



stowmarketswimmingclub.co.uk

FEES: ANNUAL MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTION (AND REGISTRATION OF SWIM ENGLAND MEMBERSHIP.)

It is important to note that fees for Stowmarket Swimming Club are made up of two parts:

1. Annual Members' Subscription (to include *Swim England* Fees).
2. Squad and Coaching Fees.

This guidance covers the rules for the annual members' subscription, which is based on their corresponding Swim England category (explained below).

There is separate guidance for squad and coaching fees.

Stowmarket Swimming Club is affiliated to *Swim England*. This provides insurance cover and allows club members to compete in *Swim England*-sanctioned galas and events and to achieve *Swim England* rankings.

Swimmers MUST be members of the club (and therefore *Swim England*) in order to be allowed to compete for OR TRAIN with Stowmarket Swimming Club.

Anyone associated with Stowmarket Swimming Club such as coaches, committee members and helpers must be members of the club and, therefore, *Swim England*.

In line with best practice of swimming clubs in the area at least one parent or guardian of a swimming member is required to be a member of the club (and *Swim England*). In any case, only members of club and *Swim England* may vote at the club's annual general meeting ("AGM") and the limited seating next to the main pool is restricted to club and *Swim England* members only.

Membership of *Swim England* should be arranged through the club and not direct with *Swim England*. Anyone becoming a member of *Swim England* direct or through another club should note that this will NOT make them a member of Stowmarket Swimming Club.

Swim England levies fees at county, regional and national levels.

Membership of the club is annual and renewed through re-registration each January. As such, the Members' Subscription fees are levied ANNUALLY and are collected by the club at the time of re-registration, which is completed online.

There are three categories which are explained overleaf. The categories are based on whether the person swims, swims competitively or is otherwise involved in the sport.

Cost of membership varies year to year and is advised separately for the start of each year. The annual membership subscription may be set at any rate but over time the practice has developed to set it in line with *Swim England* fees. However, the amount levied by the club might not match exactly the fees levied by *Swim England* and may be set at any level should the committee deem it appropriate.

Categories of Swim England membership and therefore the categories of membership to Stowmarket Swimming Club:

Cat.1: The *Swim England* website records Cat.1 as *"For members of any age who are learning to swim or who are swimmers at any level, who do not compete in any discipline in open competition (other than those exempted under Law 321.1.2 and those competitions designated as "Low Level Competition")."*

In other words, it is for swimmers who do not compete. The youngest age for official competition is 9. (It is important to note that *Swim England* uses the swimmer's age as at 31 December of the year in question). Therefore, Category 1 swimmers tend to be aged 8 and below as at 31 December (that is, the child must still be 8 or under *for the entire year*).

Category 1 members considered by the club coaches of being of sufficient ability may compete in the club's annual in-house championship (as a "Low Level Competition") but will not record official times.

Cat.2: *Swim England* defines Category 2 as *"For members of any age who compete in any discipline in open competitions (other than those exempted under Law 321.1.2 and whose competitions designated as "Low Level Competition"). Competitive members benefit from a structured competitive pathway at all levels in all disciplines."*

As such, it is generally for swimmers aged 9 and over as at 31 December of the year in question and who expect to compete in some sort of recognised (licensed) gala or meet.

A child who has their ninth birthday during the year is required to pay the Cat.2 fee for the entire year.

Although the category relates to whether the swimmer competes in galas or time trials it is rare that swimmers of the club who attain the age of 9 do *not* compete in some sort of *Swim England*-licensed gala. Therefore, the assumption is that any child reaching the age of 9 during the year should be a Category 2 swimmer for the entire year and pay the appropriate fee.

If a child is registered for Category 1 but later qualifies and wishes to compete they will not be able to do so unless their official category has been amended. This will require the appropriate fee to be paid and for *Swim England* records to be updated. Any delays in either may result in the swimmer missing out on a gala or meet (and club officials can only undertake to arrange these on a "best efforts" basis).

Cat.3: The *Swim England* explanation of Category 3 is as *"For members of any age who are not in categories 1 or 2, including but not being limited to, any persons who have voting rights in their club by virtue of being a parent of, or a person with parental responsibility for, a member in categories 1 or 2; administrators; associate members; coaches; helpers; honorary members; life members; officers; qualified officials of any discipline; patrons; teachers; temporary members; vice-presidents and verifiers or tutors of the Association's educational certificates."*

Therefore, the fee is payable by volunteers, parents and others connected with the club. At Stowmarket we require at least one parents or guardian of a swimmer under 18 years to be *Swim England* members. In due course this will be ensured through the club's online management system. At county and national levels the fees help support *Swim England*'s administration of the sport. There are benefits to members from having *Swim England* representation in disputes and discounts on insurance and other services. At a local level members can participate in the club's administration and AGM. A key benefit, however, is being insured and therefore permitted to sit in the designated pool-side seating during sessions (otherwise, spectators are restricted to the seating along the wall by the small pools) and being allowed (in a case of need) to go poolside. Therefore, *at least* one parents and guardians of swimmers under 18 years old should be a member of the club (and therefore of *Swim England*) (being the one who most often brings the child or children to sessions).

More information on membership benefits is available on the *Swim England* website at: <http://www.swimming.org/members/club-membership/key-member-benefits-swim-england-club/>