



BLUEFIN SWIMMING CLUB CONSTITUTION

Revised August 2020

Contents

List of Terms and Abbreviations

Contact Details

Template Constitution

1. Name(s) and Colour(s)
2. Objectives
3. Affiliation
4. Membership
5. Club Management
6. Annual General Meeting (AGM)
7. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)
8. Procedures at General Meetings (AGM & EGM)
9. Nominations, Notice of Motions and Election of the Management Committee
10. Transfers
11. Finances
12. Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures
13. Cessation/Suspension/Expulsion of Membership
14. Dissolution
15. Equality
16. Criminal Allegations
17. Data Protection

List of Terms and Abbreviations

(Club)

(Discipline)

SI	Sport Ireland – previously Irish Sports Council (ISC)
AGM	Annual General Meeting
EGM	Extraordinary General Meeting
CCO	Club Children’s Officer
Officer	Officers of a club are the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer

Management Committee – This is the body elected by the Members for the management of the business and affairs of the club.

Leader – this is any person, whether paid or unpaid, who is responsible for those participating in the aquatic disciplines; roles include but not limited to supervisor, team manager, sports science personnel, chaperone, helpers, committee members, tutors, coaches and teachers.

Swim Ireland – is the National Governing Body for the Aquatic Disciplines in Ireland, recognised as such by the Irish Government, the Irish Sports Council, Sport Northern Ireland, the Olympic Council of Ireland and FINA (Fédération Internationale de Natation) and LEN (Ligue Européenne de Natation), the World and European Aquatic Governing Bodies.

National Governing Body (NGB) - The role of a NGB is to organise and administer the sport; train and deploy coaches; organise representative level sport; and provide sporting opportunities and pathways leading from grass root sport to national and international competition.

Swim Ireland website – www.swimireland.ie

Club website – <https://bluefinswimteam.com>

Club contact details:

Chairperson – bluefin.chairperson@gmail.com

Secretary – bluefin.secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer – bluefin.fee@gmail.com

CCO – bluefin.cco@gmail.com

Gala Secretary – bluefin.galasecretary@gmail.com

Head Coach – bluefin.headcoach@gmail.com

1. Name(s) and Colour(s)

- 1.1 The name of the club shall be Bluefin Swimming Club
- 1.2 The colours of the club shall be Blue and White
- 1.3 The headquarters of the club shall be Kilcornan Swimming Pool

2. Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of Bluefin Swimming Club are:
 - To foster and develop all disciplines and its participants
 - To promote the teaching/coaching and practice of all disciplines in line with current best practice.
 - To promote the development of physical, moral and social qualities associated with sport, within the participants.
 - To accept and enforce the rules and regulations set down by Swim Ireland regarding all disciplines in accordance with the affiliation status afforded to the club.
 - To provide a positive and safe environment for all its members and staff
 - To ensure sport for young people in the club is fun, and conducted in an encouraging atmosphere in line with Swim Ireland guidelines and best practice.
 - To provide equal opportunities whenever possible for successful participation, irrespective of ability or disability, so as individuals can be involved in sports activities in an integrated and inclusive way.
- 2.2 Bluefin Swimming Club is fully committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of its members. Every individual in Bluefin Swimming Club should, at all times, show respect and understanding for their rights, safety and welfare and those of others, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of Bluefin Swimming Club and the guidelines contained in the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport and the 'Swim Ireland Safeguarding Children Policies and Procedures 2010' or most up to date equivalent.

3. Affiliation

- 3.1 By virtue of the affiliation of Bluefin Swimming Club to Swim Ireland, its members acknowledge that they are subject to the laws, rules and constitutions of:
 - Swim Ireland, the governing body for the whole of the island of Ireland.
 - Ligue Européenne de Natation (LEN), the European governing body for the aquatics.
 - Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA), the world governing body for the aquatics.

