

Summary of County Champs Competition Feedback 2022

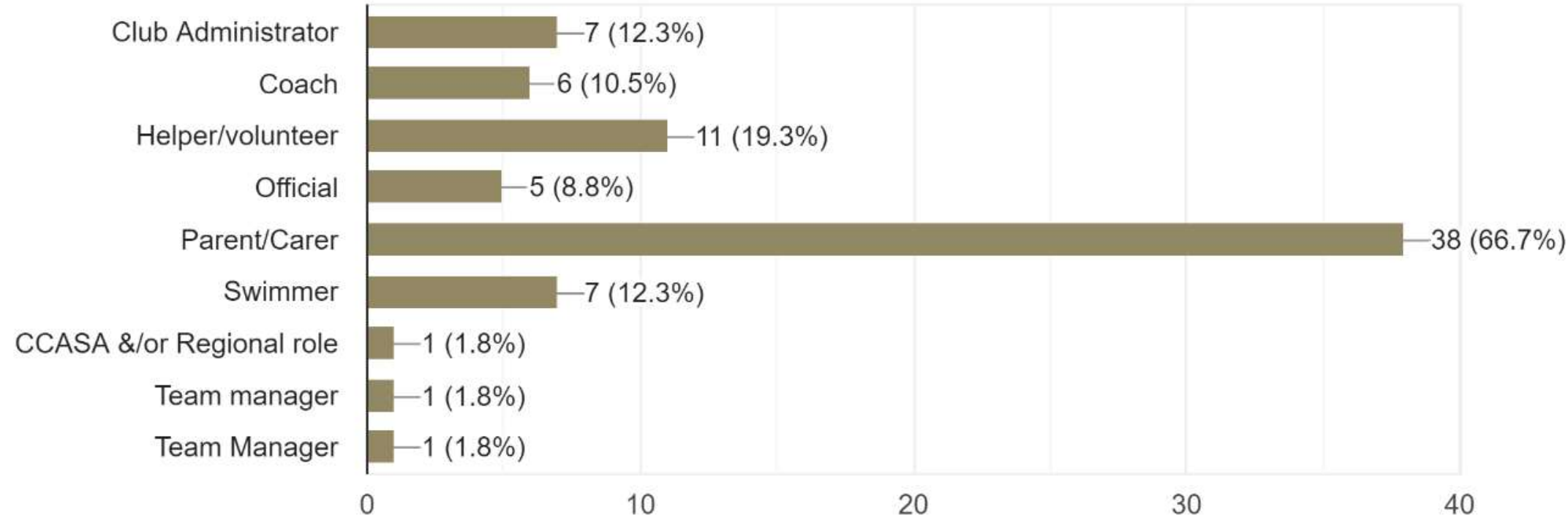
Total of 57 responses

We were pleased to receive quite a few responses that congratulated the event organisers for putting on the county championships especially given the extra challenges presented by COVID-19

- ✓ Thank you for all your hard work!
- ✓ I liked it when the finalists were introduced individually by the commentator. It added to the excitement.
- ✓ Thought it was well run and want to thank all the volunteers who made it possible.
- ✓ Keep going! It was fantastic and can still be with parental support too.
- ✓ Well done for getting it back on the children and a big thank you to all who made it happen hats off to you all.
- ✓ Really well run thank you.
- ✓ Thank you for all the time and effort taken to allow this year's counties to run in tricky circumstances. It was a great success for all that took part and I hope for numbers to be back to normal next year to allow greater competition in many age groups.
- ✓ Event ran fast and efficiently. Swimmers enjoyed the event. Thank you

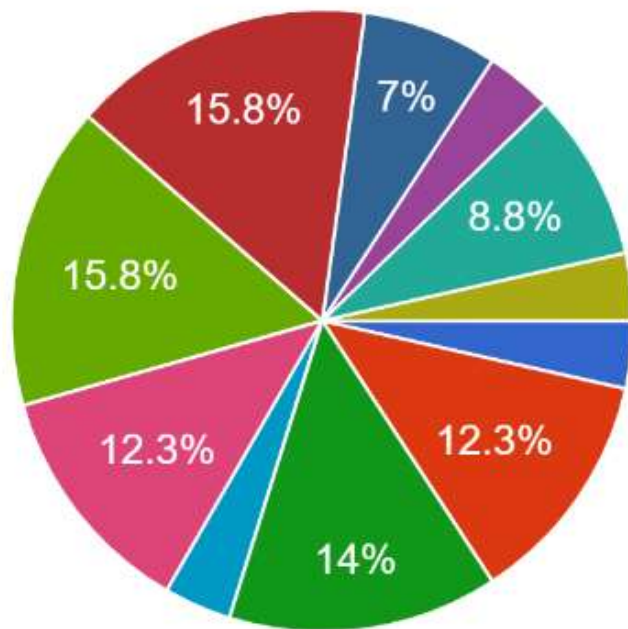
In what capacity were you involved in our championships? Please click all that apply

57 responses



Which is your main club?

