

# Ashton Central Swimming Club



## Swimming Gala Information

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This document is intended as a guide for parents of swimmers and swimmers who are members of Ashton Central Swimming Club.

### **Definitions:-**

1. *"Team Galas" where the club competes as a team against other clubs in Leagues or Friendly galas.*
2. *"Open Galas" where the swimmer competes individually in licensed meets, supported by a team manager or coach.*
3. *"Badge galas" where swimmers swim to beat their previous times in the various strokes.*
4. *"Distance swimming" where swimmers swim as far as they can in 2 hours and received badges*
5. *"Club Championships" which are held annually in October/November. All swimmers over the age of 7 are encouraged to enter.*
6. *"Mini Gala" which is held annually in October/November for ages 4 to 8 in groups up to and including E group (if not entering the Club Championships)*

## **1. TEAM GALAS**

Ashton Central Swimming Club is committed to developing all swimmers into the **competitive** arena of swimming.

The club achieves this by, entering a number of events within the swimming associations that cater for varying standards of swimmers. This gives swimmers the experience so they can move onto individual competitions or Open events with support from the club at the poolside.

Below are the team events entered this year:

- i) Bolton and District Mini League
- ii) Central Lancashire Junior Jubilee
- iii) Wigan swim development galas

### **How the team is selected for team events?**

The team manager selects the team approximately 2 weeks before a gala and will contact the swimmer as soon as practicable.

The first thing to know is that particularly in team events age is calculated to dates specific to that League. The mini league is age on the 31st December of that year, however the Junior Jubilee is age on the day, for this reason the team may change frequently throughout the league heats.

The second thing the team manager looks at is, what is the level of that league. They may select a team that is competitive at that league "A" team, or a team that also includes newer swimmers.

The Swim Development Gala and early rounds of the Bolton and District Mini League are used to assess swimmers and allow all swimmers to compete for the club. The club would class the teams selected for these galas to be the "B" team.

Swimmers are expected to train hard in an attempt to swim for the club "A" team. All club swimmers are included in selection processes for the "A" team but the fastest swimmers would be selected for this team where available.

Swimmers may be asked to swim up in an age group or swim events that may be the swimmer's weaker stroke or event. If this is done this is in the best interest of the team and takes into account the swimmers ability.

The competitions that the "A" team will be selected for is the semi finals and finals of the Mini League, and the Junior Jubilee

In the competitions swimmers may be asked to swim up an age groups or swim events that may be the swimmers weakest event. When this is done the team manager makes the selection in the best interests of the team and takes into account the swimmers ability.

The team manager also attempts to select swimmers for the same event but on occasions this cannot be achieved and therefore some reserve swimmers may be selected to swim.

In order to ensure that the most appropriate swimmer is selected for a particular stroke, swimmers times are reviewed throughout the year. Times are collected from; open competitions; annual club championships; badge galas; competitive galas, time trials.

It is an honour to represent the club, so swimmers must make every effort to be available. Failure to attend galas when selected and not informing the team manager of your unavailability will be taken into account on future selections.

Acceptable reasons for not taking part in a team galas when collected are

- the swimmer is participating in an open gala
- illness or prearranged commitments e.g. holidays, school exams, family events

If you have any further questions please contact the team manager and he will explain the rationale for selection.

At team galas it is expected that all swimmers must either stay on poolside or return to poolside once they are changed for the end of the gala. This not only shows respect for swimmers in their team but for the opposing teams also.

Once that gala is over and the scores are collated we, as a team do the 3 cheers, led by the team captains to congratulate the swimmers on the opposing teams for their competition.

It is important to be at the pool 15-30 minutes before warm up to ensure the swimmer has time to get changed and be ready to swim the warm up. If team galas are a distance away then a coach will be ordered to transport the team. A small charge is made for travel.

### **i) Bolton & District Mini League**

#### *A Team*

1. Fastest swimmer on stroke of that age, or may include swimmers from a younger age group (Please be aware that eligible ages can change throughout the year / competition)
2. Swimmers will only swim up if competition rules allow and it is beneficial to team.
3. Swimmers will only swim a maximum of 3 swims (2 individual & Canon) in B & D mini league

The maximum number of swims will only change if shortage of swimmers available or swimmers fail to turn up.

### **ii) Central Lancashire Junior Jubilee**

#### *A/B Team*

*Same as above, plus*

4. 4/5 swims in Central Lancashire Junior Jubilee

The maximum number of swims will only change if a shortage of swimmers available or when swimmers fail to attend.

