



# Swim Ireland Meet Licencing Programme

Updated August 2024

## Introduction

The Swim Ireland Meet Licencing Programme is a programme of classification of Swim Meets designed to ensure that all swimmers can swim in competitions which are specific to their ability and that competitions of relevant levels are run to a uniform standard.

There are five levels of licence ranging from Level 1, which is typically a club gala where the emphasis is on participation and fun, up to Level 5 which are National Championship events.

The programme is designed to help support the national calendar planning process and support the Long-Term Athlete Development Pathway in terms of competition and training. Meet Licencing is coordinated regionally and overseen by a national coordinator.

## Levels of Licence

The type of competition, minimum age of competitors and the relevance of the times achieved will determine the level of licence required. For example:

**Level 1** is a fun gala where the emphasis is on participation, no electronic timing is needed and only the Referee needs to be a trained technical official. The times from this type of gala could not be used to qualify for a national event. A typical Level 1 Gala is a Club fundraiser or inter-club gala.

**Level 2** are entry level competitive Meets such as Club Invitational/Open and Regional Future Challenger Series, they are used to qualify for Level 3 events. They require full or semi-automatic timing and a minimum of 4 Licensed Officials

**Level 3** are the next level of competitive meets such as regional Aspiring Champions Series/Schools meets and some Club Invitational/Open Meets. Applications can only be made where higher requirements are met, such as full electronic timing and a National Referee in attendance. Licences granted at this level will be **extremely limited** and will be down to the discretion of the Regional Competitions Committee and Swim Ireland. Times will qualify for Level 4 and 5 events. Long Course Level 3 Meets require more officials than Short Course Level 3 Meets. **The Part 1 should be applied for no later than 3 months prior to the date of the gala. This allows sufficient time to review and deal with any queries raised by Pathway and/or Competitions and still enable a Provisional License to be issued in time for the club to issue their paperwork.**

**Level 4** have much higher requirements and are typically Regional Championship Meets. There must be 7 qualified officials and full electronic timing. Times from a Level 4 Meet can be used for qualification for Meets such as the Irish Open Championships.

**Level 5** are National Championship events, run in accordance with WA requirements for such events.

**For a detailed explanation of each licence please see the table on the reverse**

In the case of Level 2 and Level 3 Licence applications, the relevant Regional Competitions Committee will be consulted if there is a clash of dates in a Region where two Clubs have applied for Licences to hold events on the same date. In general, only one Licence will be granted within a Region for a particular date and therefore it is important that Clubs engage in the calendar planning process within their Region before the season starts.

All Clubs must apply for a Licence before issuing the paperwork for the event and the paperwork must specify the level of the Licence and how the times achieved can be used. **For the 2024/2025 Season no times will be entered onto the National Database until all Meet paperwork has been submitted by the organisers after the Meet and all the conditions of the Licence have been satisfied.** Only times entered onto the National Database will be accepted for entry to National Meets so there is an onus on the organisers to ensure that they are operating within the conditions of the Licence.

**Table 1 – Levels of Meet Licence**

Level	Type of Meet	Age Groups	Timing System	Minimum Licenced Officials	Qualification
<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Intra/Inter-club GALA/Skills Challenge Emphasis on FUN</b> It is recommended that participation medal/awards be given rather than medals for 1,2,3. The focus is on 25m events and clubs may consider awarding points for clubs based on finishing positions	Aged 7 upwards	No electronic timing needed	A Referee licensed to at least National Judge or higher must be in attendance	Times will be recorded by Clubs only and will not be entered onto National Database
<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Club Invitational/Open Meet</b> <b>Regional Future Challenger Series</b> These are entry level competitive Meets and in the main will be qualifying events and will allow swimmers to qualify for Regional Qualifying and Regional Championship Meets.	Aged 9 upwards (Club) and 10-12 (Regional)	Full or semi-automatic timing MUST be in operation	<b>Minimum of 4 Licensed Officials</b> Referee & Starter - who must be licensed to at least National Judge or higher and 2 Judges who must hold at least a Probationary* Licence	Times can be used to qualify for Level 3 and Regional Championship Meets but will <b>only be accepted and recorded on the National Database when ALL Meet paperwork has been submitted after the Meet and all the conditions of the licence have been satisfied</b>
<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Club Invitational/Open Meet</b> <b>Regional Aspiring Champions Meets</b> <b>Regional Schools Meet</b> In certain <b>LIMITED</b> circumstances applications can be made for a Level 3 Licence which will allow the times achieved to be used for entry to Level 4 and 5 Meets. The Regional Competitions Committee and Swim Ireland <b>MUST</b> give prior approval before an application to run a Level 3 Meet will be granted.	Aged 9 upwards (Club/School) and 13 upwards (Regional)	Full Electronic timing MUST be in operation	<b>Short Course Meets - Minimum of 4 Licensed Officials – Long Course Meets – Minimum of 6 Licensed Officials</b> 1 National Referee 1 Starter - who must be licensed to at least National Judge or higher <b>and</b> 2 Judges who must hold at least a Probationary Licence <b>– in the case of a Long Course Meet this will be 4 Judges</b>	Times can be used to qualify for Level 4 & Level 5 Meets but will <b>only be accepted and recorded on the National Database when ALL Meet paperwork has been submitted after the Meet and all the conditions of the licence have been satisfied</b>
<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Regional Age Group &amp; Senior LC Championships</b> <b>Regional SC Championships</b> <b>Irish Minor Schools Championships</b> <b>Schools Inter-pro</b>	Aged 12 upwards (except Irish Minor Schools) Aged 13 Upwards Regional SC	Full Electronic timing MUST be in operation	<b>Minimum of 7 Licensed Officials</b> 1 National Referee 1 additional Referee, 1 Starter and 2 Judges who must all be licensed to at least National Judge or higher plus 2 Judges who must hold at least a Probationary Licence	Times can be used for Level 5 Meets (subject to qualification windows) but will <b>only be accepted and recorded on the National Database when ALL Meet paperwork has been submitted after the Meet and all the conditions of the licence have been satisfied.</b>
<b>Level 5</b>	<b>Irish Open Championships</b> <b>Irish Winter National Championships (25m)</b> <b>Irish Summer National Championships (50m)</b> <b>McCullagh International</b>	Aged 13 upwards (Irish SC) and 13 upwards (Irish Open) Age Groups = 12 – 14 Youth & Senior = 15 & Over	Full Electronic timing MUST be in operation	<b>Minimum of 9 Licensed Officials</b> 1 National Referee, 1 additional Referee, 1 Starter, 4 Judges who must all be licensed to at least National Judge or higher, 2 Judges who must hold at least a Probationary Licence	Times entered on National Database

\* A Probationary Judge is an individual who has attended the Swim Ireland Officials School but has not been formally assessed in the role at National level. **Note:** All Meets must have a timekeeper assigned to each lane