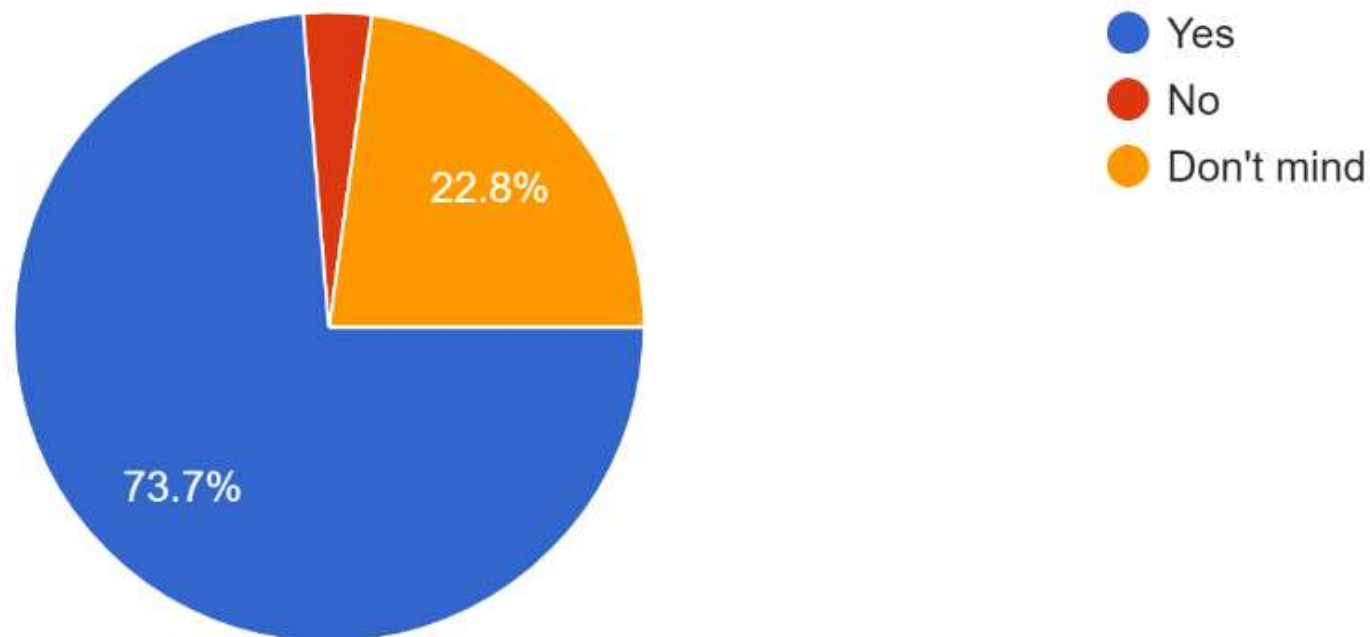
57 responses



- Bude
- Caradon
- Carrick Masters
- Carn Brea/Helston
- Camelford
- Launceston
- North Cornwall
- Newquay
- Penzance
- St Austell
- St Ives
- Truro City
- Rather not say

