

British Gas ASA National Youth Championships 2012

Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield

Tuesday 17th – Saturday 21st July 2012

British Gas ASA National Age Group Championships 2012

Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield

Sunday 22nd – Thursday 26th July 2012

CHANGES TO THE STRUCTURE OF THESE CHAMPIONSHIPS

As a result of feedback from Coaches and swimmers the following changes will be made to the structure of the ASA National Age & Youth Championships in 2012:

1. Both championships will be age at 26th July 2012
2. Swimmers age groups will be aligned.
3. Events will be introduced within the National Youth Championship Programme for older swimmers.

In order to accommodate this the following will take place:

- 14 year old Girls will now compete in the National Age Group Championships not the Youth Championships.
- The ages for the National Age Group Championships will be 11/12, 13 & 14 years for both Boys & Girls.
- The move to 11/12 does not exclude 11 year olds from competing at the National Age Groups, but reduces the potential for young swimmers to be subjected to pressures surrounding performance outcomes.
(We wish to encourage Clubs, Coaches, Swimmers & Parents to recognise the different stages of maturation, highlighted by the variance in physical, psychological, emotional and social stages that can be seen amongst different swimmers of the same age and focus upon the developmental aspects of stroke technique, racing skills and thus train appropriately for their needs rather than simply setting a goal of being the best in the country at that stage of life).
- Swimmers from the age of 10 to 14, on the 26th July 2012, can swim in teams at the National Age Group Championships.
- Semi-Finals will be introduced for some of the events involving the 14 year old age group.
- The ages for the Youth Championships will be 15/16, 17/18 years for both Boys & Girls.
- Semi-Finals will be retained within the Youth Championships.
- Youth Teams will consist of swimmers aged 15-18 years on the 26th July 2012.
- 40 teams will be invited to compete in each team event at the National Age & Youth Championships.
- Events will also be available within the National Youth Championships for swimmers ages 19 & over.
- There will be no team events for the 19 & over age group.
- Events will continue to be available for MC swimmers with the Youth Championship Programme.

As the date of the British Gas ASA Regional Youth Championships clashes with the opening ceremony for the National Childrens Games in London an opportunity will be provided for Youth Teams to qualify for the National Youth Championships at the ASA Zonal Championships in January.

The British Gas ASA Championships (50m) will be held at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield from Wednesday 20th – Saturday 23rd June 2012. This will be the final opportunity to qualify for the British team for the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Barry J Saunders, Competition Manager, ASA Technical Swimming Committee
September 2011.