**GENERAL COMPETITION RULES: For All Competitions – (2024 onwards)**

1. All competitions are open to any club affiliated to the Association. There will be a cost of £25 per team to enter each league. This money will be returned to the club at the end of the season if that club fulfils all their fixtures.
2. All competitions are under the sole control of the Association.
3. No club may take part in any competition gala if they have not paid their affiliation fees and league entry fees for that year.
4. A swimmer may represent ONLY ONE CLUB throughout a particular competition.
5. Clubs who have entered leagues must have a representative at the relevant fixtures meeting(s). Failure to do so will mean the club cannot take part in any leagues requiring fixtures to be arranged.
6. Clubs must enter competitions in writing to the secretary by the designated date in the year prior to the competition. Late entries will not be accepted and competitions begin on 1st February, running to their conclusion by league table or final as per the competition rules.
7. Medals or awards as determined by the BCM Association may be awarded in each competition.
8. Each club must provide a venue & time at which they intend to fulfil home fixtures. The home club shall be entitled to any profits from their home gala or cover any loss incurred. The maximum charge for admittance will be £3 which includes providing access to the programme.
9. All events must start at the same end of the pool, and there will be no diving at the turning end of the pool.
10. In the event that a club cannot fulfil a fixture, they must contact the league organiser and the other club(s) competing a minimum of 14 days before the fixture. Failure to do this will incur a fine of £25 to the Association plus any costs incurred by the home club for pool hire as decided reasonable by the Association Committee. This applies unless the reason for the non-fulfilment is regarded as unavoidable and justified as determined by the Association Committee. In the event of a non-fulfilled fixture being unable to be rearranged without unavoidable and justifiable reason, the team will be suspended from the league and all points expunged from the league table. In the event of a team not attending a fixture without unavoidable and justifiable reason, the team will be suspended from the league and all points expunged from the league table. Consideration will be given by the Association Committee as to whether this team are allowed to enter the competition in the following year.
11. No club shall be allowed to alter the dates of its galas without the consent of the Association. This may be given by the League Organiser on behalf of the Association. The alteration should be made not less than fourteen days prior to the fixture and be agreed by all the competing clubs.
12. Any protest against the eligibility of a competitor must be lodged with the League Organiser. Any club found guilty of including an ineligible competitor without declaration shall forfeit the events (in swimming contests) in which such a competitor has taken part with the points being awarded to the opposing team. In addition, the offending team may be fined an amount up to and including but not exceeding £25 for each offence. Due to the difficulties facing clubs because of the pandemic, clubs may be unable to fulfil certain age groups/swimmers, in which case an ineligible competitor may swim, but this must be declared to the referee and all other clubs in attendance before the competition begins.
13. Cases arising out of breaches of the Rules of the Association or in connection with the fixtures will be dealt with at the next meeting of the Council, given that seven days’ notice can be given, otherwise they will be dealt with at the following meeting in the presence or absence of those concerned. Penalties arising must be paid within 21 days of the meeting failing which, the club will take no further part in the competition. No exceptions from this rule to be allowed unless, after 7 days’ notice of exception to all delegates, a three fourths majority of those present and voting support the application.
14. Officials, qualified to J2 or above, will be appointed to run each gala by the League Organiser. A list of contact details for the officials will be posted on the BCM Association website. Each club is requested to offer at least one official of J2 or above who is willing to run galas during the season.
15. The Home Club shall be responsible for confirming fixtures with all appointed officials seven days prior to the fixture. In the event of the Home Club not being able to contact any of the appointed officials personally or any of the appointed officials being not available, the Home Club shall report the facts to the League Organiser six days prior to the fixture. If the home club does not do so, there would be major problems officiating the gala, so it is imperative this is not missed.
16. At the beginning of each gala each club shall provide the referee/starter with the team sheets along with the names and dates of birth of the competitors taking part on behalf of the club. If any changes need to be made during the gala, these must be confirmed to the referee at the end of the gala. All paperwork must be sent on to the League Organiser for their records by the Home Club not less than 7 days after the event, with clubs failing to do so being liable for a fine of £25 to the association.
17. The home team will offer referees expenses as defined by Swim England law, and be responsible for confirming fixture date & time with the lead official (as mentioned in 14. above).
18. A list of persons qualified to act as officials shall be adopted at the Annual General Meeting, but additions may be made at any general meeting.
19. Fines must be paid within 21 days of the meeting failing which, the club will take no further part in any competitions run by the Association.
20. Any matter not provided for in these rules shall be dealt with by the Council where practicable under the rules of Swim England North West.
21. Any club wishing to enter a 2nd team in a competition can do so. They will remain in a separate division from the 1st team and therefore ‘A’ & ‘B’ teams will not compete directly against each other. If there is more than one team from the same club competing in the same competition then:
	1. A swimmer who has competed in the higher placed team may NOT then compete for a lower placed team.
	2. A swimmer who has competed in the lower placed team MAY then compete for a higher placed team.

