



Hertfordshire Swimming League

FOUNDED BY ROY ROGERS IN 1979

Rules v2 – February 2024

1. Name "The Hertfordshire Swimming League" comprises of two sections; "The Major League" and "The Peanuts League".

2. Objectives The League shall be affiliated to Swim England EAST region. To promote and encourage competition between Swimming Clubs affiliated to Swim England Hertfordshire.

3. Membership

- a) Membership of the league is confined to Clubs affiliated to Swim England Hertfordshire.
- b) A Club may have more than one team in membership but preference in joining the League is given to one team from each Club.
- c) A club must indicate its wish to compete in Major League by paying the appropriate league entry fee by 30th September in the preceding year of competition. Any club wishing to compete that fails to pay the entry fee by this date will incur a late payment penalty. If the entry fee remains unpaid by the Annual General Meeting, the club will not be eligible to swim in the following years Major League competitions.
- d) A club must indicate its wish to compete in Peanuts league competitions by paying the appropriate non refundable Intent to Compete deposit by 30th September in the preceding year of competition. Any club wishing to compete that fails to pay the deposit by this date will incur a late payment fee. If the Peanuts Intent to Compete deposit remains unpaid by the Annual General Meeting, the club will not be eligible to swim in the following years Peanuts League competitions.
- e) Failure to pay either the Major League fee OR the Peanuts Intent to Compete deposit by 30th September will mean a club is ineligible to vote at the AGM.
- f) Any club failing to fulfil its turn in the role of Vice Chair/Chair shall be ineligible to compete in that year.
- g) Any club failing to fulfil its turn in the role of Vice Chair/Chair shall have to take on the role immediately on re-election to the league.

4. Finance

- a) Each team in each section shall pay a league entry fee.
- b) The Financial year of the League shall end on the 30th of September.
- c) All funds or other property of the League shall be used for the furtherance of the objectives of the League.
- d) The custodians of the League equipment shall be the League Secretary and the League Officials Officer. The custodians for the bank accounts shall be the League Finance Officer and the League Secretary.
- e) In the event of dissolution, the funds remaining shall be shared equally between the current participating Clubs by the relevant custodians.

5. Management

- a) The overall control of the League is vested in an Executive Council consisting of the Officers and delegates from member Clubs which have paid the appropriate subscription.
- b) The Executive Council shall meet annually in October to receive reports and statements for the preceding year, elect the Management Committee Officers and consider any proposed Rule Changes and deal with other relevant business.
- c) The Management Committee will decide annually the annual subscription, late subscription fee, intent to compete deposit fee, failure to attend fee and spectator fees and notify clubs at the same time that the AGM pack is published.

- d) Each participating Swim England Hertfordshire registered Club may nominate one delegate with one vote. Officers have no vote in their own right. The Chair has a casting vote.
- e) Proposals to change the rules must be made and seconded by member Clubs and be received in writing by the Secretary at least one month before the meeting. The Management Committee is allowed to propose rule changes. To be carried such proposals must have a two-thirds majority of the voting delegates in attendance.
- f) Current Subscription fee per team £200, Late subscription penalty per team £110, failure to attend fee per team £100 and spectator fee £5.
- g) The Management Committee Officers are:
 CHAIR- the previous year's Vice Chair or nominated by their Club.
 VICE CHAIR - nominated by participating Clubs in alphabetical order.
 SECRETARY, TREASURER, COMPLIANCE OFFICER, RESULTS OFFICER, OFFICIALS COORDINATOR and up to four COMMITTEE MEMBERS - elected at the meeting.
 This Committee has the authority to make decisions within the framework of these rules and of Swim England Regulations and Technical Rules.
- h) An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Executive Council may be called by the Officers or upon written request to the Secretary from two thirds of member Clubs. In both cases the reasons for the meeting must be declared, by the Secretary, in writing, to the contacts in member Clubs, no more than 14 days after receiving the receipt of the request. The E.G.M must be held within 56 days of the request.
- i) The Secretary shall give at least 7 days' notice for meetings of the Officers and at least 21 days' notice of General Meetings.
- j) Delegates from at least 8-member Clubs form a quorum for a General Meeting.
- k) The Management Committee may co-opt additional members to fill vacancies or to assist with specific exercises relating to the running of the league.
- l) In the event of league rule changes at AGM, and at the discretion of the league committee, entry deadline for additional peanuts & major league teams may be extended after the AGM.

