

LANCASHIRE COUNTY W.P.& S.A. AGE GROUPS & CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026 CONDITIONS

1. The Age Groups and Championships will be held at Manchester Aquatic Centre
24/25 January and 7/8 February 2026
2. Closing Date for entries is Wednesday 14 January 2026
3. Age will be as of midnight 31 December 2026. Junior Championship age is 16 or under as of midnight 31 December 2026.
4. The Female Category is for birth sex females in accordance with Swim England's Transgender and Non-Binary Competition Policy. By entering the "Female" category, a swimmer confirms that their birth sex is female.
5. Entry fees shall be £8.00 per event.
6. Coaches and team managers requiring access to the poolside must be a member of a club competing in the Age Groups and Championships and be in possession of a pass issued by Lancashire WP&SA. It is mandatory that all coaches and team managers comply with the relevant SE Child Safeguarding procedures and have an up to date DBS certificate.
7. Consideration Times. Enter 25m pool, or sportsystem long course conversion from a licensed meet since 10 February 2025 to 13 January 2026 are required for all events. Please check the correct age group is entered relative to the swimmers' date of birth. No split times will be accepted. No Refunds for mistake. Any swimmer found to be submitting false times may be subject to rejection in all events.
8. Eligibility for entry.
The competition shall be open to eligible swimmers, as defined by the SE, who are members of clubs affiliated to Lancashire WP & SA. No individual may compete in the Age Groups and Championships if he or she has competed in another equivalent county championships in the same calendar year. A swimmer must have been a member of the club in whose name they are entered and registered as such with the SE at the closing date for entries.
8. Para Swimming Conditions
 - 8.1 The general conditions for the Age Groups and Championships shall apply to disability competitors except where varied by any of the following conditions.
 - 8.2 Swimmers with the indicated classifications will be accepted for the following events:
 - Freestyle 50m, 100m, (S1 to S14); 200m (S1 to S5 and S14); 400m (S6 to S14)
 - Backstroke 50m (S1 to S5), 100m (S6 to S14)
 - Butterfly 50m (S1 to S7), 100m (S8 to S14)
 - Breaststroke 50m (SB1 to SB3), 100m (SB4 to SB9 and SB11 to SB14)
 - Individual Medley 200m (SM5 to SM14)
 - 8.3 All competitors must:
 - Have an authorised British Swimming, IPC or INAS-FID Classification, which is held on the British Swimming or IPC Swimming classification database at the time of entry OR a valid Certificate of Disability issued by SE at the time of entry.

- The Certificate of Disability must be presented to the referee before the start of the race in which the competitor is entered. Failure to do so will result in the swimmer being liable to disqualification for non-compliance with the rules for a particular stroke.

8.4 Qualifying times for para swimming competitors are in a separate document and must have been achieved between the 10 February 2025 to 13 January 2026

8.5 Personal Care Attendants/Coaches will be permitted for swimmers in the following classes: S1, S2, S3, S4 and S11. All coaches, chaperones and personal care attendants must conform with the Swim England child protection procedures.

8.6 Competition format:

- The competition format will be based on disability inclusion within the able bodied programme.
- All swimmers will be seeded in the heats according to their entry times.
- Disability competitors will be included within the results for their age group.

9 Awards:

- Medals awarded to first three in Championships and Age Groups.
- Medals will be awarded to disability swimmers on multi classification basis based on British Disability points
- A trophy will be awarded to the club gaining the most points in the Age Group competition defined as 16 years and under. Points will be awarded to the top eight swimmers in each age group in the Heat Declared Winner events and from the Age Group Finals.
- A trophy will be awarded to the club gaining the most points in the combined Junior and Senior Championship events. Points will be awarded to the top three swimmers in each category.

10. Please check that your swimmers are registered Club Compete, their SE ID number, times and other details are correct before submitting. For processing of entries all details must be fully completed. Entries sent without fee, with entries incorrectly made out or declaration not signed may not be accepted. No refunds for entries incorrectly submitted. Entries to be submitted electronically using Sportssystem software by an authorised club official. Payment by Cheque to Lancashire WP&SA or by BACS transfer account details on summary entry form

11. Overhead starts will be used. All 50m and 100m events will consist of heats and finals for all age groups. The heats will be spearheaded with the last three heats being cyclically seeded All other events shall be spearheaded and awards are on a Heat Declared Winner basis.

12.1 Heats

Withdrawals must be made at least one hour before the start of the session either on an official withdrawal form (available in the coaches' room) or by text message to 07951 652410. This number will be available from 72 hours before the competition. There will be no refund of entry fees for such withdrawals unless the withdrawal is for medical reasons in which case an

appropriate certificate must be provided. Any swimmer who has previously withdrawn can be reinstated before the appropriate closing deadline without penalty.

Fines – A fine of £10 may be levied in respect of each competitor that fails to withdraw and does not swim (except in the case of genuine illness or of a proven emergency). Each “no show” may be subject to a separate fine of £10. Fines will be levied on the competitors’ club and the individual(s) concerned shall not be eligible to swim in any future Lancashire WP&SA event until the fine has been paid.

12.2 Finals

The maximum number of places (up to 8) shall be allocated. Two reserves will be declared for finals where possible. Lanes for the finals will be allocated on the spearhead principle. The names of finalists and two reserves shall be announced as soon as practicable after the completion of each event. Competitors who do not intend to swim in a final must withdraw by completing the relevant form no later than 10 minutes after the announcement of finalists for an event

ALL FINALISTS AND RESERVES MUST REPORT TO THE CLERKS OF THE COURSE FOR THE FINAL UNLESS THEY HAVE WITHDRAWN.

Any withdrawals that are later than 15 minutes after the announcement of the finalists may incur a £10 fine (except in the case of genuine illness or injury). Any finalist or reserve who fails to withdraw and then does not report to the clerks of the course (except in the case of genuine illness or proven emergency) may be subject to a £10 fine. Each no show may be subject to a separate £10 fine. Fines will be levied on the competitors’ club and the individual(s) concerned shall not be eligible to swim in any future Lancashire WP&SA event until the fine has been paid.

13. Withdrawals on Medical Grounds Any swimmer who withdraws from a heat or final on medical grounds will not be allowed to compete again on the same day. However they may compete on subsequent days, if any, of the championships. If they do not comply with this request they will be disqualified from any further events in which they compete on that day and may be subject to a £10 fine for each event.

14. Competitors are responsible for presenting themselves to the clerks of the course one event prior to the one in which they are competing. It is the swimmers’ responsibility to be at the start in time for the race.

15. Restriction of entries. The promoter reserves the right to restrict entries in the interest of safety, time constraints and to ensure the smooth running of the competition. Where this rule is invoked the swimmers with the fastest submitted times shall take precedence. Events chosen for restriction will be at the discretion of the promoter. A refund will be given to competitors whose entry is denied where this condition has been exercised.

16. A strobe is available

17. Any question or dispute arising from these conditions or disputes related to a matter not covered in these conditions shall be determined by the Hon. Championship Secretary and may be referred to the Lancashire WP&SA Executive Committee at a later date.