**RULES**

***Last updated October 2018***

***Section A: AIMS & OVERALL ORGANISATION*.**

1. The League shall be called **The Mercian Summer League**.
2. A sponsors name may be used after the league name, preceded by the words "sponsored by ".
3. **AIM** -The aim is to provide competitive swimming of an even standard for swimmers who have not achieved a District Qualifying Time without the need to travel long distances or incur great cost.
4. The league will be swum under Swim England Law. All member clubs must be affiliated to a SWIM ENGLAND District and all competitors shall be eligible to compete as per the appropriate SWIM ENGLAND Laws except those competing in Masters Competitions.
5. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** - The Annual General Meeting shall be held each year in November, and a minimum of 14 days notice will be given, to elect the Executive Committee, review the accounts, appoint Auditors, review rules and carry out any necessary business of the League.
6. The financial year shall run from October 1st to September 30th.
7. **LEAGUE SIZE** - The league size and structure shall be determined at the AGM.
8. Subject to places being available, clubs may enter more than one team. In this case separate affiliation fees, annual membership fees and enrolment lists will be required for each team. Clubs awaiting membership shall have preference over applications for 2nd and 3rd teams.
9. **FEES** - Clubs seeking affiliation should do so in writing to the Secretary. Any affiliation fees together with annual membership fees and levies (as a permanent payment or as a temporary loan) shall be decided at the AGM (or an Extraordinary General Meeting) and should be paid to the Treasurer by December 31st (or within 1 month of the date of an AGM).
10. **APPOINTMENT OF LEAGUE OFFICERS** - The Executive Committee shall be elected annually at the AGM by a simple majority of members present and shall be members of SWIM ENGLAND Affiliated clubs. The Executive shall consist of the League Officers (Chairman; Secretary and Treasurer) together with representatives of two other member clubs of the league. The Committee shall have a welfare officer. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to make decisions within the constitution and SWIM ENGLAND law and to manage the league. The Executive Committee shall have the power to elect non-voting members to their committee at their discretion. A quorum for the Executive Committee shall be **TWO**.
11. **QUORUM** - A quorum for a general meeting shall be representatives of a minimum **FOUR REPRESENTATIVES** of the clubs entitled to vote.
12. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held at the written request of a minimum of one third of the paid up members of the league. Such a meeting shall be held within 28 days of the receipt by the Secretary of the request. Such a meeting shall deal only with the matters detailed in the request.
13. **RULE CHANGES** - Proposals for a change in the rules must be received in writing by the Secretary of the league by October 1st. A majority of **FOUR REPRESENTATIVES** of the authorised team delegates present at the meeting is required for any rule changes, with each team entitled to one vote only.
14. Member clubs are responsible for their own insurance cover.
15. Teams resigning from the league should do so, in writing, before the AGM. However any team who has not paid their fees as agreed (at a general meeting) by the end of the third month after the meeting shall be deemed to have resigned.
16. In the event of the League ceasing to exist, no fund or other properties of the League shall be paid or distributed amongst the members of the League except as permitted under SWIM ENGLAND Law. In the event of dissolution of the League the assets remaining shall be distributed equally amongst teams in good standing with the League for use with objectives similar to those of the League.
17. The club designated by the Executive Committee, as the host club at a League gala shall act as the agent of the League, assuming the Promoter’s responsibilities for that event.
18. **LEAGUE RULES** - The interpretation of any contingency not covered by these rules will be determined by the League Executive Committee.

