



Hertfordshire Swimming League

FOUNDED BY ROY ROGERS IN 1979

Rules – May 2026

1. NAME

"The Hertfordshire Swimming League" comprises of two sections: the "Major League" and the "Peanuts League" (together the "League").

2. OBJECTIVE

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

3.1 Membership of the League is confined to clubs affiliated to Swim England Hertfordshire.

3.2 A club may have more than one team in membership but preference in joining the League is given to one team from each club.

3.3 Any club failing to fulfil its turn in the role of Vice Chair/Chair shall:

- (a) be ineligible to compete in that year; and
- (b) take on the role immediately on re-election to the League.

3.4 Details of the Major League entry fee and Peanuts League entry fee, non-refundable Peanuts League intent to compete deposit, late payment fee, failure to attend fee and spectator fee(s) will be sent to clubs at the same time as the League's Annual General Meeting (AGM) pack is published.

4. MAJOR LEAGUE

Age groups, strokes and distances

4.1 The age groups, strokes and distances for the **Major League** are set out in **APPENDIX A**.

Entry and fees

4.2 A club must indicate its wish to compete in the Major League by paying the appropriate Major League entry fee by 30th September in the preceding year of competition. If a club enters more than one team, each team must pay the appropriate Major League entry fee.

4.3 Any club wishing to compete that fails to pay the appropriate Major League entry fee by 30th September will:

- (a) incur a late payment fee; and
- (b) be ineligible to vote at the League's AGM.

4.4 If the appropriate Major League entry fee remains unpaid by the AGM, the relevant club will not be eligible to swim in the following year's Major League competitions.

4.5 Any team failing to attend any Major League gala shall pay a failure to attend fee.

5. PEANUTS LEAGUE

Age groups, strokes and distances

5.1 The age groups, strokes and distances for the **Peanuts League** are set out in **APPENDIX B**.

Entry and fees

5.2 A club must indicate its wish to compete in the Peanuts League by paying the appropriate non-refundable Peanuts League intent to compete deposit by 30th September in the preceding year of competition. If a club intends to enter more than one team, each team must pay the appropriate non-refundable Peanuts League intent to compete deposit.

5.3 The balance of the Peanuts League entry fee is due by 31 March in the year of competition.

5.4 Any club wishing to compete that fails to pay the appropriate non-refundable Peanuts League intent to compete deposit by 30th September will:

- (a) incur a late payment fee; and
- (b) be ineligible to vote at the League's AGM.

5.5 If the appropriate non-refundable Peanuts League intent to compete deposit remains unpaid by the AGM or the balance is not paid by 31 March, the relevant club will not be eligible to swim in the following year's Peanuts League competitions.

5.6 Any team failing to attend any Peanuts League gala shall pay a failure to attend fee.

6. FINANCE

6.1 Each team in each section of the League shall pay the appropriate entry fee.

6.2 The financial year of the League shall end on 30th of September.

6.3 All funds or other property of the League shall be used for the furtherance of the objectives of the League.

6.4 The custodians of the League equipment shall be the League Secretary and the League Officials Coordinator.

6.5 The custodians for the bank accounts shall be the League Finance Officer and the League Secretary.

6.6 In the event of dissolution, the funds remaining shall be shared equally between the current participating clubs by the relevant custodians.

7. MANAGEMENT AND AGM

7.1 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 League fees.

- 7.2 The Executive Council shall meet annually in October to receive reports and statements for the preceding year, elect the Management Committee Officers for the subsequent year and consider any proposed rule changes and deal with other relevant business.
- 7.3 The Management Committee will decide annually the Major League entry fee, Peanuts League entry fee, non-refundable Peanuts League intent to compete deposit, late payment fee, failure to attend fee and spectator fee(s) and notify clubs at the same time that the AGM pack is published.
- 7.4 Each participating club may nominate one delegate with one vote for the AGM. Officers have no vote in their own right. The Chair has a casting vote.
- 7.5 Proposals to change these Rules must be made and seconded by a member club and be received in writing by the Secretary at least one month before the AGM.
- 7.6 The Management Committee is allowed to propose rule changes.
- 7.7 To be carried such proposals must have a two-thirds majority of the voting delegates in attendance at the AGM.
- 7.8 The Management Committee Officers are the following, all elected at the AGM:
- (a) CHAIR- the previous year's Vice Chair or nominated by their Club;
 - (b) VICE CHAIR - nominated by participating Clubs in alphabetical order;
 - (c) SECRETARY;
 - (d) TREASURER;
 - (e) COMPLIANCE OFFICER;
 - (f) RESULTS OFFICER;
 - (g) OFFICIALS COORDINATOR; and
 - (h) up to four additional COMMITTEE MEMBERS.
- 7.9 The Management Committee has the authority to make decisions within the framework of these Rules and Swim England Regulations and Technical Rules.
- 7.10 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Executive Council may be called by the Management Committee Officers or upon written request to the League Secretary from two thirds of member clubs. In both cases the reasons for the meeting must be declared by the League Secretary in writing to the contacts in member clubs, no more than 14 days after receiving the receipt of the request. The EGM must be held within 56 days of the request.
- 7.11 The League Secretary shall give at least 7 days' notice for meetings of the Management Committee Officers and at least 21 days' notice of General Meetings.
- 7.12 Delegates from at least 8-member clubs form a quorum for a General Meeting.
- 7.13 The Management Committee may co-opt additional members to fill vacancies or to assist with specific exercises relating to the running of the League.
- 7.14 In the event of changes to these Rules at the AGM, and at the discretion of the Management Committee, entry deadlines for additional Major and Peanuts League teams may be extended after the AGM.