**BCM Team Relay Sprint League rules**

1. Age groups are 9/10, 11/12, 13/14, 15/16 with age @ 31st December in the year of competition. Swimmers can swim up an age group(s) if needed. Swimmers must be aged 9 on the day of competition to be eligible to take part.
2. Swimmers can swim up to 4 races in own age group or above plus the cannon 8 x 1L.
3. All events are 4 x 1L relays except the cannon which is 8 x 1L.
4. Squad relay = Breast, Breast, Free, Free
5. Mixed relay events = 2 girls and 2 boys swam in any order.
6. Cannon relay event = 1 girl & 1 boy from each age group and is to be swam Girl/Boy in age order.
7. The competition will run as one Semi-Final for each club, followed by a final with teams being selected from each Semi-Final for the final.
8. The gala will be scored as per the number of teams in attendance e.g. 5 teams leads to 5,4,3,2,1 points being scored for 1st-5th position. In the event of a tied race then the higher number of points will be awarded to both teams e.g. joint 1st = 5, 5, 3, 2, 1.
9. If there is a tie in the number of points at the end of the gala, the number of 1st place finishes will be the tie-breaker.
10. All paperwork must be sent on to the League Organiser for their records by the Home Club not less than 7 days after the event, with clubs failing to do so being liable for a fine of £25 to the association.
11. Programme of events

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Girls | 9/10 Medley Relay |
| 2 | Boys | 9/10 Medley Relay |
| 3 | Girls | 11/12 Freestyle Relay |
| 4 | Boys | 11/12 Freestyle Relay |
| 5 | Girls | 13/14 Medley Relay |
| 6 | Boys | 13/14 Medley Relay |
| 7 | Girls | 15/16 Freestyle Relay |
| 8 | Boys | 15/16 Freestyle Relay |
| 9 | Mixed | 9/10 Freestyle Relay |
| 10 | Mixed | 11/12 Freestyle Relay |
| 11 | Mixed | 13/14 Freestyle Relay |
| 12 | Mixed | 15/16 Freestyle Relay |
| 13 | Girls | 9/10 Freestyle Relay |
| 14 | Boys | 9/10 Freestyle Relay |
| 15 | Girls | 11/12 Medley Relay |
| 16 | Boys | 11/12 Medley Relay |
| 17 | Girls | 13/14 Squad Relay |
| 18 | Boys | 13/14 Squad Relay |
| 19 | Girls | 15/16 Medley Relay |
| 20 | Boys | 15/16 Medley Relay |
| 21 | Girls | 9/10 Squad Relay |
| 22 | Boys | 9/10 Squad Relay |
| 23 | Girls | 11/12 Squad Relay |
| 24 | Boys | 11/12 Squad Relay |
| 25 | Girls | 13/14 Freestyle Relay |
| 26 | Boys | 13/14 Freestyle Relay |
| 27 | Girls | 15/16 Squad Relay |
| 28 | Boys | 15/16 Squad Relay |
| 29 | Mixed | 9/10 Medley Relay |
| 30 | Mixed | 11/12 Medley Relay |
| 31 | Mixed | 13/14 Medley Relay |
| 32 | Mixed | 15/16 Medley Relay |
| 33 | 4G+4B | Cannon Relay (G-B in age order) |

