



# WATFORD SWIMMING CLUB

## County Qualifier Open Meet

Affiliated to the Swim England East Region

(Under Swim England Laws and Regulations, the Swim England Technical Rules of Swimming and the Swim England Open Meet Licencing Criteria)

(Licence Number 3ER210535)

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021**

**Woodside Leisure Centre**

**Horseshoe Lane**

**Garston**

**WD25 7HH**

### FINAL DETAILS

We are excited to be welcoming you all to our first open meet in over 18 months. We are following Swim England's latest guidance with regard to running events now that the Government has lifted all restrictions and we have worked with Woodside to try and make this event as safe as possible for everybody attending.

If you have any questions please contact Suzy on [wscnovopenmeet@virginmedia.com](mailto:wscnovopenmeet@virginmedia.com)

Could you please ensure that your swimmers read and understand this guidance as we want to create a safe environment for the swimmers and all those involved in volunteering at the gala.

#### **Spectators**

Unfortunately, due to high local rates of COVID, we have made the difficult decision to not allow spectators at the meet. This is to reduce overcrowding and

ensure that as many swimmers as possible have the opportunity to swim. This means that parents are not permitted in the leisure centre.

Parking at Woodside is marked as only available for 4 hours. However, we have agreement from Watford Borough Council to suspend the parking restrictions for both days of the meet. It is still necessary that you obtain and display a ticket in your car when you park.

### **Vaccination and testing**

We are asking that all swimmers, event volunteers, officials and coaches attending the meet take a lateral flow test at home on Friday 19 November. If the test is positive or if you have any symptoms that could be linked to Covid please do not attend the meet. A full refund will be given if you cannot swim due to a positive Covid test. Please email me to withdraw your swimmer at [wscnovopenmeet@virginmedia.com](mailto:wscnovopenmeet@virginmedia.com)

### **Face masks**

We recommend that face masks are worn during the event when moving around the centre.

### **Arriving at the centre and seating during the event**

We do have access to the changing rooms and swimmers will be allowed to use these, but we would ask that where possible for the first session of each day that swimmers arrive swim ready to limit numbers in the changing rooms at the same time.

Areas for individual clubs will be clearly marked for each team to sit and this will be allocated based on the number of swimmers attending. We will be asking you to ensure that your team remain in your allocated area other than when they are competing. The area where each club will be seated will be provided for each session ahead of the meet.

The doors will be manned by volunteers who will be checking the names of volunteers we are expecting (either coaches, team managers or officials). As we are not allowing spectators we will not be allowing entry to anyone who is not on that list so please do not try to enter and respect the volunteers on the day.

### **Flow of individuals around the building and pool**

Swimmers should remain in their club area other than when completing their warm up or entering marshalling to race. Swimmers should take their belongings needed in a small bag to leave behind the blocks when they are racing – these belongings should be collected promptly after racing before

returning to the club area. Those clubs who are seated in the stands are asked to ensure that their swimmers dry off thoroughly before returning to the seating to avoid slip hazards on the stairs.

Coaches / team managers are asked not to send swimmers to marshalling unnecessarily early to avoid overcrowding in the marshalling area.

### **Warm up / swim down**

A warm up schedule will be issued in advance of the event and there is a capacity limit during the warm up of 8 swimmers per lane – please do not exceed this limit at any point during the warm up.

Swim down – we will not be using the small pool for swim down, swimmers will not be permitted in this pool at any time during the event.

### **Coaches / team managers**

The only coaches / team managers who will be allowed on poolside are those who have been named on the safeguarding form provided in advance. They will be given a poolside pass which should be worn at all times to aid identification. If additional pool passes are required please get in touch ahead of the meet as pool passes will not be available to purchase on the day.

Pool passes will entitle the coaches / team managers to refreshments which will consist of tea / coffee / biscuits and a packed lunch / tea between sessions.

Coaches are responsible for supervising warm up and they and Team Managers are responsible for supervising their swimmers whilst they are away from their parents.

### **Results / medals**

Results on the day will be available via Meet Mobile (internet allowing) and we will be giving each Coach a copy of the results as well.

There will be no medal table poolside as this would lead to a large number of swimmers gathered in one area. Medals will be packed by club and should be collected by a coach or team manager at the end of each session.