8. GALA ORGANISATION

Management Committee responsibilities

8.1 The Management Committee is responsible for:

- (a) hiring the pools;
- (b) assigning the host clubs;
- (c) assigning the Referees and Starters;
- (d) providing the host club with the HyTek database for their gala; and
- (e) putting the programmes and time slips on the website for clubs to print.

Officials to be provided by each team

8.2 Each team are to provide:

- (a) one Swim England qualified Timekeeper; and
- (b) one Swim England qualified Judge (minimum Judge Level 1).

8.3 Failure to provide the above officials will incur a 12 gala point deduction per official.

8.4 Clubs are expected to work with the other clubs in their gala to ensure there are sufficient officials to run the gala.

Host club

8.5 The host club shall appoint:

- (a) 2 Chief Timekeepers;
- (b) an Announcer;
- (c) people to collect spectators' entrance fees;
- (d) male and female changing room;
- (e) Stewards;
- (f) Runners;
- (g) Welfare Officer; and
- (h) Gala Secretary.

8.6 The host club is permitted to run a raffle, the proceeds of which they may keep for their own club.

8.7 The start of each gala should be prompt and no more than fifteen minutes later than the published start time.

Recorders

8.8 Another club will be assigned the job of recording and will be required to supply two recorders for the gala.

After the gala

8.9 By midday on the Monday following the gala the host club's Gala Secretary shall e-mail ALL results, scanned copies of all 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. Note: any changes not reflected in the change of swimmer forms shall incur a 12 gala point deduction, in accordance with Rule 10.8.

- 8.10 The Management Committee shall inform all teams of the full results and venues for the next round within 14 days, subject to any outstanding issues.
- 8.11 The Results Officer shall inform the website operator of the results of each round and confirm the next gala draw as soon as possible after the previous gala.
- 8.12 Host club to transfer the takings from the gala within 10 working days by BACS to Account-40465232, Sort Code- 20-41-12, Reference-Use Club Name.

9. COMPETITION

Governance

- 9.1 All competitions are held under Swim England Regulations and Technical Rules.

Pool length

- 9.2 Pools 25m in length will be used in each round, however a 50m pool may be used where it is not practical to use a 25m pool and/or where a 25m pool is not available.

Divisions, rounds and galas

- 9.3 The Major League and Peanuts League each consist of a number of divisions decided by the Management Committee, as follows:
- (a) each division consists of three rounds;
 - (b) the number of galas per round is two except in the lowest division where the maximum number of galas per round is three; and
 - (c) the minimum number of teams in a division is five.

Age of swimmers

- 9.4 Age groups are based on age as at the date of the final round of the relevant competition.
- 9.5 For the avoidance of doubt, NO SWIMMER UNDER the age of 9 on the date of the final gala is allowed to swim i.e. swimmers may be 8 years old in the first two rounds but must have turned 9 by midnight on the day of the final gala. This is a Swim England rule.
- 9.6 Age groups for each league are as follows;
- Major League** -
- 9-11 years old** - swimmers can be aged from 9 years old up to and including 11 years old.
 - 9-13 years old** – swimmers can be aged from 9 years old up to and including 13 years old.
 - 9-15 years old** – swimmers can be aged from 9 years old up to and including 15 years old.
 - 9years and over** – swimmers can be aged 9yearsold with no maximum age.
- Peanuts League** –
- 9years age group**- swimmers must be a minimum age if 9 years old by round 3. Swimmers can be 8 years old and up to 9 years old if the swimmer reaches the age of 9 years old by round 3.

9-10years – swimmers can be age 9 years old up to and including 10 years old.

9-11years – swimmers can be 9 years old up to and including 11 years old.

