



## **GENERAL EVENT RULES**

(UPDATED JULY 2023)

### **E 1 LEN EVENTS**

E 1.1 LEN Events are:

- a) LEN Championships;
- b) LEN Cups for National Teams;
- c) LEN European Open Water Swimming Cup;
- d) European Water Polo Cups for Club Teams.

E 1.2 LEN Events shall be held in accordance with the Rules of FINA or such modifications thereof as stated in LEN Rules or as approved by the Bureau.

### **E 2 LEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

E 2.1 LEN Championships are:

- a) European Championships;
- b) European Under 15, Junior and Under 19 Championships;
- c) European Masters Championships.

E 2.2 LEN Championships shall:

- a) be held in the years as decided by the Congress;
- b) be held under names as decided by the Bureau. Title Sponsorship is permitted;
- c) be open for participation to affiliated Federations;
- d) be organised according to the Regulations decided by the Bureau following a proposal by or after consultation with the respective Committee.

E 2.3 The Regulations shall be announced no later than eight months in advance.

### **E 3 LEN CUPS FOR NATIONAL TEAMS**

E 3.1 LEN Cups for National Teams:

- a) may be held in any discipline according to the decision by the Bureau;
- b) shall be organised according to the Regulations decided by the Bureau following a proposal by or after consultation with the respective Committee.

E 3.2 The Regulations shall be announced no later than eight months in advance.

#### **E 4 EUROPEAN WATER POLO CUPS FOR CLUB TEAMS**

E 4.1 Events are:

- a) Men:
  - European Water Polo Champions League Men (Champions League);
  - LEN Euro Cup for Water Polo Men (Euro Cup)
  - Men's LEN Water Polo Super Cup .
- b) Women:
  - European Water Polo Cup for Women (Euro League);
  - Women's LEN Water Polo Super Cup

E 4.2 The Events shall be organised according to the Regulations decided by the Bureau following a proposal by the Technical Water Polo Committee.

E 4.3 The Regulations shall be announced at latest following the first Bureau meeting of the calendar year and before the annual LEN Congress.

#### **E 5 ANNUAL LEN CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

E 5.1 A Calendar of events to be held within LEN shall be established annually. The Calendar shall include:

- a) the LEN Events;
- b) fixtures agreed between Federations;
- c) events announced by a Member Federation and accepted to be included in the Calendar by the General Secretary.

Events of common interest, including all FINA international events, may be added for information.

E 5.2 All Calendar Fixtures shall be submitted electronically. Forms for the following year shall be available on the LEN website ([www.len.eu](http://www.len.eu)). Changes and/or additions may be submitted until December 1<sup>st</sup>. The final LEN Calendar shall be published online no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>.

E 5.3 After December 1<sup>st</sup>:

- E 5.3.1 A Member Federation promoting a fixture included in the LEN Calendar and wishing to change the agreed date or venue may do so only with the approval of the majority of the Member Federations having agreed to participate.
- E 5.3.2 A promoting Member Federation cancelling a fixture included in the LEN Calendar shall be fined two thousand (2,000) EURO payable to LEN, of which one thousand seven hundred (1,700) EURO shall be transferred to the Member Federation subsequently organising the same fixture. This shall not apply if less than three invited Federations having agreed to participate, have confirmed their participation by the date requested.
- E 5.3.3 A Member Federation having agreed to participate in a fixture included in the LEN Calendar and withdrawing shall be fined two thousand (2,000) EURO, payable immediately to LEN. The Bureau may transfer part of the fine to the promoting Member Federation. This shall not apply to a withdrawal following a change in date or venue with the approval of the majority of the participating Federations.
- E 5.4 Federations not being members of LEN who submit fixtures for inclusion in the LEN Calendar shall be equally liable to such fines and shall not be permitted to register any fixture in any subsequent Calendar until fines are paid.
- E 5.5 The expenses for the LEN representatives and referees appointed by the LEN Technical Water Polo Committee for matches included in the LEN Calendar shall be borne by the organising Member Federation according to the Regulations decided by the Bureau.