4. Membership

- 4.1 All members are subject to the rules and constitution of Bluefin Swimming Club and rules and regulations of Connacht, Swim Ireland, LEN and FINA

4.2 Membership Categories

The following constitute as members of the club:

- 4.2.1 Competitor: members of Bluefin Swimming Club who decide to engage in competitive events.
- 4.2.2 Non-Competitor: This category includes but is not limited to: coaches; administrators; parents/guardians; and CCO's.

4.3 Membership Caveats

- 4.3.1 The club Management Committee reserves the right to accept or reject applications for membership of the Club. If applicants are refused, they must be notified by the Management Committee in writing as to the reasons for their refusal.

- 4.3.2 Bluefin Swim Club will have rules and criteria covering requirements, trials and waiting lists for admission in place.
- 4.3.3 The management committee may only suspend or expel from membership in accordance with the Swim Ireland Complaints and Disciplinary Rules and Procedures.
- 4.3.4 Lapsed members may not participate in any activities of the club until all subscriptions have been paid and all liabilities to the club cleared.
- 4.4 Bluefin Swimming Club will publish all relevant club and Swim Ireland rules and regulations on the club's website or provide a link to Swim Ireland's website for a complete listing of abiding policies. Such documents will include but not be limited to; Swim Ireland Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport, Swim Ireland Guidelines for Safeguarding Children, Swim Ireland Complaints and Disciplinary Rules and Procedures and the Bluefin Swim Club constitution.

4.5 Duration of Membership and Annual Subscriptions

- 4.5.1 Membership fees will be due in three terms during the year and should be paid within two weeks. Any variation from this must be agreed by the management committee.
- 4.5.2 The membership year shall run from the 1st of September to the 31st of August each year
- 4.5.3 Club fees will be determined by the management committee.
- 4.5.4 If a member is deceased, their legal personal representative is not liable for any balance of subscriptions.

4.6 Application Procedures for Club Members

- 4.6.1 All members must complete the required application forms and attach the requisite fees as set down by Swim Ireland and Bluefin Swimming Club.
- 4.6.2 All members must also be familiar with and comply with the Swim Ireland and Bluefin Swimming Club rules and read and sign the relevant codes of conduct annually.
- 4.6.3 The forms must then be forwarded to the management committee for approval. Parents must sign the application form where the applying member is under 18.
- 4.6.4 On acceptance the member will be provided with a copy of the constitution and rules of Bluefin Swimming Club.
- 4.6.5 A member who wishes to resign as a member of the club must inform the secretary in writing. No refund of subscription monies will be paid upon resignation from the club and if this persons wishes to renew membership at a later date they must re-apply.
- 4.6.6 Full membership status is only valid where a subscription has been paid in full or in a manner agreed by the club management committee.
- 4.6.7 Members are required to renew their membership annually with Bluefin Swimming Club and Swim Ireland.

5. Club Management

- 5.1 The management committee is the body elected by the members for the management of the business and affairs of the club. It consists of three elected who must be members of Swim Ireland in their own right. The Club Children's Officer is an appointed position who must also be a member of Swim Ireland in their own right and sit on the committee in addition to the 3 elected.

5.2 Membership of the Management Committee

- 5.2.1 Membership of the management committee shall consist of the following: a chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer, club children's officer, head coach and at least four other adult members—one parent/guardian representative from each of the four swim squads.
- 5.2.2 The management committee will appoint a complaints and disciplinary committee (CDC) in accordance with the SI Complaints and Disciplinary Rules and Procedures.

