



# East Virtual Gathering

January Series

18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – 18<sup>th</sup>

February 2021

## East Virtual Gathering 2021 – January Series

For all East District swimmers between the 18<sup>th</sup> January and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Everyone is welcome no matter what age!

### What is it for?

East Virtual Gathering 2020 was a great success, which saw 5082 swims from athletes from 14 clubs during a difficult period that saw sections of the District operating under differing conditions.

East Virtual Gathering 2021 – January Series is a natural progression and will take the form of a number of step-by-step series, towards the return of regular competition.

Conditions for the East Virtual Gathering 2021 - January Series remain minimal because the key intent remains to “give us all an opportunity to engage with our swimming community, have some fun racing, give swimmers a chance to see how they are improving and to celebrate our sport as we develop new ways of returning to competition”.

When we move on to the February Series, further conditions will be introduced.

### How can Clubs participate?

All East District Clubs can take part by simply entering times for their swimmers from races that have taken place at training sessions during the period between 18<sup>th</sup> January and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Subject to the conditions of the event, any stopwatch time from training can be submitted, as well as times from internal club timing sessions, virtual meets or virtual league matches can all be posted.

- Any Scottish Swimming member that can swim 50 metres can get involved in the District Level
- Any Scottish Swimming member that can swim 25 metres can also get involved.
- The event is completely inclusive of all ages and abilities.
- District Clubs can **enter as many, or as few times**, as they wish.

All District Clubs can choose whether to enter times for the East Virtual Gathering 2021 - January Series.

There is no fee for entries.

Clubs must comply with Scottish Government and Scottish Swimming guidelines.

Times entered in to the East Virtual Gathering 2021 - January Series must be submitted to the District Administrator to be included in the Progression List by 6.00pm as follows –

Thursday 18 February 2021

Times swum after the close of East virtual Gathering 2020 on 11 December 2020 can be included in submissions and the deadline for submission of all times to be included in the East Virtual Gathering 2021 - January Series is 6.00pm on Thursday 18 February 2021. **No late entries will be accepted.**

## What are the Events?

Swimming events for East Virtual Gathering 2021 - January Series are as follows –

25 Freestyle	50m Freestyle	100m Freestyle	200m Freestyle
25 Backstroke	50m Backstroke	100m Backstroke	200m Backstroke
25 Breaststroke	50m Breaststroke	100m Breaststroke	200m Breaststroke
25 Butterfly	50m Butterfly	100m Butterfly	200m Butterfly
100m Individual Medley	200m Individual Medley	400m Individual Medley	400m Freestyle

Races can be swum individually with times taken in ones or twos, or more formally in heats according to gender and age, or they can be swum mixed.

Results from internal events, from virtual meets and leagues and from inter club meets where this is permitted (see Scottish Swimming Racing Considerations and Back to the Water – Competition Management Guidance when available) can also be submitted.

For the purposes of the event, Progression Lists will be separated. In recognition of the different states of readiness to race around the country, **clubs may choose which events to offer at each of their timing sessions or choose to completely ignore some events until the time is right for them.**

## Submitting Entries

Events files for the East Virtual Gathering 2021 - January Series will be published on SwimScotland.

Entries must be made using the published entry files only by the closing date for each round to the District Administrator.

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## Progression Lists

After submission of entries, the results of East Virtual Gathering 2021 - January Series will be processed by the District Administrator. Progressions lists will be published on SwimScotland and the District website.

Progression Lists will be published for both genders across the event age groups, with age as midnight on 31 December 2021.

Age groups for East Virtual Gathering 2021 - January Series are as follows –

- 10 and Under
- 11-12
- 13-14
- 15-16
- 17-18
- 19 & Over – all Masters swimmers' welcome

## What happens next?

East Virtual Gathering 2021 – continues!

In 2021, further series of East District Gathering will take place, events available will be expanded with conditions to match the latest guidance. When possible, these conditions will enable times to be submitted that can be used for entry into District and National events in 2021.

## What are the rules and conditions for East Virtual Gathering 2021?

1. Compliance with Scottish Swimming “Back to the Water – Club Training Guidance” with any risk assessment in place adapted to include racing (support is available in the form of “Racing Considerations”). <https://www.scottishswimming.com/clubs/covid-19-guidance>
2. It is essential that swimmers possess the physical fitness to complete the race distance in a safe manner.
3. The races are to be a racing activity that takes place within club training sessions, involving only those swimmers who normally train within that session.
4. Limited competition outside of training sessions may be possible under strict conditions and will be subject to “Back to the Water – Swimming Competition Management Guidance” when available
5. A Scottish Swimming Licence is not required for the sessions/races for East Virtual Gathering 2021 – January Series.
6. Swimmer times should be entered under their primary/1st Claim Club only.

7. Ages shall be determined as at midnight on 31st December 2021. Age Groups are as detailed in Progression List section.
8. Races will be started, and times recorded by club coaching staff or other personnel from the club who are members of Scottish Swimming where guidance allows. Whilst there is no requirement for any swimming technical officials to be present in order to race and submit times for the January Series, with the agreement of club coaching staff, the introduction of a small number of swimming technical officials is encouraged in order to support the management of the racing.
9. Backstroke Starting Devices **must not** be used.
10. Clubs are encouraged to discuss the use of equipment, such as starting whistle, diving blocks etc, with their facility, to ensure safe and appropriate use. Electronics **must not** be used.
11. Disqualifications for infractions of the technical rules should only be made if the infraction committed provides the swimmer with an unfair advantage. In this event, a re-swim may be offered at the discretion of the club coaching staff. If a swimmer is slowed by their infraction, the time can be entered, with advice given by a coach to help the swimmer improve. **No STO's required for this round this may change with amendments to guidance.**
12. Before submission of a "result" as an entry time for the East Virtual Gathering 2021 – January Series a check should be made that a time recorded does not significantly differ from the likely performance of the swimmer.
13. Events are expected to take place in short course (25m) format. Where this is not practical, it will still be possible to take part and post times in most events. Liaise with your District Administrator to find out what to do.
14. Racing may take place over any number of training sessions.
15. The results submitted for East Virtual Gathering 2021 – January Series will be placed on Swim England Rankings as Level X Times, subject to the submitted file being accurate. If the file contains inaccuracies, these files will not be accepted.
16. East Virtual Gathering 2021/Level X racing times cannot be used for any record purposes.
17. Submission of fraudulent times on behalf of a swimmer will not only damage the integrity of the East Virtual Gathering 2021 – January Series and cause disruption to others, but also let the swimmer down. All swimmers, coaches, clubs and others involved in the process are asked to uphold the integrity of the sport, creating an enjoyable and safe environment for all our members to come together.
18. We have a legitimate interest to collect and process some basic personal data from all competitors, specifically name, gender, date of birth. This data will be held securely and only used for the purposes of managing the meet and reporting results. Dates of birth will only be shared with Scottish Swimming for the purpose of maintaining the National Database which is used for Squad Selection and Swim England for inclusion on Rankings Names, gender and age (but not date of birth) will be retained and will be shared with attending clubs and may be published for the purpose of reporting and keeping records.