually every pool operator in the north east will not allow any photography or video within pool areas and changing rooms. It is so easy to upload inappropriate images onto social media websites. As a result the junior league has determined that no photography of any sort shall be taken by any coaches, swimmers, parents, nor spectating children at junior league events. This includes the use of cameras, video recorders and all mobile phones. The league will try to invite an 'official' photographer to league galas, to take close up and team photographs, for sale. Clubs must however respect the views of swimmers or parents who do not wish images to be taken of their swimmers and should be aware of guidance on the use of swimmers wearing appropriate clothing for team photos.
- 18.2. The league committee and the pool operator will eject anyone, adult or child, seen to be taking images at a junior league gala.
- 18.3. The attached link is to the ASA wavepower document which includes guidance on photography.
<http://www.swimbarracudas.com/assets/downloads/policies/Wavepower%20Document.pdf>

19. TEAM SUPPORTERS

- 19.1. Team support is an important part of Junior League. Supporters should be advised that team support should at all times be polite and supportive. Instances of Booing and people cheering a disqualification against another team are neither polite nor supportive. Supporters should be warned accordingly and, if the unpleasant practice continues, supporters may be evicted from the event.

20. LEAGUE AND COMPETITION RULES:

The interpretation of any contingency not covered by these rules will be determined by the League Committee.

Rules for the Durham & District Junior League. Agreed at the Annual General Meeting, held on 2nd October 2014 at Haven Point, South Shields and modified following the Annual General Meeting held on 3rd December 2015 at Felling Community Centre. Further amended following the 2016 Annual General Meeting on 15th November 2016 at Billingham Forum along with the subsequent vote from the teams.

SECTION B: COMPETITION RULES

These rule to be reviewed on a yearly basis at the AGM.

1. AGES:

The four age groups will be 9yrs to 12yrs. The 9yrs group is the swimmer's age on the last Sunday in November in the year of competition. The 10yrs, 11yrs and 12yrs ages groups are the age on the 31st December in the year of competition.

2. PROGRAMME OF EVENTS:

The programme of events will be selected from some of the events below. The programme of events for each division is included in the attached schedule, as noted in 2.3.

2.1. Individual events:

- 9yrs Individual: 1 length or 2 lengths Freestyle, Breaststroke, Backstroke, Butterfly
- 10yrs Individual: 2 lengths Freestyle, Breaststroke, Backstroke, Butterfly
- 11yrs Individual: 2 lengths Freestyle, Breaststroke, Backstroke, Butterfly
- 12yrs Individual: 2 lengths Freestyle, Breaststroke, Backstroke, Butterfly

2.2. Team Races:

- 4 x 1 length Freestyle & Medley relays for 9yrs, 10yrs, 11yrs
- 4 x 1 length or 4 x 2 length Freestyle & Medley relays for 12yrs
- Mixed teams: 2 boys and 2 girls from the 9 years age group.
- Mixed Team Cannon: 8 x 1 length Freestyle (1 girl, 1 boy from each age group)
- Boys or Girls Team Cannon: 8 x 1 length Freestyle (2 boys from each age group or 3 girls from each age group)

2.3. The current programme/ order of events is attached to these rules.

2.4. Cannon/Mixed Team Races: to be swum in age order, youngest to oldest and girl's one end, boy's one end, girls first.

2.5. BUTTERFLY - 10yr old: A swimmer shall not swim this stroke for more than 50m in a 25m pool. Where the pool is longer than 25m they shall swim one length only.

3. DIVISION ONE ONLY

3.1. Individual swims: Each competitor is allowed to swim up to, but not more than, two individual events in their own age group.

3.2. Relays: Each Team race and Cannons may only include up to, but not more than, one swimmer from the age group immediately below.

4. DIVISIONS TWO & THREE ONLY:

4.1. Individual swims: Each competitor shall be limited to not more than TWO individual swims in their own age group plus ONE individual swim in the age group immediately above.

4.2. Relays: Relay races can be made up of a minimum of 2 swimmers in the correct age group and up to 2 from the age group immediately below ie: 2 x 12 yrs & 2 x 11 yrs.