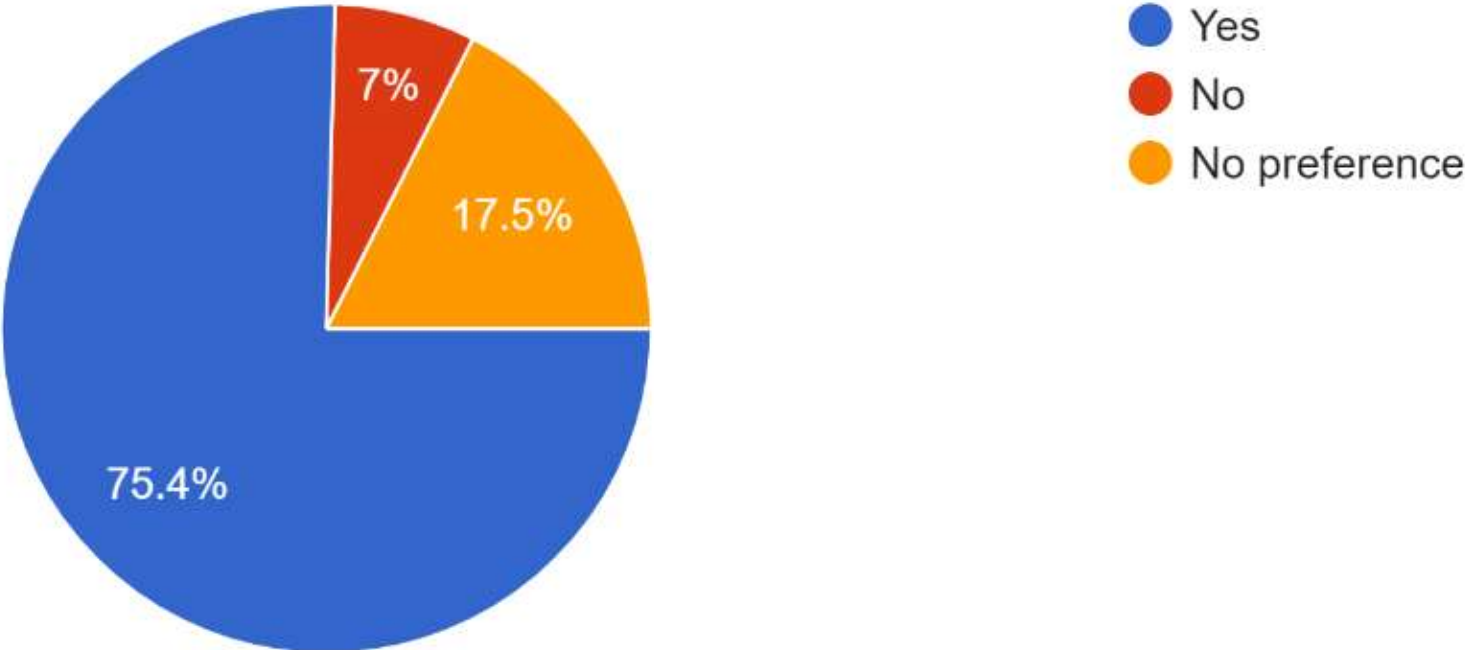
The main body of events was organised to run early February to avoid the half term holidays. Is avoiding half term holidays useful?

57 responses



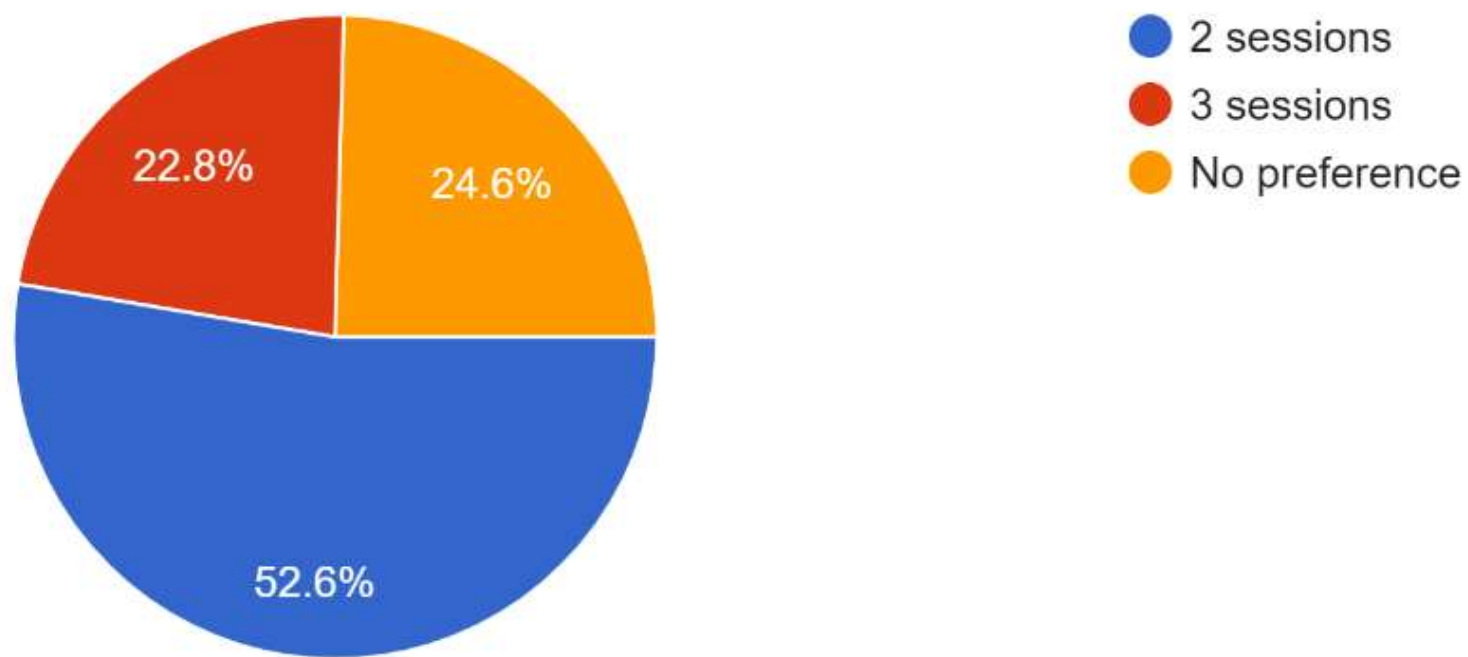
Are two consecutive weekends for the main body of the championships better than split weekends? Note that Swim England requires us to run events in a window they specify

