



## **TIMES MODULE**

# **POLICY and GUIDELINES**

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## **1.0 OVERVIEW**

In June 2003 USA Swimming launched a browser-based database system that consolidated 30 different types of databases utilized by volunteers and staff to serve its athlete and non-athlete members. With membership data and times data linked for the first time, SWIMS (Swimming Web-based Interactive Membership System) is a comprehensive and inclusive database. SWIMS is a composite of membership data and history and a databank of times swum for nearly every athlete member since June 2003. It is expected that LSC SWIMS officers will submit all eligible times from LSC sanctioned, approved and observed competitions into SWIMS to provide USA Swimming with complete data for meet entry, athlete tracking, and research.

## **2.0 PURPOSE**

- 2.1** The purpose of this manual is to provide general guidance to the swimmers, coaches, and volunteers who will be providing or using the times data in the SWIMS system. The guidelines describing the functions of the Times Module of SWIMS are meant as a handbook for the LSC Times Volunteers who use SWIMS.
- 2.2** Times for USA Swimming members that have been entered into SWIMS are visible on the look up feature on the USA Swimming website.
- 2.3** The primary purpose of the Times module in SWIMS is to provide a database of all official times that conform to the requirements stipulated in the Timing Rules section of the Technical Rules portion of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations. Open Water times are not included in the SWIMS database.

## **3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 3.1** Each LSC is responsible for data entry of times within its geographical boundaries. There may be exceptions as agreed upon by specific LSCs.
- 3.2** Times from the following meets will be entered into SWIMS by the host LSC:
  - 3.2.1** Sanctioned and approved LSC Meets
  - 3.2.2** YM/YWCA/AAU Championships
  - 3.2.3** Other swims that have been authorized for observation (NFHS and USMS, IPC)

NOTE: Times from observed swims and approved meets will be entered into SWIMS by the LSC for USA Swimming member athletes with USA Swimming ID numbers or full legal names and birth dates provided in the electronic meet results or separately on paper. NCAA meets are run as approved competitions, managed by the host school without LSC authorization, and results are entered by USA Swimming staff.

- 3.3** The following meets do not fall under the LSC responsibility for data entry:
  - 3.3.1** USA Swimming Olympic Trials, National Championships and US Opens, including time trials, and Junior Championships, including time trials.
  - 3.3.2** World Cup, World Championships (short and long course), Olympic Games, World University Games, Pan American Games, Pan Pacifics, Junior Pan Pacifics, including time trials (inclusion of times from these meets will be done for American athletes only). Foreign athletes who wish to use these times to compete in USA Swimming meets should present results to USA Swimming staff (Times) for inclusion in SWIMS.
  - 3.3.3** Pro Series and Futures meets, including time trials, unless the LSC is specifically requested to enter the meet into SWIMS.
  - 3.3.4** Certain International competitions at which a USA Swimming National Team competes.
  - 3.3.5** NCAA meets.

- 3.3.6 Foreign meets authorized by a FINA member that are attended by USA Swimming registered swimmers (See description of foreign meets in 4.4).

#### 4.0 TYPES OF MEETS

This summary is intended to help clarify the key differences about the various types of swims generating “official” USA Swimming times. More detailed information and definitive regulations are available in USA Swimming Rules and Regulations (Article 202) in which requirement and conditions for sanction, approved competitions, NCAA meets, and observed swims are defined.

##### 4.1 SANCTIONED MEET

- 4.1.1 All participants must be members of USA Swimming (including meet directors, coaches [all persons acting in any coaching capacity must be coach members], officials, athletes, and participating clubs).
- 4.1.2 Meet must be conducted under USA Swimming technical and administrative rules.
- 4.1.3 All official times achieved will be recognized by USA Swimming.

##### 4.2 APPROVED MEET

- 4.2.1 There are no requirements for USA Swimming athlete membership for meet participation.
- 4.2.2 Approvals may be issued to non-member clubs/organizations for meets conducted in accordance with USA Swimming technical rules, including those requirements stipulated under the Timing Rules section of the Technical Rules portion of USA swimming Rules and Regulations.
- 4.2.3 Approvals may be issued to member clubs for closed competition (such as YMCAs) conducted in accordance with USA Swimming technical rules.
- 4.2.4 Approvals may be issued to member clubs for open competition conducted in accordance with USA Swimming technical rules if that competition has been specifically approved by the USA Swimming staff leader or designee(s).

