



ENGLISH SCHOOLS' SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales

English Schools' Swimming Association – Regulations (Effective from September 2026)

1) The Association

- a) English Schools' Swimming Association (ESSA) is a charity (Registered Charity No. 282020) governed by its constitution, which must be read in conjunction with these Regulations.
- b) ESSA is directly affiliated to Swim England and therefore are subject to and bound by relevant Swim England Articles, Company Regulations, General Regulations, Judicial Regulations and Technical Rules of the Company or any rules of Aquatics GB.

2) Interpretation of ESSA Regulations

- a) When interpretation of a ESSA Regulation or a rule governing ESSA championships is required, or when any matter arises which is not covered by ESSA Regulations, it shall be referred to the ESSA Honorary Championship Co-Ordinator whose decision shall be immediately effective.
- b) Nothing in the preceding sections shall prevent a referee or a water polo delegate deciding a protest or a Jury of Appeal deciding a protest appeal or an Appeal Committee deciding an appeal or water polo appeal based on the interpretation of the relevant Regulations or Technical Rules by that person or body.

3) Safeguarding

- a) ESSA members, whilst engaged in any swimming related activities, shall be subject to the Swim England Code of Ethics, the Regulations relating to Child Safeguarding and those parts of the Judicial Regulations necessary for their implementation and whilst engaged in activities under jurisdiction of Swim England shall be subject to all the constraints and privileges of the Judicial Regulations but, other than those for whom the appropriate Swim England membership fee has been paid, shall not receive any other benefit of Swim England membership.
- b) Except for cases where ESSA explicitly states in writing, swimmers remain under the control and supervision of the schools they represent at all ESSA competitions. The school shall ensure adequate number and approval of staff it appoints to perform this supervision.
- c) Schools shall ensure that its swimmers, team managers and other staff abide by the relevant codes of conduct for ESSA competitions

4) Photography/Video

- a) An official photographer may be used during Championship events; selected photographs may be made available for purchase from a password protected website and may be used by ESSA for promotional purposes.
- b) Championship events may be videoed; images may be streamed live to the internet and made available for later playback. Access is not password protected.
- c) Schools must make sure that parents of swimmers are made aware and any safeguarding or privacy issues raised with the organisers and/or the ESSA safeguarding officer as required on the entry details for each gala.
- d) Any child safeguarding issues that arise subsequent to the gala should be raised to the attention of the ESSA safeguarding officer at the earliest opportunity.

5) Dispute Resolution and Appeals

- a) The ESSA Events committee will appoint a Jury of Appeal for all Swimming National Championships where practicable.
- b) The ESSA Protest and Appeals Protocol will apply at all Swimming National Championships and may be applied at the relevant qualification events in the discretion of the local promoter.
- c) The ESSA Board shall have the power to appoint panels and determine their terms of reference as required to resolve disputes and appeals whether these have not been resolved by a Jury of Appeal.

6) Conflicts of Interest

- a) ESSA members shall declare to the ESSA council any conflicts as soon as practicable after any conflict is identified.

7) Application of Regulations and Rules to competitions

- a) Competitions held in England and promoted by ESSA which are not licensed under Swim England regulations shall be held under ESSA regulations and rules. ESSA regulations (this document) and ESSA Technical Rules of Swimming shall 'call in' relevant Swim England regulations and rules and may identify specific variations to suit the nature of schools swimming competition.
- b) Competitions held in England and promoted by ESSA which are licensed under Swim England regulations shall be held under Swim England Regulations and Technical Rules.

8) ESSA Technical Rules

- a) Swimming Competitions held in England and promoted by ESSA which are not licensed under Swim England regulations shall apply the ESSA Technical Rules of Swimming. These rules 'call in' relevant Swim England and World Aquatic rules and may identify specific variations to suit the nature of schools swimming competition.
- b) Water Polo and other discipline competitions held in England and promoted by ESSA shall apply the relevant discipline Swim England Technical Rules.