

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SWIMMING ASSOCIATION (INC)
Country Pennants Rules

Country Pennants Rules
As approved 20th October 2001
Amended 11th November 2005
8th October 2006

- 1: The name of the competition is Country Pennants.
- 2: The controlling body for the competition is the Western Australian Swimming Association (Inc).
- 3: The Country Swimming Committee shall be responsible for organising and conducting the Country Pennants in liaison with the Competition Planning Committee. The appointed host club will be directed by the Country Swimming Committee.
- 4: The competition is to be held annually in a pool of 50-metre length with a minimum of six (6) lanes. It will be conducted on a rotational basis around the Country Regions. The selected Region must notify the Country Swimming Committee two (2) years prior to their roster date if that Region is unable to host the Country Pennants. The host region shall determine the host club by way of election. Should the Region be unable to host the competition for whatever reason, the competition shall move to the next rostered Region.

The roster of Regions is as follows: 5 – 2 – 6 - 3 – 1 – 5 – 2 – 6 – 3 – 1
- 5: The competition shall be held during the March Labor Day weekend, unless decided otherwise by the Country Coordinators Committee. All grades, where possible, shall have an equal number of clubs.
- 6: The competition is for WA Swimming Association **registered competitive members** of Country Clubs. A Country Club is defined in WA Swimming Policies No: 11 & 12 (Refer Appendix 3).
- 7: Clubs shall forward notice of intention to compete to the host club by 30th November in the year prior to the competition. Application shall be accompanied by a fee, which shall be non-refundable should that club then fail to compete in the competition. This fee will constitute part payment of the total nomination fee. Should the amount be in excess of the total fee, the host club shall refund the balance. Clubs who fail to attend yearly may, at the discretion of the Country Swimming Committee, lose their right to compete.

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- 8: Nominations, naming competitors and reserves, shall be in the hands of the host club fourteen (14) days prior to the first day of the competition. The method of nomination shall be on approved WASA Country Swimming forms. The Summary Form and two (2) copies shall be distributed as follows:
- (a) original to the host club together with cards and all outstanding fees. Summary Sheets may be accompanied by computerised entries on disk, in which case no cards will be required.
 - (b) a copy to be retained by the nominating club as a check on entries
- 8.1 If a swimmer is found to be not registered, or swims in the wrong age group, or the event has not been included on the Summary Sheet by the club concerned, the club will lose all points gained for that event, and may face fines up to the value of that club's total nomination costs, and/or suspension from the competition for a period of up to two (2) years at the discretion of the Country Swimming Committee (Subject to the normal right of appeal).
- 8.2 All nomination fees shall be in the hands of the host club fourteen (14) days prior to the competition.
- 8.3 All nominated swimmers must be registered with the WA Swimming Association as competitive members of that club.
- 9: Amalgamation
- "Clubs may, if they so wish, amalgamate to form a combined team. Such amalgamation shall be subject to the following:
- (a) The clubs in their own right are unable to field a full team in their respective grade.
 - (b) The total population of the areas in which the clubs are located shall not exceed 5000 persons as a general guide (line).
 - (c) Application for amalgamation shall be made in writing with full supporting documentation prior to the 30th November in the year preceding the Pennant in which they wish to compete.

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- (d) Such amalgamation shall require the consent of the Country Swimming Committee prior to entry into the competition.

10: Second Teams

Clubs may, if they so wish, field a second team in the competition. Such teams shall be subject to the following:

- (a) Inclusion in any year shall be subject to lane availability after all existing applications are placed.
- (b) Current second teams shall be included in order of seniority (Length of time in the competition).
- (c) Current second teams shall be ranked as existing teams when determining availability of lane space in respect to applications from clubs who have lost the right to compete due to non-attendance. Refer to Rule 11 (c).
- (d) There are no restrictions on second teams other than those listed in Rule 10 (a) (b) (c) above.
- (e) Such teams shall be classed as an individual team in respect to any fees and charges applicable at the time of entry.

11: The nomination fee (which shall include pool entrance during the meet) shall be set by the Country Swimming Committee no later than 31 October of the year prior to the competition.

12: The age for the competition shall be the age of the swimmer on the first day of the meet. Age shown for an event shall include swimmers up to and including that age. **A Senior swimmer is seventeen (17) years and over for all grades** The term "Open" means a swimmer of any age.

13: Competitors may be **nominated** (either as a swimmer or reserve) for as many events as they are eligible to swim by age, but **may not swim in more than four (4) individual events**. Only one swimmer per club may compete in each individual event. Swimmers may compete in as many relays as they qualify for by age. There may be only one relay team per club in each relay event.

An individual Nomination Form shall be used for any member of a Relay Team who is not included in an individual event. Such form shall be clearly marked '**RELAYS ONLY**'.

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14: Reserves – Clubs may nominate:

- Two (2) reserves for individual events
- Two (2) reserves for Freestyle Relays
- Four (4) reserves for Medley Relays.

In accordance with current Rules of Swimming, swimmers for relays **need not be named at the time of nomination**. However, for the purpose of Country Pennants, all team members, including reserves, shall marshal at the due time together with their relay list of names in the order in which they will swim. All reserves must be named. No other swimmer may compete. The list must be presented to the Marshall at that time.

NO LIST – NO SWIM. (Note – Events are marshaled approximately 15 minutes prior to the swim)

15: Nominated reserves for individual events may be substituted any time up to **thirty (30)** minutes prior to the start of the event. Scratching sheets must be handed to the Scratching table within the time limit of the scheduled start time of the event.

16: The program for the competition shall be as attached:

Day One. Medley relays as per the program, followed by the individual freestyle and backstroke.