##### 4.3 OBSERVED MEET

- 4.3.1 There are no requirements for USA Swimming athlete membership for meet participation.
- 4.3.2 Meet is conducted under technical rules other than USA Swimming (e.g., high school, Masters, IPC).
- 4.3.3 A request for observation must be made to the LSC at least ten (10) days prior to the meet. Policies and procedures may vary between LSCs.
- 4.3.4 Times from swim(s) observed and approved by the LSC at season-culminating championship meets and invitationals are recognized by USA Swimming. Official times of USA Swimming members are eligible for inclusion in the SWIMS database. A USA Swimming official must verify that all swims approved for USA Swimming purposes were in accordance with the following requirements.
  - 4.3.4.1 Minimum of one referee, one starter and two stroke & turn judge association officials working season-culminating championship meets and invitationals;
  - 4.3.4.2 102.24 (Timing Rules)
  - 4.3.4.3 103.3 (Racing Course Dimensions); and
  - 4.3.4.4 103.14 (Starting Platforms)
- 4.3.5 If technical rules of the stroke differ from USA Swimming as defined in Article 101, at least two observers from USA Swimming and/or the YMCA, who shall be certified Stroke & Turn Judges assigned or approved by the LSC, must be present on the deck. If at least two of the four association officials are dually certified, no

further observers are required. Where the technical rules are identical, the judgement of the organization officials shall be sufficient.

- 4.3.6** If an athlete is wearing illegal tape, the time will not count for USA Swimming purposes. Illegal tape includes compression tape or kinesiology tape that may be permitted by the NFHS with proper medical documentation.

#### **4.4 FOREIGN MEET**

- 4.4.1** For times from a foreign meet sanctioned by another FINA member to be included in SWIMS, the meet must comply with the minimum standards for an official time as stipulated under the Timing Rules section of the Technical Rules portion of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.
- 4.4.2** Best times may be requested for an athlete who needs the times to qualify for entry into a championship level meet for USA Swimming. Events, times swum, and a link to official meet results must be provided to the Chair of the Times and Recognition Committee or designee for data entry.
- 4.4.3** This category of foreign meet does not include international competitions at which the USA Swimming National Team is competing. Times submission from such International meets is the responsibility of the USA Swimming staff to submit.
- 4.4.4** The USA Swimming member must be representing his/her club or swimming unattached for a time to be included in SWIMS. If a USA Swimming member is also a foreign federation athlete, the swimmer may represent his/her foreign club in a foreign meet.
- 4.4.5** USA Swimming has an “open border” policy with Puerto Rico, Canada, Bermuda, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Travel documents are not necessary for their athletes or clubs traveling to the United States and are not necessary for USA Swimming’s athletes traveling to these countries. Swimmers who wish to compete in international meets outside of these countries must obtain a Foreign Travel Permit through the LSC Registrar and USA Swimming Membership Services before competing in a foreign meet.

#### **4.5 TIME TRIALS**

- 4.5.1** Time trials conducted at meets other than the competitions defined in 3.3 must conform to the following:
  - 4.5.1.1** Time trials must be sanctioned by the LSC and conducted in accordance with all USA Swimming Technical Rules and abide by the Requirements for Sanction stipulated in the Administrative Regulations of Competition portion of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.
  - 4.5.1.2** Time trials must be authorized in accordance with established LSC procedures.
  - 4.5.1.3** If a time trial is conducted in conjunction with a NCAA meet, an approved meet, a USMS meet, or other meet authorized for USA Swimming observation and it is officiated to the same standard as the authorized meet, times may be entered into SWIMS.
  - 4.5.1.4** All time trials meeting the above specifications should be uploaded into SWIMS.
  - 4.5.1.5** Electronic results (SDIF, .cl2, XDIF, HY3) of the time trials may be loaded into SWIMS as part of an accompanying swim meet or separately. The preferred method is separate results files. All results must be entered into the proper event description in the meet file.

#### **4.6 ALTITUDE ADJUSTED TIMES**

- 4.6.1** Information on Altitude Adjusted Times may be found in the USA Swimming

Policy Manual. Altitude Adjusted Times may be used to enter USA Swimming Sanctioned Meets. They may not be used for records or recognition purposes.

**4.6.2** Times achieved at an altitude of 3,000 feet or above may be adjusted as follows:

#### Time Adjustment

Event Distance	3000-4250 Feet	4251-6500 Feet	Above 6500 Feet
200	.50 Sec.	1.20 Sec.	1.60 Sec.
400 or 500	2.50 Sec.	5.00 Sec.	7.00 Sec.
800 freestyle relay	2.00 Sec.	4.80 Sec.	6.40 Sec.
800 or 1000	5.00 Sec.	10.00 Sec.	15.00 Sec.
1500 or 1650	11.00 Sec.	23.00 Sec.	32.50 Sec.

