



**PRESS RELEASE:
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION
2017 COUNTY SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Over 500 swimmers from the 7 competitive affiliated Clubs throughout Northamptonshire should have been taking part in the 2017 Northamptonshire Amateur Swimming Association (NASA) County Championships at the Corby East Midlands International Pool last weekend but due to a major technical fault with the operating of the booms that convert the pool from 25m to 50m format, this meant that the first weekend of competition had to be cancelled.

The competing Clubs were notified at 21.45hrs the night before to let their competitors know via social media, emails, texts and personal phone calls.

So many people will not realise the impact that this will have or has had. Throughout the Country, the County Championships have to be held within weeks 2-9 of the competition calendar year. The conditions of the Level 1 Licensing criteria meant that the event can only be swum in the long course 50m format. This is a major disappointment for the swimmers and coaching staff for whom this event may be the equivalent of 'their Olympics' as not all swimmers will compete at elite level, but also for all the hard work that goes on quietly and efficiently behind the scenes by the volunteer event organisers coordinating the technical officials and ancillary helpers, catering, cost of programme printing.

This decision was not taken lightly by the organisers who now have the task of trying to reschedule those 'lost' 6 sessions of competition.

Lesley Sharp