

## Introduction

We are delighted to be able to host our first meet since November 2019 and look forward to welcoming you all to our home pool at Mote Park.

Behind the scenes, we are working hard with the leisure centre operator to create a safe an environment as possible for everyone. Our objective has been to make the meet feel as "normal" as possible so that swimmers can perform at their best.

We are hoping that the level of restrictions in place will be minimal, and that the operation of the event will be virtually normal, but we have to have a plan to cope with any restrictions imposed by the Government, Swim England or our leisure centre operator.

Like many people, we are constantly monitoring the daily COVID statistics. If additional restrictions are to be introduced before our meet then we will update you accordingly.

## COVID - Lateral Flow Testing, Sanitiser and Face Coverings



Whether or not you have been vaccinated, all attendees are requested to confirm a negative lateral flow test within 24 hours of the meet, unless previously exempt.

Please ensure that this is registered at [GOV.UK Report COVID Test Result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid-test-result)

If you have tested positive for COVID within the last 90 days, there is no need for you to provide us with a lateral flow result. This is because the virus may still be present in your body even though you have recovered and are no longer infectious.



The use of hand sanitiser will be encouraged throughout the meet. Hand sanitiser will be available throughout the leisure centre main areas, poolside and on the spectator balcony.

The use of face coverings is encouraged for all those attending, if not previously exempt for medical reasons. Competitors need not wear face coverings when poolside.



Any swimmer who has recently recovered from COVID must have completed the required period of self-isolation and appropriate swimming training time to allow for a safe return to competition.

We are all excited to have a meet again, but there will be opportunities in the future if you are required to pull out.



**PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU FEEL UNWELL  
OUR MEASURES ARE IN PLACE TO PROTECT EVERYBODY**

## Meet Timings

We have been overwhelmed by the response we have received for our meet. We have aimed to accommodate as many swimmers as is safely possible. In order to do this, session timings for the weekend have been altered.

Maidstone Symphony Orchestra are also hosting a concert at the leisure centre on Saturday evening. In order for the centre to not exceed its user capacity from 6.00pm, we have had to bring forward our start time on this day.

Session	Event Distance	Doors Open	Warm-Up	Start	Finish
1	400m	07:25	07:40	08:00	09:25
2	100, 200m	09:10	09:25	10:30	12:30
	50m		12:30 *	12:45	13:35
3	100, 200m	13:25	13:40	14:45	17:20
	50m		17:25 *	17:40	18:40
4	400m	07:50	08:05	08:25	09:35
5	100, 200m	09:20	09:35	10:40	12:55
	50m		12:55 *	13:10	14:10
6	100, 200m	14:00	14:15	15:20	17:55
	50m		17:55 *	18:10	19:10

\* There will be a short warm-up available for swimmers who have only entered a 50m event within a session. This will not be available to swimmers who have already competed in a 100m and/or 200m event.

## Accepted and Rejected Entries

The list of accepted entries has now been published. Regrettably, we have had to reject some entries.

[Maidstone Winter Qualifier 2021.](#)

It is the competing club/swimmer's responsibility to check this list for accuracy and advise immediately of any mistakes or changes that may be required. This is much easier to do in advance of the weekend.

As per our event conditions, the rejections made have been slowest first and proportionate. We have endeavoured to ensure an equal balance of swimmers across the age groups in the oversubscribed events. "No-time" entries have only been accepted where session time limits and numbers of swimmers on the pool deck have allowed.

## Reserve List

All rejected entries, where events are oversubscribed, will be kept on a reserve list. Clubs notified of rejection should make their members aware that they will automatically be entered onto this list. The reserve list for each event applicable will be published.

Swimmers on the reserve list who wish to swim must confirm by email to [Maidstone Galas](#) no later than 5.00pm on Friday 26 November.

## Programme

The full programme will be accessible for download within 24 hours of the meet. No paper copies will be available.

## Start Lists and Results

Start lists will be made available just before the start of each session, and results will be posted after each event has been completed at [Maidstone Winter Qualifier 2021](#)

## Mobile Shops

SwimPath will be in attendance over the weekend.



## Parking

Parking is free, providing you register your car details on the machines inside the leisure centre if you are staying longer than 3 hours. Failure to do so will incur a fine.

## Food and Drink

We have now received confirmation that the leisure centre café will be open over the weekend. As well as serving hot and cold drinks, they will have a variety of pre-packaged sandwiches, salad pots, sausage rolls and snacks (crisps, flapjacks, muffins, cookies and ice-creams). They have also catered for those who are vegan.

## Spectators

We have limited the number of spectators in the balcony to 100 per session and only those who have purchased tickets in advance will be permitted entry. No standing will be allowed.