**4.6.2.1** Subtract the time indicated above from the actual time achieved at altitude. This is the time to be used on the entry form and seeding will be based on that time. Information relative to the adjustment accompanying the entry form must include name of swimmer, event, date of performance, elevation location, actual time, corrected time, and signature of coach.

**4.6.2.2** A swimmer or relay may use the above adjustments to meet the national qualifying standard and seeding will be based upon that time.

## **5.0 SWIMMING RECORDS**

World Records and USA Swimming Records (including American and United States Open Records, National Age Group (NAG) Records, Zone Records, and LSC Records) must comply with the requirements stipulated under the Rules for Timing Records section of the Technical Rules portion of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations. USA Swimming record applications, where necessary, shall be submitted to USA Swimming and shall be approved by the Times and Recognition Committee.

**5.1** Applications for all USA Swimming records shall be posted on the USA Swimming website.

**5.2** Applications and all required paperwork for American and United States Open Records must be submitted within 14 days of performance.

**5.2.1** An American Record may be established only by United States citizens eligible to compete under and achieving an official time in accordance with USA Swimming rules. Records may be established in or outside of the United States.

**5.2.2** A United States Open Record may be established only within the geographical territory of the United States by any person eligible to compete under and achieving an official time in accordance with USA Swimming rules.

**5.2.3** Pool measurement as stipulated under the Pool Measurement portion of the American and United States Open Records sub-section of the Technical Rules section of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations is required. Record applications will not be accepted unless certification of course length accompanies the application or is already on file with USA Swimming. Certifications last indefinitely unless structural changes are made to the pool. The length of the course shall be measured and certified by a qualified person in accordance with the standards established by USA Swimming.

**5.2.4** In a pool where a moveable bulkhead is used, course measurement of the lane in which the record was set must be confirmed at the conclusion of the session

- during which the time was achieved.
- 5.2.5** Times must be registered by automatic equipment and submitted in hundredths of a second.
  - 5.2.6** If an American Record or United States Open Record is set at the USA Swimming National Championships, Junior National Championships, United States Open Championships, or any USA Swimming Selection Meet, National Event staff and/or the USA Swimming staff leader, or designees will compile and submit all documentation and ensure that all requirements have been met.
  - 5.2.7** Lead-off legs/initial distances of mixed gender relays shall not count for American or U.S. Open records.
  - 5.2.8** If a swimmer in a NCAA Bona Fide competition sets a record, the referee shall stipulate that the athlete was not wearing illegal tape or compression sleeves on the record application or confirm this with the USA Swimming staff leader or designees.
- 5.3** Applications and all required paperwork for NAG records must be submitted within 30 days of performance.
- 5.3.1** Only USA Swimming members who are U.S. citizens representing a USA Swimming club or competing unattached are eligible to establish National Age Group records. Times submitted for Age Group Records must comply with all requirements stipulated in the National Age Group Recognition Program detailed in the Administrative Regulations of Competition of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.
  - 5.3.2** The official times for establishing specific records in short course yards or long course meters must be achieved as determined in accordance under the Timing Rules section of the Technical Rules portion of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.
  - 5.3.3** If a NAG record is set at a USA Swimming National Championship, Junior National championship, United States Open, or USA Swimming Selection meet, National Event staff members and/or the USA Swimming staff leader or designees will provide documentation and ensure that all criteria are met. NAG records achieved at Sectional, Arena Pro, or Futures meets do not require application. Times and Recognition Committee will document and award record status.
  - 5.3.4** Measurement of the pool is not required for a NAG Record. In signing a NAG application form, the meet referee is confirming the validity of the time, the swim, and the course.
  - 5.3.5** If an NCAA competitor sets a NAG record in a Bona Fide competition, the referee shall stipulate on the application that the swimmer was not wearing illegal tape or compression sleeves.
- 5.4** Specific requirements for Zone records and LSC records will be set by the appropriate Zone or LSC.

## **6.0** AGE GROUP RECOGNITION PROGRAM

- 6.1** It is the responsibility of the Times and Recognition Committee to establish an Age Group Recognition Program and the NAG motivational time standards chart. The Time and Recognition committee may consider and make changes prior to the start of a new awards period in accordance with the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.
- 6.2** The Age Group Recognition Program will recognize the following for short course yards and long course meters:
  - 6.2.1** The top ten individual times in a single age group beginning at age 11 through

age 18.