## **E 6 LEN RECORDS**

### **E 6.1 EUROPEAN RECORDS**

European Records and European Junior Records are recognised for men and women as:

a) European Records and European Junior Records in 50 m courses:

- Freestyle 50, 100, 200, 400, 800 and 1500 m
- Backstroke 50, 100 and 200 m
- Breaststroke 50, 100 and 200 m
- Butterfly 50, 100 and 200 m
- Individual Medley 200 and 400 m
- Freestyle Relays 4 x 100 and 4 x 200 m
- Medley Relay 4 x 100 m
- Mixed Relays 4 x 100 metres Freestyle, 4 x 100 m Medley

b) European Records and European Junior Records in 25 m courses:

|                     |                                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| - Freestyle         | 50, 100, 200, 400, 800 and 1500 m   |
| - Backstroke        | 50, 100 and 200 m                   |
| - Breaststroke      | 50, 100 and 200 m                   |
| - Butterfly         | 50, 100 and 200 m                   |
| - Individual Medley | 100, 200 and 400 m                  |
| - Freestyle Relays  | 4 x 50, 4 x 100 and 4 x 200 m       |
| - Medley Relays     | 4 x 50 and 4 x 100 m                |
| - Mixed Relays      | 4 x 50 m Freestyle, 4 x 50 m Medley |

E 6.1.1 Age groups for European Junior Records are: 14 – 18 years of age for Men and Women, by 31 December in the year of competition.

E 6.1.2 European Records and European Junior Records are recognised only when established in fresh water (not in sea water nor ocean water).

E 6.1.3 There shall be four swimmers on each relay team. Members of relay teams must be of the same nationality except in Masters where they must be members of the same club. In Mixed Relays, teams consist of two (2) men and two (2) women. Split times achieved in Mixed Relays cannot be used for records and/or entry purposes.

E 6.1.4 The first swimmer in a relay, except in mixed relays, may apply for an European Record or a European Junior Record even despite subsequent disqualification of the relay team for violations occurring after the first swimmer's distance has been completed.

E 6.1.5 The length of each lane of the course must be certified by a public surveyor licensed in the country in which it is located.

E 6.1.6 Where a moveable bulkhead is used, course measurement of the lane must again be certified by an authorised person at the conclusion of the session during which the time was achieved.

E 6.1.7 Any swimmer establishing an European Record or a European Junior Record shall submit to doping control carried out according to FINA Doping Control Rules within 24 hours after the race; in case of establishing a record by a relay team, all four (4) competitors shall be tested.

E 6.1.8 European Records and European Junior Records established at the European Championships (50m and 25m) or at the European Junior Championships shall be recognised without specific application.

E 6.1.9 No European Record or European Junior Record shall be recognised unless a negative doping certificate is submitted within sixty (60) days of the swim.

- E 6.1.10 Applications for ratification of new European Records or new European Junior Records not set at European Championships or European Junior Championships shall be submitted to the LEN Office on the official LEN Application Form within thirty (30) days. Applications must be made by the Member Federation the swimmer is affiliated to. The responsible authority of the organising or management committee of the competition shall confirm that all regulations have been observed including the doping control procedures.
- E 6.1.11 The Member Federation shall also provisionally report to the LEN Office the claim recognition of a European Record or a European Junior Record performance by e-mail or facsimile to the LEN Office within seven (7) days of the performance.
- E 6.1.12 On receipt of the official application, and upon satisfaction that the information contained in the application, including a negative doping control test certificate, is accurate, the LEN General Secretary shall declare the new European Record or European Junior Record is ratified, see that such information is published, and see that certificates are provided to those persons whose applications have been accepted.
- E 6.1.13 If the procedure of E 6.1.10 has not been followed, the Member Federation, the swimmer is affiliated to can apply for a European Record or a European Junior Record in default thereof. After due investigation, the LEN General Secretary is authorised to accept such a record if the claim is found to be correct.