57 responses



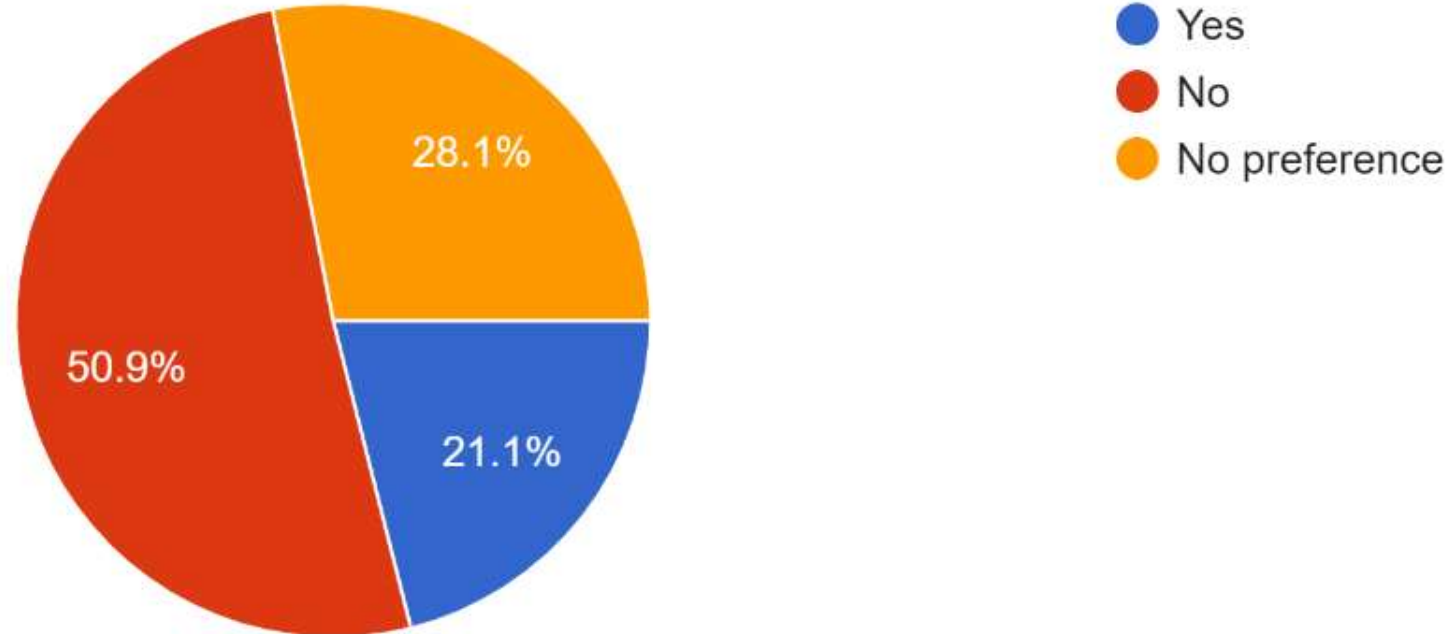
About the 2 main championship weekends - would you prefer 2 or 3 sessions per day?

