



## CULTS OTTERS NOVICE GALA

### MEET INFORMATION

**Sunday 22nd February 2026**

**Licence Number TBC**

**Under Scottish Swimming Regulations**

Cults Otters ASC invite you to our **Novice Gala** on Sunday 22nd February 2026 at the Cults Swimming Pool.

<b>Entry Deadline</b>	<b>Friday 30th January 2026.</b> All entry documents, meet entry file and payment to be received by this closing date.																		
<b>Pool</b>	Cults Swimming Pool, Quarry Road, Cults, Aberdeen, AB15 9TP 25m, six lanes, anti-turbulence lane ropes; deck level pool; space poolside for swimmers and coaches																		
<b>Sessions</b>	<table><tr><th></th><th>Doors Open</th><th>Warm-Ups Commence</th><th>Event Start</th><th>End (approx.)</th></tr><tr><td>Session 1</td><td>09:00</td><td>09:05</td><td>10:10</td><td>12:40</td></tr><tr><td>Session 2</td><td>13:30</td><td>13:35</td><td>14:40</td><td>17:10</td></tr></table> <p>All swimmers are asked to arrive in time to participate in their relevant Warm-up session, the information for which will be circulated to participating clubs as Meet Joining Instructions after the Entry Deadline. Cults Otters ASC reserve the right to alter the meet programme and warm up times if necessary.</p>					Doors Open	Warm-Ups Commence	Event Start	End (approx.)	Session 1	09:00	09:05	10:10	12:40	Session 2	13:30	13:35	14:40	17:10
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<b>Events</b>	<b>Individual</b> 8 Years 25m all strokes 9 Years 25m Butterfly and 50m Freestyle, Breaststroke and Backstroke 10 Years 50m all strokes 11 years 50m all strokes 12 years 50m all strokes Open 100m Individual Medley <b>Team</b> 8-9 years mixed 4 x 25m Freestyle and Medley relays (maximum of 3x9 year olds per team) 10-12 years mixed 4 x 50m Freestyle and Medley relays (maximum of 3x12 year olds per team)																		



	Maximum of 2 Relay teams per relay event per club. Relay teams do not need to be mixed equally provided that each team has at least one boy or one girl.																																								
Age Groups	8, 9, 10, 11, 12 years. All events are age on the day – Sunday 22nd February 2026																																								
Consideration Times	<p>Heats will be combined to promote competitive swimming. All events are Heat Declared Winner.</p> <p>50m event entries will be accepted on an “ equal to or slower than” basis - please see below for qualifying times information. There are no qualifying times for 25m events.</p> <p>There are no qualifying times for the Open 100m IM event but swimmers must qualify for and swim in an individual event to enter the Open 100m IM.</p> <p>‘No Time’ (NT) entries will be accepted. Cults Otters ASC reserve the right to restrict the numbers of heats in any event(s) and to fill any empty lanes with Cults swimmers.</p> <table><tr><td></td><td colspan="4">Distance &amp; Stroke</td></tr><tr><td>Age</td><td>25m Free</td><td>25m Back</td><td>25m Breast</td><td>25m Fly</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>Open</td><td>Open</td><td>Open</td><td>Open</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>50m Free</td><td>50m Back</td><td>50m Breast</td><td>25m Fly</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>00:44:00</td><td>00:50.00</td><td>00:56.00</td><td>Open</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>50m Free</td><td>50m Back</td><td>50m Breast</td><td>50m Fly</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>00:42.00</td><td>00:48.00</td><td>00:54.00</td><td>00:48.00</td></tr><tr><td>11 and 12</td><td>00:40.00</td><td>00:46.00</td><td>00:52.00</td><td>00:46.00</td></tr></table> <p>Entries may be checked against published results prior to acceptance.</p>		Distance & Stroke				Age	25m Free	25m Back	25m Breast	25m Fly	8	Open	Open	Open	Open		50m Free	50m Back	50m Breast	25m Fly	9	00:44:00	00:50.00	00:56.00	Open		50m Free	50m Back	50m Breast	50m Fly	10	00:42.00	00:48.00	00:54.00	00:48.00	11 and 12	00:40.00	00:46.00	00:52.00	00:46.00
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Awards	Medals will be awarded in age groups for 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> for each event (including relay events)																																								
Entry Fees:	<p>£7.00 per individual swim. £9.00 per Relay Team</p> <p>Payments should be made by Bank Transfer to: Sort code: 80-06-19 Account: Cults Otters ASC 00530650 Reference NG2026 followed by the Club Code e.g. NG2026NCOX</p>																																								



