

AQUASPRINT JUNIOR SWIMMING LEAGUE
COMPETITION RULES FOR 2019-2020 SEASON

1. The competition will be swum under SWIM IRELAND rules read with the rules below.
2. Home Clubs are responsible for all gala arrangements, bookings and paying for the pool. Away Clubs should provide at least 1 timekeeper per lane, 2 finish judges, 1 stroke judge and 1 recorder.
3. Fixtures should be held on the agreed dates. Any date changes are the responsibility of the Clubs and should be agreed between them. The normal day for swimming galas is Friday. Galas can be held on other days by agreement of both Clubs. It is the responsibility of the Home Club to arrange a suitable date and venue. Gala dates should all be arranged by December 31st 2018. If a gala cannot be swum on the agreed date due to unforeseen circumstances such as pool closure, both Clubs should endeavour to find an alternative date or venue. **Wishing to rearrange an already arranged gala at less than a month's notice because of the absence of some swimmers is not a valid reason to rearrange a gala. If a gala is cancelled (not swum), the Club responsible for the cancellation shall forfeit the gala and receive no gala or League points. The Club not responsible for the cancellation shall receive 3 League points and its average gala points as on completion of all other fixtures.** If a Club intends not to allow its swimmers to dive in shallow water and therefore invoking the Swim Ulster rule that neither Club will be permitted to dive in that water then this intention must be made clear to the opposing Club **at the time of arranging the fixture.**
4. A copy of the results and team lists (with registration numbers) should be sent to the Secretary **by both Clubs** within two weeks of the gala.
5. In the event of a dispute regarding the age of a swimmer, team lists with dates of birth of each swimmer must be available for examination at the time of the gala.
6. The entry fee will be £, part of which will make up a charity donation. Fees are to be paid by December 31st 2019. **Cheques should be made payable to 'Swim Ulster' and sent to the Swim Office.**
7. Additional collections at galas in support of the nominated charity may be made.
8. Age Groups:
 - A born 2011 (see rule 21)
 - B born 2010
 - C born 2009
 - D born 2008
9. Competitors may swim up in older age groups to count for points, but are then confined to that age group for that particular gala for both individual and relay events. A competitor may swim out of their age group in any event as a non-counting swimmer without affecting their ability to contribute to points in their own age group in other events. Such non-counting swims must be clearly marked "NC" on the score sheet.
10. Swimmers competing in Group A who have difficulty executing the stroke technique correctly will not be disqualified. Disqualification of Group A swimmers will, however, still occur for false starts (under a two start rule), 'flyers' in relays, swimming the incorrect stroke, swimming a relay in the incorrect order.

11. Individual events – 25m on all strokes, girls and boys. Home Club to use even numbered lanes, away Club to use odd numbered lanes. In 6, 8 or 10 lane pools, 6 lanes shall be eligible to count for points (lanes 2 to 7 in an 8 lane pool, lanes 3 to 8 in a 10 lane pool). The top two finishing swimmers from each Club will count for points. In 5 lane pools all lanes shall be eligible to count for points. Clubs should agree prior to the fixture the team to use the extra boys' lane and the team to use the extra girls' lane throughout the gala. Relay events are 4 x 25m; mixed, two boys and two girls per team, one team per Club to count, using lanes 3 and 4. In 4 lane pools, all four lanes will count for points and counting relays will swim in lanes 2 and 3.
12. Points scoring: individual events – 4, 3, 2, 1; relays – 7 and 3 (400 points per gala). League points – 3 for a win, 2 for a tie, 1 for a loss, 0 for a forfeited gala.
13. Order of events to be – Medley Relay, Back Crawl, Breaststroke, Butterfly, Front Crawl, Freestyle Relay; A group, followed by B, C & D groups; girls then boys.
14. In 2019-2020 Clubs will swim in the following Divisions:

DIVISION 1

Ards, Banbridge, Bangor, Cookstown, Lisburn, Coleraine

DIVISION 2

Limavady, Dungannon, Templemore, Lurgan, Ballymena

DIVISION 3

Leander, Breifne, Newry & Mourne, Portadown, Larne

DIVISION 4

Ballymoney, Lecale, City of Belfast, Alliance, Olympia

DIVISION 5

Sliabh Beagh, Armagh, Enniskillen, Kilkeel, Mid-Ulster

15. Following the qualifying round of galas, all finals will be held on **Friday 5th June 2020** at neutral venues where possible. In relation to finals; if a Club does not compete in the Finals, they will automatically be placed last in that final. If two Clubs do not compete in a final the remaining Club is automatically declared the winner for trophy, medal and promotion purposes. The top three Clubs in each Division will compete for that Division's trophy. The Club that wins the Final in Divisions 2, 3, 4 & 5 will also be promoted. In relation to Divisions 1, 2, 3 & 4, the Clubs that finish fourth, fifth or sixth in these Divisions will compete in the Subsidiary/B Finals. In relation to Division 5, a Subsidiary Final will only take place, if applicable, by the agreement of the majority of Clubs finishing in the fourth, fifth or sixth positions. The Club that finishes last in the Subsidiary Finals of Divisions 1, 2, 3 & 4 will be relegated. Each swimmer in the 'A' finals of all Divisions will receive a medal. All swimmers in the Subsidiary Finals will receive a first, second or third place ribbon or medal.
16. For the three Club finals swimming in a 6 lane pool, the Club finishing highest in the League will swim in lanes 2 & 5. The Club finishing next in the League will swim in lanes 1 & 4 and the remaining Club will swim in lanes 3 & 6. For an 8 lane pool; 3 & 6, 2 & 5, 4 & 7. For a 10 lane pool; 4 & 7, 3 & 6, 5 & 8.
17. In three Club finals the points scoring shall be 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 for individual events, and 11, 7 & 3 for relays. For four team finals the points are based on the previous on a pro rata basis. Each Club

should provide 4 timekeepers, 1 finish judge, 1 stroke or turn judge and 1 recorder. The highest finishing Club from the League fixtures should provide the Race Referee and Announcer, the next placed Club should provide the Starter, and the third place Club provides the Director of Timekeepers. For two team finals, the organisation of the gala and the points will be as a normal League fixture. **It will be the highest finishing Club's responsibility to be the "Home" Club and provide stopwatches, time slips, finish slips, etc., to ensure that the pool is set up correctly and tables, loudspeaker, etc. are provided.**

18. In finals, if any Club wishes to have a neutral Referee, the other two Clubs must agree to this request, if it can be fulfilled. However, it is the requesting Club's responsibility to find a suitably qualified neutral Referee. The only exception to this will be the Overall Final, where there will always be a neutral Referee who will be appointed by the Secretary.
19. In finals, if a Club intends not to allow its swimmers to dive in shallow water and therefore invoking the Swim Ulster rule that no Clubs will be permitted to dive in that water then this intention must be made clear to the opposing Clubs **as soon as the finals information (competing Clubs, venues etc.) is published by the Secretary.**
20. In the event of a disputed result, Swim Ireland's General Event Regulations should be complied with.
21. In compliance with Swim Ireland's best practice set out in the National Competition Pathway, the minimum age of competitors in this League should be 8 years old as of 31st December of that calendar year. The League therefore recommends that all fixtures be fulfilled within the window of January 2020 and the final in June 2020.
22. Regarding relay races, where the swimmer is starting in the water for a takeover, the hand of the swimmer starting in the water must remain in contact with the starting wall until the incoming swimmer has completed their length and touched the wall. The team of the swimmer whose hand loses contact with the starting wall before the preceding swimmer touches the wall should be disqualified.