In the first round, each club was given a proportionate number of spectator tickets depending on how many swimmers they have attending in each session. This first round closes at midnight on Saturday 20 November. The second general round, which will be available from 22 November, is for the tickets not booked from the first round.

The entry fee will be £2.50 per session.

In order to facilitate safe entry and exit for all, you will note that we have published a "doors open" time and ask that you remain outside the centre until this time. The balcony will be cleared at the end of each session.

Any spectators who are staying for multiple sessions will be welcome to leave items in their seat, but will still need to leave the balcony at this time.

If you have been unsuccessful in purchasing advanced tickets then Maidstone town centre is not far away. Here you will find plenty of places to grab some refreshments whilst your children are competing.

For those with young children, there is a really nice park with an adventure playground behind the leisure centre - exit the building at the main entrance, turn right and make your way around the building.

Other places you may wish to visit in the area -

[Mote Park Outdoor Adventure](#) - ME15 7SU

[Leeds Castle](#) - ME17 1PL

[Maidstone Museum](#) - ME14 1LH

[Kent Life](#) and [Kent Owl Academy](#) - ME14 3AU

[Cobtree Manor Park](#) - ME20 7AG

[Stoneacre - National Trust](#) - ME15 8RS

## Photography

Participants and spectators are requested to follow the Swim England guidelines for photography and the use of photographs on social media. Your photography should focus on your family member(s) as much as possible and broadcasting images on social media platforms beyond your family group should be avoided.

Flash photography is prohibited at all times.

You must register your intention to use an image-capturing device at the main leisure centre reception each day, where you will be provided with a distinctive wrist band.

Image capturing devices must not be used in the changing area at any time for the purpose of taking photos.

Although not confirmed, we are hoping to have our photographer with us throughout the meet capturing the swimmers in action.

## Technical Officials

One way that you will be able to watch your swimmer compete is by volunteering to be a technical official. As always, these vital roles fall on the shoulders of a relatively small number of people.

Our officials coordinator is [Colin Booth](#)

The event requires a minimum number of officials for each session. We request that each club provides as many officials as possible. To help us cover all sessions fully, we would ask, at a minimum, that those entering more than 5 swimmers provide at least one official per session and those clubs entering 15 or more swimmers provide at least two officials per session.

If you are appropriately qualified (as a Level 3 this meet only requires you to be a J1 Trainee) then please complete the following online sign-up.

[Officials Online Sign-Up](#)

## Coaches and Team Managers

Only coaches and team managers with a poolside pass will be allowed onto the pool deck.

These passes should be worn at all times and entitle you to food and refreshments throughout the day. To avoid large numbers congregating in this room, we ask that you enjoy your food or refreshments elsewhere around the centre or poolside.

Coaches and team managers are responsible for their swimmers' conduct and safety at all times throughout the meet.

Coaches are responsible for supervising warm up.

## Competitor Withdrawals and Sign-In

If you are having to pull out of our meet prior to the weekend, your withdrawal should be notified to [Maidstone Galas](#) no later than 5.00pm on Friday 26 November.

To minimise contact, clubs will be issued with sign-in sheets which team managers or coaches must complete and return to the organisers by the start of the warm-up for each session.

There will **not** be any 'on the day' entries for this event.

## Awards

To minimise contact, there will be no medals desk. After each event, medals will be provided to each club for distribution to their swimmers.

The winning club will be awarded the perpetual trophy at the end of the meet.

## Poolside Entry and Exit

Entry and exit onto the pool deck will only be through the poolside changing facilities. Swimmers are **not** permitted to use the entrance to the pool from the main leisure centre area.

## Poolside Protocol

Further information will be provided to clubs in the week leading up to the meet.

Competitors must sit in separate groups by club. The numbers of competitors allowed for all or part of each session will be controlled on the pool deck.

Swimmers should leave poolside as soon as they have completed their final event of that session.

## Warm-Up

Details of allocated warm up lanes will be provided in the coaches packs on the day.

Please note that if swimmers are only competing in a 50m event within a session then they only need to arrive for the short warm-up which is scheduled just prior to the 50m events.

We have a handful of individual swimmers who are not coming as part of a club entry. These will also be allocated to a lane and we'd ask that coaches kindly take these swimmers under their wing during warm up.

## Swim Down Facility

A swim down facility will be available in the diving pit, adjacent to the main competition pool immediately after each swim for a brief warm down. This facility will not be available for 50m events, where the number of swimmers and turnover of heats prevents this.

Coaches are responsible for supervising their swimmers when using this facility. If swimmers are not supervised then the permission to use the facility may be withdrawn by the leisure centre. Swimmers deemed not 'swimming down' by the lifeguard on duty will be asked to leave the pool.