5. POINTS:

5.1. Points will be 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 for 1st to 6th in each event respectively. This applies to ALL events.

5.2. Where there are only 5 teams swimming the points shall be 6, 5, 4, 3, 2.

6. A.S.A LAW:

6.1. All events will be swum under A.S.A Law.

7. FIRST CLAIM:

See rule 4.2, section A.

8. STARTING

- 8.1. The rules for starting shall be as summarised below with the FINA rule in brackets:
 - 8.1.1.(SW 4.1) The start in Freestyle, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Individual Medley races shall normally be with a dive. On the long whistle from the referee the swimmers shall step onto the starting platform and remain there. On the starter's command "take your marks", they shall immediately take up a starting position with at least one foot at the front of the starting platforms. When all swimmers are stationary, the starter shall give the starting signal.
 - 8.1.2.(SW 4.2) The start in Backstroke and Medley Relay races shall be from the water. At the referee's first long whistle, the swimmers shall immediately enter the water. At the Referee's second long whistle the swimmers shall return without undue delay to the starting position. When all swimmers have assumed their starting positions, the starter shall give the command "take your marks". When all swimmers are stationary, the starter shall give the starting signal.
 - 8.1.3.(MSW 3.2) When using the forward start in the water the swimmers shall take their positions with **one hand having contact with the starting wall**.
- 8.2. A dive start shall normally be permitted for forward starts. Any swimmer who is not confident in diving may elect to start in the water (or the swimmers' coach may direct the swimmer to start in the water).
- 8.3. In some pools at the shallow end all starts may be required to be in the water. This situation will be agreed between the event referee and the host club, who shall take into account the rules of the pool operator. Where the water depth is less than 1.5m it is likely that starts in the water will be required. Whilst some clubs train their swimmers to dive into shallow water in accordance with the ASA competitive start award this is not universal and considerations of the safety of swimmers need to take precedence.

9. POOLSIDE COACH/ TEAM MANAGER ADMITANCE:

- 9.1. NO MORE THAN FOUR PEOPLE, coaches and team managers, will be allowed on the poolside with their team.
- 9.2. A penalty of 10 points for extra team officials will be imposed for any Club failing to comply. Any penalty is at the discretion of the committee (e.g. exceptions may be allowed for medical reasons where this is agreed in advance).
- 9.3. Teams are expected to be mindful of ASA guidance regarding CRB or DBS checking as well as team manager training in accordance with their rules and Swim21 procedures.
- 9.4. Coaches and Team Managers are expected to wear club colours to be easily identifiable as team members.

10. OFFICIALS:

- 10.1. Each competing Club must provide an official to act as a judge during each heat in which they are competing.
- 10.2. Referee(s) and starter for each gala will be provided by the League.
- 10.3. Each competing Club must provide a timekeeper for the final.
- 10.4. All other officials for the finals will be appointed by the League.
- 10.5. Any Club failing to provide an official at a gala will be fined £10, which must be paid by their next gala or they will not be allowed to swim.
- 10.6. Trainee officials are welcome at junior league galas. If a club has a trainee official undertaking training on poolside they shall also provide a qualified official who may be asked to act as a mentor for a trainee.

11. PROTEST:

- 11.1. The Junior League has introduced an in house system. A protest or a complaint must be made verbally or in writing during a gala or within 30 minutes of the event.
- 11.2. The procedure for dealing with protests and complaints shall comply with FINA and ASA rules.
- 11.3. A meeting will be called within 14 days of the receipt of the protest or complaint to which all relevant parties will be invited.

- 11.4. Three people from the Junior League Committee, but not connected to the Clubs involved, will be appointed to hear and make a final judgement on the complaint.
- 11.5. If a complaint is made during the final and this affects the results, the results will not be announced/ published until a satisfactory outcome has been reached.

12. BREAK BEFORE FINAL EVENT:

- 12.1. At the Junior League final a break of up to 10 minutes may be held after the penultimate race to allow recorders time to check all the points,
- 12.2. During the heats the interval shall be up to 5 minutes.

13. PUBLICATION OF RESULTS:

- 13.1. If the final of the Junior League produces an extremely close finish or tie, the results will not be announced or published until fully checked, which could be the following day.