**BCM Mini League rules**

1. Age groups are 9y, 10y, 11y, 12y with age on the day at each gala. Swimmers can swim up an age group(s) if needed. Swimmers must be aged 9 on the day of competition to be eligible to take part.
2. 10-12yo swimmers can compete in up to 2 individual events only, plus any number of relays (including event 31 if needed). 9y swimmers can compete in any number of relay events.
3. Mixed age relays (Events 29 & 30) = teams must be comprised of 4 swimmers - 1 from each age group and can swim in any order.
4. In the event of a tie for qualifying places in the semi-finals and first place in the ‘A’ or ‘B’ finals, a swim off will be held (Event 31) where one girl and one boy from each age group will swim a 6 x 1 length freestyle relay with the order girl-boy in age order youngest to oldest.
5. The competing clubs will be formed into groups as may be necessary to form a manageable competition. All clubs in the group will swim preliminary galas against each other on a group basis. The number of galas in a group will be the same as the number of clubs in a group, with each club being responsible for organising its own home gala i.e. booking the pool and arranging the date and time of gala.
6. Clubs must confirm all dates and times of start in writing to other clubs in their group and the Mini League Organiser within 14 days of the fixtures meeting.
7. Preliminary galas must be completed by 31st May & semi-finals completed by 31st July each year. After the preliminary rounds, the leading clubs from each group will qualify to swim in the ‘A’ final.
8. If needed there will be semi-finals for other clubs to qualify for the ‘A’ final.
9. If needed there will be a ‘B’ final for clubs not qualifying for the ‘A’ final from the semi-finals.
10. After the preliminary rounds if there is a tie between two or more clubs then the positions shall be decided by the number of galas won during the rounds. If there is still a tie between clubs then it will be decided by the number of first places achieved during the rounds.
11. Clubs failing to provide team lists with DOB to the referee at the beginning of the gala will not be allowed to compete further in the competition. This is due to the ‘age on day’ rule for this competition.

1. The gala will be scored as per the number of teams in attendance e.g. 5 teams leads to 5,4,3,2,1 points being scored for 1st-5th position. In the event of a tied race then the higher number of points will be awarded to both teams e.g. joint 1st = 5, 5, 3, 2, 1. Points gained in preliminary rounds will not be carried over into the final.
2. Each club must provide at least two persons who can act as officials, who should be ‘knowledgeable people’ or qualified to some degree.
3. All paperwork must be sent on to the League Organiser for their records by the Home Club not less than 7 days after the event, with clubs failing to do so being liable for a fine of £25 to the association.
4. Programme of events

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 11yr Girls 2L Freestyle | 19 | 12yr Girls 2L Freestyle |
| 2 | 11yr Boys 2L Freestyle | 20 | 12yr Boys 2L Freestyle |
| 3 | 9yr Girls 4x1L Medley Relay | 21 | 10yr Girls 2L Breaststroke |
| 4 | 9yr Boys 4x1L Medley Relay | 22 | 10yr Boys 2L Breaststroke |
| 5 | 12yr Girls 2L Backstroke | 23 | 11yr Girls 2L Breaststroke |
| 6 | 12yr Boys 2L Backstroke | 24 | 11yr Boys 2L Breaststroke |
| 7 | 10yr Girls 2L Backstroke | 25 | 10yr Girls 2L Freestyle |
| 8 | 10yr Boys 2L Backstroke | 26 | 10yr Boys 2L Freestyle |
| 9 | 11yr Girls 2L Butterfly | 27 | 12yr Girls 2L Butterfly |
| 10 | 11yr Boys 2L Butterfly | 28 | 12yr Boys 2L Butterfly |
| 11 | 12yr Girls 2L Breaststroke  | 29 | 1 Girl From Each Age Group 4x1L Medley Relay (swim in any age order) |
| 12 | 12yr Boys 2L Breaststroke |
| 13 | 10yr Girls 2L Butterfly | 30 | 1 Boy From Each Age Group 4x1L Medley Relay (swim in any age order) |
| 14 | 10yr Boys 2L Butterfly |
| 15 | 11yr Girls 2L Backstroke | 31 | 6X1L Mixed Freestyle Canon Relay Swam Girl – Boy in Age Order (10, 11 then 12) |
| 16 | 11yr Boys 2L Backstroke |
| 17 | 9 year Girls 4x1L Freestyle Relay |  | \*Event 31 is only swam in Finals and Semi-Finals where teams are tied for 1st place |
| 18 | 9 year Boys 4x1L Freestyle Relay |