6. Gala Organisation

- a) The League Committee is responsible for hiring the pools, assigning the Host Clubs, Referees and Starters, providing the host club with the HyTek database for their gala and putting the programmes and time slips on the website for clubs to print.
- b) Each team are to provide:
- One Swim England qualified Timekeeper
 - One Swim England qualified Judge (minimum Judge Level 1)
- Clubs are expected to work with the other clubs in their gala to ensure there are sufficient officials to run the gala.
 Failure to provide the above will incur a 12 gala point deduction per official.
- c) The Host Clubs should appoint 2 Chief Timekeepers, an Announcer, people to collect spectator's entrance fees, male and female Changing Room, Stewards, Runners, Welfare Officer and the Gala Secretary. Host clubs are permitted to run a raffle, the proceeds of which they may keep for their own club. Another club will be assigned the job of recording and will be required to supply two recorders for the gala.
- d) The start of each Gala should be prompt and no more than fifteen minutes later than the published start time.
- e) Any team failing to attend any gala shall pay a failure to attend fee.
- f) By midday on the Monday following the gala the host club's Gala Secretary to e-mail ALL results, scanned copies of all team lists/change of swimmer forms and completed Questionnaire to the Compliance Officer/Results Officer. All paperwork should be retained by the host club's Gala Secretary in case of any queries from compliance checks.
- g) The Committee shall inform all teams of the full results and venues for the next round within 14 days subject to any outstanding issues.
- h) The Results Secretary shall inform the website operator of the results of each round and confirm the gala draw ASAP.

i) Host club to transfer the takings from league gala within 10 working days by BACS to Account-40465232, Sort Code- 20-41-12, Reference-Use Club Name.

7. Competition

- a) All competitions are held under Swim England Regulations and Technical Rules.
- b) Pools 25m in length will be used in each round, however a 50m pool may be used where it is not practical or available to use a 25m pool.
- c) Each League consists of a number of Divisions decided by the management committee within the following. The number of Galas per round is two except in the lowest Division where the maximum number of Galas per round is three. The minimum number of teams in a Division is five.
- d) The competition consists of three rounds for each Division of each League.
- e) Age groups for Major and Peanuts league will be age as at the date of the final round.
- f) Swimmers can swim up, including in all relays (see Relay Guidance Notes). Swimmers may compete in any number of events, with the exception of a maximum of two individual events in their own age group.
- g) Trans or Non-binary people are free to self-ID and participate in the eligibility category aligned to their gender identity free from discrimination and exclusion and no formal verification procedure is required. Whilst clarification may be sought in the event of a genuine error, under no circumstances are competitors to be challenged on the validity of their participation within the relevant category.

h) MAJOR LEAGUE:

The age groups, strokes and lengths for the Major League are:

Age groups:

9-11

9-13

9-15

9 & over

MAJOR LEAGUE	AGE Group	INDIVIDUAL EVENTS
DIVISION 1	9-11	50m Backstroke 50m Breaststroke 50m Butterfly 50m Freestyle
	9-13	100m Backstroke 100m Breaststroke 100m Butterfly 100m Freestyle
	9-15	100m Backstroke 100m Breaststroke 100m Freestyle 100m Butterfly
	9 & over	100m Backstroke 100m Breaststroke 100m Freestyle 100m Butterfly 100m Individual Medley
		RELAY EVENTS
	9-13	Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Mixed 4x50m Medley
	9 & over	Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Mixed 4x50m Medley Mixed 4x50m Butterfly Mixed 4x50m Breaststroke

		Mixed 4x 50/50/100/100m Freestyle
	Squadron	8x50m Freestyle
DIVISION 2	9-11	50m Backstroke 50m Breaststroke 50m Butterfly 50m Freestyle
	9-13	100m Backstroke 100m Breaststroke 100m Freestyle 50-100m Butterfly
	9-15	100m Backstroke 100m Breaststroke 100m Freestyle 100m Butterfly
	9 & over	100m Backstroke 100m Breaststroke 100m Freestyle 100m Butterfly 100m Individual Medley
		RELAY EVENTS
	9-13	Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Mixed 4x50m Medley
	9 & over	Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Mixed 4x50m Medley Mixed 4x50m Butterfly Mixed 4x50m Breaststroke Mixed 4x 50/50/100/100m Freestyle
	Squadron	8x50m Freestyle

MAJOR LEAGUE RELAY GUIDANCE NOTES:

