



SWIMMING

COMPETITION RULES

17 February 2018

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

SCR-11 INTRODUCTION

- i. These rules are intended to supplement the current ASA Statute and the Disciplinary Code and they shall not in any way supersede any rule contained in the said Statute or Disciplinary Code. If, on any point, there is a conflict between the Statute/Disciplinary Code and these Competition Rules, then the provisions of the Statute/Disciplinary Code shall prevail.
- ii. These rules shall remain in force until cancelled and or amended by the Council.

SCR-12 LAWS GOVERNING THE SPORT

All laws governing the sport are to be regulated as per FINA Rules and Regulations unless otherwise specified by local rules and regulations.

SCR-13 THE SWIMMING SEASON

The competitive Season shall start with the First swimming meeting held after the first of September and shall end with the National Swimming Championships.

SCR-14 POINTS REFERENCE

Whenever it is required, FINA points based on the year when the Season starts will be considered for the whole Season unless specifically required otherwise by specific competitions.

SECTION 2 - FORMAT

SCR-21 COMPETITIONS

The following competitions shall be organised by the ASA:-

- a. National Swimming Championships
- b. Age Group Time Trial Meets
- c. Swimming League
- d. Any other competitions.

SCR-22 GENERAL COMPETITION RULES (AGE GROUP MEETS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS)

- i. During each Meet or Championship, the organising team office will be located at the pool deck. The office will have all forms required as per regulations available and will resolve all matters pertaining to the competition including:
 - Submission of swimming relay entry form
 - Submission of competition specific information
 - Submission of swimming withdrawals
 - Protests
 - Specific enquiries from Team Leaders/Head Coaches concerning the progress of the Championships or Meet.

Forms for swimming withdrawals, swimming relay entries, and all championship related forms need to be submitted to the office at the earliest opportunity but definitely within 30 minutes from the start of the specific session by a Team or Club Representative.

Should a Club cancel the entries of any of their swimmers 48 hours prior to the start of the actual competition, no sanction will be imposed on the said club for such withdrawals.

For all Age Group Meets and competitions having direct Finals, withdrawal forms will only be accepted for medical reasons and must be backed by a medical certificate which should be presented by the next weekday.

If a swimmer feels unwell and withdraws from an event on the day of competition, he/she cannot participate in any other events he/she may have entered.

In the case of competitions having Heats and Finals, a swimmer is allowed to withdraw from an event, pay the relevant Sanction as outlined in the Disciplinary Code and other Rules and Regulations of the ASA and participate in subsequent events he/she may have qualified for on the same day.

Failure to submit the respective forms/certificates indicated above will make the swimmer/team/club liable under the Disciplinary measures indicated in the ASA Disciplinary Code in place at the time of the competition.

- ii. During competitions, the Organising Team will be publishing the official meet /championship results when approved by the Referee and as soon as possible after the end of each event.

These will be put on a notice board in the designated area for the specific meet/championship.

- iii. In case of a protest, Team Leaders/Head Coaches are asked to submit their protest to the Organising Team at the Competition Office, who will take up the matter with the Referee. This has to be done within half an hour of the results being published. A deposit of €50.00 has to accompany the protest at the time the protest is submitted.
- iv. Athlete straps and taping - No straps and taping is allowed unless a medical certificate is presented by the athlete and approved by the meet Referee prior to the start of the competition.
- v. Swimmers are not allowed to tamper with the Automatic Timing equipment used throughout the Meets and Championships. This includes also the touch pads at both sides of the pool. For this reason, entry into the pool is only allowed from the starting blocks and exit from the pool is only allowed from the sides of the pool.
- vi. In case that few male and female swimmers have been entered for the same individual event, the event organizers may opt to combine such individual events.
- vii. In exceptional cases, and only upon request of the swimmer's coach, a swimmer may be allowed to swim in the same individual event as swimmers of the opposite sex. This will only be allowed if:
 - a. The swimmer is trying to achieve an MQS, and
 - b. As long as there is no detriment to another swimmer.In all cases of mixed individual events, any local records that have been set will **not** be recognized as official records.
- viii. FINA approved mixed gender relays shall be organized in accordance with FINA rules.
- ix. Entry times in all competitions should reflect the swimmer's personal best for each specific event swam in the last 18 months.

