

MODEL CONDITIONS FOR THE HOLDING OF 'SKINS' EVENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In recent years the concept of 'Skins' events has been introduced into swimming competitions held in Britain under Home Country Swimming Rules. This has led to some misunderstanding as, depending upon the format some 'Skins' events by their nature contravene Home Country Swimming Rules.
- 1.2. Whilst there are many variations a 'Skins' event is generally a continuous competition whereby competitors race against themselves over a number of rounds, each starting after a fixed time from the start of the previous round. A swimmer, (generally the slowest in a race) or swimmers being eliminated in each round, until an eventual winner is found. The number of available lanes in the pool normally governs the number of competitors
- 1.3. A popular format being, for example, the contest involving races starting at 3 minute intervals, a warning signal (whistle) given at 2 minute 50 seconds and the start signal being given at 3 minutes – no voice commands given. This clearly contravenes the FINA Technical Laws regarding the Start of a race.
- 1.4. Often separate competitions for female and male competitors are held concurrently resulting in a race starting in the pool every 1 minute 30 seconds in the case of 3 minute starts for both male and female competition
- 1.5. The 'Skins' concept provides for exciting competition and is growing in its use throughout the Country. Due to the format, in most cases as described, the competitions sit outside Swim Wales Swimming Rules, it is necessary therefore to provide guidance to event Promoters in order to ensure clarity and fairness to all concerned in running such competitions.
- 1.6. Such guidance will not inhibit the imagination of those hosting the 'Skins' event. It will provide a structure whereby the rules of an individual competition will be clear to all persons involved either as a competitor or official.
- 1.7. The guidance that follows is in the format of conditions which have to be considered, together with areas for consideration and potential options. The overriding requirement is that all matters relating to the running of a competition are clear and known to all parties before entries are considered. It is imperative that the Promoter Conditions are clear and concise. The alternative is that Promoters will find themselves exposed to grounds for a Protest which could have been avoided if sufficient consideration had been given to the prevailing conditions prior to advertising the competition.
- 1.8. It is accepted that conditions are unlikely to cover all eventualities, however if the following guidance is considered the potential for misunderstanding will be reduced.
- 1.9. A set of sample Promoters Conditions have been included with this paper as an indication as to the range of areas which need to be considered and

covered in order to ensure that all parties are aware of the nature of the competition

2. AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION

Subject		Examples
Description of Event	Is the competition based upon a single stroke or multiple stroke styles?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An 8 lane Skins Multi Stroke (Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly, Freestyle) event.
Entry Conditions	By what process are the competitors going to be selected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest Bagpoints/GB Points scored in identified qualifying events. • Highest ranked swimmers taken from the official results of qualifying events.
Prize Conditions	<p>What are the prizes and how are they going to be distributed – specific detail including amounts if cash prizes.</p> <p>Are win bonuses going to be added?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash prizes of 8th place £x, 7th place £x, 6th place £x, 5th place £x, 4th place £x, 3rd place £x, 2nd place £x, 1st place £x • Race win bonus £x • Back to back (consecutive) race wins bonus £x
Conditions of Races	<p>What start conditions are going to be implemented? Will the starts comply with Swim Wales Rules? Alternatively will a warning signal followed by the start signal.</p> <p>Do swimmers have to be stationary when the start signal is given?</p> <p>Do backstroke races have to start in the water?</p> <p>Do the competitors have to comply with stroke and finish rules of the individual strokes?</p> <p>Do swimmers have to remain in their allocated lane?</p> <p>How do you resolve a dead heat in the final round?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The competition will be continuous each race starting 3 minutes after the preceding race. A warning whistle will be given 10 seconds prior to the start signal. There will be no other instructions given. Swimmers must be in contact with the start platform or starting grips when the start signal is given. • Backstroke races will start in the water. • Competitors must comply with the relevant stroke and finish rules. • Swimmers will remain in their lanes as allocated for

		<p>the first race until the final round when the competitors will occupy the centre lanes as allocated by the Referee (or) Following the first race swimmers may move to an empty lane (Consider a course of action should two swimmers want the same empty lane)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should there be a dead heat in the final round the competitors will re-swim/ decide by the toss of a coin/ share the prize money.
Stroke Selection Rules	If the competition is multi stroke what method of stroke selection is to be used for races.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stroke selection for all races will be by random selection from the declared inclusive strokes. The first race stroke selection will be by xxx. Subsequent selections will be by the eliminated competitor from the previous race. • The first race shall be a stroke selected at random from all the declared strokes. Subsequent races will be selected at random from the remaining relevant strokes not utilised in the preceding race.
Elimination Rules	Elimination would normally be the competitor finishing last in a race. Consider the method of elimination in the case of: a competitor being disqualified during a race, a dead heat for last place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The competitor finishing in last place in each race will be eliminated from the competition. • In the case of a dead heat for last place both swimmers will be eliminated (or) will remain in the competition and swim the next race. • If a competitor is disqualified for a technical violation during a race then they shall be eliminated and the swimmer placed last shall proceed into the next round.

