

THE KENT JUNIOR LEAGUE

RULES

1. LEAGUE

The League shall be called The Kent Junior League and the League Galas. The League shall be run and galas shall be held in accordance with Swim England Law and Swim England Technical Rules. The League shall be comprised of clubs with their headquarters in the County of Kent (both in Kent Rural SA and Kent London SA) or in close proximity to Kent, and shall be affiliated to Swim England South East Region or Swim England London Region.

Applications to join the League shall be made in writing and can be received at any time. All reasonable endeavours will be made to include that club at the earliest opportunity.

2. AIM

The objective of the League is to provide for as many clubs as possible, to participate in friendly, well organised competition to encourage club teamwork and to licence the galas to at least Level 4.

3. MANAGEMENT

The League shall be managed by an Executive Committee, elected annually at the AGM, consisting of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Any contingency not covered by the Rules shall be referred to the Executive Committee for interpretation and decision. If there is a dispute it shall be handled in accordance with the Swim England Guidelines.

4. AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held in November or December at a venue decided by the Committee. At the AGM, the accounts shall be put before the participating clubs for approval. The financial year shall end on 31 October.

At least 5 weeks' notice will be given to clubs of the date of the AGM.

5. RULES AND PROGRAMME CHANGES

The rules and programme can only be changed where there is a two-thirds majority of those voting members present at the AGM, in favour of the change.

Any proposals for changes to the programme shall be received by the League Secretary no later than 3 weeks before the date of the AGM. Any proposed revisions shall be agreed by the participating clubs at the AGM.

Any proposals from participating clubs for additions, deletions or alterations to the rules must be sent to the League Secretary, to be received no later than 3 weeks before the date of the AGM, for distribution to all participating clubs with the notice of the AGM.

Final notices, with details of any proposals, will be issued no later than 2 weeks before the date of the AGM.

6. CLUB REPRESENTATION

Two representatives per club may attend the AGM.

7. VOTING

There will be one vote per club at the AGM.

8. SUBSCRIPTION

An annual subscription, to be decided by the League Treasurer, in conjunction with the Chairman and the League Secretary, will be advised to clubs and must be paid to the Treasurer by each Club no later than 8 weeks before the first competition of each year.

9. CARE

Participating clubs shall be responsible for all aspects of care for their members, including the provision of suitable poolside staff to supervise the swimmers.

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10. COMPETING AGE GROUPS

Ages to be at 31st December in year of competition.

The competing age groups are:-

10 years & under	11 years & under
12 years & under	13 years & under

For individual events, 9 year olds can only swim up one age group.

11. COMPETITION RESTRICTIONS

Each swimmer to compete in a maximum of four individual events, with a maximum of two in their age group with the exception of 13 years & under swimmers who can swim in a maximum of 3 individual events in their age group.

12. NON-PARTICIPATION

Any club unable to attend a gala shall advise the League Secretary and shall pay £5 to the League Secretary to cover the cost involved in replacing the team. If a replacement team cannot be found, they shall pay one fifth of the total entrance money collected, or a minimum of £100 to the sponsoring club.

13. GALA SPONSORSHIP

Each club shall take its turn at hosting the galas. The host club is to be responsible for the following:-

- 13.1. Paying for the hire of the pool, retaining the entrance money and running a raffle to reimburse them. In the event that a host club has made reasonable endeavours to cover gala costs, but still makes demonstrable losses, then they are able to apply to the KJL Secretary within one month of the gala date with a breakdown of their finances. They can seek reimbursement of the losses up to a maximum value of £100, or alternative figure as may be notified to all clubs at least one month prior to any gala date by the KJL Secretary.
- 13.2. Supplying all non-qualified volunteers necessary for the smooth running of each gala - announcer, at least two recorders, drinks distribution, runners etc. Each participating club shall be responsible for appointing at least three officials. An official fully qualified to at least J1 and two J1's in Training or above who have passed their Timekeeper assessment. The host club will communicate with other participating clubs as needed to ensure that at least one J2S or above and one J2 is volunteered from either their own resources or from the other participating clubs, as part of their commitment above, so as to ensure licensing requirements are met. If any difficulty is being encountered the host club is to alert the KJL Secretary, with at least two weeks' notice, so assistance can be given to find remedy.
- 13.3. Printing of programmes - copies of which should be sent to the participating clubs at least four weeks before the event.
- 13.4. Supplying and distributing results sheets to the participating clubs and the League Secretary either immediately after the event, or within a few days.

14. ELIGIBILITY

Any competitor having swum for one club in the League will be ineligible to swim for another club in the League in the current year of competition - 1st January to 31st December. Every swimmer participating in the League shall have joined the club he/she represents and appropriately registered for the competition.

15. REGISTRATION OF SWIMMERS

Clubs shall register swimmers eligible to swim in the League with the Secretary before the date of the first gala and any additional swimmers prior to subsequent galas. In the case of clubs with A, B and C teams in the League, A, B and C teams are interchangeable but not within the same round. A separate list for each team will be lodged with the League Secretary in the normal way before the first round.

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16. PROMOTION/RELEGATION

There are currently no divisions in the League.

17. COMPOSITION OF THE LEAGUE AND GALA DRAW

17.1. GALA DRAW

There will be three rounds in each year, which will be scheduled using the Executive's best endeavours to minimise clashes with other Championships or Leagues.

For the first two rounds, the teams will be drawn on a geographical basis based on pool availability using the Executive's best endeavours. The Executive will also aim to ensure that not all the same clubs compete against each other in Rounds 1 and 2.

Each individual gala will be run on a mini-competition basis, using the gala points system below for the first two rounds.

For the purposes of the League, league points will be awarded as detailed below to determine league positions after Rounds 1 and 2, and eventually the draw for the Round 3.