- 6.2.2** The top ten relay times beginning with age group 11-12 and continuing for the 13- 14, 15-16, 17-18, and 15-18 age groups.
- 6.3** The Age Group Recognition Program will use a 12-month qualifying period beginning on September 1 of the prior year to August 31 of the current year to determine eligibility.
- 6.4** All times must be reported no later than September 7th of the current year for the previous 12-month period (September 1-August 31). The lists on the website will be considered final no later than October 15th. The lists produced by the TOP TIMES/EVENT RANK SEARCH feature on the USA Swimming website will be considered the official lists.
- 6.5** A time that would have made the top ten list if correctly submitted prior to the deadline may be awarded a certificate of performance at the discretion of the Times and Recognition Committee. A supplemental list may be published after the list has been declared final. However, no previously recognized authentic time will be removed from the final listing.
- 6.6** The Times and Recognition Committee, with the recommendation of the Zone Top Times Sub-committee, has the authority to resolve issues that may arise. Corrections and additions are the duties of the LSC tabulators. It is the LSC tabulator's responsibility to screen the lists posted throughout the year for discrepancies and omissions. Questions should be addressed to the LSC tabulators.
- 6.7** Each LSC shall appoint a Top Times tabulator to lead these responsibilities. A list of all LSC tabulators, and a list of the Zone Top Times tabulators, will be available on the web site. Zone Top Times Preview Lists will be posted on the Zone websites according to a schedule authorized by the Times and Recognition Committee.
- 6.8** Each LSC is responsible for printing and distributing the Top Ten certificates for their athletes. The certificate template will be available from the USA Swimming website and the LSC Top Times tabulator will use the Top Times Report from SWIMS to generate their list.
- 6.9** Until the National Top Ten Times list is final, lists of current age group top times achieved and retrieved from the USA Swimming, Zone and LSC websites are drafts and may contain errors.



## **7.0 TIME VERIFICATION PROCESS – APPROVED MEETS**

- 7.1** Guidelines for Approved Meets beginning September 1, 2013
  - 7.1.1** In order to comply with Article 202.6 in the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, approved meets shall comply with USA Swimming technical rules.
  - 7.1.2** Article 202.6.8D requires compliance with Article 102.10 Officials.
  - 7.1.3** Per Article 102.10, an Administrative Official or additional Referee is required for all sanctioned and approved meets. The Administrative Official and Referee may not act in more than one officiating capacity.
  - 7.1.4** In approved dual meet competition, the meet referee may also act as a stroke and turn judge. The starter may also act as a stroke and turn judge.
  - 7.1.5** For a Y Closed League meet, a Y certified Administrative Official, or a Y Level II official acting in the administrative capacity can fulfill the requirement stipulated in Article 102.10.
  - 7.1.6** For all other approved meets (non-closed league meets), such as a State Games meet, Black Heritage meet, or AAU competition, or USA-S club hosted approved meets, an Administrative Official certified by USA Swimming is required for approval authorization by the LSC.
  - 7.1.7** The meet referee or designee is responsible for entering the AO into OTS along with the other meet officials.
- 7.2** APPROVED YMCA AND AAU MEETS
  - 7.2.1** For YMCA Closed League Meets, effective September 1, 2006, the YMCA of the USA adopted the USA Swimming technical rules for the conduct of all of its swimming competitions. As a result, there are no longer any differences in the technical rules by which swimmers will be judged when participating in swimming competitions hosted by either USA swimming or the YMCA. As a further result, YMCA sanctioned swimming competitions (multi-team meets, large invitationals, and championship competitions) should be eligible to be treated as an “approved” meet as defined under USA Swimming Rules and Regulations and there is no longer a basis for “observed swims” with respect to YMCA swimming competitions.
  - 7.2.2** The following is a list of the requirements for a swim meet hosted by a YMCA swimming club or AAU club to be considered an Approved Competition:
    - 7.2.2.1** Requests for approved meets should be submitted to the LSC Sanction Chairman of the LSC in which the meet will be conducted.
    - 7.2.2.2** YMCA clubs who are also USA Swimming clubs may host sanctioned competitions, but only in their capacity as a USA Swimming club and only if all competitors in the competition are members of USA Swimming.