9-12years – swimmers can be 9 years old up to and including 12 years old.

Swimming up

9.7 Swimmers can swim up, including in all relays.

Number of events per swimmer

9.8 Swimmers may compete in any number of events, but only a maximum of two individual events in their own age group.

Trans or Non-binary people

9.9 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.

Pool depth

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

10. TEAMS

Eligibility list

10.1 No later than 7 days before the start of competition (Major League or Peanuts League, as applicable) 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.

10.2 Additions to previously notified eligibility lists are allowed during the period of the competition providing:

- (a) swimmers are registered as members of that club; and
- (b) the League is notified of any such additions no less than 7 days prior to the gala in question.

Team selection

10.3 Within a league (i.e. Major or Peanuts) no swimmer may compete for more than one club in a current league competition.

10.4 All teams are required to swim their “best” team in the highest division and so on down. If a swimmer must 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.

10.5 If a swimmer’s name is on more than one club team list, they may only swim for one club in a current league competition.

10.6 All team members must be eligible as defined in 10.2(a) above. Any breach of this Rule may result in the team being disqualified from the gala to which the breach applies.

Team entry file

- 10.7 In all rounds, each team shall provide a running order, which names the actual swimmers from each event to the Compliance Officer by 4pm on the Thursday before the gala is due to take place, in the format of a HyTek entry file.
- 10.8 Late and/or incomplete submission of team entry file will result in a 12 gala point deduction for the relevant club.

Ineligible swimmers – declarations to the Referee

- 10.9 Ineligible swimmers that need to be declared include:
- (a) swimmers not included on the club team eligibility list;
 - (b) over age swimmers; and
 - (c) swimmers competing in too many individual events.
- 10.10 Teams swimming one or more ineligible swimmers must declare them to the referee at the relevant gala within the following timescales:
- (a) preferably prior to the start of the gala; and
 - (b) in any event by no later than the start of the event following the event in which the breach took place.
- 10.11 If a team does not declare an ineligible swimmer within the timescales set out in Rule 10.10 above the team will be deducted the following League points in relation to the round in which the breach took place:
- (a) one League point in rounds 1 and 2; and
 - (b) 2 League points in round 3.
- 10.12 Where possible the results of affected galas will be restated.

Notification of League point(s) deduction and right of appeal

- 10.13 Any breach(es) which may result in the deduction of one or more League points shall be notified by the Compliance Officer (or other committee member) to the offending club prior to the publication of the League results for the round in which the breach took place.
- 10.14 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.

11. GALA DRAWS

- 11.1 **Round 1** – The draw 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.
- 11.2 **Round 2** - 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.

- 11.3 **Round 3** - Winners and consolation galas are held in each division. In divisions other than the lowest the winners gala is of six teams.
- 11.4 Division 1 shall comprise 12 teams. The number of teams in divisions 2 and 3 shall be decided by the Management Committee depending upon the number of teams entered and pool availability.

12. POINTS SYSTEM

Gala points¹

- 12.1 In each event gala points will be awarded per place with first place receiving 6 points, second place receiving 5 points etc. with no points being awarded in the event of a disqualification.
- 12.2 In the event of a tie the points will be shared.
- 12.3 In a gala that has less than or more than 6 teams the points system will be adjusted to accommodate them.
- 12.4 Gala position is based on the highest number of gala points.
- 12.5 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.

League points

- 12.6 League points for a team will be 6 points for first place, 5 points for second place etc in rounds 1 and 2.
- 12.7 A bonus of 11 league points will be given to each team competing in the third round winners gala.
- 12.8 League points for a team will be 12 points for first place, 10 points for second place etc in round 3.
- 12.9 League position is based on:
- (a) highest number of League points;
 - (b) highest number of gala points; and
 - (c) number of first places, number of second places etc.
- 12.10 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 gala².
- 12.11 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.

13. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

- 13.1 The bottom two teams in division 1 and 2 shall be relegated by one division.
- 13.2 The top two teams in divisions 2 and 3 shall be promoted by one division.

¹ **NOTE** the potential gala point deductions in Rules 8.3 (failure to provide Officials) and 10.8 (late and/or incomplete team entry file).

² In addition to incurring a failure to attend fee.

- 13.3 In the event that Rule 13.5 is invoked, the Executive Council shall have the power to set aside Rules 13.1 and 13.2 in order to maintain the optimum numbers of teams competing in higher divisions.
- 13.4 In the event of joint placings, the team with the highest number of first places in all rounds enters the higher division.
- 13.5 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.

14. AWARDS

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

15. MATTERS NOT COVERED BY THESE RULES

Any matter not covered by these Rules, which occurs 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 Regulations and Technical Rules, whose decision shall be final.