SCR-23 NATIONAL SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

- i. For National Swimming Championships, only boys aged 9 years or older during the year when the Season ends and girls aged 8 years and older during the year when the Season ends may participate.
- ii. Swimmers may participate in the Malta National Swimming Championships in those events in which the swimmer has swum at least once during Age Group Meets, overseas competitions and Easter International meet of the same season. In the case of overseas competitions Swimmers must send the official meet result to the ASA within 1 week from the last day of competition.
- iii. Only those non-Maltese swimmers who have been residing in Malta for a period of at least nine months preceding the commencement date of the competition and who regularly participate in time-trials, Age Group and Easter meets are eligible to participate. These swimmers are not allowed to take part in the 50m events but are free to take part in the other distance events. Any times which they attain will be valid times, however they will be

excluded from medal classifications if they place in the first 3 places. Non-Maltese swimmers are not allowed to form part of Relay teams.

- iv. Rankings for each event will be published after each Age Group Meet. The rankings as at 14 days prior to the National Swimming Championships will be taken as the valid rankings for the Nationals.
- v. For all the 50m events - for each Age Group, the first 8 ranked swimmers qualify
- vi. For the 100m Breaststroke, Backstroke & Butterfly and all 200m events – for all combined age groups, the first 40 ranked swimmers qualify
- vii. For the 100m Freestyle – for all combined age groups, the first 80 ranked swimmers qualify
- viii. For the 400m, 800m and 1500m – for all combined age groups, the first 8 ranked swimmers qualify.
- ix. Only those active swimmers who have participated in the Malta Swimming National Championships will be eligible to participate at any major competitions (FINA World championships, European championships, Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Small States of Europe Games, and any other competition that may be so designated by the ASA) during the subsequent season following the National Championships. Any swimmer selected to attend any such competitions will only be allowed to participate in those events in which the swimmer participated during the said National championships unless official qualification is achieved for any such competition in any other event.
- x. During the selection process for any major competition as described above, for those swimmers not achieving official qualification, ranking will be determined by FINA points and EU Swimming Rankings. The period for qualification shall be set by the ASA for each major competition.
- xi. The relay events held during the Malta Swimming National Championships shall be at club level only, and only ASA affiliated clubs may participate unless a special request is made by the National Squad Coach and approved by the ASA Executive and the clubs in order to achieve an MQS for an upcoming competition.
- xii. The top 3 places in the Open category of each event will be awarded to the top 3 ranked swimmers in that event regardless of age.
- xiii. Withdrawal forms will only be accepted for medical reasons and must be backed by a medical certificate. They should be presented at the earliest opportunity in order to give time for the reserve swimmers to be informed. If a swimmer feels unwell and withdraws from an event then s/he cannot participate in any remaining events.

SCR-24 AGE GROUP TIME TRIAL MEETS

- i. For Age Group Time Trials, unless specifically indicated in the Calendar of events, only boys and girls aged 8 years and older during the year when the Season ends may participate.
- ii. The age used in determining to which age group swimmers belong, is the age reached in the birthday during the year of competition.
- iii. Age Group Time Trials with restricted Age Groups may be organised from time to time at the discretion of the ASA depending on the availability of the Calendar and the Pool.
- iv. **Limit on 400m Freestyle events**
This event will be held at alternate age group meetings and a maximum of 2 heats will be held. Entry time limits for this event are: 05:20:00 for boys and 05:50.00 for girls. Clubs will be penalized if swimmers are entered for this event and do not perform within these time limits.
- v. **Limit on 400m IM, 800m Freestyle, 1500m Freestyle events**
These events will be held at alternate age group meetings and only one heat for each event will be held. Entry time limits have been set for the following events:

400 IM:	06:00:00 (boys), 6:30:00 (girls)
800m freestyle:	11:00:00 (boys), 12:00:00 (girls)
1500m freestyle:	21:00:00 (boys), 22:30:00 (girls)

Clubs will be penalized if swimmers are entered for these events and do not perform within these time limits.