- 7.2.2.3** Written application for approval shall be made not later than the period established by the LSC prior to the competition. The LSC may establish a fee for processing such applications. Fees to the LSC according to their policies and by-laws may be assessed. Application for approval shall be accompanied by a complete meet or event information and statement of the nature and value of prizes to be awarded. Payment of a fee or expenses to the assigned USA Swimming officials shall not be a requirement for approval.
  - 7.2.2.4** An issued Approval is not transferable.
  - 7.2.2.5** No further Approvals shall be given if the YMCA or AAU club has failed to satisfy expense obligations to athletes or to award prizes as stated on its entry blank or meet information until such obligations are satisfied or the prizes awarded.
  - 7.2.2.6** No Approval will be granted if the words "Olympic," "World," "Nationals," "United States of America," or any derivative thereof is used in any manner in connection with the competition unless consent for such usage is obtained from USA Swimming.
  - 7.2.2.7** The following clause must appear on all approval forms and on all forms upon which official approvals are granted: "In granting this approval it is understood and agreed that USA Swimming shall be free and held harmless from any liabilities or claims or damages arising by reason of injuries to anyone during the conduct of the event."
  - 7.2.2.8** Complete results shall be submitted to the LSC within a period of time established by the LSC.
  - 7.2.2.9** All approvals must be signed by an authorized representative of the LSC and record kept by the LSC.
  - 7.2.2.10** An Approval may be withheld or withdrawn by the LSC if the competition was not conducted in accordance with the above requirements.
  - 7.2.2.11** If an event is to be contested in more than one LSC's or country's jurisdiction, the application for approval shall be submitted to the LSC in which the event begins. The LSC granting the Approval shall notify the other LSC(s) and/or the governing body of the other country in which the event is being contested of the details of the event.
  - 7.2.2.12** YMCA clubs who are also registered as USA Swimming clubs should be aware that USA Swimming insurance may not provide coverage when hosting an approved competition or when attending an approved competition if not all competitors from the club are USA Swimming members.
- 7.3** Mutual Guidelines for YMCA Teams, AAU Teams, and USA Swimming Officers for SWIMS Database
- 7.3.1** The following criteria must be met if a YMCA or AAU team wishes to have times for its athletes entered into SWIMS:
    - 7.3.1.1** The meet must be run according to the guidelines of Part One, Technical Rules, USA Swimming Rules and Regulations. In lieu of an Administrative Official or second referee to comply with 102.10, a Level II Y certified official designated to fulfill the position of Administrative Official may be used at a Y meet.
  - 7.3.2** The meet shall be "Approved" by the host LSC according to its by-laws or formal policies and in accordance with the Requirements for Approval section of the

Administrative Regulations of Competition of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.

- 7.3.3** While the Y meet results file is official for YMCA purposes, in order to ensure that swimmers in an approved Y meet are able to represent the Y/USA Club team, the host team can require each Y team to send a list of a club's USA-S registered swimmers obtained from the USA-S Club Portal with their entries. At the conclusion of the meet, any swimmer who must be shown as UN in the USA-S database should be un-attached in the meet file and any relays the swimmer competed on should be deleted by the meet host. The meet host can also work with the LSC registrar and, if both agree, send a post meet recon file to the LSC and then make any corrections upon receipt of the recon before submission of results to the LSC for USA Swimming purposes.
- 7.3.4** Upon completion of a swimming competition and within seven (7) days of the end of the meet, the Meet Manager Back-up File should be sent to the SWIMS Times Officer in the LSC. The SWIMS officer will export a meet results file which will include the times for USA Swimming registered athletes for loading into SWIMS.
- 7.3.5** Times loaded into SWIMS will show the athletes attached to the USA Swimming club name if that name is the same as the YMCA or AAU team name. If the name of the team is different, the times may show up as LSC UN. A USA Swimming member swimmer who is unattached will appear LSC UN in the database.

## **8.0 NCAA MEETS**

- 8.1** Beginning in September 2017, the NCAA adopted the Fina Technical Rules for swimming. NCAA meets are no longer required to be observed by USA Swimming. Times from NCAA meets in all divisions are eligible to be used for USA Swimming purposes if the following criteria are met:
  - 8.1.1** The meet is a bona fide competition as defined in the current NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules and Interpretations Book. Bona fide competitions include the following:
    - 8.1.1.1** Competition is between two or more teams of the same gender at the same time and site, from different collegiate institutions.
    - 8.1.1.2** All competitors are eligible by NCAA standards.
    - 8.1.1.3** Meets must be on the institutions' approved competition schedule.
    - 8.1.1.4** Meet officials must be qualified and/or certified.
  - 8.1.2** For each meet, officiating must be in compliance with NCAA rules for Officials and their duties as stated in the NCAA Rule Book.
    - 8.1.2.1** There shall be a sufficient number of officials to properly conduct the meet. For dual, double-dual, triangular and quadrangular meet competitions, a minimum of two officials must be used; however, the use of three or four officials is recommended to properly observe all competitors equally and enforce playing rules.
    - 8.1.2.2** For championship and invitational competitions, a minimum of four officials must be used; however, the use of six officials is recommended to properly observe all competitors equally and enforce playing rules.
    - 8.1.2.3** It is the host institution or conference meet committee's responsibility to ensure compliance with the minimum number of officials or to receive mutual (unanimous) consent to change the minimum requirements.

