

Open Meets Explained.

What are Open Meets?

Any swimmer that is registered with the ASA and is a member of a swim club can enter a competition held at another club. A swimmer can go independently (usually with agreement of the coach) or with a group from the club.

An Open meet is where a swimmer competes against the clock with swimmers of a similar ability. The winner of the event is the fastest swimmer overall and not each heat.

These are competitions where Club swimmers enter individually using their previously achieved personal best time for each stroke and distance. Normally Coaches will select the stroke/distance they want a swimmer to enter to help in their personal development. These may not necessarily be either the swimmers favourite or best events. The types of Meet vary according to the capability of the swimmers. The ASA have a licensing system of 4 categories which have been designed to broaden the range of competition available to swimmers.

Briefly the four categories are described as follows:

License 1

These are the highest grade of Open Meet designed for swimmers of National Standard and above. There has to be a 'lower qualifying times' (no slower than) but there is 'no upper qualifying times (no faster than). Times achieved at these Meets can be used for qualification to Nationals, Regional and County competition.

License 2

These Meets have both 'lower qualifying times' and 'upper qualifying times' although this is usually much faster than a national qualifying time and therefore not normally are restriction to

entry. The 'lower qualifying times' however can vary considerably from Meet to Meet. Times achieved at these competitions can be used for qualification to Nationals, Regional and County competition.

License 3

License 3 Meets have 'upper qualifying times' but not necessarily a 'lower qualifying time'.

The cut-off can be anything up to a National Standard. Times achieved at these Meets can be used for qualification to County competitions.

License 4

Intended for club swimmers and those beginning to enter individual open competition. These meets must have an advertised upper qualifying time. Electronic timing is not compulsory, although preferred. Times achieved at these meets may be used for entry into meets at levels two and three and into County Championships.

In summary, Qualification Times:

For Counties – times need to be achieved between 1st June – January of the following year.

Times from any competition count.

For Regionals- times need to be achieved between October 1st – Mid May the following year.

Times from Levels 1, 2, 3 only.

For Nationals- times need to be achieved between October 1st -Mid June the following year .

Times from Levels 1 & 2 and BAGCAT * Championships (Regionals)

*BAGCATS refers to the British Age Group Categories. It is a method employed to adjust times according to age.