5.3 Roles and Responsibilities of Management Committee Members

- 5.3.1 Duties of the Chairperson

- Comply with Swim Ireland rules and regulations
- Support the efficient running of the club
- Chair regular committee and annual general meetings
- Help others understand their roles and responsibilities
- Communicate with various members within the club
- Be actively involved in developing an action plan for the club
- Represent the club at local and regional events
- Assist the club to fulfil its responsibilities to safeguard young people at club level
- Ensure an understanding of the legal responsibilities of the club to which the Club complies

5.3.2 Duties of Club Secretary

- Comply with Swim Ireland rules and regulations
- Be the first point of contact for club enquiries
- Organise and attend key meetings (including Annual General Meetings)
- Take and distribute minutes
- Delegate tasks to club members
- Deal with all correspondence
- Attend to club affiliations
- Ensure insurance is up to date and relevant
- Maintain up to date records and reference files
- Arrange handover or succession planning for the position

5.3.3 Duties of the Treasurer

- Comply with Swim Ireland rules and regulations
- Co-ordinate the clubs financial planning
- Manage the club's income and expenditure in accordance with club rules
- Produce an end of year financial report
- Regularly report back to the club committee on all financial matters
- Efficient payment of invoices and bills
- Propose amendments to annual and monthly subscriptions as appropriate
- Deposit cash and cheques that the club receives
- Keep up to date financial records
- Arrange handover or succession planning for the position

5.3.4 Duties of the Club Children's Officer

- Comply with Swim Ireland rules and regulations
- Ensure completion of required training and awareness of the role within the club
- Act in the best interest of young people
- Ensure young people have opportunity to express opinions and views
- Ensure safeguarding policies and procedures are implemented and effective in all areas of the club
- Act as advisor for and report concerns of abuse to the appropriate authorities
(Further details are contained in the latest Swim Ireland Safeguarding Policy document)

5.3.5 Duties of the Gala Secretary

- Liaise with the Coaching team to produce an annual Competition Plan
- Update the fixtures calendar on the website
- Timely production of licensed meet details for website/notice board
- Liaise with the coaching team re swimmers entry details for meets/galas
- Meet periodically with the Head Coach to develop and maintain an action plan for the current season and for the coming three years.
- Manage and administrate all the meet/gala entry process

- Communicate effectively with officials from other organisations.

5.3.6 Duties of the Club PRO

- To Promote and Publicise, in a positive way all aspects of the club
- Produce informative and unbiased newsletters with regards to all sections within the club as and when appropriate information is available
- Ensure communications desk is manned on a weekly basis.
- Send out communications by various sources, (email, notice board, etc.)
- Report on club events (internally and externally)
- Organise non-swimming social events for the relevant members of the club as requested / approved by the management committee
- Establish working relations with local media.

5.3.7 Duties of the Education Officer

- Manage Garda Vetting submission for Committee, Coaches and Volunteers
- Maintain a spreadsheet Garda vetting dates, Child Protection, Team Manager or Official course completion and expiry dates
- Send out notifications if any member requires any of these qualifications and doesn't yet have them.
- Notify Committee members, volunteers or coaches one month before the expiry of a qualification that they are up for renewal
- Provide information for courses dates/venues available for any qualification required to the Club Secretary for club-wide distribution, or distribution to certain members
- Ensure that one parent of a swimmer who receives an "A" time, completes the Child Protection Course, Garda Vetting and Team Manager Course within 3 months of the swimmer's achievement
- Ensure that one parent of a swimmer who receives a Division 1 or Division 2 time, completes the Child Protection Course, Garda Vetting and Officials Course within 3 months of the swimmer's achievement

5.3.8 Duties of the Head Coach

- Comply with Swim Ireland rules and regulations
- Development of an annual training and competition programme based around the principles of long term athlete development (LTAD).
- Support the preparation of training session plans for all squads and allocate water time to the squads accordingly.
- Devise and implement suitable squad criteria
- Ensuring that the appropriate level of coaching is available for all training sessions including land training.
- Providing a swimmer/parent education programme focussing on a variety of swimming related topics and lifestyles issues
- Provide suitable and relevant feedback on progress to both parents and athletes as required

5.4 Roles and responsibilities of the coaching and teaching staff

5.4.1 Duties of coaching/teaching staff

- Comply with Swim Ireland rules and regulations
- Operate within qualified level specifications
- Ensure all coaches/teachers hold an up to date Swim Ireland licence
- Plan and deliver coaching sessions appropriate to the ability of the athletes
- Work with the club's coaching and teaching team to deliver the coaching programme as agreed by the Head Coach/Teacher
- Make athletes aware of their progress
- A clear understanding of any special needs of the athletes involved i.e. fitness levels, medical conditions, physical impairments or disabilities