### **iii) Wigan District Galas**

#### *B Team*

The clubs in Wigan Borough swim against one another allowing swimmers who would not normally be chosen to swim in team galas to swim in a local arena. The clubs in the area have been approached to swim these friendly galas.

Each club hosts a home gala. On occasions it may be necessary to ask elite swimmers to swim. In this case they may be asked to swim up an age group. These galas are for 9 to 16 year olds

Volunteers are required for on the door.

## **2 Open Meets**

The team manager recommends several open meets each year that the swimmers will attend. These are sent out by text message to the parents of swimmers who are of the correct ability to enter.

Open Meets are licensed at level 1, 2, 3 & 4 by the amateur swimming association and are "open" to swimmers from any Club.

- Level 1 is the highest, aimed at swimmers looking to achieve National Qualifying Times.
- Level 2 is aimed at Regional Qualifying Times.
- Level 3 is for club swimmers who are seeking County Qualifying Times.
- Level 4 is for club championships.

Each level usually has different entry criteria including Qualifying Times and Upper Limit Times. These are times set by the organisers to control the number of entries.

A Qualifying Time is the time that a swimmer must have already achieved in order to enter the competition.

However, most meets have an Upper Time Limit for each event too. This means that swimmers who have previously achieved times faster than the ULT are also eligible to enter that event. Often in level 3 galas the organisers will accept a time achieved outside the licensed gala structure. This allows novice swimmers to enter their first galas and assist them in getting County times.

The team manager will ask for the relevant form to be completed and will register the entry with the entry manager. Payment for entry is necessary as this is not included in Ashton Central Swimming fees.

Parents need to provide transport to the pool and the swimmer needs to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the gala. When the swimmer arrives they need to place the entry card in the entry box as soon as possible as late entries are excluded from competing. Parents are not allowed on the poolside except if they have been nominated to be poolside helpers.

Most open galas are split into two session with separate warm ups for each. Most are ranked in order of the swimmers entry time. The event is then swum in heats starting with the slowest times irrespective of age. As a result it is unlikely that a

swimmer will be completely outclassed or completely outclass the other swimmers in their particular heat.

Once the event is completed the recorded times are sorted and the swimmers sorted into age groups and the results posted. This is when the swimmer finds out their place. Trophies and medals are awarded.

### **3. Badge Galas**

Badge galas are swum in club pool time and occur 4 times a year. They are open to any swimmer in D group or above. In these galas the swimmers compete against their own times, aiming to achieve times at Dolphin, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond levels on each stroke. Swimmers must achieve two times (three in front crawl) in each of the stroke/ levels to achieve a badge. Swimmers will be given their own Badge Gala Cards to keep when they attend their first gala. The card should then be brought to all subsequent galas.

Swimmers should bring a drink (non fizzy), 2 towels, t-shirt and shorts to wear between races. A nominal fee is charged for the badges.

### **4.Distance Swims**

This is run in the club pool time and occurs once a year for A,B,C and D group (in December) and twice a year for E and below. The swimmer swims their preferred stroke or a mixture of strokes. The aim is to see how far the swimmer can swim in 2 hours (1 hour for E group and below). The lengths are counted by the parent/carer and submitted to the teacher present. Badges are awarded for specified number of lengths. A nominal fee is charged for the badges.

### **5. Club Championships**

This competition is usually held in October/November, at an alternative pool with a good viewing area for parent/ carers to observe. All swimmers in E group and above are encouraged to participate in the championships.

These swimmers are divided into events according to the swimmers times in each event. When all the times have been collated they are divided into ages and the positions become evident.

Awards are given to all swimmers who enter the gala and are presented at the annual presentation evening which is held at a nearby venue/ hall.

## **6. Mini Gala**

This competition is held in club time on a Friday evening annually in October/November. All swimmers in the 'learn to swim' groups up to and including E group are eligible to attend. However, swimmers in E group or above can attend the Club Championships. Speak to your child's coach if you are unsure.

The gala is meant to be an enjoyable experience for the swimmers and a chance to swim against the other swimmers in a relaxed environment.

Swimmers swim in ability groups, not in ages. Every swimmer will receive a medal which will be awarded on the night.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT TO BRING TO THE GALA**

### ***SWIMMER***

Swimming costume/trunks  
2 pairs of goggles  
Ashton Central Swimming Club hat  
Ashton Central Swimming Club t-shirt  
Poolside shoes, flip-flops or similar  
Drink  
Snacks  
Tracksuit/shorts  
2 towels

### ***PARENTS***

Wear layers as spectator areas get warm  
Drinks  
Food  
Pen and paper  
Cash, as there is usually an entry fee  
Coach fare (if applicable)  
Support and encourage your child