SAMPLE - PROMOTERS CONDITIONS

CITY OF ANYTOWN S.C.

SKINS EVENT

1. This 'Skins Event' will be a continuous competition commencing with 8 competitors and over a continuous series of races over a distance of 50m. One or more competitors to be eliminated in each round until a winner is determined. Races in each competition will take place following an interval of 3 minutes from the start of the previous race a warning signal being given 10 seconds prior to the start of each round.
2. The Event shall take place at Anytown Leisure Centre on 31st April 200X commencing at 3.30pm
3. Skins competitions will be held for:
 - a. a. Girls 9 to13 years) Events (a) and (b) will swim concurrently with
 - b. b. Boys 9 to14 years) a separation of 90 seconds between boys and
 - c. c. Girls 14 years and over) girls races. Girl's competition starts first.
 - d. d. Boys 15 years and over) Events (c) and (d) will follow a similar format
 - e. e. Age as at midnight on 31st April 200X
4. The Prizes for each event will be:
 - i. 1st - £50 2nd - £40 3rd - £30 4th - £25
 - ii. 5th - £20 6th - £15 7th - £10 8th - £5
 - iii. A £5 bonus prize will awarded to any competitor who wins consecutive races.
5. The competitors for each Event shall be the eight swimmers with the highest number of accumulated GB points determined by the published results from the qualifying events. The qualifying events shall be; 50m Backstroke, Butterfly, Breaststroke and Freestyle competed during the 'XXXXX Sprint Meet' held in the morning of 31st April 200X. Should a qualifying swimmer not wish to compete then the next highest points scorer will be invited to compete.
6. Lanes will be allocated on the basis of 'spearheading' in accordance with FINA swimming rule SW312 – the highest point scoring swimmer occupying the centre lane. Swimmers are required to swim in their allocated lane whilst they remain in the competition until the final race. The remaining two swimmers will occupy the centre

lanes – the highest point qualifying swimmer occupying Lane 4 the second swimmer in Lane 5.

7. The stroke for each individual race will be by random draw from a choice of Freestyle, Breaststroke, Butterfly and Backstroke. The draw for the stroke to be contested in the first round to be undertaken by the swimmer with the highest qualifying score in the Event. Draws for subsequent rounds will be by the swimmer eliminated from the previous round. If more than one swimmer is eliminated in a round, the draw will be by the first swimmer eliminated, or by decision of the Referee if eliminated at the same time.
8. The first race in each Event will commence in accordance with Swim Wales Swimming Rules governing the Start of the selected stroke. Each race shall be over a distance of 50m
9. Subsequent rounds will start at the starting end of the pool, following an interval of 3 minutes from the previous Start. A warning whistle will be blown 10 seconds prior to the Starting signal being sounded. No verbal commands will be given. Competitors' feet, or hands in the case of Backstroke must be in contact with the Starting Platform or Grips when the Start Signal is given. For Backstroke rounds competitors will start in the water with both hands holding the starting grips. For forward starts swimmers are required to have at least one foot at the front of the Starting Platform.
10. In all races swimmers are required to comply with the FINA Swimming Rules regarding Stroke and Finish conditions – failure to do so will lead to elimination by disqualification – any competitor so eliminated will receive any prize money won to that time including the round in which eliminated.
11. The slowest competitor in each round shall be eliminated – unless a competitor has been eliminated by disqualification, in which case the slowest competitor remains in the competition.
12. Apart from the first round, times achieved by swimmers are not to be used for any other purpose. Determination of the slowest swimmer will be by the Referee utilising either Automatic Officiating Equipment (AOE) or manual Finish Judges, in accordance with FINA Swimming Rules governing placing. Should AOE be used the Referee shall determine whether it operated correctly.
13. In the case of more than one swimmer being disqualified, or a dead heat for the slowest swimmer all affected swimmers are eliminated and the accumulated prize money for the positions divided equally between the relevant swimmers.
14. Should for any reason the competition have to be halted before its conclusion it shall restart with a re-swim of the round halted or subsequent round if halted following the correct completion of a round. The Start of the recommencement of the competition will be in accordance with the FINA Swimming Rules of the relevant stroke.
15. In the case of a dead heat in the final race, it will be re-swum as an additional round in accordance with the Event conditions. Determination of the result following a subsequent dead heat maybe determined by any means agreed by the affected swimmers.