- Be aware and understand the facility Emergency Action Plan and Normal Operating Procedures (EAP & NOP)
- Attend all appropriate competitions and gala's in accordance with agreed yearly coaching plan
- Ensure appropriate cover for sessions if unable to attend, meeting the requirements for the club, i.e. licensed member of Swim Ireland
- Assist athletes to achieve their full potential

5.5 Rights and Duties of the Management Committee

- 5.5.1 The management committee shall be empowered to introduce rules, as the need arises, for the general regulation of the club. No rule shall be inconsistent with anything contained in the Swim Ireland rulebook or this constitution. The management committee must ensure the club's rule book is in place, which is made available to all members.
- 5.5.2 The committee have the power to appoint such sub committees as they may consider necessary. These sub committees will act on behalf of the management committee and follow procedures and relay information as directed by the management committee. All sub-committees must be ratified annually at the club AGM.
- 5.5.3 The management committee shall be responsible for all assets of the club.
- 5.5.4 The management committee, in conjunction relevant parties; i.e. head coach and coaching staff, will be responsible for formulating club policy in accordance with the 'Swim Ireland Safeguarding Children Policies and Procedures 2010', or most recent edition, and on the direction the club takes in the future in all its activities.
- 5.5.5 The members of the management committee shall be indemnified by the members of the club against all liabilities properly incurred by them in the management affairs of the club.
- 5.5.6 Committee members must declare any personal or business interest, which may conflict with their duties as a member of the management committee. Such a declaration may be discussed with the other committee members at a designated meeting, and they may be required to absent themselves content, discussions and decisions.
- 5.5.7 The management committee will be expected to sign and follow codes of conduct in relation to their obligations to Bluefin Swimming Club members. These include, but are not limited to, confidentiality, objectivity, loyalty, fairness and a constant awareness of their obligations to the Bluefin Swimming Club and its members. The committee will familiarise itself with the 'Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport' and fulfil the duties required in the Code of Conduct for Club Committees section of the 'Swim Ireland Safeguarding Children Policies and Procedures 2010', or the most recent equivalent. The committee will also adhere to any updated versions of these policy documents which are issued in the future.

5.6 Meetings of the Management Committee

- 5.6.1 The management committee shall meet once a month with a minimum quorum of 50% plus 1 of the members of the committee present.
- 5.6.2 The chairperson and the secretary shall have discretion to call further meetings of the committee if they consider it to be in the interests of the club.
- 5.6.3 A minimum of (7 days) notice will be given to management committee members save with exceptional circumstances. The management committee shall agree how notice shall be provided.
- 5.6.4 The management committee should set out its agenda for a meeting no less than (4 days) prior to the meetings.
- 5.6.5 The chairperson has the casting vote on any motion arising during the meetings.
- 5.6.6 The chairperson's decision on a Point of Order is final
- 5.6.7 The chairperson shall preside at all meetings; however in the chairperson's absence a member of the management committee may be nominated.
- 5.6.8 The secretary, or in her/his absence a member of the committee, shall take minutes.
- 5.6.9 The treasurer shall relay the financial position of the club at each meeting.

- 5.6.10 The CCOs, Head Coach and other committee members must also relay details on the areas of the club they are designated to.
- 5.6.11 The club secretary shall circulate points of note from the meetings of the management committee within (7 days) to all club members.
- 5.6.12 The management committee may also decide upon acceptable means of communication used, during periods between meetings, to ensure the day to day running of club.

6. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- 6.1 The AGM will be held annually the first Tuesday in June.
- 6.2 Members shall be informed of the date, time, place and order of business of the AGM at least 21 days prior to the meeting. This information shall be emailed to club members as well as posted on the club notice board and website.
- 6.3 The committee shall distribute to members its annual report and other relevant documents not less than 14 days prior to the AGM.
- 6.4 At the AGM, the annual report shall be presented, which shall consist of a: chairperson's report; secretary's report; treasurer's report; head coach's report and the CCO report.
- 6.5 Any changes or updates to the club constitution or club rules will be notified to the members and Swim Ireland within 14 days following the AGM.
- 6.6 Any resolution to amend the club's constitution which is successful at the general meeting will come into immediate effect upon conclusion of the general meeting.
- 6.7 Two delegates for the club will be elected to represent the club at the Swim Ireland AGM.
- 6.8 The club AGM shall be run in accordance with Swim Ireland standing orders.

7. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

- 7.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at any time in the following circumstances:
 - 7.1.1 If a resolution to convene a club EGM is passed at the preceding club AGM.
 - 7.1.2 If 20% of club members serve on the club secretary a written notice duly signed seeking the holding of such a club EGM.
 - 7.1.3 Where two-thirds of the club management committee resolve to convene a club EGM.
- 7.2 A club EGM must be held within 14 days of receiving such a request and must allow for 7 days' notice to all club members.
- 7.3 The EGM shall be run in accordance with Swim Ireland standing orders, as amended from time to time.
- 7.4 The total number of eligible voting club members will be made available by the management committee to club members.
- 7.5 Only the specific matter outlined in the submitted EGM notice may be dealt with at the EGM.

8. Procedures at General Meetings (AGM & EGM)

- 8.1 No business shall be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum is present. A quorum of 50%+1 of the eligible voting members is the number required.
- 8.2 If such a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting, or if during a meeting such a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such time and place as the club committee may determine and if at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting the members present shall be a quorum.
- 8.3 Members who are fully paid up and over 18 years of age are eligible to vote.
- 8.4 No voting by proxy is allowed.
- 8.5 Parents shall hold one vote on behalf of their child/children within the club. Only one parent may exercise this vote and this must be so agreed between the parents (i.e. that is one vote only and not one vote per

child). Parents who are club members in their own right may vote with this right for themselves and also cast one vote on behalf of their child/children

- 8.6 Voting shall be conducted via a show of hands, which will be counted by the secretary. The management committee may, however, recommend that a vote should be held in a secret ballot format owing to the context of the vote.
- 8.7 Nominations will be passed at AGM's by simple resolution of 50% plus one.
- 8.8 Motions for a change to the Bluefin Swimming Club constitution must be passed by a special resolution of 75% of persons entitled to vote present at the meeting.
- 8.9 The chairperson will have a casting vote if there is an equality of votes

9. Nominations, Notice of Motions and Election of the Management Committee

- 9.1 Election of the management committee members takes place at the club AGM each year. At this time the executive officers of the club shall be elected - chairperson, treasurer and secretary, along with four other members of the management committee.
- 9.2 If an executive officer of the club must step down during their term the management committee may appoint an existing committee member to fill this vacancy to hold office from the date of such appointment until the expiry of the term of office that would have been served by that executive officer where he or she had completed a full term.
- 9.3 A committee member may stand for re-election for four consecutive years. After this time period is up, they will be ineligible for election for a period of two years.
- 9.4 Nominations for office and notice of motions must be received in writing by the club secretary no less than 14 days prior to the general meeting.
- 9.5 A proposer and seconder are required for all nominations and notice of motions.
- 9.6 Notices of motions and nominations for the management committee shall be displayed on the club notice board for not less than 7 days prior to the AGM. They will also be available on request from the club secretary. Motions and nominations without due notice will not be discussed.
- 9.7 In the event that no nominations are received by the Secretary by 7 days prior to the general meeting, only then may a nomination from the floor at the AGM can take place.
- 9.8 Club Children's Officer must be appointed by the Management Committee and fulfil the criteria laid down by the 'Swim Ireland Safeguarding Children Policies and Procedures 2010', or most recent equivalent.
- 9.9 A Club Head Coach must be appointed by the Management Committee and fulfil the criteria laid down by Swim Ireland Rules and Regulations.