57 responses



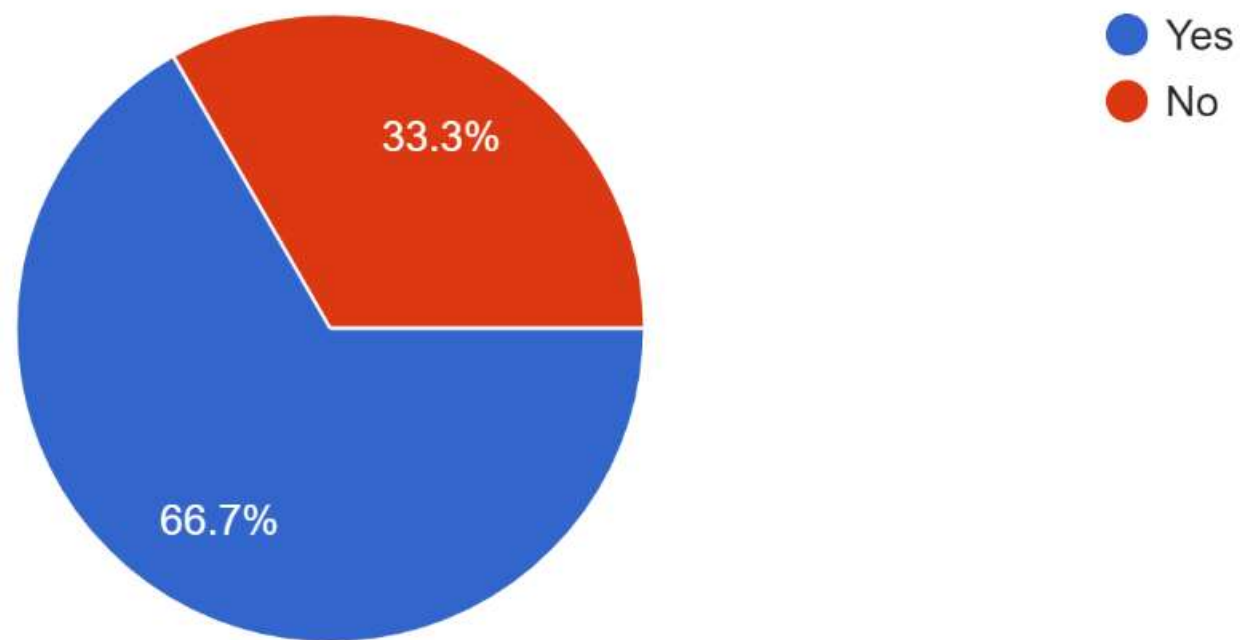
In 2015 the county ran a 3 session day with finals at the end of each day, would you like to see a return to the 2015 format?

57 responses



This year we made a decision that where there are 6 swimmers or less in an 50m/100m age group the event would be swum as a straight final and so...ear, do you think we should repeat this approach?