SCR-26 SWIMMING LEAGUE

- i. The Swimming League will be run during the Age Group Time Trials held between October and July and the International Easter Meet. At the end of the season Top Swimmer, Male and Female will be determined in three age groups (as defined in sections v,vi & vii below). Prizes will be awarded.
- ii. A Trophy for each Champion and an Aggregate Shield for the Top Club will be awarded. These awards will be presented during the season's National Swimming Championships. For this reason the awards of the previous season will have to be returned to the ASA latest 1 month prior to the start of the National Swimming Championships.
- iii. All swimmers who take part in the Age Group Time Trials will automatically be included in the League Table.
- iv. **Events**

1. 50m Free	7. 50m Breaststroke
2. 100m Free	8. 100m Breastwork
3. 200m Free	9. 200m Breaststroke
4. 400m Free	10. 50m Fly
5. 800m Free	11. 100m Fly
6. 1500m Free	12. 200m Fly

13. 50m Backstroke
14. 100m Backstroke
15. 200m Backstroke

16. 200m Individual Medley
17. 400m Individual Medley

- v. Open category – maximum number of available events is 17. Scoring will be based on the best 4 events. Age groups: Male Swimmers aged 19 and older during the year when the Season ends and Female Swimmers aged 18 and older during the year when the Season ends.
- vi. Junior category – maximum number of available events is 15. Scoring will be based on the best 8 events. 800m freestyle and 1500m freestyle will not be considered for this category. Age groups: Male Swimmers aged 17 and 18 during the year when the Season ends and Female Swimmers aged 16 and 17 during the year when the Season ends.
- vii. Cadets category – maximum number of available events is 13. Scoring will be based on the best 11 events. 400m freestyle, 400 IM, 800m freestyle and 1500m freestyle will not be considered for this category. Age groups: Male Swimmers aged 16 and younger during the year when the Season ends and Female Swimmers aged 15 and younger during the year when the Season ends.
- viii. The points will be calculated according to the current FINA Point System. These are shown on the results of all ASA Swimming Competitions.
- ix. An event can be swum more than once over the season and the best recorded time will count. Relay swims do not qualify for the league.
- x. The points for Club Aggregate Shield will be awarded as follows: The top 10 swimmers in each group will be awarded points. The swimmer with top points will be awarded 10 points, the second placed 9 points the third points 8 points etc. The points will then be converted to Club points and added. The Club with the most points will be the winner of the Aggregate Shield.
- xi. If a swimmer swims for more than one club during the same swimming season, the swimmer will get the points on an Individual basis and the club for whom he/she has started the season with (registered club) will be entitled for the Club Aggregate Shield points.

SECTION 3 - SWIMMING EVENTS

SCR-31 REGISTRATION WITH THE ASA

- i. Only those swimmers that are properly registered with the ASA as swimmers will be eligible to participate in any ASA organized swimming event. The ASA reserves the right to deny participation of a swimmer in an ASA organized swimming event or to disqualify the swimmer if the swimmer is not properly registered with the ASA as a swimmer. This rule does not apply for foreign visiting swimming teams that have been accepted to participate in an ASA organized swimming event.

SCR-32 TEAM OFFICIALS

- i. Clubs are entitled to nominate coaches, team managers and support staff based on the number of swimmers they have competing as follows:

1 to 5 swimmers in individual events - 2 x coach, team manager or support staff
6 to 20 swimmers in individual events - 3 x coaches, team managers or support staff
21 to 40 swimmers in individual events - 4 x coaches, team managers or support staff
41 or more swimmers in individual events - 6 x coaches, team managers or support staff
- ii. During locally organized events each participating club, after having informed the event organizers beforehand and obtained the necessary approval, may appoint one official team photographer to be on the pool deck during the competition.

SCR-33 RESTRICTED AREAS

- i. The Restricted Areas at the National Pool during Swimming Events consist of
 - a. The Organising Team office at pool deck level.
 - b. The whole pool deck area
- ii. Only swimmers taking part in the event, Team officials and other persons authorised by the Organising Team are allowed to enter the Restricted Areas.
- iii. Unauthorised entry into the restricted areas may result in disciplinary action being taken against the individual/s involved.

SCR-34 PARTICIPATION FEES

- i. The club participation fee for each Age Group Meet, the International Easter Meet and the Malta National Swimming Championships shall be of €12.50 for clubs with less than 50 entries and €25.00 for clubs with more than 50 entries.

- ii. Additionally, there shall be an entry fee of €1.00 per event per swimmer during Age Group Meetings and National Swimming Championships.
- iii. Relay fees during the National Swimming Championships (or if organised during any Age Group Meet throughout the season) will be of €3.00 per team.
- iv. All swimmers registered with local clubs affiliated with the ASA shall benefit from a discount of 50% on the entry fees during the Easter Meet.