APPENDIX A - MAJOR LEAGUE

AGE GROUPS, STROKES AND DISTANCE

Age groups:

9-11 years old - swimmers can be aged from 9 years old up to and including 11 years old.

9-13 years old – swimmers can be aged from 9 years old up to and including 13 years old.

9-15 years old – swimmers can be aged from 9 years old up to and including 15 years old.

9 years and over – swimmers can be aged 9 years old with no maximum age.

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
	9-11	Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Relay Mixed 4x50m Medley Relay
	9-13	Girls 4x50m Medley Relay Boys 4x50m Medley Relay Girls 4x50m Freestyle Relay Boys 4x50m Freestyle Relay
	9-15	Girls 4x50m Medley Relay Boys 4x50m Medley Relay Girls 4x50m Freestyle Relay Boys 4x50m Freestyle Relay
	9 and Over	Girls 4x50m Medley Relay Boys 4x50m Medley Relay Girls 4x50m Freestyle Relay Boys 4x50m Freestyle Relay
	Squadron	8x50m Freestyle

MAJOR LEAGUE RELAY GUIDANCE NOTES:

- **9-11 yrs Relays**
2 x 9-11-year-old Girls
2 x 9-11-year-old Boys
- **9-13, 9-15 and 9 and Over**
Boys Relays – 4 boys
Girls Relays – 4 Girls
Swimmers may swim up an age group but may NOT swim down an age group
- **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
1x9 & over boy; 1x9 & over girl – Can swim in any order

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
	9-11	Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Relay Mixed 4x50m Medley Relay
	9-13	Mixed 4x50m Medley Relay Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Relay
	9-15	Mixed 4x50m Medley Relay Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Relay
	9 and Over	Mixed 4x50m Medley Relay Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Relay
	Squadron	8x50m Freestyle

Major League Relay Guidance Notes Division 2

- 9-11yrs Relays
2x 9-11-year-old Girls
2x 9-11-year-old boys
- 9-13
2 x 9-13-year-old Girls
2 x 9-13-year-old Boys
- 9-15
2 x 9-15-year-old Girls
2 x 9-15-year-old Boys
- 9 and Over
2 x 9 and over Girls
2 x 9 and over Boys
- **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
1x9 & over boy; 1x9 & over girl – Can swim in any order

APPENDIX B - PEANUTS LEAGUE

AGE GROUPS, STROKES AND DISTANCE

Age groups:

9years age group- swimmers must be a minimum age of 9 years old by round 3. Swimmers can be 8 years old and up to 9 years old if the swimmer reaches the age of 9 years old by round 3.

9-10years – swimmers can be age 9 years old up to and including 10 years old.

9-11years – swimmers can be 9 years old up to and including 11 years old.

9-12years – swimmers can be 9 years old up to and including 12 years old.

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
	9years	Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Mixed 4x50m Medley
	9-10	Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Mixed 4x50m Medley
	9-11	Girls 4x50m Medley Relay Boys 4x50m Medley Relay Girls 4x50m Freestyle Relay Boys 4x50m Freestyle Relay
	9-12	Girls 4x50m Medley Relay Boys 4x50m Medley Relay Girls 4x50m Freestyle Relay Boys 4x50m Freestyle Relay
	Squadron	8x50m Freestyle

PEANUTS LEAGUE RELAY GUIDANCE NOTES:

- **9yrs and 9-10yrs Mixed Relays**
4 swimmers either male or female

- **9-10, 9-11 and 9-12 Relays**
Boys Relays – 4 boys
Girls Relays – 4 Girls
Swimmers may swim up an age group but may NOT swim down an age group

- **Squadron:**
2x9yr old swimmers (either male or female)
2x10yr old swimmers (either male or female)
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.

PEANUTS LEAGUE	AGE GROUP	INDIVIDUAL EVENTS
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
	9years	Mixed 4x25m Freestyle Mixed 4x25m Medley
	9-10	Mixed 4x25m Freestyle Mixed 4x25m Medley
	9-11	Mixed 4x50m Medley Relay Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Relay
	9-12	Mixed 4x50m Medley Relay Mixed 4x50m Freestyle Relay
	Squadron	8x25m Freestyle

PEANUTS LEAGUE RELAY GUIDANCE NOTES:

- 9yrs and 9-10yrs Mixed Relays
4 swimmers either male or female

- 9-11 and 9-12 Relays
2 x Girls and 2xBoys
Swimmers may swim up an age group but may NOT swim down an age group

- **Squadron:**
2x9yr old swimmers (either male or female)
2x10yr old swimmers (either male or female)
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.