- 8.1.3 Meet results shall be sent to [ncaa@usaswimming.org](mailto:ncaa@usaswimming.org) within 72 hours of the end of competition. It is the responsibility of the USA Swimming Times Staff to ensure that requirements of a bona fide competition are met.
- 8.1.4 The NCAA Meet Referee shall have full jurisdiction over the meet and shall see that all rules are enforced.
- 8.2 At a NCAA institution hosted meet, the referee shall provide names and events to the USA Swimming staff leader or designee(s) for any competitor wearing illegal tape or compression sleeves(s) if the time swum would be a USA Swimming record (NAG, US Open) or a World Record.

## 9.0 TIMES VERIFICATION PROCESS – OBSERVED SWIMS

- 9.1 The intent of observing swims is to provide an opportunity primarily for high school swimmers who cannot compete in LSC sanctioned meets during their association season to achieve times that may be used to enter USA Swimming meets. An important difference between “Approved” and “Observed” is conformance to administrative rules and technical rules (required for Approval) vs. technical rules only (required for Observation).
- 9.2 Observation is for the specific purpose of ensuring that swims performed by USA Swimming members are in compliance with the Timing Rules, Racing Course Dimensions, Starting Platform, and Individual Strokes & Relays sections of the Technical Rules portion of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations. Meets run by dual certified officials (i.e. NFHS/USA-S, USMS/USA-S) do not require additional USA-S observers at the meet. The dual certified officials shall record any USA-S disqualifications for USA-S swimming rules which would not be disqualifications under the rules of the meet. Where the technical rules as listed in Article 101 are identical to those of the host organization, the judgement of the organization officials shall be sufficient.
- 9.3 At meets which do have separate USA-S observers (a minimum of 2 is acceptable), the USA-S observers shall record ONLY disqualifications for USA Swimming rules which would not be disqualifications under the rules of the meet. Where the technical rules as listed under Individual Strokes and Relays of the Technical Rules of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations are identical to those of the host organization, the judgment of the organization officials shall be sufficient.
- 9.4 An administrative disqualification or an organization disqualification that is not a violation of USA Swimming technical rules should not invalidate an achieved time. Either the dual certified officials or the USA-S observers shall work with meet administration to record/report the time when submitted to the SWIMS Times database for high school competitions.
- 9.5 Following are certain minimum criteria that must be applied to all high school, Masters, and any other meets authorized to have swims observed. The LSC NTV officer has the responsibility of verifying compliance.
  - 9.5.1 Timing must comply with the Timing Rules stipulated in the Technical Rules section of USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.
  - 9.5.2 If separate officials are being used for observation, officials must be present on the pool deck.
  - 9.5.3 The number of host association meet deck officials (high school, USMS, etc.) must meet the minimum requirements as stipulated in Article 202.8.3A, which must include a referee, a starter and two stroke and turn officials.
- 9.6 The meet shall be on the published calendar of the appropriate school, league, conference, etc. Observation of high school competition shall be authorized for meets in

the championship progression and large invitational meets run according to championship protocols and specifically authorized by the USA Swimming staff leader or designee(s).

- 9.6.1** A time trial held in conjunction with a meet whose swims are authorized for observation may also be observed if the time trial will be officiated to the same standard as the authorized meet.
- 9.6.2** All times for observed swims in high school meets shall be entered into SWIMS as LSC UN with the exception noted in 9.7.4.
- 9.6.3** Observed swims not in compliance with USA Swimming rules should be recorded and compiled by a USA Swimming NTV official in the host LSC.
- 9.6.4** The LSC is encouraged to provide a list of valid observed swims from meets posted on the LSC website, or if complete results have been posted elsewhere, a link to the results and a listing of those swims that were NOT in compliance with USA Swimming rules. A record of observed swims not accepted should be kept by the LSC NTV officials for a period of one year.
- 9.6.5** Upon request, and although not a rules requirement, notification of any swims not accepted due to USA swimming technical rule violations may be provided to swimmers involved.
- 9.7** To have a meet authorized for observation of swims, a request must be made to the designated LSC official at least ten days prior to the meet in accordance with LSC rules.
  - 9.7.1** For meets other than a season-culminating Championship, use Form A. Should Form A be approved by the LSC, it must then be forwarded to the USA Swimming staff leader or designee(s). The request must include a reason and explanation for request.
  - 9.7.2** For all meets leading directly to a season-culminating championship, use Form B may be approved by the LSC NTV Officer. (The LSC is responsible for determining whether observation can be properly conducted and will determine which meets will be authorized for observation of swims.) LSC NTV officers shall send the list of these meets and dates to the NTV subcommittee chair.
  - 9.7.3** Official times for swims in observed meets should be entered within two weeks of the competition into SWIMS by an LSC NTV official or LSC SWIMS officer upon receipt of the following:
    - 9.7.3.1** Complete legible verification requests (if non-electronic results are utilized).
    - 9.7.3.2** Official electronic meet results or printed final results with notations indicating those swims not in compliance with USA Swimming Rules. The designated USA Swimming certified official present must attest to the LSC NTV official that the meet was run in accordance with the minimum criteria listed above. The LSC NTV official may determine that all times for athletes with full legal names and birth dates or USA Swimming ID numbers will be loaded into the SWIMS database without a specific request.
  - 9.7.4** The time for a relay achieved in a high school meet may be entered into SWIMS for a USA Swimming club provided all four relay swimmers represent the same USA Swimming club at the time of the swim. All four names must be included, and a specific request be made for this manual data entry into SWIMS. Note that some state high school associations may not permit club affiliation, even for relays, during the high school season.
  - 9.7.5** If an observed meet is receiving blanket observation (all swims observed), individual verification requests may be made after the meet.

