



Statement on Return to Licensed Competition

Swimming Regulations regarding licensing and calendar planning have been suspended since the Autumn of 2020 with only limited competition taking place under Scottish Swimming's Competition Management Guidance or with performance exemption.

With Scotland now in level 0 and further restrictions expected to be removed on 9 August, we are looking forward to, and optimistic of a much wider return to competition once our school age swimmers return to school.

Regulations surrounding licensing will be reintroduced on 1 September and until that time, competition should be held under the current Competition Management Guidance.

When licensing is reintroduced, there will be some changes that have been brought about as the result of recommendations that came out of the recently concluded Competition Review.

1. A new level of competition will be introduced at Level 4. This new level of competition is intended to remove or reduce barriers created by governance where strict regulation is not required. It affords flexibility, inclusivity and lower levels of officiating, but does not affect responsibilities for competition organisers or Scottish Swimming for Health and Safety.

Level 4 competition will not require a licence application, nor will it be subject to calendar planning. However, all competition taking place at this level must be registered with the District in which the competition is taking place. Registration will be by electronic form available on each District website.

Not all competition can be registered at Level 4. To qualify, the following conditions **must** be satisfied:

- Maximum of four clubs taking part
- A single session for maximum of two hours

Times achieved in Level 4 competition cannot be used for entry into National Events and may only be used to qualify for District Events at the discretion of the relevant District.

2. In line with the planned phased approach towards the introduction of the new Scottish Swimming Competition Framework (starting in January 2022), licensed competition will commence at the end of September. Districts will work with clubs to deliver licensed competition from then until the end of November. Most of this competition is expected to be Level 3 competition, however Districts and Clubs can hold Level 2 competition if they are confident the necessary conditions can be met. Dates of when competition can take place have been agreed by Committee.
3. A new Scottish Swimming National League will be introduced providing team competition for any clubs that wish to enter. Clubs will be required to opt in by 1 October and can enter as many teams as they wish. There will be two rounds taking place during the weeks ending 31 October and 28 November. There will be no other licensed competition taking place on those weekends.

Finals for the Scottish Swimming National League will take place on 18 December in Glasgow at Tollcross International Swimming Centre (TBC).

4. The Scottish National Short Course Championships will this year be replaced by a Scottish Winter Open Meet, taking place in Edinburgh at the Royal Commonwealth Pool (TBC), over period 10 – 12 December. Conditions are yet to be finalised but it is expected to have heats and finals for Senior and Age Group swimmers. Entry into the meet will be using Level 3 licensed times.

Calendar planning will be reintroduced for the start of the new Competition Framework in January 2022. At this time, a technical swimsuit ban will be introduced for swimmers aged 13 and under. This ban will apply to all levels of competition including Scottish Swimming National Events. A full explanation will be issued shortly.