## E 6.2 CHAMPIONSHIP RECORDS

E 6.2.1 Championship Records are recognised at the European Championships (50m and 25m) and the European Junior Championships in events listed in E 6.1, and additionally for Long Course 4x100 Freestyle and Medley Mixed Relays and Short Course 4x50 Freestyle and Medley Relays.

E 6.2.2 Championship Records are recognised automatically.

## E 6.3 EUROPEAN MASTERS RECORDS

E 6.3.1 European Masters Records (50m and 25m) are recognised in each age group as follows:

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Individual events:              | as listed in E 6.1  |
| Relays men and women            | 4 x 50m Freestyle, 4 x 50m Medley<br>4 x 100m Freestyle, 4 x 100m Medley<br>4 x 200m Freestyle.   |
| Mixed Relay (2 women and 2 men) | 4 x 50m Freestyle, 4 x 50m Medley,<br>4 x 100m Freestyle, 4 x 100m Medley,<br>4 x 200m Freestyle. |

E 6.3.2 Applications for ratification of new European Masters Records not set at a LEN Event shall be submitted to the LEN Masters Recorder by the Federation the swimmer is affiliated to within thirty (30) days. The official LEN Application Form shall be used.

## **E 7 LEN RANKING LISTS**

E 7.1 LEN shall keep the following Ranking Lists in Swimming:

- a) for short course (25 m) performances achieving 750 points and more according to the FINA points table;
- b) for long course (50 m) performances achieving 750 points and more according to the FINA points table;
- c) for long course (50 m) performances achieved by junior swimmers achieving 650 points and more according to the FINA points table.

E 7.2 Federations shall be obliged to notify LEN according to the Regulations for the ranking (see LEN website [www.len.eu](http://www.len.eu)) about performances of swimmers achieving the requested number of points according to E 7.1 within thirty (30) days of the date on which the points were achieved. Results shall be provided by sending complete meet result files. Results for European swimmers achieved outside Europe must be reported. Failure to do so may result in the LEN Bureau imposing a fine of up to one thousand (1.000) EURO.

E 7.3 Federations may also notify LEN about performances achieving a point score less than mentioned in E 7.1

## **E 8 ADVERTISING**

E 8.1 Identification in the form of logos on swimwear, i.e. swimsuit, cap and goggles, and pool deck equipment, i.e. tracksuit, official's uniform, footwear, towel and bag at LEN Championships and LEN Events is permitted according to Advertising Regulations decided by the Bureau.

E 8.2 This rule does not apply to LEN Masters Championships.

E 8.3 LEN may provide Bibs for athletes participating in Semi-Finals, Finals and Victory Ceremonies. The Bibs shall be worn by the swimmer throughout his/her presentation at the start of the event and the Victory Ceremony. A swimmer removing the Bib before being presented at the start of an event or before the completion of the Victory Ceremony shall be subject to a fine of one hundred (100) EURO.

## **E 9 APPLICATIONS AND ACCEPTANCE TO ORGANISE LEN EVENTS**

- E 9.1 Each affiliated Federation shall be entitled to organise a LEN Event.
- E 9.2 Applications shall be submitted according to the invitation circulated to the Federations.
- E 9.3 The Federation organising a LEN event shall ensure that visas for all visiting competitors, officials, judges and delegates involved will be issued from its Government.
- E 9.4 The organising Federation awarded a LEN Event shall enter into a Contract with LEN to organise the LEN Event on terms and conditions as agreed.

## **E 10 OBLIGATIONS OF THE ORGANISING FEDERATION**

- E 10.1 A Federation which has undertaken to organise a LEN Event and withdraws, shall be fined three thousand, five hundred (3,500) EURO payable to LEN, of which two thousand, five hundred (2,500) EURO shall be transferred to the Federation subsequently organising the LEN Event.
- E 10.2 In the case of European Championships, Rule E 10.1 shall apply regardless whether it is integrated or not in the Contract agreed according to Rule E 9.4; an additional amount may be fixed in the Contract.