Day Two. Individual butterfly and breaststroke events. The meet concludes with the Freestyle Relay events.

No change to this order shall be allowed on the day of competition.

Butterfly events shall be in accordance with the listed program and the WA Swimming Policies current at the time.

17: Each club shall provide adults to assist with the running of the competition on a pro-rata basis of one official for every ten (10) swimmers, or part of that number nominated. Clubs should advise the host club of the qualifications of these officials when requested.

18: Three (3) timekeepers per lane will be required as well as other poolside officials. Placings will be calculated on fastest times. Electronic timing will be used when available.

19: Points awarded for the competition shall be:

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6 Lane:	Individual events	8, 6, 4, 3, 2, 1
	Relay events	10, 8, 6, 4, 3, 2
8 Lane:	Individual events	10, 8, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
	Relay events	12, 10, 8, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2

20: Pennants shall be awarded each year. At each Country Pennants Competition, the teams shall be graded in order of points at the close of the meet, based on the total points achieved from both individual and relay events in each grade. A Perpetual Trophy will be given to the team gaining the highest points for relay events in each grade.

21: Perpetual Trophies shall be awarded to the male and female competitors attaining, at the Country Pennants, times closest to or better than the best time set by a Western Australian swimmer for (a) 50 metre event, and (b) 100 metre event. Records used shall be the Western Australian Residential Record.

There shall be no age differential in determining trophy winners. A Replica Trophy shall be awarded to recipients.

22: All times shall be forwarded to the Records officer.

23: Mixed Relay events listed in the program will be swum as follows:

Relays	Grade A – B – C – D – E
23.1	Mixed means two of each sex. With eight year olds only, when no alternate gender exists, a team may consist of swimmers of one gender, i.e. 4 x male or 4 x female.
23.2	A – B - C Grade – 8 years Medley Relays shall be swum in medley order, i.e. backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and freestyle.

24: Disqualification and Protests

24.1 All disqualifications are to be announced. The host club needs to ensure that the announcer is in close proximity to the referee to facilitate the timely announcement of any disqualifications.

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24.2 In accordance with FINA Rule GR10.2.1 protests are possible

- (a) if the rules and regulations for the conduct of the competition are not observed,
- (b) if other conditions endanger the competitions and /or competitors, or
- (c) against decisions of the referee; however no protest shall be allowed against decisions of fact.

GR10.2.2 Protest must be submitted

- (a) to the referee
- (b) in writing
- (c) by the **responsible team leader only**
- (d) together with a deposit of \$35.00, and
- (e) **within 30 minutes following the conclusion of the respective event.**

If conditions causing a potential protest are noted prior to the competition, a protest must be lodged before the signal to start is given.

GR10.2.3 All protests shall be considered by the referee. If he rejects the protest, he must state the reasons for his decision. The team leader may appeal the rejection to the Jury of Appeal whose decision shall be final.

GR10.2.4 If the protest is rejected, the deposit will be forfeited to the management body of the competition. If the protest is upheld, the deposit will be returned.

- 25: The Jury of Appeal should be **two (2) nominated suitably qualified Swimming WA officials and the Swim Meet Officer**. The Referee to whom the protest was made should **not** be appointed. Members of the Jury should have some knowledge of the rules.
- 26: Guidelines for the conduct of Swimming Juries of Appeal as issued by Australian Swimming Inc. together with the Protest Procedures shall form the basis of the hearing.

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- 27: The Competition shall be conducted under FINA, ASI, and WA swimming rules and codes of swimming unless previously noted in these rules. (e.g. Rule 22)
- 28: These Rules **shall only** be amended by a majority vote of all Country Clubs. **Changes to Country Pennant Rules be voted on by all clubs who have competed at any time at the Country Pennants over the previous three years with a 75% majority required to pass the proposal.**
- 29: These Rules are to be read in conjunction with:
- Appendix One – General Instructions to Region/Host Clubs.
 - Appendix Two – Program of events
 - Appendix Three – Country Club Membership
- 30: All Country Pennant venues shall be an ALCHOHOL/SMOKE FREE ZONE. The area shall be defined as follows: - the external boundaries of the complex and all areas enclosed therein.

DEFINITION OF A COUNTRY CLUB

- 31: A Country Swimming Club shall be any club whose town base falls in line with Local Government Authorities and Towns for Country regions. This will take effect from 1 May 1998. Provision will be made for existing members who previously qualified under the 50km radius criteria for Country Clubs who do not meet the above criteria (grandfather clause), but all new members must meet the above criteria.
- 32: Students attending educational institutions in the Perth metropolitan area may have the option of registering with their home country club, or a metropolitan club. Any exception to this rule will be at the discretion of the Board.
- 33: The object of this policy is to clearly define Country Clubs and swimmers, so that country competitions such as Country Pennants and Country Championships are open only to bona fide country swimmers.

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FIRST CLAIM/SECOND CLAIM MEMBERSHIP

- 34: The aim of the First/Second Claim Membership is:
- (a) to enable swimmers to achieve levels of competition suitable to their ability
 - (b) for country and metropolitan swimmers temporarily living away from their main residence to compete. That is, a metropolitan swimmer cannot swim second claim in a country club unless that club is based at the town of their family residence, or the swimmer is attached educationally or vocationally to the designated town.
- 35: A co-operative arrangement between First and Second Claim clubs must exist for this membership to operate to assist swimmers effectively.
- 36: In unrestricted individual competitions, First Claim/Second Claim swimmers swim for the First Claim Club, and at restricted meets where First Claim is not available, Second Claim applies.