	In the event of postponement, cancellation or abandonment of the event or withdrawals at any time, refunds will be made at the absolute discretion of Cults Otters ASC.
<b>Special Conditions</b>	<p>Please note that this gala is intended for novice swimmers only (ie those not competing at North District Level). With the exception of Cults Otters, team entries will be accepted on a first come, first accepted basis. All Cults swimmers will be accepted.</p> <p>Because this competition is intended to be a friendly, welcoming opportunity for learning for young swimmers, the full World Aquatics rules of swimming will not be applied. The meet will be run under the following conditions:</p> <p>Forward facing starts with a dive from the blocks, or from in the water will all be permitted. Swimmers will only be disqualified for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starting before the signal (although a restart will usually be offered) or doing a “flyer” in a relay</li> <li>• Swimming the wrong stroke in either an individual event or a relay</li> <li>• Not completing the full distance (including not touching the end at a turn)</li> <li>• Actions that are against the rules AND gain a clear unfair advantage eg pulling on the lane rope or swimming underwater</li> </ul> <p>Although a Novice Gala, Coaches should ensure that swimmers are capable of completing the stroke / distance according to World Aquatics technical requirements before entering swimmers into an event.</p> <p>We would like to encourage clubs to enter relay teams to promote team spirit and fun at this novice event.</p>
<b>Entries</b>	<p>Entries to be made using the Hytek Team Manager events file. Events files may be obtained by download from the North District website (<a href="http://www.sasanorth.org.uk">www.sasanorth.org.uk</a>) or by email from <a href="mailto:cultsotters.galaorg@gmail.com">cultsotters.galaorg@gmail.com</a>. All entry files must be returned by email and the fees and other paperwork to be sent on as soon as possible after this. Receipt of entry file will be confirmed by email.</p>
<b>Technical Officials</b>	<p>We would be grateful for the offer of technical officials. Please advise if you can assist in a technical role by completing the attached STO form and returning to Steven Jackson, Cults Otters STO Co-ordinator , at <a href="mailto:CultsOtters.STOsec@gmail.com">CultsOtters.STOsec@gmail.com</a> by <b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>.</p> <p>Any queries or changes to Technical Officials after the closing date should also be directed to the STO Co-Ordinator. All clubs are requested to provide a minimum of 1 STO per session (ideally Judge level if possible). Clubs that have 10 swimmers or more accepted should provide a minimum of 2 technical officials per session, at least one of which should hold a minimum qualification of Judge 1.</p> <p>Mentoring requests will be at the discretion of the Referee. It may be more likely for mentoring requests be honoured if there are adequate qualified officials to cover the roles, however we cannot guarantee all requests will be granted.</p>



	Please note that Timekeepers or Judges-in-training requiring specific signatures, i.e. Chief timekeeper or stroke judge, should make this request when STO names are submitted.
<b>Transgender and Non-Binary Policy</b>	As of the 1st January 2024 the Scottish Swimming Transgender & Non-Binary Competition Policy was implemented nationally across all aquatics sports. The policy and FAQs can be found at <a href="https://www.scottishswimming.com/about-us/equality">https://www.scottishswimming.com/about-us/equality</a> . Any policy related matters that arise during the event should be reported to and will be recorded by the Meet Convenor/Lead Referee and these matters will be communicated to and managed post event by the relevant Scottish Swimming Staff. At no point will members be challenged on the day of a competition with any matters being resolved post event. As a result of this policy being implemented, any competitor intending to compete within the Female category at this event will be required to provide confirmation that their birth sex is female when signing up to the meet conditions through entry. By entering the Female category, athletes are therefore confirming their birth sex is female and are eligible to compete in the Female category.
<b>Withdrawals</b>	Must be notified to <a href="mailto:cultsotters.galaorg@gmail.com">cultsotters.galaorg@gmail.com</a> by email before <b>5pm Friday 20th February 2026</b> and after this to the Recorders table on the day – withdrawals should be notified at least 1 hour prior to the start of the appropriate session.
<b>Photography</b>	<p>No photographic or video equipment will be allowed in any area without prior agreement of the Gala Organiser. Application forms will be available from the Gala Organiser and must be countersigned by a club official. Photographic permission will not be issued for mobile phones.</p> <p>Unless it has been notified in writing to the Gala Organiser it will be assumed that all parents of children swimming give permission for their child to be photographed by approved parties.</p> <p><b><u>Photography of any description, and the use of mobile phones or any other devices capable of photography is strictly prohibited in the changing room, showers, and toilets. The use of mobile phones poolside is prohibited.</u></b></p>
<b>Changing Room</b>	The changing room at the pool will be available for use but time in this area should be limited as far as possible. Bags can be taken into the seating area where space in that area allows. No belongings can be left in the changing rooms.
<b>Marshalling</b>	Swimmers must report to marshalling ahead of their event otherwise they will not be permitted to swim. The start of a race will not be delayed for absent competitors. Swimmers must follow instructions given to them by meet officials and marshals, and must behave in a reasonable manner at all times.
<b>Spectating</b>	All available space (as defined by building regulations) will be prioritised for swimmers, team staff and STO's. Any available capacity may be allocated to spectating subject to compliance with building regulations. Details will be confirmed once all entries have been processed.



