



# **Berkshire & South Buckinghamshire ASA**

(Sub regional body of the ASA South East Region)

## **County and Age Group Championships 2014**

(Under ASA Laws and ASA Technical Rules)

### **Consideration times**

Following the completion of the 2013 Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire ASA ("BSBASA") County Championships, a feedback meeting was convened with the Head Coaches of each Performance Swimming Club in the County. This meeting considered a number of agenda items and the minutes of the meeting are available on the County website. One of the matters concluded upon by the meeting was that the number of swims for the County Championships in 2014 should be reduced. In 2013, there were 2,892 completed swims, i.e. after withdrawals, and a target was set to reduce this number by between 10% and 20%.

In order to achieve this reduction, it is necessary to tighten the consideration times when compared to 2013. The following paragraphs summarise the process that has been undertaken to generate the 2014 consideration times:

- In the first instance, the County Performance Swimming Committee, in conjunction with the Head Coaches agreed that the 100m Individual Medley would become an event that only BAGCAT swimmers could compete in.
- Secondly, to align with the ASA Licensing requirements, nine year old swimmers were placed into a newly created nine year old age group and were restricted from swimming certain events.
- Thereafter, given that the consideration times have evolved over a number of years, a full bottom up review has been undertaken; bearing in mind that the objective was to make the consideration times faster.

In this respect, the 2013 consideration times were compared to the 2009 – 2012 ASA Graded Tables. (Note that the 2013 Graded Tables have not been published as at the date of this document.) Within the Graded Tables the "A" Grade times are deemed suitable for a County Championships. Accordingly, for each 2013 time that was slower than the respective graded table time, the consideration time was made equal to the faster graded table time.

Following all of the above actions, the entry level had been reduced by 10%.

- The resulting BSBASA consideration times were then compared with the 2013 times from ten other county associations. Again where the BSBASA times were slower than an approximate average of the other counties (with greater weighting being given to the neighbouring counties), the BSBASA times were made equal to the faster times.

Whilst this only removed a further 1% of the 2013 entries, it did ensure a general consistency of BSBASA times with other county associations.

- Finally, and to reduce further the number of swims, the restrictions placed upon the nine year old age group in terms of which events they could swim was extended to the ten year age group. This extension is consistent with most other county associations and is consistent with the approach taken by the ASA South East Region in their Regional competitions. This final change removed a further 3% of the 2013 entries.

The resulting 2014 consideration times will generate an estimated 14.3% fewer swims than in 2013 and, following ratification by the County Performance Swimming Committee, will form the basis of the 2014 entry conditions.

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