## **E 11 OBLIGATIONS FOR FEDERATIONS SUBMITTING ENTRIES**

- E 11.1 Each Federation submitting entries to a LEN Event shall:
- a) be responsible for travel and accommodation, if not stated otherwise in the Contract agreed according to Rule E 9.4;
  - b) be responsible for the standard of health of the entered competitors;
  - c) on request of LEN or the organising Federation, submit evidence that team members entered have sufficient health insurance.
- E 11.2 A Federation having made reservations of Hotel rooms for their team members with the Organising Committee of any LEN Event may cancel or vary the reservation wholly or partially up to thirty (30) days before the first day of the competitions. After that date all costs incurred due to cancellation are the responsibility of the Federation.

## **E 12 LEN DELEGATES**

- E 12.1 At all LEN Events, at least one LEN Delegate shall be present.

E 12.2 The LEN Delegate(s) shall supervise the complete organisation and ensure that the LEN Rules, and any Regulations decided by the Bureau (for LEN Events listed in E 2, E 3, E 4) and the agreements made in the Contract (E 9.4) are followed.

E 12.3 The LEN Delegate(s) shall not act as Referee or Judge in the same LEN Event and shall not be in charge of a team in any way.

E 12.4 Expenses of the LEN Delegates shall be reimbursed as fixed in the relevant Contract (Rule E 9.4).

### **E 13 LEN OFFICIALS**

E 13.1 Lists of LEN officials may be established by the respective Technical Committee.

The LEN Office shall call for nominations from Federations as decided by the respective Technical Committee.

E 13.2 When for a LEN Event nominations of officials (Referees and Judges) are required or permitted, they shall be entered by name to the LEN Office up to the date announced. The entries are subject to the approval of the respective Technical Committee.

E 13.3 If an approved official is not able to attend, a substitute may do so, subject to approval by the respective Technical Committee.

In every case where a nominated official does not attend, the nominating Federation shall pay a fine of one hundred and fifty (150) EURO to LEN.

### **E 14 COMPETITOR'S IDENTITY**

E 14.1 At the European Championships, at the European Under 15, Junior and Under 19 Championships and at LEN Cups for National Teams, each competitor shall be a citizen, whether by birth or naturalisation, of the country his Federation represents. The Bureau may approve exceptions.

At the European Water Polo Cups for Club Teams, each competitor shall be eligible for the Club he is representing.

At the European Masters Championships the specific Regulation shall apply.

E 14.2 Any competitor having represented a Federation shall not represent another Federation unless he has resided in the territory of and been under the jurisdiction of the latter for at least twelve (12) months.

E 14.3 The Bureau may accept an entry under the LEN flag.



E 14.4 The minimum ages for competitors at LEN Events are:

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a) Swimming,                    | Men: 15 years, Women: 14 years;  |
| b) Diving,                      | Men: 14 years, Women: 14 years;  |
| c) Water Polo,                  | Men/Women: no minimum age limit; |
| d) Artistic Swimming,           | Men: 15 years, Women: 15 years;  |
| e) Open Water Swimming,         | Men: 15 years, Women: 15 years;  |
| f) Masters (except Water Polo), | Men: 25 years, Women: 25 years;  |
| g) Masters (Water Polo),        | Men: 30 years, Women: 30 years.  |

The age shall be determined by the year of birth.

E 14.5 At the request of the LEN Delegate(s) and/or the organising Federation, competitors shall present their individual passports or their official identity documents, issued by the authorities of their country.

## **E 15 TRANSFERS OF WATER POLO PLAYERS**

Any transfers of a Water Polo Player between National Federations, affiliated or registered with LEN, on behalf of the clubs that they are representing, shall be in accordance with the «LEN Transfer Regulations», decided by the Bureau following a proposal by or after consultation with the Technical Water Polo Committee.

## **E 16 PRELIMINARY ENTRIES**

E 16.1 Preliminary entries may be asked for in accordance with the invitation circulated to the Federations.

E 16.2 The number of preliminary entries cannot be increased after submission. With the approval of the LEN Bureau Executive exceptions may be made.

