

# **The Nottinghamshire Sports Centre/Leisure Swimming League**

## **Rules 2026**

### **1. The League**

- 1.1 The League shall be called the Nottinghamshire Sports/Leisure Centre Swimming League (the League).
- 1.2 The business and affairs of the League shall at all times be conducted in accordance with Swim England Regulations and Technical Rules.
- 1.3 The League shall be affiliated to the East Midland Region.
- 1.4 The League shall in accordance with Swim England Regulations and Technical Rules and adopt the Swim England Child Protection Procedures; and the equity and equality policies of Swim England; 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.
- 1.5 The AGM shall normally take place in the Autumn/Winter on the Sunday after the last gala of the year, except in exceptional circumstances. Each Club shall provide one voting delegate and may have a maximum of two nonvoting representatives (3 representatives in total).
- 1.6 Rules may only be changed at the A.G.M. by a straight majority vote, or under exceptional circumstances at an EGM called for that purpose. In the case of a tie the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.
- 1.7 Any proposed change to League Rules shall be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary by the 1st of September. The Honorary Secretary shall circulate such proposals within 7 days of the closing date. The only exceptions being those changes that come directly from the Swim England.

### **2. Finances**

- 2.1 The Committee shall have power to authorise the payment of remuneration and expenses to any officer, member or employee of the League and to any other person or persons for services rendered to the League.
- 2.2 Any team failing to compete in a round shall be fined the sum of £75, of which will be paid to the host club to offset their expenses.
- 2.3 All fines, in respect to the League, shall be paid before the 1st Gala of the season. Any Club owing fines shall not be allowed to swim.
- 2.4 Clubs not represented at the A.G.M. except in exceptional circumstances, shall in the first instance be subject to a fine of £50.00 payable prior to the first date of competition. In the event of a second none representation, within a three-year period, the club involved shall be excluded from the forthcoming competition.
- 2.5 The League's financial year shall run from the penultimate gala date to penultimate gala the following year. The accounts being circulated to all clubs at the A.G.M. In the event of the League ceasing to exist all funds will be split equally between the competing teams.

- 2.6 Each club team is to pay a nominal subscription which will be reviewed annually by the committee before the AGM and circulated with the AGM calling notice. This is to be paid a maximum of 28 days after the A.G.M. before the following year's competition.
- 2.7 An entry fee of £10.00 is to be paid by each new team on entering the League, in addition to Rule 2.6.
- 2.8 As all rounds are hosted by a host club, and no money will be passed to the league for these, any expenses incurred by volunteers and officials should be discussed and agreed with the host club in advance of the gala, and will not be reimbursed by the league.

### **3. Structure**

- 3.1 All galas will be swum under Swim England Regulations and Technical Rules, any protests arising from the competition shall be dealt with by the Committee in accordance with Swim England Regulations. Complaints shall, as per Swim England Regulations to the D.J.C.
- 3.2 The League Committee to consist of the appointed officers and one voting delegate from each club.
- 3.3 The Committee shall at the Annual General Meeting; elect by majority vote an Honorary Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary to hold office for the following year.
- 3.4 The Fixture list and programme of events shall be completed for the forthcoming League year at the A.G.M.
- 3.5 Special and General Meetings may be called at the discretion of the secretary or at the request of a minimum of three member clubs. The secretary shall arrange such meetings giving Clubs a minimum of 7 days' notice. The quorum for any meeting shall be at least two officers and greater than half of the member clubs.
- 3.6 The closing date for application to join the League shall be no later than the penultimate gala in any year, such application should be made to the Honorary Secretary. In exceptional circumstances, applications can be made after this date, as long as agreed by majority of the clubs in the division affected.

### **4. Competitors**

- 4.1 Swimmers taking part in individual events must have reached their 9th birthday prior to competing and that cannon relay swimmers must have reached their 9th birthday by the day after the final gala of the year.
- 4.2 All competitors shall be bona fide members of the competing club and shall be eligible to compete in that clubs annual championships. Any one swimmer may only represent/compete for one club during each half of the year in respect to the League. All competing members of participating clubs must be eligible to compete as per Swim England Regulations. The competition shall be split into two halves, ages shall be as of the day after the last gala before the Summer break for the first half, and then as of the day after last gala of the year for the second half.

