**Open Meets**

An open meet is run by another swimming club, and can take place over a longer period of time than other events (often a whole day or weekend rather than a single evening).

Open meet events are run in sessions, with the first session often requiring you to check in by 7:30am and the last session ending in the evening. All event details will be added to the relevant event’s page on our website as soon as they are available. Session details can also usually be found on the host club’s web site.

Please note that session timings are often not confirmed until quite close to the date of the meet.

*Tip: If you need to know timings before this, it can be worth looking at the Meet Mobile app (available on iOS and android app stores) to see the session timings used for the equivalent meet last year, as timings tend to stay the same. This is by no means guaranteed though, and shouldn’t be relied upon.*

***How are ages calculated?***

Open meets are generally “age on the day”, which is the age your swimmer will be on the last day of the event. Any swimmer who is age 9 or older can enter open meets provided they meet the entry qualification or consideration time for their age.

***Long Course or Short Course***

Details of what ‘course’ a meet is will be in the meet information pack – usually described as LC or SC. Short course meets are swum in a 25m pool (the same as Farnham leisure centre) and long course meets are swum in a 50m pool. Most meets are swum short course whilst long course meets are targeted towards regional and national standards of competition.

***Qualifying times / Upper Limit Times / Cut off Times***

A qualifying time is the time that the swimmer must have already achieved in order to enter an event at the competition.

Upper limit/cut off times are times set by a competition organiser and a swimmer must be slower than those times to be able to swim at the competition.

Qualifying times or cut off times will be included in the competition meet pack so please look out for these and check before submitting an entry for your swimmer(s).

***Open meets can be Level 1, 2 or 3***

Level 2/3: These will generally have upper time limits and *may* have lower qualifying times – swimmers must be faster than the lower limit but slower than the upper limit. These meets are usually suitable for children trying to qualify for the county/regional championships as the upper limits are normally set just above the relevant qualification times. This is a good level of competition to start at – assuming your child is not faster than the times published!

Level 1: These are the highest level of meets and only have lower qualification times – i.e. the swimmer must be faster than the entry times shown. These are suitable only for the top swimmers and are aimed at swimmers trying to obtain regional/national times.

Please see separate information sheet “What is a Level 1, 2, 3 or 4 meet?” on our website for more information on this.

***FSC participation in Meets***

During the course of the year the coaches choose which open meets the Club wishes swimmers to attend based upon the appropriate level of competition. The choice of open meet may be different for different squads. Details of the meet, such as the programme, Promoter’s Conditions and qualification times are put on the Events page of the web site.

If you are not sure which events to enter, speak to your swimmer’s coach for advice. In general, especially for inexperienced swimmers, it is advisable for the initial open meets to check which session each event is in and to choose events that will not involve: a long day, long gaps in between events, or too many races in one session.

It is advisable to submit your entries before the deadline given to you by your Events Secretary rather than on the very last day, so that any queries can be sorted out early. If you miss the deadline, your swimmer will not be able to participate.

***Accepted Entries***

Sometimes, even though your swimmer might be inside the consideration or qualifying times, their entry may not be accepted if the host club receives too many entrants. In this case the host club will reject entries starting with those nearest to the cut-off time (so if you’re rejected, check if you were near the qualifying times for that event). Usually a list of accepted entries will be sent to FSC via email and will also be available on the host club web site. Refunds will be given via FSC for rejected entries.