E 16.3 A Federation having made a preliminary entry, except in Water Polo, may withdraw from the LEN Event up to the date announced.  
A Federation withdrawing later than the date announced shall be fined one thousand (1,000) EURO payable to LEN.

E 16.4 In Water Polo a withdrawal may be made before the draw.

A Federation withdrawing a Water Polo National team after the draw shall be fined fifteen thousand (15,000) EURO payable to LEN.

A Club withdrawing a Water Polo team after the draw shall be fined:

a) at the European Water Polo Cups for Club teams: seven thousand and five hundred (7,500) EURO;

b) at the European Masters Water Polo Championships: one thousand and four hundred (1,400) EURO.

All fines are payable to LEN.

E 16.5 The Bureau may decide to give part of the fine to the organiser of the LEN Event from which the withdrawal was made.

## **E 17 NAMED ENTRIES**

E 17.1 Named entries shall be sent to the organising Federation and, if required, to the LEN Office.

E 17.2 Entries shall be in block letters and certified by the President or Secretary of the Federation submitting the entries. Electronic Entries will be accepted in all disciplines.

E 17.3 When electronic entries are requested LEN shall provide federations with a programme link including ID and password. In addition LEN shall circulate instructions of how to use the system and to proceed.

E 17.4 The deadline for the submission of entries shall be ten (10) full days before the opening day of the LEN Event, if not otherwise announced by the Bureau. In swimming, entry times shall not be older than fifteen (15) months prior to the first day of the competition.

E 17.5 No entry fee shall be charged except for European Masters Championships and European Water Polo Cups for Club Teams.  
In cases where an entry fee is charged, the entry must be accompanied by a copy of the appropriate bank order.

E 17.6 At European Championships, European Short Course Championships, European Under 15, European Junior, and Under 19 Championships:

a) any entered competitor may be substituted by another entered competitor until the time announced at the Team Leaders Meeting;

b) any case of non-starting shall be announced at the Team Leaders Meeting. Otherwise, a fee of sixty five (65) EURO for individuals and one hundred and thirty (130) EURO for teams shall be paid to LEN.

c) it is mandatory for every Federation participating in the event to be represented at the Team Leaders Meeting. Otherwise a fee of one hundred (100) € shall be paid to LEN.

## **E 18 TEAM STAFF**

Except in the European Masters Championships, Federations entering a LEN Event shall be entitled to receive accreditation for team staff members in relation to the number of competitors entered. The LEN Bureau Executive together with the organising Federation may increase the minimum number of accreditations announced in the Regulations.

## **E 19 VICTORY CEREMONIES AND AWARDS**

E 19.1 At the Victory Ceremony in any LEN Event except European Masters Championships the national anthem of the country of the winner (official short version) shall be played. The national flags of the countries of the competitors placed first, second and third shall be raised.

This procedure may be varied at the discretion of the Bureau.

E 19.2 Dress requirements for Victory Ceremonies are:

- complete Federation tracksuit;
- shoes;
- no national flags;
- no goggles;
- bibs must be worn fully visible.

If an athlete is not present at the Victory Ceremony in accordance with this Rule the Federation he/she is affiliated to shall be subject to a fine of two hundred (200) € payable to LEN.

E 19.3 Medals approved by the LEN Bureau Executive shall be awarded by the organising Federation to the first three competitors or teams, unless otherwise provided for by the Bureau.

In team events, all members of the team participating in at least one part of the competition shall receive medals, but only those competitors who participated in the final shall attend the victory ceremony and the presentation to the media.

This procedure may be varied at the Bureau's discretion.

E 19.4 Except at European Masters Championships competitors having participated in the Victory Ceremony must also participate in the immediately following official presentation to the media.

## **E 20 DOPING CONTROL**

E 20.1 Doping is strictly forbidden as a violation of LEN Rules. Doping controls shall be conducted under the control of the Bureau and according to FINA Rules.