- **9 - 13 Mixed Relays:** 2x boys and 2x girls, minimum 2 swimmers aged 9 to 12 (see clarification in C below)- can swim in any order.
- **9 & over Mixed Relays:** 2x boys and 2x girls - can swim in any order.
- **Mixed Butterfly & Mixed Breaststroke Relays:** 1x9 to 11 year old, 1x9 to 13 year old, 1x9 to 15 year old, 1x9 year old or over - **MUST** be 2 boys and 2 girls can swim in any order.
- **Squadron:** 1x9 to 11 year old boy, 1x9 to 11 year old girl, 1x9 to 13 year old boy, 1x9 to 13 year old girl, 1x9 to 15 year old boy, 1x9 to 15 year old girl, 1xOpen or over boy, 1xOpen or over old girl - can swim in any order.

i) PEANUTS LEAGUE:

The age groups, strokes and lengths for the Peanuts League are:

Age groups:

9

9-10

9-11

9-12

PEANUTS LEAGUE	AGE Group	INDIVIDUAL EVENTS
DIVISION 1	9	25m Backstroke 25m Breaststroke 25m Butterfly 25m Freestyle
	9-10	25m Backstroke 25m Breaststroke 25m Butterfly 25m Freestyle
	9-11	50m Backstroke 50m Breaststroke 50m Freestyle 50m Butterfly
	9-12	50m Backstroke 50m Breaststroke 50m Freestyle 50m Butterfly
		RELAY EVENTS
	9-10	Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Mixed 4x50m Medley
	9-12	Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Mixed 4x50m Medley Mixed 4x50m Butterfly Mixed 4x50m Breaststroke
	Squadron	8x50m Freestyle
DIVISION 2	9	25m Backstroke 25m Breaststroke 25m Butterfly 25m Freestyle
	9-10	25m Backstroke 25m Breaststroke 25m Butterfly 25m Freestyle
	9-11	50m Backstroke 50m Breaststroke 50m Freestyle 50m Butterfly
	9-12	50m Backstroke 50m Breaststroke 50m Freestyle

		50m Butterfly
		RELAY EVENTS
	9-10	Mixed 4x25m Freestyle Mixed 4x25m Medley
	9-12	Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Mixed 4x50m Medley Mixed 4x25m Butterfly Mixed 4x25m Breaststroke
	Squadron	8x25m Freestyle

PEANUTS LEAGUE RELAY GUIDANCE NOTES:

- **9 - 10 year old Mixed Relays:** 2x9 or 10 year old boys and 2x9 or 10 year old girls (see clarification in C below) - can swim in any order.
- **9 - 12 year old Mixed Relays:** 2x boys and 2x girls, minimum 2 swimmers aged 9 to 10 (see clarification in C below) - can swim in any order.
- **Mixed Butterfly & Mixed Breaststroke Relays:** 1x9 year old, 1x9 or 10 year old, 1x9 to 11 year old, 1x9 to 12 year old - **MUST** be 2 boys and 2 girls - can swim in any order.
- **Squadron:** 1x9 year old boy, 1x9 year old girl, 1x9 or 10 year old boy, 1x9 or 10 year old girl, 1x9 to 11 year old boy, 1x9 to 11 year old girl, 1x9 to 12 year old boy, 1x9 to 12 year old girl - can swim in any order.

j) For the avoidance of doubt, NO SWIMMER UNDER the age of 9 on the date of a gala is allowed to swim. This is a Swim England rule.

k) For the avoidance of doubt, the Relay Guidance Notes (Major and Peanuts) are to facilitate clubs swimming swimmers up age groups if they need to ie in Peanuts a 9 year old may swim in ANY age category.

l) In the relays, whilst swimming up is permitted, teams must include one boy and one girl in each of the highest and lowest ages listed.

m) If any swimmer is starting in water less than 1.35m deep they **MUST** start in the water.

8. Gala Draws

a) **ROUND I** – The draw for Round 1 will be made by the Management Committee at the first meeting following the AGM. Any changes necessary due to the subsequent withdrawals or additional teams will be decided by the Management Committee.

ROUND II Teams with odd placing in one Gala meet teams with even placing in the other Gala and be seeded in spearhead order based on the results of the previous round.

ROUND III Winners and Consolation Galas are held in each Division. In Divisions other than the lowest the Winners Gala is of six teams.

b) Division 1 shall comprise 12 teams. The number of teams in Divisions 2 & 3 shall be decided by the Management Committee depending upon the number of teams entered and pool availability.

9. Points System

a) In each event gala points will be awarded per place with 1st place receiving 6 points, 2nd place receiving 5 points etc. with no points being awarded in the event of a disqualification. In the event of a tie the points

will be shared. In a gala that has less than or more than 6 teams the points system will be adjusted to accommodate them.

