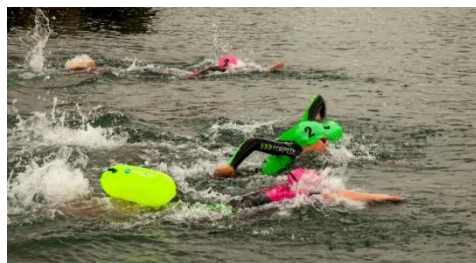




## 2024 Gloucester County ASA Open Water Swimming Festival Meet Information



3 to 6pm on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024 @ Cromhall Quarry Lake, GL12 8AA Age on Sun 29th Sept 2024

Gloucester County Swimming Association, in partnership with Bristol Penguins (the Organiser), are hosting the Gloucester County Open Water Swimming Festival. To manage expectations, please note that this is NOT an Open Water County Championships. This is a relatively informal meet, and we encourage participation from less experienced open swimmers and those more familiar with open water races. The races are open to all swimmers who are members of a Gloucester County Swimming Club. Entry level is for swimmers who are comfortably able to swim the required distance, are at least 11 years old and have some experience of open water swimming.



The meet is taking place at Cromhall Quarry Lake (the Venue). We are grateful to the South West Maritime Academy for their support in helping this event to take place.

### Club Entries

Entry to the meet is via the following google form: -

[Entry Form for Gloucester County Open Water Festival](#)

**Please let your club know you / your child would like to enter. Clubs are to enter their swimmers via one consolidated entry.**

To take part, swimmers must:-

- Be a Swim England open water registered swimmer – just a case of the club membership secretary (as required) ticking the relevant box on the Swim England online management system.
- Be a Swim England Club Compete member of a Gloucester County Swimming Association Club.

### Costing / Deadline to sign up

Cost of entry - £14

We will request payment once your entry is approved.

Sign up is confirmation that participants (parents / carers where under 18) agree to the meet conditions and understand / agree with the meet declaration. Entries are accepted on a first come first serve basis. No more entries will be accepted after Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024. We can accept up to 30 swimmers in each event. Entries will be confirmed no later than by the end of the day on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

### Age Categories and Distances

- 11-12 years – 550m: 1 lap of the 550m course
- 13-15 years – 1100m: 2 laps of the 550m course
- Open Age Group – 1650m: 3 laps of the 550m course
- Masters\* – 1650m: 3 laps of the 550m course

\*The exact breakdown of age categories for masters will be decided based on the number and age spread of entries received.

Distances may vary slightly depending on the exact positioning of buoys in the lake.

### Approximate Timings (may vary slightly)

Event	Arrive / Sign in	Swimmers Ready to Take Part / Short Briefing	Event Start
1. Female - 11-12 yrs	2.15pm	2.45pm	3pm
2. Open/Male - 11-12 yrs	2.15pm	2.45pm	3.20pm
3. Female – 13-15 yrs	3.10pm	3.40pm	3.45pm
4. Open/Male – 13-15 yrs	3.10pm	3.40pm	4.15pm
5. Female – Open	4.10pm	4.40pm	4.45pm
6. Female – Masters	4.10pm	4.40pm	4.45pm
7. Open/Male - Open + Masters	4.10pm	4.40pm	5.25pm
8. Open/Male - Open + Masters	4.10pm	4.40pm	5.25pm

Please note, cut off times are in place. See meet conditions for more details.

### Awards

There will be medals for the top three finishers. Medals will be presented, and swimmers should get changed to be presented with their medals. There will be a top club award for events 1 to 6 and a top masters club award covering events 7 and 8.

### Supervision / Sign In

Whilst not swimming, each club will be responsible for the safe supervision of their swimmers.

Clubs should pass on any relevant medical information and/or any additional information to make the Organiser aware of, that could affect safe participation and to consider any necessary reasonable adjustments. This information must be passed on when the club submits their entry. Parents / swimmers are requested by the Venue to sign in. Each club is responsible for signing in their swimmers. Sign in re-confirms swimmers agree to the conditions of the meet.

### Wetsuits and Kit

We will follow World Aquatics Rules 7.2 and 8.1.6.3.

i) Water Temperature 18°C to 31°C: wetsuits are not permitted.

ii) Water Temperature 16°C to 17.9°C: the use of wetsuits is compulsory.

Swimmers will be provided with a numbered swimming hat which they are required to wear and return. Swimmers may choose to wear their normal swimming hat underneath too – if they wish to do so. Swimmers must not wear watches or jewellery and must have short nails. Swimmers may want to have an anti-chafe product – e.g., Luub or a similar product.

### Parent Attendance / Helpers

We need volunteers on the day of the open water swimming festival. This is as follows: -

- Arriving early to help set up.
- Announcer.
- Admin support - swimmer sign in, recording results or medal presentations.
- Counting swimmers as they progress around the course.
- Paddleboarders – providing on the lake support.
- Be one of the officials to help run and supervise the races. Note – you don't have to be an open water official for this task but experience as a pool official is desirable.