57 responses



Comments

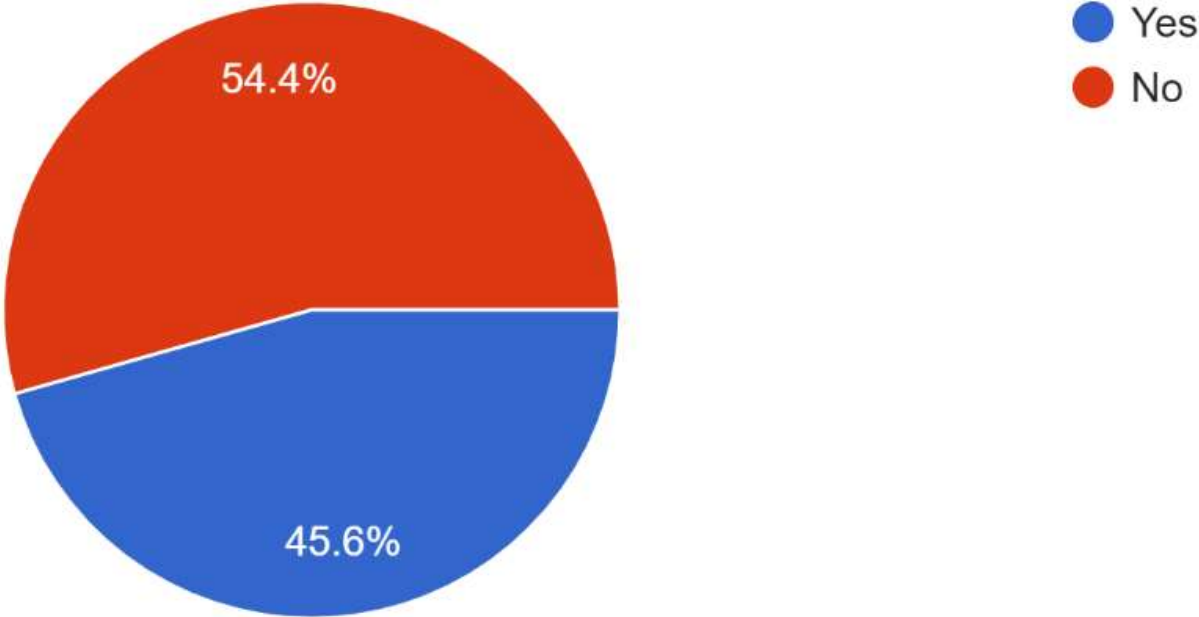
Notably it was coaches that advocated most strongly for maintaining age group finals even with less than 6 swimmers.

- Either join age groups together but all children should have the right to swim a final if they have qualified. Some children have been penalised for not having an age group with many swimmers.
- Practice doing finals is important training too.
- You did not run this year as a 'straight to final' event, it was run as a 'heat declared winner'.
- Run a final with whoever qualified. I don't feel it is fair a swimmer missed the opportunity to swim a final or a second opportunity to race again because of low numbers...that's not their fault.
- All swimmers in a final as make the championship awards fair whereas this year, it was not.
- Many swimmers missed the chance to swim in a final to show their skills against similar aged swimmers.
- Finals are where the swimmers are most likely to get their best times.
- If there are less than 6 swimmers, then combine age groups if possible.
- The only time a final does not work is when there is just one swimmer.
- Opportunity to swim against own age group rather than swimmers of similar times and another chance to swim is always a good thing.

- Could adjust entry times to ensure all age groups have more than 6 swimmers
- We had one swimmer who did not swim any finals (as only 5 in age group) so was unable to get a higher position in the Junior/Senior medals.
- Maybe a straight final rather than HDW as this gives the swimmers the opportunity to swim against other swimmers in the same age group.
- If the times were more realistic you are more likely to fill the age groups more and straight finals would be a better solution if you don't want them swimming twice and you can't get the numbers up.
- If it is being run as a final in the heats you need to make this clear to the swimmers, it wasn't this year. Many swimmers swim tactically and save for a final. They need to know and not just try to work it out themselves from the heat sheets (as they change).
- No heats straight to age group final
- Finals should be held for all 50 & 100m events that heats were swum irrespective of numbers
- Swimmers were not made aware pre race, that this would be their only chance, and there would be no final.
- Finals could be swum with minimum of 4 swimmers, possibly 5.
- To swim the event as a final but with the competitors racing against each other rather than declaring an overall winner from competitors spread among a number of heats.
- Finals should still be swam to allow people to improve their heat times when only racing against their age group

This year, due to COVID restrictions, we had a policy of no spectators. Having no spectators, allowed us to make better use of the space available for competitions. Would you support this approach?