E 20.2 No athlete shall be allowed to compete in any LEN Event nor in any national event unless and until such athlete agrees to subject himself to dope testing in

and out of competitions by LEN under their jurisdiction and in accordance with FINA Rules.

E 20.3 When the analysis of the "A" sample results in an adverse report, the competitor and his/her Federation shall be notified. The competitor may be provisionally suspended by the LEN Bureau.

E 20.4 Where testing has indicated the presence of a prohibited substance or the use of a prohibited technique or other violation of FINA Rules relating to doping control, the case (according to FINA Doping Control Rules) shall be heard by the FINA Doping Panel.

## **E 21 MISCONDUCT**

E 21.1 Codes of Conduct shall be decided and announced by the Bureau (General "Code of Conduct" and "Code of Discipline for Water Polo").

E 21.2 Actions of misconduct and disciplinary matters arising at a LEN Event which require an immediate decision shall be decided:

- a) during the competition by the Referee;  
An appeal against such a decision may be submitted to the Jury of Appeal. The decision of the Jury of Appeal shall be final.
- b) outside of the competition by the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and the Secretary of the respective Technical Committee and/or the LEN Delegate(s) present at the event. An appeal against such a decision may be submitted to the LEN Panel within twenty-one (21) days after notification (Rule C 15.2.1.4).

E 21.3 All actions of misconduct and disciplinary matters which do not require an immediate decision at the LEN Event shall be decided:

- a) by the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary of the respective Technical Committee, if sanctions are provided for in one of the Codes of Conduct;  
An appeal against such a decision may be submitted to the LEN Panel within twenty-one (21) days after notification (Rule C 15.2.1.4).
- b) by the LEN Panel in all other cases put forward to the LEN Panel by the LEN Bureau (Rule C 15.2.1.1).

## **E 22 COMPLAINTS, PROTESTS AND APPEALS**

E 22.1 Complaints:

- a) may be submitted verbally to the Referee immediately following the occurrence of the reason for it;

b) shall be considered by the Referee; no deposit is necessary. If a complaint is not accepted, a formal protest may be made.

E 22.2 Protests are possible:

- a) if the Rules and/or the Regulations for the conduct of the competition are not observed;
- b) if other conditions endanger the competition and/or the competitor, or
- c) against a decision of the Referee; however, no protest shall be allowed against decisions of facts.

Protests shall be:

- a) submitted in writing together with a deposit of one hundred (100) EURO;
- b) dealt with in accordance with FINA Rules.

E 22.3 Except in Swimming and in Open Water Swimming the protest shall be submitted to and decided by the Technical Delegate.

In Swimming and in Open Water Swimming the protest shall be submitted to and decided by the Referee.

If the protest is rejected, the reasons must be stated in writing.

E 22.4 An appeal against the rejection may be submitted to the Jury of Appeal.

In European Water Polo Cups for Club Teams, the appeal shall be submitted no later than three (3) days after the rejection of the protest together with a deposit of three hundred fifty (350) EURO (cash, cheque or confirmed bank order).

The decision of the Jury of Appeal shall be final.

E 22.5 The deposit for a protest or an appeal shall be returned if the protest and/or the appeal is upheld.

## **E 23 JURY OF APPEAL**

E 23.1 The Jury of Appeal for an Event or part of an Event shall be comprised by the Bureau Delegate in the chair and two more Bureau members appointed by the Bureau.

If less than three (3) Bureau Members, appointed by the Bureau, are present, the LEN Bureau Delegate shall appoint the remaining jury member(s), preferably members of the Bureau, the respective Technical Committee or the organising Federation.

If no LEN Bureau Delegate is present, the LEN Technical Delegate shall appoint three jury members eligible to vote as jury member.

E 23.2 In European Water Polo Cups for Club Teams, the Jury of Appeal shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Technical Water Polo Committee.

E 23.3 A jury member is allowed to speak, but not to vote, on a case in which:

- a) the interest of his own Federation is involved, or
- b) the protest has been submitted against his decision. In case of equal votes the Chairman shall have a casting vote.