**BCM Open League rules**

1. The BCM Open League Competition shall take place between 1st February and 31st October in the year of competition.
2. Age groups for individual events are 10/u, 12/u, 14/u, 16/u and Open with age at 31st December in the year of competition. Swimmers can swim up an age group(s) if needed. Swimmers must be aged 9 on the day of competition to be eligible to take part.
3. Swimmers can do three individual events overall, in their own age group or above, plus any number of relay events.
4. Events 11 and 26 (which are 10/u relays) are mixed gender with one team of 2 Girls and 2 Boys swimming in any order. Event 31 must be swam Girl-Boy in age order (10/u, 12/u, 14/u, 16/u then Open).
5. Points scoring in all events will be 2 points for 1st place and 1 point for 2nd place, with 0 points for a disqualification. In the event of a tied race then both teams would be awarded 2 points for that race.
6. The team with the most points at the end of the gala shall be awarded 2 gala points, the team placed second, 1 point.
7. The Champions to be decided by the number of Gala Points and in the event of a tie the Champions will be decided on the number of Points For. The League Champions shall be presented with medals, or other mementos, of such value as the BCM Association shall determine.
8. Fixtures will be arranged at the fixtures meeting. Clubs will play each other once per season where possible, with an equal number of home & away fixtures.
9. All paperwork must be sent on to the League Organiser for their records by the Home Club not less than 7 days after the event, with clubs failing to do so being liable for a fine of £25 to the association.
10. Programme of events

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| Event No |   | Event No |   |
| 1 | Girls/Boys 10/under 1 Length Backstroke | 17 | Girls/Boys 12/under 2 Length Breaststroke |
| 2 | Girls/Boys 12/under 2 Length Backstroke | 18 | Girls/Boys 14/under 2 Lengths Freestyle |
| 3 | Girls/Boys 14/under 2 Lengths Butterfly | 19 | Girls/Boys 16/under2 Lengths Breaststroke |
| 4 | Girls/Boys 16/under2 Lengths Freestyle | 20 | Girls/Boys Open 2 Lengths Backstroke |
| 5 | Girls/Boys Open 2 Lengths Breaststroke | 21 | Girls/Boys 10/under 1 Length Butterfly |
| 6 | Girls/Boys 10/under 1 Length Breaststroke | 22 | Girls/Boys 12/under 2 Length Freestyle |
| 7 | Girls/Boys 12/under 2 Length Butterfly | 23 | Girls/Boys 14/under 2 Lengths Breaststroke |
| 8 | Girls/Boys 14/under 2 Lengths Backstroke | 24 | Girls/Boys 16/under2 Lengths Freestyle |
| 9 | Girls/Boys 16/under2 Lengths Butterfly | 25 | Girls/Boys Open 2 Lengths Butterfly |
| 10 | Girls/Boys Open 2 Lengths Freestyle | 26 | Mixed 10/under 4x1 length Freestyle Relay |
| 11 | Mixed 10/under 4x1 length Medley Relay | 27 | Girls/Boys 12/under 4x1 length Medley Relay |
| 12 | Girls/Boys 12/under 4x1 length Freestyle Relay | 28 | Girls/Boys 14/under 4x1 length Freestyle Relay |
| 13 | Girls/Boys 14/under 4x1 length Medley Relay | 29 | Girls/Boys 16/under 4x2 lengths Medley Relay |
| 14 | Girls/Boys 16/under 4x2 lengths Freestyle Relay | 30 | Girls/Boys Open 4x2 lengths Medley Relay |
| 15 | Girls/Boys Open 4x2 lengths Freestyle Relay | 31 | 10x1 Length Cannon in age Order girl/boy/girl boy etc |
| 16 | Girls/Boys 10/under 1 Length Freestyle |  |  |