- 9.7.6** The LSC may choose to load all observed times and relay lead-off splits from observed meets into SWIMS. In this case, the coach can assist in the process by making sure their swimmers are entered into the meet using their full legal names and that the DOBs are provided. If a swim is compliant with USA Swimming technical rules and the meet has received blanket observation, all swims (unless a disqualification is noted) are valid times. The LSC may establish a fee for entry of observed swim times.

**10.0 USA SWIMMING SCHOLASTIC ALL AMERICA PROGRAM**

- 10.1** The USA Swimming Scholastic All America Team is comprised of high school student athletes who have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for academic subjects and no grade lower than a C and have competed in an individual event in the Open Water National Championships, IPC or USPC meets stipulated by the Times and Recognition Committee, or have a qualifying result in the SWIMS database during the designated qualifying period. The qualifying period shall be August 16th through the following August 15th. Applications for the just completed academic year will open on June 1 and must be submitted by August 15th, the last day of the qualifying period.
- 10.1.1** Applicants must have completed 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade.
- 10.1.2** Applicants must be USA Swimming member athletes at the time of the swim and the time of the application.
- 10.1.3** Applicants must have participated in an individual event within the qualifying period in a meet whose results are in the SWIMS database or have competed in the Open Water National Championships or the appropriate Disability Championship meet. Achieved times (pool) must meet the qualifying standards posted on the USA Swimming website for the current year. (Member Resources/Awards and Recognition/Scholastic All America)
- 10.1.4** Relay-only swimmers do not qualify for SAA.
- 10.2** Awards for Scholastic All America recognition will include:
- 10.2.1** Three certificates to each individual achieving SAA Status (one for the athlete, one for the school, and one for the USA Swimming club).
- 10.2.2** A special award to each individual named to the SAA team three times (four times beginning in 2021).
- 10.2.3** Outstanding Achiever recognition to each individual who places first at the USA Swimming National Championships and maintains a 4.0 Grade Point Average.

**TIMES AND RECOGNITION COMMITTEE**  
**(January 2020)**

**Committee Members:**

**Chair: Lisa Olack, NC (2022)**

olack.lisa@gmail.com

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**Emeritus: Suzanne Heath, NC (2022)**

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**Athletes:**

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**Nicholas Poulos, MD**

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**USASwimmingStaff Leader: Larry Herr**

lherr@usaswimming.org

## RECOMMENDED LSC TIMES MODULE MANAGEMENT

The LSC shall appoint an LSC SWIMS Officer whose duty is to maintain the integrity and purpose of SWIMS. A SWIMS Officer shall be a USA Swimming non-athlete member in good standing with APT and BGS. In fulfilling this duty, he/she shall:

- Receive official meet results from the meet host no later than one (1) week from the last day of the meet (1-3 days is recommended).
- Review meet results for possible errors; if errors are found, meet file is sent back to the meet host for investigation and correction.
- Load meet results into SWIMS no later than two (2) weeks from last day of the meet (3-7 days is recommended).
- Clear the Times Holding Tank for individual and relay errors in a timely manner.
- Communicate with the LSC registrar as necessary to resolve membership questions or issues.
- Provide LSC webmaster with official meet results and update these as necessary for posting of results on the LSC website.
- Keep data from observed swims' competitions for a period of one year.