57 responses



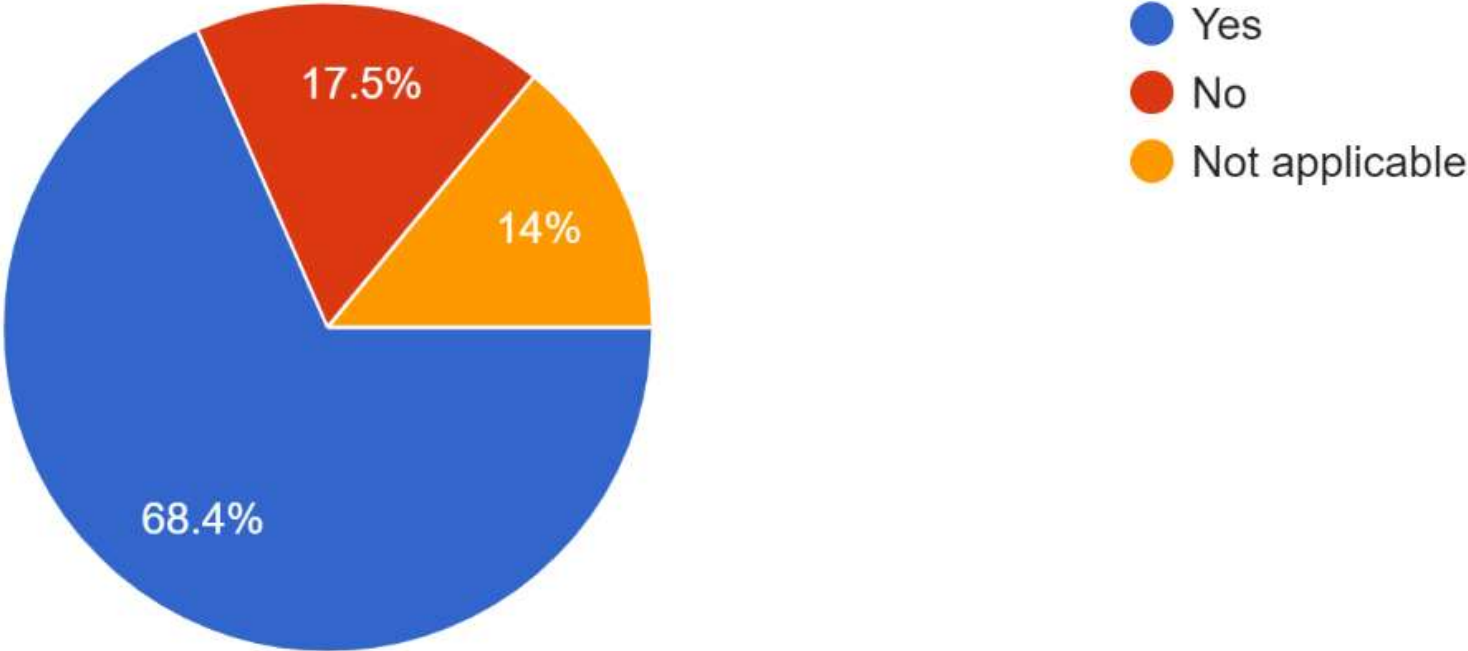
Comments

- Agree in the sense of the children having more space, maybe allocating tickets for each club so parents can watch their child's races. Have seen this happen up country and seems to work well.
- Parents also help fundraise for clubs, buying raffle tickets, programmes etc.
- More parents would allow their swimmers to compete if they had the chance to watch. For many traveling 50 miles to drop a swimmer then return 6 hours later to collect is not an option.
- The swimmers were more organised and the atmosphere much calmer without spectators, however as a parent, it is a highlight of the year to see your child swimming in the county champs.
- The younger swimmers need their parent's support.
- Parents spend all year driving their children to club sessions and deserve the opportunity to see their children at the countries biggest swimming event.

- Perhaps limit the number of spectators. One per swimmer?
- 9-11 still too young to be attending an event all day on their own really. This did put them off attending events.
- All parents should be allowed to watch and not just if you volunteer
- There were clear benefits to having swimmers off poolside and on the balcony/seating areas this year. Poolside was calmer, safer (remember the starting system falling in the water last time) and more spacious for officials & coaches.
- It's a long day outside if you don't line in the area.
- Probably did work better competition wise with no spectators but there are lots of parents/grandparents/friends etc that love to come and watch the competition. It also brings more encouragement for the swimmers and generally a more exciting atmosphere all round.
- A livestream of the event for spectators would be a good idea

Did you have enough breaks during the days and were these long enough?