Please let your club know if you can volunteer. This offer of help can then be included in the club entry.

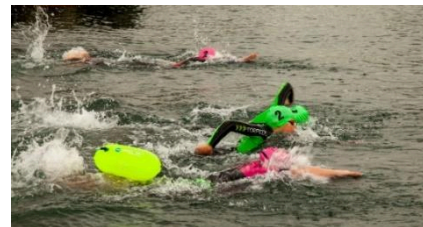
### Information about the Venue

- The address is Cromhall Quarry Lake, Wooton Road, Cromhall, Gloucestershire, GL12 8AA. Access is via the B4058. Follow the track down to the quarry lake. There is a large car park.
- There are some basic changing facilities. These are limited so participants are encouraged to arrive 'beach ready'.
- Portaloos are available.
- There is a basic café on site selling hot drinks and snacks.

Any queries, please email the meet promoter – Ben Mullen – [ben.mullen@bristolpenguins.com](mailto:ben.mullen@bristolpenguins.com).



## Gloucester County ASA Open Water Swimming Festival Meet Conditions

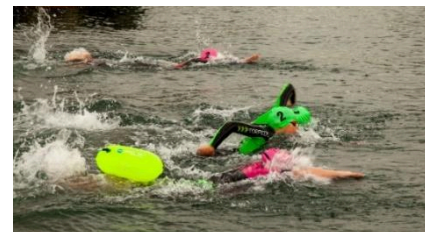


1. Bristol Penguins (the Organiser) are the hosts for this competition and reserve full power over responsibility for the meet including but not limited to cancelling, postponing or changing the Venue and/or format due to reasons beyond its reasonable control. Insufficient people coming forward to volunteer to support the viable running of the meet is deemed a valid reason for cancelling the meet.
2. Due to lack of open water qualified officials in the Gloucester County area, the officials are unlikely to be open water qualified. The Organiser will therefore endeavour to follow the relevant open water competition Swim England Regulations, but participants are asked to keep in view that this is a relatively informal unlicensed competition (not a county championships).
3. Reasonable modifications may be made to the course or the way the events are conducted based on the conditions at the time.
4. If the conditions, such as weather or water, are deemed to be unsuitable and not safe, a decision may be made to cancel, pause or postpone. Full refunds of entry fees will be offered to all affected swimmers. No refunds will be offered, or given, for any other expenses incurred in relation to this meet.
5. All meet participants, spectators and other personnel must observe all safety precautions in operation at Cromhall Quarry Lake and follow any instructions given by the South West Maritime Academy (the Venue) and/or the Organiser.
6. All swimmers and parents/carers where swimmers are under 18 swimmers agree to the meet conditions and declaration on sign in at the Venue and at submission of entry.
7. All participants must hold Swim England Club Compete membership.
8. All participants must be a Swim England member of a Gloucester County Swimming Association Club.
9. All participants must be Open Water Swimming registered with Swim England.
10. Each club is responsible for ensuring that each swimmer has reached the minimum proficiency and is able to complete the distance quicker than the designated cut off time.
11. There will be cut off times for the events. 20 minutes for the 550m events (one lap), 40 minutes 1100m events (two laps) and 50 minutes for the 1650m events (three laps).
12. Each club is responsible to ensure swimmers are only entered if they can swim the required distance within the designated cut off times (see item 17) and have experience of open water swimming.
13. Whilst not swimming, each club will be responsible for the safe supervision of their swimmers. This includes passing on any relevant medical information and/or any additional information to make the Organiser aware of that could affect safe participation and so the Organiser is able to make any necessary reasonable adjustments. Any relevant information must be passed on when the club submits their entry.
14. Entries will be held on a computer solely for the purposes of this competition and consent, as required by the Data Protection Act 2018, and in line with GDPR 2018, to the holding of personal information on computer will be deemed to have been given by the submission of the entry. Personal data will be available for inspection during the meet on application to the promoters.
15. Data collected will only be used for the purposes of administration of this event by Bristol Penguins. No data will be passed to any third-party organisation or used by Bristol Penguins for any other use. All collected data will be destroyed within 3 months after the event has concluded.
16. Age as on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (age on day of competition).
17. Entries will be accepted on a first come first served basis.
18. Whilst no more entries will be accepted after Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September, the Organiser may decide to extend the deadline should this be deemed necessary.