- 4.3 A Full team selection list from each club should be submitted to the league secretary no less than 2 weeks before the first gala in each half of the year, on the official submission sheets that can be found on the league website. Additions may be made to this throughout each half of the year, with approval from the league secretary who shall check that the additional swimmer(s) comply with all of the other rules of the league especially in line with swimming for any other team within the same half of the year.
- 4.4 A full team sheet from each team is to be submitted to the host club prior to the competition on the official sheets that can be downloaded from the league website. These sheets will include the Full swimmers name, Date of Birth and Swim England Membership Number for each event. No other forms should be accepted.
- 4.5 Any individual swimmer may only compete in a maximum of 3 individual events in any age in any one gala of the league. The number of relay events swum is not restricted in any way. Swimmers will be allowed to swim up an age group if needed, as long as this falls within their maximum of 3 swims in any one gala, but no swimming down an age group will be allowed. If a team is to swim a swimmer down then this is to be notified to the recorders and the referee's before the race so that the swim can be marked as no points.
- 4.6 Clubs having more than one team within the League are allowed to freely interchange between teams till the midpoint of the league season, but after this time they may promote from a lower team to a higher team, but once having swum for a higher team swimmers shall not be allowed to swim for points in a lower team in that League year.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 Once a swimmer has opted to swim in either the Female or the Open/Male gender category, they must remain in that category for the rest of that respective half of the league year with regards to the events within the league.

## **5. Competition**

- 5.1 Each League division will be maintained provided that there are a minimum of four teams competing in the division. Normally one team to be promoted and one demoted at the end of each year.
- 5.2 Should any member Club wish to resign membership they should give notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary. Such a Club will cease to be a League Member at the end of the League year but may complete their agreed fixtures for that year.
- 5.3 If a Club has more than one team in the league and wish to withdraw a team, then it will be the lowest ranked team that is withdrawn.
- 5.4 If a Club has more than two teams in the league, then no more than 2 teams will be allowed to reside within a single division. If a third team is to be promoted or relegated at the end of the year, then this will fall to the next ranked team and the third team will remain in the division they are in.
- 5.5 The first-round draws will be made at the A.G.M. in preparation for the following year. All subsequent rounds will be spear headed on League positions by the League Secretary and circulated prior to each round.
- 5.6 For the Sports Centre League we will be using Placing Judges at all galas.

- 5.7 The points system for events will be as follows: - maximum points shall be equal to the number of teams in the division on a sliding scale decreasing by one point per team to one. No participation in an event will score zero points.
- 5.8 Gala League points to be awarded on the same basis as Rule 5.7 i.e. if 6 clubs are participating the points system will be 6: 5: 4: 3: 2: 1 based on the total gala points earned in each round. No participation in a round will score zero points.
- 5.9 In case of a tied Gala placing the match points will be added then averaged.
- 5.10 League positions shall be circulated to all competing clubs before the start of the next round of competition.
- 5.11 Mixed Gender Events will consist of 2 Open/Male Swimmers and 2 Female Swimmers. These events can be swum in any order but must consist of 2 Open/Males and 2 Females.
- 5.12 The Cannon Relay event will comprise of 10 swimmers. This will be 2 swimmers from each age band in the league, with one in the Female category and one in the Open/Male category. The event will start with the youngest swimmer in the Open/Male category and will alternate between the gender categories and in ascending age order.