<b>Data Protection</b>	<p>In order to operate the Cults Otters Novice Gala, we have a legitimate interest to collect and process some basic personal data from all competitors, specifically name, gender, date of birth.</p> <p>This data will be held securely and only used for the purposes of managing the meet and reporting results. The data will be retained in accordance with Licence Requirements. Names and ages will be shared with attending clubs and SASA ND and may be published. Name, gender and date of birth will only be used when submitting the results to Scottish Rankings for the purpose of maintaining the National Database.</p> <p>By entering the Cults Otters Novice Gala competitors agree to allow Cults Otters ASC to publish the personal data submitted within the entry file and allow publication of results.</p>
<b>Contact:</b>	<p>Adrian Gavin email: <a href="mailto:cultsotters.galaorg@gmail.com">cultsotters.galaorg@gmail.com</a></p>
<b>Coaches Passes</b>	<p>One coach's lunch pass will be included for each Club. Additional coaches' passes will be available at £7.00 each – please include this payment with the gala entry fee.</p>
<b>Technical Swimsuits</b>	<p>Swimmers 13 years and younger cannot compete wearing technical suits in Scottish Swimming licensed or registered events. For further information and FAQ's please see link below. <a href="https://scottishswimming.com/news/technical-swimsuit-policy-update">https://scottishswimming.com/news/technical-swimsuit-policy-update</a></p>



## Programme of Events

### Session One

Warm up  
Start  
Finish

9:05 am  
10.10 am  
12.40 pm approx

101	Male&Open	9-12	50	Back
102	Male&Open	8 year olds	25	Back
103	Female	9-12	50	Breast
104	Female	8 year olds	25	Breast
105	Male&Open	9-12	50	Free
106	Male&Open	8 year olds	25	Free
107	Female	10-12	50	Fly
108	Female	8-9	25	Fly
109	Male&Open	8-12	100	IM
110	Mixed	8-9	100	Medley Relay
111	Mixed	10-12	200	Free Relay

### Session Two

Warm up  
Start  
Finish

1.35 pm  
2.40 pm  
5.10 pm approx

201	Female	9-12	50	Back
202	Female	8 year olds	25	Back
203	Male&Open	9-12	50	Breast
204	Male&Open	8 year olds	25	Breast
205	Female	9-12	50	Free
206	Female	8 year olds	25	Free
207	Male&Open	10-12	50	Fly
208	Male&Open	8-9	25	Fly
209	Female	8-12	100	IM
210	Mixed	8-9	100	Free Relay
211	Mixed	10-12	200	Medley Relay



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Sunday 22nd February 2026

### DECLARATION

All competitors must be SASA registered. Swimmers & coaches have been made aware of the photographic / video restrictions at this venue.

Signed on \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_  
behalf of Club: \_\_\_\_\_ in Club: \_\_\_\_\_

### ENTRY SUMMARY

Name of Club / Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Post code: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Female Individual Entries	@ £7.00	=	£
			_____
Male&Open Individual Entries	@ £7.00	=	£
			_____
Mixed Relay Entries	@ £9.00	=	£
Lunch Pass	@£7.00	=	£
			_____

Payments should be made by Bank Transfer to: Sort Code: 80-06-19 Account: Cults Otters ASC 00530650  
Reference NG2026 followed by your Club Code e.g. NG2026NCOX  
For payments by cheque please contact: Adrian Gavin (Gala Organiser) at: [cultsotters.galaorg@gmail.com](mailto:cultsotters.galaorg@gmail.com)



## CULTS OTTERS NOVICE GALA

Sunday 22nd February 2026

### STO FORM

Club \_\_\_\_\_  
STO Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel No \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Duty	Signature Required?	Session 1	Session 2

**Mentoring Requests – please note that mentoring will be at the discretion of the Referee(s)**

Name	J1/J2/J2S	Session 1 Duty Requested - <i>eg CIT</i>	Session 2 Duty Requested - <i>eg CIT</i>

Please return to: Steven Jackson      Email: [CultsOtters.STOsec@gmail.com](mailto:CultsOtters.STOsec@gmail.com)

Acknowledgement of receipt will be made by email.