

Definition of membership/voting rights

Members

a) All swimmers under the age of 16 (18 in some cases) are club members, but these individuals have no voting rights (apart from very specific and committee-defined situations)

b) All persons who assist in any way with the Club's activities shall become members of the Club, and hence of Swim England, and the relevant Swim England membership fee shall be paid (and where appropriate, Regional and County fees paid). Assisting with the Club's activities shall include, but not be restricted to, administrators, associate members, voluntary instructors, teachers and coaches, Committee members, helpers, Honorary members, life members, Officers, patrons, Presidents, technical and non-technical officials, temporary members, Vice Presidents and verifiers or tutors of Swim England's educational certificates. Appropriate Swim England, Regional and County membership fees may be paid by the club

c) Anyone else (e.g. a parent who doesn't volunteer) who wants to be a member and therefore have a vote, has to have Swim England, Regional and County membership fees paid as applicable.

Extract from Swim England Handbook

47.1 Each club shall send to Swim England, or to the region if required, a return of its membership not later than 28 February in each year (the Annual Return). This shall include all members, and shall be divided into the following categories:

47.1.1 Club Train shall include all members of any age who are learning to swim or who are swimmers at any level of ability, who do not compete in any discipline in open competitions other than those exempted under Regulations 321.1.2 or 321.1.3;

47.1.2 Club Compete shall include all members of any age who compete in any discipline in open competitions other than those exempted under Regulations 321.1.2 or 321.1.3;

47.1.3 Club Support shall include all members of any age who are not in Club Train or Club Compete categories including, but not being limited to, a parent of or a person with parental responsibility for a member in Club Train or Club Compete categories; administrators; associate members; coaches; helpers; honorary members; life members; officers; presidents; qualified officials of any discipline; patrons; teachers; temporary members; vice presidents and verifiers or tutors of Swim England's educational certificates.

Extract from Recommended Club Constitution Guidance Notes

Parents who are not members in their own right are not entitled to vote on behalf of their children. This can be resolved by including the membership of one parent or carer in the membership of every member under 16 years. This requires the payment of membership fees to Swim England, Region and County as applicable.

Normally, Committee meetings are private to the Committee members and General Meetings are private to the members of the Club entitled to attend and vote. It is, however, at the discretion of the Chairman to allow non-Club members to attend although they would normally not have the right to speak.

What this means is that at an AGM/SGM, only Swim England members aged 16+ can vote