10. Transfers

- 10.1 If a member wishes to leave Bluefin Swimming Club and join another they must follow the Swim Ireland transfer rule (5.5 – Swim Ireland Rule Book).

11. Finance

- 11.1 The financial affairs of the club shall be the responsibility of the management committee in general and in particular, the treasurer. Correct accounts and book keeping shall be done by treasurer or under his/her supervision.
- 11.2 Annual accounts of Bluefin Swimming Club should be prepared for the Annual General Meeting by the Bluefin Swimming Club treasurer.
- 11.3 The management Committee shall be empowered to open bank accounts in the name of Bluefin Swimming Club and all transactions in these accounts shall be authorised by the management committee.
- 11.4 The treasurer will receive all money paid to the Bluefin Swimming Club and ensure all such sums are lodged to the Bluefin Swimming Club bank account as soon as possible.

- 11.5 Any assets invested in by the management committee will be used for Bluefin Swimming Club purposes only. The management committee will delegate the use of these assets under advisement from coaches, teachers, club children's officers and others within the Bluefin Swimming Club.
- 11.6 The committee will have the power to negotiate sponsorships on Bluefin Swimming Club behalf and engage from time to time fundraising activities. Any financial returns from these activities will be used for Bluefin Swimming Club development purposes only.

12. Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures

- 12.1 The club hereby adopts The Swim Ireland complaints & disciplinary rules and procedures as amended by Swim Ireland from time to time.
- 12.2 All members of Bluefin Swimming Club must abide by the Swim Ireland complaints and disciplinary procedures
- 12.3 All complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant complaints and disciplinary procedures
- 12.4 The management committee will appoint a complaints and disciplinary committee (CDC) in accordance with the Swim Ireland Complaints and Disciplinary Rules and Procedures
- 12.5 Any matter involving members under 18 must also be brought to the attention of the CCO.

13. Cessation/Suspension/Expulsion of Membership

- 13.1 Bluefin Swimming Club have the power to terminate and suspend membership owing, but not limited to, violation of the constitution and/or rules, criminal behaviour or any activity deemed unseemly by the management committee in line with Swim Ireland complaints and disciplinary policies
- 13.2 All club terminations and suspensions will be reported to Swim Ireland.
- 13.3 All club terminations and suspensions can be appealed in line with the Swim Ireland complaints and disciplinary policy.
- 13.4 Suspension or termination of an individual's membership to Swim Ireland can only be done by Swim Ireland's board. These procedures are laid out in the 'Articles of Association of Swim Ireland'.

14. Dissolution

- 14.1 Bluefin Swimming Club may be dissolved:
- By a Resolution passed owing to the inactivity of its members. This Resolution would be passed at an EGM, specifically called for that purpose and carried by three quarters of the members present.
 - A Court Order where a dispute exists within its membership
- 14.2 Notice must be given to members and Swim Ireland for any Dissolution to come into effect, owing to a resolution at a general meeting
- 14.3 All aspects of the club, having discharged debts and liabilities, shall be distributed to a charity, charities or other non-profit making organization having an agenda similar to those of Bluefin Swimming Club or Swim Ireland.
- 14.4 The management committee shall be responsible for the winding up of assets and liabilities of Bluefin Swimming Club.

15. Equality

- 15.1 In accordance with the Equal Status Act 2000 – 2004 and the Equality Act 1996 in Northern Ireland, Bluefin Swimming Club will not discriminate against any persons or visitors within Bluefin Swimming Club. No discrimination of any kind against employed and voluntary staff, membership applications, members and individuals within the general public, will be tolerated.

16. Criminal Allegations



16.1 Bluefin Swimming Club shall treat allegations of criminal activity very seriously. Any allegation of a criminal offence will be reported to Swim Ireland and the appropriate policing body.

17. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

17.1 The club hereby adopts The Swim Ireland General Data Protection Policy as amended by Swim Ireland from time to time.