

Hampshire Secondary Schools Swimming Gala Risk Assessment 2025

Hazard	Who may be harmed?	Control Measures	Risk – low to high with measures
Spectators entering pool before admission stewards are in place Injuries due to falls caused by overcrowding through entrance or in spectator area. Increase in exit time in emergency	Spectators	Gala organiser appoints entrance and admission (table) stewards at least a week before the gala. Checks they are in-situ controlling flow of spectators into venue and then viewing area, Promoter aware venue Pool safety operating Procedure and Emergency action plan. Entrance table volunteers to ensure spectator numbers do not exceed venue's stated spectator maximum number	Low when maximum numbers are adhered to.
Swimmers entering pool area before officials and lifeguards are in-situ Swimmers may enter or fall into water unsupervised. Risk of drowning for weak/novice swimmers	Swimmers	All swimmers chaperoned by individual school staff to designated areas. Lifeguards to be in situ in advance of pool entry. Event organiser ensures that all necessary officials and end of lane stewards have been arranged. Checks done that these are in place, together with lifeguards supplied by Everyone Active, before swimmers enter the water	Medium
ENTRY and EXIT Wet swimmers. Poolside area surfaces may be or become slippery – swimmers or officials fall	Swimmers and poolside volunteers and officials	All swimmers chaperoned by individual school staff leaving poolside. Swimmers instructed to dry off before leaving poolside. Swimmers reminded to walk by all poolside chaperones	Medium
ENTRY and EXIT Swimmers arriving early or leaving early – Risk of abduction or injury	Swimmers	The arrival and departure of swimmers is the responsibility of individual schools. Public will have access to changing room during gala	Low
POOL/VENUE HAZARDS Fire exits are obstructed delaying evacuation in an emergency/fire	Swimmers	Announcer's safety announcement before competition commences alerts everyone to number and location of fire exits. Schools situated near exits to be made aware	Medium
POOL / VENUE HAZARDS No backstroke flags in place swimmers hitting head or hands hard on wall at turns or finishes	Swimmers	Backstroke flags checked by referee before start	Medium
Swimmers not trained to use starting blocks, can cause injury on diving	Swimmers	All swimmers using starting blocks must be trained to Swim England standard. Those who are not trained to dive from the side or start in the water	Low
First Aid Provision	All present	Operator responsibility. Adequate levels of trained first aiders on site A fully stocked first aid kit is easily accessible. Face masks/shields should be available on request from staff for resuscitation Communication network in place – lifeguards have radio communication for emergency Event on balcony – volunteer to contact reception	Medium