- b) 12 Gala Point deduction for late and incomplete submission of team entry file.
- c) Gala position is based on the highest number of gala points, if teams are tied on gala points, then the highest number of first places, the highest number of second places etc will be taken into account.
- d) League points for a team will be 6 points for first place, 5 points for second place etc in rounds I and II.
- e) A bonus of 11 league points will be given to each team competing in the third round winners gala
- f) League points for a team will be 12 points for first place, 10 points for second place etc in round III.
- g) League position is based on: -
 - i) Highest number of league points.
 - ii) Highest number of gala points.
 - iii) Number of first places, number of second places etc.
- h) A team, which fails to compete in any gala for which they have entered, will be awarded minimum points, and placed last at that gala and score zero league points at that gala.
- i) For divisions not consisting of 12 teams the above rules regarding gala and league points would be adjusted by the Management Committee and notified to those teams concerned before round 1.

10. Promotion and Relegation

- a) The bottom two teams in Division 1 and 2 shall be relegated by one division.
- b) The top two teams in Divisions 2 and 3 shall be promoted by one division.
- c) In the event that rule 10e is invoked, the Executive Council shall have the power to set aside rules 10a and 10b in order to maintain the optimum numbers of teams competing in higher divisions.
- d) In the event of joint placings, the team with highest number of first places in all rounds enters the higher division.
- e) A team in any division which fails to swim in all three galas, having entered at the beginning of the league season, will be deemed to have withdrawn from the league and must re-apply for permission to compete in the league in which they did not compete. If the application is accepted that team will be placed in the lowest division of that league.

11. Awards

Pennants are awarded to the top six teams in each division. A photograph of the winning team and runners up with pennant may be taken and uploaded to the website.

12. Teams

- a) One calendar month before the start of competition each Club shall send the Compliance Officer a Club Eligibility List including full name, eligibility category aligned to gender identity and date of birth of each eligible swimmer. This information needs to be sent in the format of a HyTek eligibility file. Major League & Peanut League: Additions to previously notified squads are allowed during the period of the competition providing:
 - i) Swimmers are registered as members of that Club
 - ii) The League is notified of any such additions no less than 7 days prior to the Gala in question.
- b) Within a league no swimmer may compete for more than one club in the current league competition. See special note below.
- c) All teams are required to swim their "best" team in the highest division and so on down. If a swimmer has to be "promoted" because of illness/holiday this swimmer is allowed to swim down for subsequent gala(s) and will not be stopped from competing in future rounds.
- d) In all rounds, each team shall provide a running order, which names the actual swimmers from each event-to the compliance officer on by 4pm on the Thursday before the gala is due to take place in the format of a HyTek Entry file.
- e) If a swimmer's name is on more than one club Team list, they may only swim for one club in the current league competition.
- f) All team members must be eligible as defined in 12)a)i) above. Any infringement may result in the team being disqualified from the gala in which the infringement took place.

g) Teams found swimming one or more ineligible swimmers not declared to the referee within the following timescales;

- Preferably prior to the start of the gala;

- But no later than the start of the event following the event in which the infringement took place, will be deducted one league point in rounds 1/2 and 2 points in round 3 in which the offence took place.

Where possible the results of affected galas will be restated.

Ineligible swimmers that need to be declared include: -

i) Swimmers not included on the Club Team List;

ii) Over age swimmer; and

iii) Swimmers competing in too many individual events.

h) Any infringement(s) which may result in the deduction of a league point should be notified by the Compliance office (or other committee member) to the offending club prior to the publication of the league results for the round in which the infringement took place. If the club believes the deduction has been unfairly applied, they have the right of appeal within 3 days of being notified of the deduction. The appeal should be made to the Chair of the league (or other nominated officer) whose decision shall be final.

13. Matters not covered by these Rules

Any matter not covered by the rules of the league during the course of a gala will be determined by the promoter being the gala secretary acting on behalf of the league and the lead referee, subject to Swim England (SE) Regulations whose decision shall be final.

2024 Rules Amendments:

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1. Changed 9-13 fly in Div 2 to 100m which is clearly what was intended and agreed by everyone.
2. Changed the description of the relay in Div 1 to reflect "9 yrs and Over Mixed 50/50/100/100m Freestyle Relay"
3. Changed the description of the relay in Div 2 to reflect "9 yrs and Over Mixed 50/50/100/100m Freestyle Relay"