57 responses

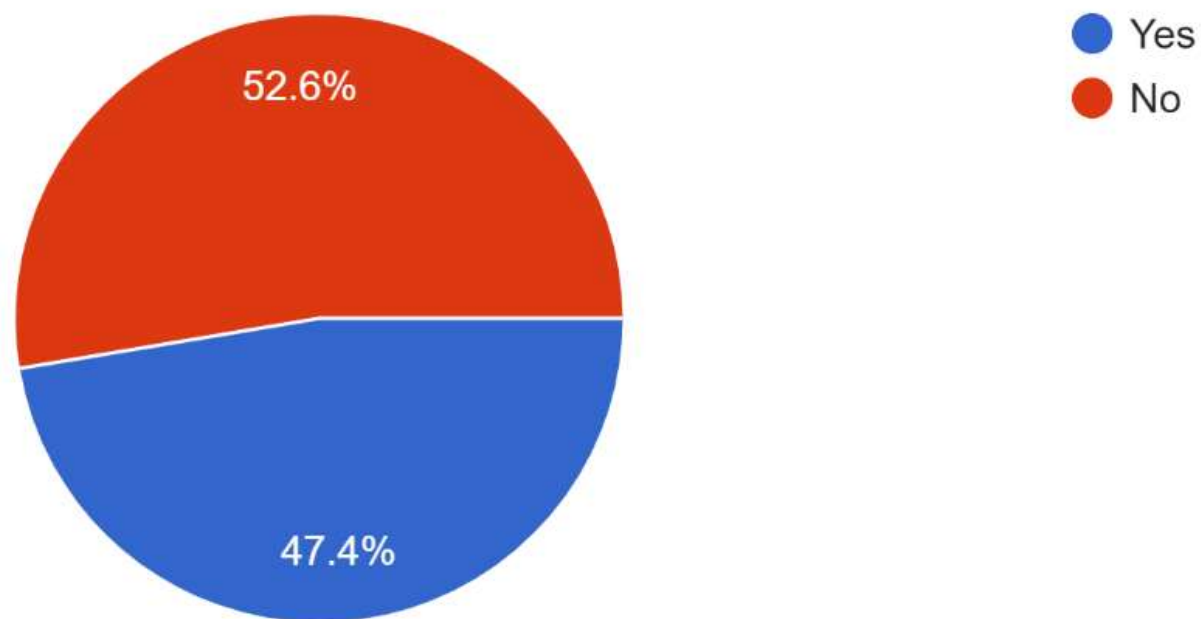


Comments

- A short lunch break period with no warm ups going on - just to have 15/20 mins with nothing going on would be welcome
- If the children have to queue continuously and are not able to get to their bags there should be someone standing close by to offer drinks of water.
- 3 sessions and a planned lunch break so swimmers can eat. Finals at the end. This year there was no chance to rest or eat in between.
- There should be an option of food and drink at all as long days,
- Some people had no time to actually eat as if they were doing every single event and then when there was a break they had to go to presentations which gave them no time to rest so a longer lunch break
- A longer solid break for the swimmers in the middle of the day
- We need a lunch break of 20 minutes to reset ourselves and refocus
- More break before the finals

we aim to present all awards at the competition but sometimes this is not always possible. Do you think it would be better to just present Individu...d have a separate Awards Ceremony on another day?

57 responses



Comments

- A lot of hard work and nerves coming to Gala, the excitement will have gone in a delayed presentation
- Its important medals are awarded, and swimmers are made to feel special. If everyone had finals, awarding medals would be easier
- All on the day or sent in the post
- All awards should be presented at the session they are swum in - results were ready so awards should be ready as well
- It's nice to come away with a medal if not top 3 or some swimmers would never win anything
- Just present Junior and senior 1st -6th places with trophies and let swimmers collect other medals. All should be presented on the day of the event

- Can't understand why there were no presentations, not sure how less covid secure that would have been? Medals not ready until late on every event.
- Appreciate it's run by volunteers, it's a difficult job and need to be resourced accordingly.
- Give them to the coach to hand out.
- Swimmers would like their award on the day. Otherwise, it's another event to attend in an already busy lifestyle.
- There are swimmers still waiting for their trophies
- Swimmers work so hard and may not ever win again.
- It just kept going without stopping to celebrate the swimmers' achievements.
- Presenting awards on the same day makes better sense, as swimmers and parents are there already.
- This is tricky as we have to travel.
- Depends where and when

Is there anything else you would like to add as feedback for our planning next year?

- Loudspeaker at Bodmin very difficult to hear
- Age groups - feel 10/11 age group is unfair. Could age groups be reorganised to fit same as school year age group?
- Concern over how competitions will run if current key role holders give up their roles. Suggestion that clubs need to play bigger role or club to take running of gala.
- Volunteers not allowed access to refreshments same as officials.
- Meet mobile didn't work as well it could have
- Criticism of eligibility rules - especially fairness when some swimmers train at multiple clubs
- Make sure the timing board works. Have a cool down pool or area to prevent injuries to swimmers.
- Return of how medals used to be given out
- Consider live streaming like at Plymouth
- Criticism on lack of communication particularly about changes made about finals and also receiving results.

