



Completing your English Channel swim is a monumental achievement—physically, mentally, and emotionally. However, your journey isn't officially complete until your swim is ratified by the Channel Swimming & Piloting Federation (CS&PF).

WHAT DOES 'RATIFIED' MEAN?

Ratification is the formal process through which the CS&PF verifies that your swim adhered to all official rules and standards.

This includes checking that the swim:



Was accompanied by a recognised CS&PF pilot and official observer.



Followed the correct relay format and transitions.



Used approved swimwear and equipment only.



Had all required documentation—medical forms, assessment swim certification, and other registrations—submitted on time.



One of the most important pieces of this process is the Observer's Report. Your observer will have recorded detailed notes throughout your swim, including start and finish times, changeovers, and compliance with CS&PF regulations. This report, along with supporting paperwork, is then submitted to the Federation.



UNRATIFIED SWIMS

If a swim is marked as "unratified," it simply means that the Federation has not yet approved it or it did not meet the required criteria. A swim can be physically completed, but still unratified due to missing documentation, non-compliance, or incomplete reports.



HOW LONG DOES RATIFICATION TAKE?

This is a routine process and can take **several weeks to a few months** depending on the CS&PF's workload and the swim season's intensity.

There is no need to worry if you don't hear back immediately. The Federation works diligently to process each swim thoroughly and fairly.



NEXT STEPS

Once your swim is ratified, you will receive an official certificate from the CS&PF, confirming your team's successful crossing of the English Channel.

Extra copies of this certificate can also be ordered if desired.

THE PROCESS IN SIMPLE TERMS



Swim completed with pilot and observer



Observer's report and documentation submitted



CS&PF review and verify compliance with rules



Swim ratified and certificate issued



RATIFICATION ISN'T JUST A FORMALITY—IT'S A CELEBRATION OF DOING THINGS THE RIGHT WAY.



So, once you've made it to France, give yourself a moment of joy—but also a bit of patience as your remarkable achievement is made official.