17.2. GALA POINTS

Points scoring for each event at a gala.

The 1st placed team shall score points equal to the number of teams competing and each subsequent place will score points reduced by 1, down to 1 point for last position. 0 points to be scored for 'no swimmer' or a disqualification. (Therefore, if 7 teams those coming first will score 7 points, if 6 teams those coming first will score 6 gala points).

In the case of a dead heat in a race, both teams will receive the same, averaged, points for the place they achieved. For example, if two lanes dead heat for 1st place in a six-team gala, then both should receive 5½ points and the 3rd place 4 points, as usual.

17.3. LEAGUE POINTS - ROUNDS 1 & 2

The results from all teams in Round 1 will be put into a virtual gala recording file with as many teams competing in the virtual gala as there are in the League.

Each event will be scored in similar manner to the gala points system above. The winner of each event shall score points equal to the number of teams competing in the League and each subsequent place will score points reduced by 1, down to 1 point for last position. 0 points to be scored for 'no swimmer' or a disqualification.

Once all events are scored then the overall winning team from Round 1 will receive the same number of league points equal to the number of teams competing in the League and each subsequent place will score points reduced by 1, down to 1 point for last position.

The same process will apply for Round 2.

The total league points after Round 2 shall be used to rank and draw the teams for the final round.

In the event of a tie for league points after Round 2, the total number of gala points scored in Rounds 1 and 2 will be taken into account. If there is a tie on the total gala points then the total number of first places etc. will determine the League positions.

17.4. LEAGUE POINTS - FINAL ROUND

The number of galas in the final round will depend on the pools booked, the total number of teams and the number of lanes in each pool. The Executive will use its best endeavours to ensure that there is no more than one lane empty in a six-lane pool.

The total league points after Round 2 shall be used to rank and draw the teams for the final round as follows.

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Each gala will be an outright competition for respective league positions.

Gala A	The 5 to 8 teams gaining the highest total of league points after Round 2. These teams will be in competition for league positions 1 to 5 (or 6, 7, 8).
Gala B	The next 5 to 8 teams gaining the next highest total of league points after Round 2. These teams will be in competition for the next 5 to 8 league positions.
Gala C	The next 5 to 8 teams gaining the next highest total of league points after Round 2. These teams will be in competition for the next 5 to 8 league positions.

This draw process will continue for as many galas as are needed for the number of teams competing in that year.

18. TEAM LATE ARRIVAL

In the event of a club arriving late a gala will be held back, at the discretion of the Referee, for a maximum of 15 minutes.

November 2023

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ADDITIONAL RULES FOR LICENSING

ADDITIONAL RULES TO ALLOW THE LEAGUE TO BE LICENSED (IN A SIMILAR MANNER TO NASL)

- i. The Subscription already paid, no later than 8 weeks before the first competition each year (see 8 above), will be modified as may be decided upon by a vote at the AGM following, to reflect any adjustments needed to make sure costs and risks are shared as equitably as possible between participating clubs and that the League has necessary funds.
- ii. The Executive Committee will be assisted by additional persons as necessary to form a Working Group to assist in the processes involved in running the league to licensed requirements. This Working Group to consist of volunteers who have put their names forward in writing to the Executive Committee or volunteer in person at the AGM. Executive shall decide on who and how many to take onto the Working Group.
- iii. The League Secretary will arrange for the League to be licensed and for each gala in each round to be licensed to at least Level 4 and the participating teams in each gala for Round 1 to be notified to Licensing as may be required.
- iv. The League Secretary will either "reserve" pool venues in advance for all galas in all rounds, or liaise with the Working Group or any volunteer host clubs, to ensure this is achieved. In due course, the volunteer host clubs will take over and pay for the pool bookings.
- v. The League Treasurer will arrange for the licensing fees to be paid to Swim England as required for each gala.
- vi. The League Secretary will advise Licensing, as may be required, of the team draw for each subsequent gala in each round within a week of the previous round.
- vii. Each host club will communicate at least 1 week before each gala with the other teams in their gala who their host "gala manager" is and to whom team sheets are to be emailed (see below).
- viii. Each club will agree to provide a formal, robust and checked team sheet to their host "club manager" at least 24 hours before each gala, in a format determined and pro forma provided by the Executive Committee, and will include the following details as a minimum for every swimmer in every event (as recorded with Swim England):
 - a. Name
 - b. Date of Birth
 - c. SE Number
- ix. Any changes to team sheets will be notified to the host club of each gala before the warm up starts and using pro forma forms provided by the Executive Committee. Any changes after that time risk that change not being formally recorded and the result from that event / swimmer not going to Rankings.
- x. Each club will agree to provide a formal, robust and checked list of officials to their host "club manager" at least 24 hours before each gala, in a format determined and pro forma provided by the Executive Committee, and will include the following details as a minimum for every official:
 - a. Name
 - b. SE Number
 - c. Level of qualification
- xi. If insufficient effort is deemed to have been made by any club to find officials the club will be fined £25 as may be determined by the Executive Committee.
- xii. The host club will diligently record the results of the gala in the format determined by the Executive Committee of the League and undertake some basic checking.
- xiii. The host club will submit the results of each gala the League Secretary within 24 hours and also report any concerns they have about the accuracy or robustness of any of the data (after some attempts as possible to remedy any matters).

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- xiv. The Secretary has option to enquire how to best remedy any inaccuracy of the gala data and, if it concerns particular teams, will report that concern to any offending teams. If the issue is not quickly resolvable, bearing in mind the strict time limit for results to be submitted to Rankings, the Secretary has right to remove all offending data and potentially one or more Clubs entire swim results prior to submitting to Rankings.
- xv. In extreme cases the entire gala results may be voided from submission to Rankings.