***Section B: GALA ORGANISATION***

1. **ENROLMENT OF SWIMMERS** - A list of all swimmers, separated by individual Age Groups for each sex, i.e. 9 (age as at the final gala in the competition year), 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17+. SWIM ENGLAND number of each child is required. The list shall be signed by the Club Coach or other Official confirming that all swimmers listed have **NOT** swum a Midland Swimming Championship Time (YCQT, BAGQT) in their own age group **anywhere** earlier in the current year. The list shall contain swimmers who wish to be eligible to take part shall be submitted to the Secretary by the 1st April in the year of competition. The list, which should be signed by a club official, should give the Name; and Date of Birth of each swimmer and only those swimmers listed may compete. Changes to the list are permitted up until the date of the first round of competition for that year.
2. **ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE** - Swimmers must have joined the club he/she represents by the date of the first round of the competition for that year. Any swimmer having competed for one club shall be ineligible to swim for another club in the league in the current league year. Swimmers who have achieved a **Midland Swimming Championship Time at any time since October the 1st in the year prior to the year of competition** shall not be eligible to take part in any event. The Open Age Qualifying Times shall be taken from the Midland District Youth Championship Qualifying Times and the times for the 19/Over group shall apply to ALL Mercian League Swimmers over the age of 19. Swimmers who achieve a Midland Swimming Championship Time (YCQT, BAGQT)during the course of the league galas shall be NOT permitted to swim in further league galas during that current year. Swimmers who achieve a Midland Swimming Championship Time (YCQT, BAGQT) during a league gala shall be permitted to continue swimming in that gala (there shall be no penalties during that gala), but shall not be permitted to swim in further league galas within that year. **10-year-old Events in the league are not subject to time restrictions but a 9 or 10 year old who has ANY Midland Swimming Championship Time (YCQT, BAGQT) may not compete in the league.**
3. **FIRST ROUND DRAW** - This will be made at the AGM such that each gala is divided into as near as possible into equal groupings with the teams being numbered in alphabetical order. The executive committee will decide the host club for galas with consideration being given, where possible, to ensure that clubs do not host too often.
4. **GALA POINTS -** In an 18 or 24 team league, events will be scored 6;5;4;3;2;1 in winning order and in a 15 or 20 team league the scoring will be 5;4;3;2;1.
5. **LEAGUE POINTS** - The final gala LEAGUE points will be as for gala points. ( i.e. 6;5;4;3;2;1 or 5;4;3;2;1). Any team who uses a swimmer who has not been properly enrolled, or uses a swimmer who has achieved any Midland Swimming Championship Time (YCQT, BAGQT) in the current year, or swims in the wrong age group, or exceeds any limitation on number of swims or infringes SWIM ENGLAND Law (ie an illegal swim) shall lose all their gala points and league points unless the infringement is reported to the Secretary within 48 hours of the event. If the report is properly made then only those points scored illegally by the swimmer will be deducted. A team will lose all its gala points for that round where it has swum an ineligible swimmer. There will be no allowance even where the Club involved notifies the Secretary within 48 hours, it is the responsibility of each Club to ensure its swimmers are eligible. An eligible swimmer is defined in rule 20. In addition that club will be barred from further competition that year.
6. ***GALA PROGRESSION*** *-* There will be a lane draw at the beginning of each gala.  The team drawn in lane 1 will be the hosting club for their gala in round 2. Assume that the lane draw is as below. To progress to Round 2, Lane 1 will remain in the same gala.  Lane 2 will progress to the next gala, lane 3 on two galas and lane 4 on three galas.  Lane 5 will remain in the same gala and lane 6 will progress on one gala, as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ROUND 1** | | | |
| **Gala 1** | **Gala 2** | **Gala 3** | **Gala 4** |
| **A lane 1**  B lane 2  C lane 3  D lane 4  E lane 5  F lane 6 | **G lane 1**  H lane 2  I lane 3  J land 4  K lane 5  L lane 6 | **M lane 1**  N lane 2  O lane 3  P lane 4  Q lane 5  R lane 6 | **S lane 1**  T lane 2  U lane 3  V lane 4  W lane 5  X lane 6 |
| **ROUND 2, etc** | | | |
| **A lane 1 (from gala 1)**  T lane 2 (from gala 4)  O lane 3 (from gala 3)  J lane 4 (from gala 2)  E lane 5 (from gala 1)  X lane 6 (from gala 4) | **G Lane 1 (from gala 2)**  B lane 2 (from gala 1)  U lane 3 (from gala 4)  P lane 4 (from gala 3)  K lane 5 (from gala 2)  F lane 6 (from gala 1) | **M lane 1 (from gala 3)**  H lane 2 (from gala 2)  C lane 3 (from gala 1)  V lane 4 (from gala 4)  Q lane 5 (from gala 3)  L lane 6 (from gala 2) | **S lane 1 (from gala 4)**  N lane 2 (from gala 3)  I lane 3 (from gala 2)  D lane 4 (from gala 1)  W lane 5 (from gala 4)  R lane 6 (from gala 3) |

Progression to Gala 3 shall be as follows: All teams shall be listed in a league table, ranked first be their accrued league points with any ties being decided by firstly their accrued gala points and then by the number of first places achieved. The League Final (Gala 1) will comprise of teams 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Gala 2 will comprise of teams 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Gala 3 will comprise of teams 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, Gala 4 will comprise of teams 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24.