SCR-35 ASA SWIMMING RECORDS

- i. The following bonuses shall be given to swimmers for each Long Course record that is broken:
 - Age-group record: €50
 - National record: €100
- ii. Should an Age-Group swimmer obtain a result which is also a National Record, then regardless of the swimmers' age, he/she will be named as the National Record holder as well.
- iii. In the case of Records obtained in multiple age groups, swimmers will only be entitled to only one bonus.

SECTION 4 – OVERSEAS TRAINING AND COMPETITIONS

SCR-41 SWIMMERS RESIDING AND TRAINING OVERSEAS

- i. A written monthly report must be sent to the National Coach and to the ASA detailing the monthly training log, performance, illnesses and/or injuries, and any other relevant information. Each swimmer has a personal responsibility to ensure their training log is agreed, and signed by their Club's Head Coach at the end of every calendar month. Each set of paperwork must be forwarded to the National Coach and to the ASA within fourteen days of the beginning of the following month.
- ii. The swimmer must inform the National Coach and the ASA in advance, in writing, of any participation at any swimming meet or swimming competition. The National Coach must approve such participation. After the swimming meet or swimming competition, the swimmer must inform the National Coach and the ASA of all the swimmer's results at the said meet/competition within 1 week from the end of the said meet/competition. The ASA must receive the official results document of the said meet/competition, and if any national or age-group records are set, the official results document must be signed by an official of the said meet/competition.

SCR-42 PARTICIPATION IN OVERSEAS COMPETITIONS

- i. Clubs or Swimmers residing in Malta and training locally must inform the ASA in advance, in writing, of any participation at any swimming meet or swimming competition overseas other than those organized by the ASA. After the swimming meet or swimming competition, the club or swimmer must inform the ASA of all the results at the said meet/competition within 1 week from the end of the said meet/competition. The ASA must receive the official results document of the said meet/competition, and if any national or age-group records are set, the official results document must be signed by an official of the said meet/competition.
- ii. Swimmers who have times making them eligible to qualify in National Team Selection criteria Groups A and B must obtain prior authorisation in writing from the National Coach before participating at any swimming meet or swimming competition overseas.

SECTION 5 – NATIONAL TEAM RULES

SCR-51 KIT

- i. The National team kit as designated by the Aquatic Sports Association of Malta or its officials for swimmers attending any of the Malta National Team commitments including training sessions, is to be worn at all times unless the above mentioned body or persons deem a situation to be an exception.
- ii. Permission not to wear the national Team Kit can only be granted by the Team manager, Coach or ASA Official.
- iii. The Team Kit must be kept in an acceptable state at all times during any commitment.
- iv. The Team Kit must be worn to all medal ceremonies and media calls. This kit must be worn correctly and as in rule iii above.

SCR-52 GENERAL CONDUCT

- i. The decisions of the Team manager, Coaches or ASA Official are final.
- ii. At no time is any swimmer to act in a way that would harm the name of Malta or the Aquatic Sports Association of Malta.
- iii. Swimmers shall show respect and courtesy to their team mates, coach, team administrators and competitors at all times.
- iv. Swimmers will be at any designated meeting place or event at the time stated by the team officials.
- v. Swimmers are expected to show good sportsmanship at all times during team commitments.
- vi. Team members will refrain from any inappropriate behaviour that would detract from a positive image of the team, or be detrimental to its performance objectives.
- vii. Any illegal behaviour, the possession or use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs is strictly prohibited.
- viii. Swimmers are expected to remain with the team at all times during overseas trips unless permission is obtained from a team official. In the case permission is granted refer to rule iv above.
- ix. Curfews will be established daily by the team officials and no team member may leave their room after curfew.
- x. Any damage or theft caused during the trip will be the responsibility of the offending swimmer.

- xi. No loud or obnoxious behaviour will be tolerated in any public areas of the residence.
- xii. Excessive noise in residence rooms will not be accepted under any circumstances.
- xiii. The Team officials may establish any other rules as deemed necessary. The directions and decisions of coach/ team officials are final.

SCR-53 OTHER RULES

- i. For all overseas events that are listed in the Official ASA swimming calendar, any parents, relatives or acquaintances of participating swimmers that are travelling to the event are not allowed to reside in the same residence as the swimming team throughout the whole competition, except for those who have been designated as officials with the swimming team.