**BCM Intermediate League rules**

1. Age groups are 11/u, 13/u, 15/u with age at 31st December in the year of competition. Swimmers can swim up an age group(s) if needed. Swimmers must be aged 9 on the day of competition to be eligible to take part.
2. Swimmers can swim any number of individual events and any number of relays.
3. Each club swims 2 swimmers in each individual event, and 1 relay team in each relay event.
4. Points scored for individual races will be scored as 4,3,2,1 for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th position. In the event of a tie, both teams will be awarded the higher number of points (e.g. 4,4,2,1 for joint 1st place). Points scored for relays will be 4 points for 1st and 2 points for 2nd.
5. Clubs will be split into divisions as per the numbers and will meet each other once per season, with double headers allowed.
6. At the end of the gala the winning team will be awarded 2 gala points, and the losing team awarded 1 gala point. If there is a tie, the winner will be decided on the highest number of 1st place finishes achieved.
7. At the end of the season when all galas have been completed, the league champions shall be decided by the number of gala points. In the event of a tie on gala points, the winner will be decided on the ‘Points for’ across all galas.
8. All paperwork must be sent on to the League Organiser for their records by the Home Club not less than 7 days after the event, with clubs failing to do so being liable for a fine of £25 to the association.
9. Programme of events (amended for 2024)

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| Event |  |  | Event |  |
| 1 | Girls 11/u 2 Length Backstroke |  | 20 | Boys 11/u 2 Length Breaststroke |
| 2 | Boys 11/u 2 Length Backstroke |  | 21 | Girls 13/u 2 Length Butterfly |
| 3 | Girls 13/u 2 Length Breaststroke |  | 22 | Boys 13/u 2 Length Butterfly |
| 4 | Boys 13/u 2 Length Breaststroke |  | 23 | Girls 15/u 2 Length Freestyle |
| 5 | Girls 15/u 2 Length Butterfly |  | 24 | Boys 15/u 2 Length Freestyle |
| 6 | Boys 15/u 2 Length Butterfly |  | 25 | Girls 11/u 4 x 1 Length Medley Relay |
| 7 | Girls 11/u 2 Length Freestyle |  | 26 | Boys 11/u 4 x 1 Length Medley Relay |
| 8 | Boys 11/u 2 Length Freestyle |  | 27 | Girls 13/u 4 x 1 Length Freestyle Relay |
| 9 | Girls 13/u 2 Length Backstroke |  | 28 | Boys 13/u 4 x 1 Length Freestyle Relay |
| 10 | Boys 13/u 2 Length Backstroke |  | 29 | Girls 15/u 4 x 1 Length Medley Relay |
| 11 | Girls 15/u 2 Length Breaststroke |  | 30 | Boys 15/u 4 x 1 Length Medley Relay |
| 12 | Boys 15/u 2 Length Breaststroke |  | 31 | Girls 11/u 4 x 1 Length Freestyle Relay |
| 13 | Girls 11/u 2 Length Butterfly |  | 32 | Boys 11/u 4 x 1 Length Freestyle Relay |
| 14 | Boys 11/u 2 Length Butterfly |  | 33 | Girls 13/u 4 x 1 Length Medley Relay |
| 15 | Girls 13/u 2 Length Freestyle |  | 34 | Boys 13/u 4 x 1 Length Medley Relay |
| 16 | Boys 13/u 2 Length Freestyle |  | 35 | Girls 15/u 4 x 1 Length Freestyle Relay |
| 17 | Girls 15/u 2 Length Backstroke |  | 36 | Boys 15/u 4 x 1 Length Freestyle Relay |
| 18 | Boys 15/u 2 Length Backstroke |  | 37 | Mixed 6 x 1 Freestyle Relay - 1 Girl and 1 Boy from each Age Group - Swam in age order - 11, 13, 15y |
| 19 | Girls 11/u 2 Length Breaststroke |  |