## **6. Officials**

- 6.1 All participating teams to provide 2 timekeepers and a judge (qualified to at least British Swimming Judge Level 1), to be assigned positions by the Referee.
- 6.2 The home club to arrange, in addition to Rule 6.1, 2 Referees, 2 Chief Timekeepers, a Starter, the third turn judge and any additional Judges as needed, also to provide an Announcer, Recorders and Door Staff.
- 6.3 All officials that are helping out at the competition need to have the relevant qualification for the role they are undertaking to cover the level 4 licensing criteria (please see table at the end of the rules).
- 6.4 Upon signing up to the league, to help with licensing, all clubs agree to help each other out if they are unable to provide the correct qualified officials. It is down to the host club to ensure that all officials' positions are covered, and any club struggling to provide officials should speak with the host club as soon as they are aware of this situation.
- 6.5 Notification of a team's officials are to be sent to the host club no later than 24 hours before the competition. If a team is unable to fulfil their officials duties for whatever reason, they are to notify the host club as soon as they are aware of this and no later than the 24 hour cut off time, so help can be found from other competing teams as per rule 6.4.
- 6.6 An officials list is to be completed at the start of each gala by the lead referee, which is then to be submitted with the other competition paperwork to the league secretary within 5 working days.
- 6.7 In addition to the officials list, the lead referee is responsible for completing a referee's report form at the completion of each gala that is to be submitted with the other competition paperwork to the league secretary within 5 working days.

## **7. Trophies**

- 7.1 The League Trophies will be awarded to the Club with the highest total of League points per year, in each division along with a runner up trophy to the team placed second in each division.
- 7.2 The Trophies for first and second place of the final division points, will be presented immediately after the final gala in the year of competition by a person nominated by the host club.
- 7.3 If there is a tie on League points at the end of the year, the Trophy will be issued to the team that has the highest number of total gala points accumulated throughout the year. Relegation and Promotion decisions would then rest on total Gala points accumulated by the tied teams.

## **8. Licensing**

- 8.1 The League shall be licensed as a Level 4 League within the East Midland Region.
- 8.2 The Host Club shall accept the responsibilities of the League as Promoters during the period for which they have booked their Sports / Leisure Centre facilities. Each club to finance its own gala taking surplus or deficit.
- 8.3 The Host Club is to complete a promotor's report form for the gala they host, which is to be submitted with the other competition paperwork as stated in Rules 6.5 and 6.6, to the league secretary within 5 working days.
- 8.4 On completion of each gala, the host club are to forward the official results sheet to the league secretary immediately after the completion of the gala. Timekeeper slips, Judges Slips and DQ forms are to be retained by the host club for one month in case of any disputes.
- 8.5 All clubs participating have agreed that they will pay their clubs Level 4 License fee for the year of the league. This is the responsibility of each club competing.
- 8.6 Each gala competition shall have its own license number which must be displayed at the gala and must also be announced. Each gala's license number will also be displayed against the fixture on the league website.

## **9. General**

- 9.1 The decisions of the League Committee are final and binding at all times.
- 9.2 Any matters not covered in the rules shall be dealt with by the honorary officers.

## 10. Officials Table

- 10.1 For the smooth running of the competitions we ask that the “Ideal” quantities of officials are adhered to.

Position Taken	Minimum Qualification	Minimum Quantity	Ideal Quantity
Referee	J2S (and licensed)	1	2
Starter	J2	1	1
Stroke Judge	J1	2	2
Finish Judge	None	2	2
Turn Judge	Club Timekeeper	3 (1 per 2 lanes)	3 (1 per 2 lanes)
Chief Timekeeper	J1 Trainee with Timekeeper Signed Off	1	2
Timekeeper	Club Timekeeper	6 (1 per lane)	12 (2 per lane)

## 11. Host Club Guidance

- 11.1 Host Clubs and to fully fund the hire of their round of the league and are responsible for providing Time Keeper Slips, Judges Slips, DQ Forms, Programmes and the licensing paperwork.
- 11.2 Host Clubs are to set their own spectator entry fees and all monies received becomes the host clubs to help offset the costs of hosting the round. A guideline of £4 for adults and £1 for Children has been set by the league for the spectator entrance fees.
- 11.3 A raffle is optional for the host club, but if provided a guidance of £1 per strip of raffle tickets is advised and this should be charged in addition to spectator entrance fees and not included, and should be completely optional for spectators.
- 11.4 No Seating is to be reserved by anyone at any competition, and all seating should be made available for spectators.