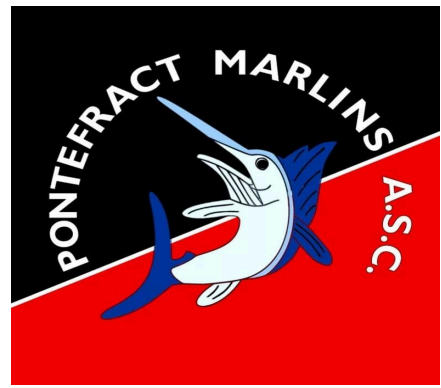




Gala Entry Information for Members, Parents and Guardians

Dear Parent / Guardian / Member

Following lots of hard work, dedication and an increase in membership we are seeing more and more members wishing to be involved in competitions, with around 50% of our current members signed up for Club Compete via their Swim England membership, which is fantastic news and we couldn't be prouder of our little club and where we are heading. With this in mind we wanted to put a little information sheet together for those new to competing and entering swim galas to help you through the process and give you an idea of what to expect.

Finding out about Galas

We try to keep our website as up to date as possible with details of the races available for entry and will try to advertise these through our facebook page and member Messenger chat. Information can always be found with our admin team on the desk at your sessions.

Not every gala out there will be advertised to you as there needs to be coaches available to attend meets so we try to pick the most suitable meets for our members and spread them throughout the year so as to not cause fatigue with the swimmers and volunteers.

When the information for each Gala becomes available the links will be added to the racing page online along with a Marlins Google form for you to fill out to let us know which races your swimmer wishes to compete in. These forms are then passed through to our Gala Co-ordinator Anna, who will collect them and formally enter the galas on your behalf. To ensure that we do not miss the chance to enter we will try to enter the competitions as soon as it opens for entry as many of them are popular and will book up fast long before the closing date. We have therefore decided to send through all club entries on the date of opening for entries which means we need you to complete your forms as soon as possible after the details go on.

Completing an Entry form

When you click on the link for the entry form it will ask you for the swimmers name and the races you wish to enter. Please note that completing this form isn't a guarantee that your swimmer is entered in the Gala as these are put through afterwards all together and is dependent on how quickly the Gala becomes fully booked. The price for races will be listed so you can work out what is owed and this is to be paid into the usual Marlins account once entries have been confirmed by the Gala Co-ordinator.

For Counties and Regional competitions, please get in touch. Our Gala Co-ordinator Anna, will complete entries for these, we kindly ask that parents/members do not do this individually to ensure that entries for all qualifying members of the club are processed correctly.

Confirmation of Entries

Our Admin team keeps a record of all the entry forms and the chosen races for each swimmer and once these have been processed you will receive a confirmation email. If there are any issues with booking for example if the gala has booked up or there aren't enough spaces in the particular races you wish to enter you will be informed via the admin team and by email to the address we have recorded on file. To ensure nothing is missed please check in with us before the date of the Gala to confirm your swimmer is entered.

Payment

Payment for entries should be paid to the Pontefract Marlins account once you receive your confirmation email. The amount owed for the confirmation entries will be listed on the email.

What to do on the day

Details of the meet are published via links to the relevant organisers pages. You should find all information regarding location, warm up and start times and swim lists there. Occasionally the meet information may not cover everything you wish to know so we may not always have the answer for you until the day of the meet. When you arrive at the venue, it can be a little daunting on your first time as it is always very busy with swimmers and families attending. Look out for any of our members, coaches or captains, we will try to ensure someone is there to guide you with where to go. Swimmers should head to the pool side to meet the coaches, and all clubs have a designated spot at the side of the pool where swimmers and coaches stay throughout the Gala. Look out for the Marlins towels hanging by the pool! Warm ups usually start an hour before the races and all swimmers should be poolside in time to warm up. Again, some race meets can differ so always check the meet information for actual times for warm ups and start times.

Swimmers should try to bring just one bag with them where possible as it can be crowded in the seating area. We recommend they have two towels and a spare swimsuit, goggles and cap with them. If they are swimming in morning and afternoon sessions they might wish to change swimsuits so they don't become cold and uncomfortable. Goggles may break and caps could split so spares are always useful. A change of dry clothes for the end of the day (bring in a carrier bag to keep them dry). They should also bring plenty of drinks (not fizzy and with a sports cap) and snacks for poolside to keep them hydrated and their energy levels up.

There is usually a break for lunch where you can leave the venue if you wish or meet with your swimmers and catch up over lunch. Swimmers should be on poolside in time for the warm up when also attending the afternoon session.

Spectators will be signposted to the viewing area where there is a charge to pay for the session/day. You are usually given a wristband to gain access and there is also usually a chance to enter raffles (the prizes are usually quite good) or buy from attending shops if you so wish.

Spectators won't be allowed poolside with the swimmers.

Tip: As a spectator wear something lightweight and cool as it gets very hot and bring plenty of drinks and snacks for yourselves. There should be a cafe or vending machines available to you throughout the day also.

Finally... Galas are really good fun so the main thing is for you to go and enjoy the event. It's not all about winning medals. It's a fantastic experience which allows swimmers to build their confidence, learn and improve. Most young swimmers tend to find they are achieving new personal bests with every new gala as they work on improving their technique and grow stronger.

If you need to know any more information please don't hesitate to ask any of the team and we will try to help.

With Thanks

Pontefract Marlins ASC