

AUSTRALIAN OPEN WATER SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP BY LAWS**AS AT MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2017****OWBL1**

- (i) Each Australian Open Water Championships will be organised and coordinated by Swimming Australia
- (ii) The Australian Open Water Swimming Championships shall have separate events, which may be national team selection events, for men and women over the distances of:
 - 5km, 7.5km 10km races, and 5km time trial race
- (iii) The Australian Age Open Water Swimming Championships shall incorporate separate events for boys and girls over the distances of:
 - 5km for 14/15, 16/17 and 18/19 years
 - 7.5km for 16/17 years
 - 10km for 18 / 19 years
 - 10km for open age
 - 5km Time Trial for open age
- (iv) The Australian Open Water Swimming Championships shall conduct a mixed gender (2 males/2 females) 4x 1.25km relay event for the 14/15 and open age categories.
- (v) All Age competitors for Australian Open Water Championships shall have their age determined as at the 31st December in the year of competition
- (vi) All Open competitors will have their age determined as at the first day of competition

OWBL2

The minimum age for both male and female swimmers in the open 10km, open 5km time trial and open relay events must be fourteen (14) years as at the first day of competition.

OWBL3

Entries may be lodged on behalf of a registered member by a Club affiliated with a State Swimming Association for the Open and Age Open Water Swimming Championships. The club or member shall certify that such entry complies with the conditions of entry for the event via the online entry system.

OWBL4

Swimming Australia, will set entry standards for all open water events. It may also set time limits by which events must be concluded.

OWBL5

The jury of appeal for all Open Water Swimming Australia Championships will be the referees present who are on the FINA Open Water Referee List and not involved in the protest. In the event of three referees not being available then the Technical Manager shall fill any vacancy.

OWBL6 The Point Score for all open water events will be the same used for Australian Long and Short Course Championships.

OWBL 7 As per FINA regulations, for open water swimming competitions in water with temperature below 20°C (68°F), men and women may use either swimsuits or wetsuits. When the water temperature is below 18°C (64.4°F), the use of wetsuits is compulsory. The water temperature should be a minimum of 16°C and a maximum of 31°C in order to commence the competition

Wetsuits are swimsuits made of material providing thermal insulation. Wetsuits for both men and women shall completely cover the torso, back, shoulders and knees and shall not extend beyond the neck, wrists or ankles. The thickness of material/s used shall be a minimum 3mm and maximum 5mm. In addition, the outer surface of the wetsuit shall not include outstanding shapes, such as ridges or fins.

Outside of the above mentioned temperature stipulations, swimwear, for both Men and Women, shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulder, nor shall extend below the ankle. All Open Water swimsuits shall comply with the Fina Criteria for Materials and Approval Procedures

NOTE: The Swimming Australia Championships By-Laws will be applicable to the conduct of Australian Open Water Swimming Championships.

Where there are more than 2 international teams competing, we need to follow FINA Bylaws.