

Dear Head Coaches and Chairs



Received Entries for the 2022 County Championships have now been published on the website. We would ask every club to check through thoroughly and advise us of any issues, at the latest by 4th January.

With the ongoing global pandemic and uncertainty over this new variant, we have taken the decision now, sadly, to host the Championships behind closed doors. This will allow us to safely accommodate athletes in a covid secure environment at Inspire:Luton by making full use of the spectator gallery as well as the pool deck for social distancing. This will also allow us to deliver a full schedule including relays which is what we believe was the Head Coaches preference. The decision has been taken notwithstanding any subsequent decisions made either by Inspire or indeed by the Government at which time we would update clubs accordingly.

We will, as always, provide live results as we usually would. We had investigated the cost of a live stream but this has sadly proven to be too costly bearing in mind overall income for the event will be significantly reduced and would make a huge hole in the county finances.

We will still require volunteers, as well as Technical Officials, but these will be fewer than usual. All offers of help are gratefully received and clubs will receive further comms from the County Welfare Officer later this week re volunteers required from each club. Each club Welfare Officer will still be required to attend at least one session. Technical Officials should complete the application form on our website or contact Louise direct (officials@bedscountyasa.com).

Nearer the time we will issue more detailed instructions for athletes arriving, staying at and leaving Inspire in a covid secure way and this will also include details for volunteers and Technical Officials

Coach and Team Manager passes are available now by logging into an individual's Swim England Member Option at www.swimmingresults.org. From there they will be able to 'purchase' accreditation for events although our coach and TM passes are free.

Please ensure that, as a club, you meet the required ratios for athlete supervision at all times bearing in mind the coaches are more likely to be on poolside than in the spectator gallery. We have no choice but to ensure these ratios are met and there are no risks to athletes by being under or over supervised. If this does occur, we reserve the right to take action to remedy the situation.

10 years old or younger

1:8 Coaches 1:16 Team Manager

11 years old to U18

1:10 Coaches 1:20 Team Manager

Whilst there are no specific ratios for over 18 year old athletes, we would still expect them to be included in the athlete ratios. Please also ensure you consider gender ratios too.

Withdrawals will be processed differently for this unique event only. All withdrawals should be made by email (county_championships_secretary@bedscountyasa.com) by these deadlines:

Saturday 22nd Jan – Midday Saturday 22nd Jan
Friday 28th Jan – Midday Friday 28th Jan
Saturday 29th Jan – 6pm Friday 28th Jan
Sunday 30th Jan – 6pm Saturday 29th Jan
Saturday 5th Feb – 6pm Friday 4th Feb
Sunday 6th Feb – 6pm Saturday 5th Feb

If there is a withdrawal to be made after these deadlines, please continue to do so by email and they will be noted where possible. Fines for failing to withdraw will only be issued if an email is not received before the start of the session to which it relates. You may find an odd empty lane in the heats due to us being unable to process withdrawals quickly however if the email has been received prior to the start of the session, there will be no fine.

Requests to refund entry fees will be considered when a swimmer medically withdraws from the entire Championships or all events during an entire weekend. Notification of any such withdrawal and refund must be received by the Association at least 12 hours before the warm-up time of the first session of the day. We will be issuing further instructions nearer the time about lateral flow tests being undertaken prior to attending.

Relay declarations must also be received by the deadlines stated above for withdrawals.

Each club will be allocated its own lane for warm up and coaches will be responsible for supervising this. Coaches can use this hour in whatever way they choose but must be mindful of athlete numbers in the water and on the pool deck at any one time. Inspire:Luton may also insist on lane limits and we will advise nearer the time.

Medals will be issued by club at the end of every session and passed to a Team Manager. Trophies will not be awarded but will be engraved with 2020 and 2022 winners and we aim to have these with clubs during March.

There will be no refreshments except for teas and coffees so please ensure all volunteers are made aware of this before coming to Inspire.

Championships merchandise can be purchased direct from <https://www.premiumforce.co.uk/your-club/swimming-clubs/bedfordshire-asa-champs/>

We apologise for any inconvenience caused through these changes however we are very keen to host the championships in a covid secure way for the benefit of all the athletes so do hope you will be understanding and support our decisions to and with your club members. Please ensure your club members are made aware of this information.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Kind regards

Jo
Championship Secretary