19. No refunds will be made to participants who withdraw after advice of acceptance.
20. The exact distance of each event may vary slightly from that advertised.
21. The Organiser can accept up to 30 participants in each event. The Organiser however reserves the right to scratch swimmers should it be necessary to do so to enable the meet to still take place. For example, if there are additional restrictions from the Venue or there are insufficient volunteers to help run the meet.
22. Participants will be required to swim in one of two groups, Female or Open/Male swimmers. The Female category is for birth sex females in accordance with Swim England's Transgender and Non-Binary competition policy for swimming. By entering the 'Female' category, a swimmer confirms that their birth sex is female.
23. Once entries are confirmed, the Organiser will contact each club to arrange payment via one consolidated amount.
24. Participants may only enter one event.
25. There will be awards for the top three finishers in each event.
26. There will be a top club award covering events 1 to 6. Swimmers will gain points for their club if they finish in the top 10, with one point for 10<sup>th</sup> place and 10 points for first place.
27. There will be a top masters club award covering events 7 to 8. Swimmers will gain points for their club if they finish in the top 10, with one point for 10<sup>th</sup> place and 10 points for first place.
28. For the masters competition, the age categories will be determined once entries are received.
29. All participants must sign in and attend the briefing. Failure to do this may result in a no swim.
30. Swimmers will wear numbered hats, which will be provided by the Organiser. Numbering of swimmers will be supervised by designated officials. Any latex allergies or medical information must be sent to the Organiser via the entry form at the time of entry.
31. The wearing or not wearing of wetsuit will depend on the water temperature. We will follow World Aquatics Rules 7.2 and 8.1.6.3
  - i) Water Temperature 18°C to 31°C: wetsuits are not permitted.
  - ii) Water Temperature 16°C to 17.9°C: the use of wetsuits is compulsory.
  - iii) In the unlikely event that the water temperature is below 16°C we will risk assess if any swimming can take place.
32. For the purpose of these conditions, wetsuits are swimsuits made of material providing thermal insulation. Wetsuits shall completely cover the torso, back, shoulders and knees. They shall not extend beyond the neck, wrists and ankles. When wetsuits are worn a swimming costume may be worn underneath for modesty. Rash vests may not be worn under wetsuits.
33. No participant shall be permitted to use or wear any device which may be an aid to their speed, endurance or buoyancy. Jewellery and watches are also not permitted to be worn. Goggles, nose clip, earplugs and maximum TWO caps may be worn, the outer cap MUST be the provided numbered cap. (If allergic to latex please inform the promoter at time of entry and competition). Only one swimsuit is allowed.
34. Swimmers shall be allowed to use grease or equivalent providing these are not deemed in excess, in the opinion of the lead official.
35. Participants are advised not to leave their belongings unattended. Neither the Organiser or the Venue can accept responsibility for any property that may be lost, stolen or damaged.
36. All attendees are required to comply with Swim England guidance on photography can be found in Wavepower the Swim England Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures available at: <http://www.swimming.org/swimengland/wavepower-child-safeguarding-for-clubs/>
37. The Organiser may take some photos or videos of the event and photos of award presentations. These images or videos may be used by the Gloucester County Swimming Association on its website and social media channels to celebrate this event and promote future events. On the entry form, clubs should indicate if any participants do not give photography consent.
38. The Organiser reserves the right to ask anyone to leave the Venue whose conduct is deemed to fall short of the Swim England code of conduct. This includes aggressive behaviour and the use of foul language.
39. Each club is responsible to provide their swimmers with the Swimmer Declaration (see page 5).
40. Upon arrival at the Venue, swimmers and/or parents/carers must sign the swimmer declaration.
41. Any matters not provided for in these conditions will be decided by the Organiser.



## Gloucester County ASA Open Water Swimming Festival Swimmer Declaration



**You will be provided with a copy of this declaration to sign upon arrival at the Venue.**

1. I am aware of the need to seek appropriate medical advice if I have concerns as to the state of my health. I have not been informed by any medical practitioner and I do not have any knowledge of any medical conditions which would make it inadvisable for me to participate in Open Water Swimming events or any other associated activities. Accordingly, I hereby certify that I am physically fit and well to participate.
2. I am aware of and appreciate the inherent risks involved in open water swimming including the possibility of injury and accident. I undertake to always conduct myself in a responsible and in a professional manner.
3. I undertake at all times to use my best endeavours to train and compete in a safe and proper manner and not to do anything which would expose myself or fellow swimmers to unnecessary risk or injury.
4. I further undertake at all times to take all reasonable safety measures for the protection of myself and fellow swimmers and to inform the lead official of any concerns I may have as regards to safety.
5. I acknowledge that the Organiser or the Venue cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to personal belongings and that I must take all reasonable steps against any such loss or damage.
6. I hereby agree to abide by and be governed by the rules of Swim England and all other laws and regulations applicable including the Swim England Safety Laws.
7. I have read and understand the above provisions, along with the event information pack and agree to abide by them.
8. I acknowledge that all events have cut off times and that these will be applied.
9. I understand that it is my responsibility to attend the meet briefing at the designated time.

Name of Participant / Swimmer: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Participant / Swimmer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent / Carer (if under 18 years): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent / Carer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_