All four galas shall be spearheaded.

The overall league champions will be the team who wins gala 1.

**NOTE**:– the four galas are straight galas decided on the night previous league points are disregarded. Trophies will be presented to all finalists and the winners of galas 2, 3 & 4

1. **THE ORGANISING CLUB -** will be responsible for the overall conduct of the gala and will provide the following Officials:

Referee, Starter, Chief Timekeeper, Recording Team, Door Stewards, Two Competitors Stewards (one of each sex) to be responsible for the changing rooms as per SWIM ENGLAND Law and an Announcer. It is recommended that there should be 2 Referees and 2 Chief Timekeepers wherever possible to ensure an early finish to galas. One Time keeper per lane is required, Clubs may at their discretion provide two timekeepers. the 'official timekeeper' shall record the time , the second timekeeper shall only be used for training purposes etc, but their time may be used in the event of failure of the official time.

1. The league will provide result sheets (or an electronic version) and the host club shall provide time slips, programmes (available to download from the Mercian website) and judges slips.
2. **OFFICIALS** - Each competing team should bring 1 Judge and 1 Timekeeper to every gala. (NB Clubs should remember that 6 Judges are necessary for a gala to run under SWIM ENGLAND Law)
3. **TROPHIES** - Any trophies presented by the league shall be Perpetual. Engraving is the responsibility of the holding club as is the rectification of any damage.
4. **GALA ACCOUNTS** - The organising club shall send to the Treasurer the proceeds of the door. Less any allowable expenses:

refreshments - max £5 and shot max £5 for the Starter) together with a detailed account of such monies. Pool hire charges will be paid by the Treasurer.

1. **RAFFLES -** are arranged by the organising club. All monies stay with organising club.
2. **RESULTS** - The result sheets should be sent to the Secretary to arrive not later than the Tuesday after the event. Address on the website [www.mercianleague.co.uk](http://www.mercianleague.co.uk). The results of the gala should also be emailed (where possible) to the secretary on the night of the gala.
3. **ADMISSION CHARGES -** for the following year will be recommended by the Executive Committee and ratified at the AGM.
4. **LANE DRAW -** will take place on the night of the gala, apart from round 3,which will be spearheaded.

***Section C: COMPETITION RULES***

1. AGES as at the DAY of the FINAL GALA in the year of competition for all age groups.
2. **LIMITATION OF SWIMS** - Swimmers aged 15 and over who are eligible to swim in Open Events **only** may swim **three** individual events. Swimmers aged 14 and under may swim in **three** individual events with a maximum of **two** in their own age group. There are no restrictions on relays.
3. Swimmers who have achieved any Midland District Qualifying Time in their age group for the current year shall not be eligible for registration with the league. The times applicable to OPEN swimmers will be those published for the 17 – 19 yr. age group.
4. **TEAM LISTS -** should be handed in to the recorders before the gala and organising clubs forward team lists to the Secretary together with the top copy of the result sheets after the gala.
5. **PROGRAMME -** The gala programme is to use the same order of events as the Speedo League, with the Age Groups to be 10/U; 12/U; 14/U & Open. AGES as at the DAY of the FINAL GALA in the year of competition for all age groups. The distances to be swum are as follows:-

**10/U** to swim 50m except fly at 25m. (In a 33m pool this shall be 2 lengths and 1 length respectively.

**12/U** to swim 100m except fly at 50 m (In a 33m pool fly shall be 2 lengths)

**14/U** to swim 100m.

**Open** to swim 100m except I.M. at 4x1 length.

All relays to be 4x1 length.

1. **TURNS & FINISHES -** Where there is a rail around the pool, it shall be permissible to turn or finish on the rail or the wall.
2. **STARTING TIMES -** Shall be prompt at the time notified by the Secretary – (6pm for 6.30pm where possible.
3. Swimmers names shall be written on the time slips for ALL individual events.
4. **PROTESTS** - In the event of an official protest, this shall be dealt with in accordance with SWIM ENGLAND Law. Complaints shall be referred to the District Judicial Tribunal in the District where it occurred.
5. **FINES** - Teams failing to fulfil a gala commitment will be liable to a fine of £50, and in the first two rounds only will also have 180 gala points and 4 league points added as their ‘score’ for their missed gala.

Ratified at the AGM dated : 18/11/09

Signed: Name:

Helen Pordage

Signed: Name:

Mandy Blizard