## Changing Rooms

The changing rooms will be in limited use :

- Please arrive in your warm-up kit
- Immediately after warm-up, you may change into your race suits
- If possible, please avoid changing between races
- You may change out of your swimming kit before leaving after your races

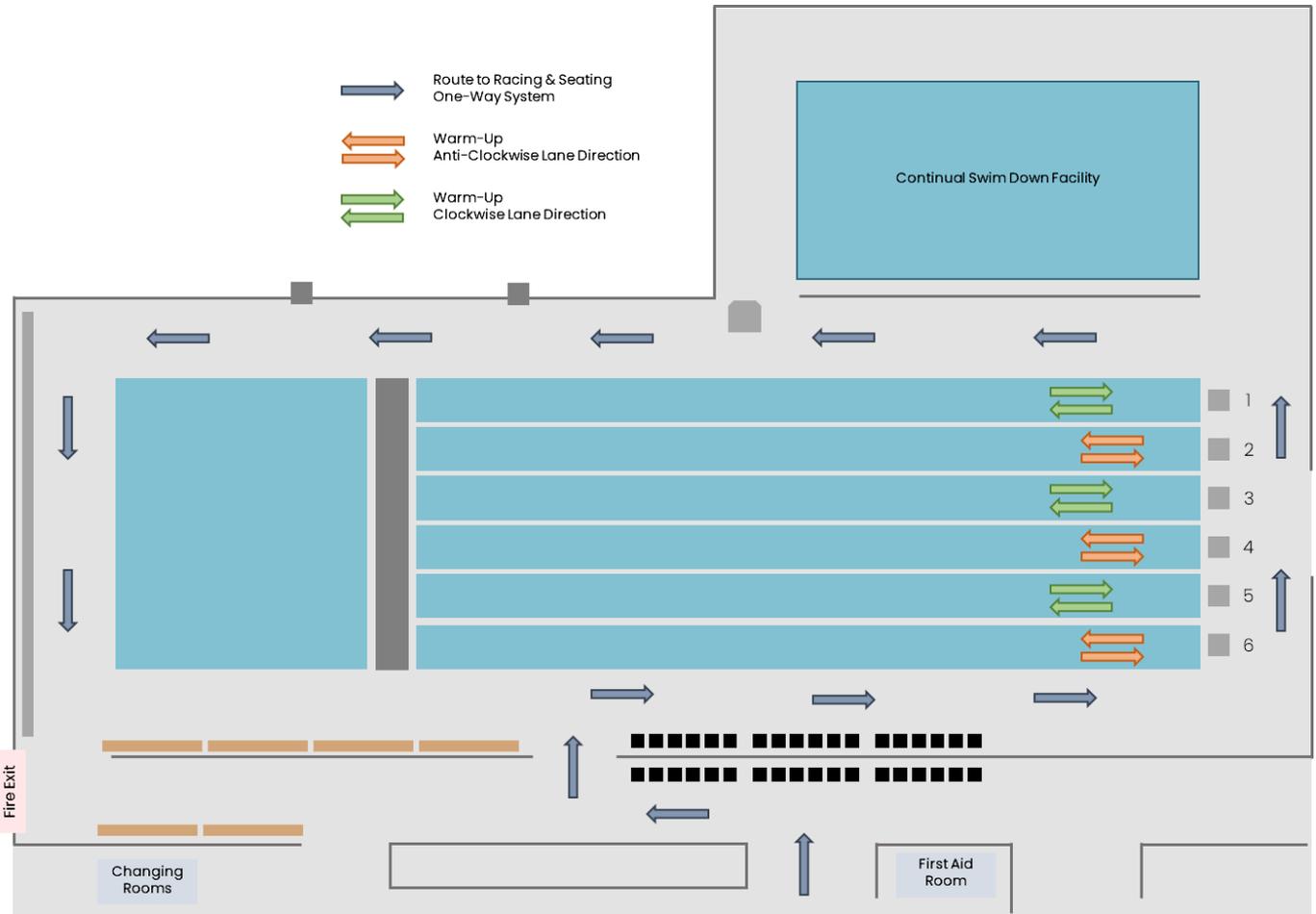
Competitors must be suitably dressed and with the appropriate footwear whilst on poolside. No outdoor shoes are allowed, unless exclusively used for the purpose of poolside shoes.

Swimmers are not allowed elsewhere in the leisure centre or in the spectator area with wet swimwear.

Those in the first event of each session may wish to be wearing their race costume to avoid panic and crowding at the end of warm up.



### Poolside One Way System



## Marshalling

Marshalling for the swimmers will be in the teaching pool area located just off the main competition pool deck. Access to this area is at the poolside entrance from the changing facilities.

Swimmers will be marshalled following the flow indicated by the gold arrows. This will continue until they reach the blocks.