**NOTE:** The following positions may also be set by the LSC for handling of meets/times:

- NTV
  - An individual who tracks the observed swims competitions and may authorize the observation for those meets; the LSC NTV shall report the LSC observed meets to the T & R designee.
  - An LSC may also use the LSC Sanction Chair or Admin Vice Chair to authorize observed swims competitions.
  - The NTV officer or a Sanction Chair/Admin Vice Chair shall work with the SWIMS Officer to ensure that swims in compliance with USA Swimming rules are loaded into the SWIMS database from observed meets.
- Records Chair
  - An individual who tracks the LSC Records and may use the SWIMS database in reviewing times for LSC swimmers (Read-only privileges).
  - Records may be set up and maintained in the LSC Portal on the USA Swimming website (instructions published and posted under Times Information on the website).
  - Password for administrative privileges to set up records in the LSC Portal is provided by USA-S Times Staff member.
- Top Times Tabulator
  - An individual who reviews the Age Group Top Times posted on the USA Swimming website weekly during the swim year for any times tracked nationally from the LSC.
  - Tabulator may use the database in a Read-only capacity to pull reports for the LSC Top Times which should be posted on the LSC website according to the LSC schedule.

All appointments for use of the SWIMS Database for Times are made by the LSC General Chair to the USA Swimming IT Director with copy to the Chair of the Times and Recognition Committee and USA Swimming Times Staff. A list of these individuals is maintained by the T & R Committee for ongoing communication and continuing education.



**USA SWIMMING REQUEST FOR OBSERVATION –  
NON-SEASON CULMINATING CHAMPIONSHIP MEET  
Form A**

Meets requiring authorization by the USA Swimming staff leader or National NTV designee **require 10-day advance application.** Such meets include High School, Masters’ or other meets that are not season-culminating championship meets. This completed form and a copy of the meet information must be sent at least 10 days prior to the event to the LSC NTV official for review. The LSC official will send this completed form to the National NTV designee for approval. The request must include a reason & explanation for the request.

Acceptance of verification requests from the meet is subject to proof that conditions at the meet were in conformance with the required procedures and pertinent USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.

**Name of Meet:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name of Facility:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date(s) of Meet:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Meet Director:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of person filing this request:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Is this meet on the regular, published calendar?             Yes     No  
Type of Meet:     High School             Masters             Other  
Course:         Long Course Meters             Short Course Yards             Short Course Meters

Approx. number of teams participating \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. number of swimmers participating \_\_\_\_\_

- Timing systems will conform to the conditions specified in 102.24 USA Swimming Rules & Regulations.
- The number of Association officials must meet the minimum requirements. There must be a referee, starter and two stroke and turn officials as provided in Article 102.10 – USA Swimming Rules & Regulations. A minimum of two additional USA Swimming Certified stroke & turn officials shall be assigned as observers for the purpose of verifying conformance with USA Swimming technical rules. Observers shall be permitted access to the pool deck. If at least two of the association meet officials are dually certified by USA Swimming, additional observers are not necessary. Where the technical rules listed in Article 101 are the same as the host organization, the judgment of the organization officials shall be sufficient.
- USA-S disqualifications from observed meets shall be reported to the LSC NTV Officer
- The meet referee, or LSC designee, will provide swimmers and coaches with information about the observation program and the procedures to be used to request observation. Requests may be submitted prior to the swim for which observation is desired, or all swims may be observed.
- A copy of the meet information is attached.
- The reason & explanation for this request is attached.

Names and phone numbers of USA Swimming officials who will serve as observers at this meet or the dually certified officials:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Meet Referee** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

This form must be submitted and accepted by the LSC NTV Official prior to submission to the Time s Committee NTV designee.

**Step One – Accepted by:**

**Step Two – Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
LSC NTV Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
USA Swimming NTV Designee

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCALSWIMMINGCOMMITTEE - REQUEST FOR OBSERVATION  
SEASON CULMINATING CHAMPIONSHIP MEET**

**Form B**

This form is used to request authorization for observation of swims at High School, Masters or other association season-culminating Championship meets. Observation requests for meets that are not season-culminating Championship(s) must be made on Request for Observation – Form A.

**Application Requirements:**

- 1) **Timing systems** must comply with conditions outlined in 102.24 USA Swimming Rules & Regulations.
- 2) **Officiating:**
  - a) The number of Association officials must meet the minimum requirements (a referee, starter and two stroke and turn officials) as provided in Article 102.10 – USA Swimming Rules & Regulations. If the association stroke and turn officials are also certified by USA-S and are in position on deck, no additional observers are necessary. Officials may note compliance with USA Swimming Technical Rules only for those swimmers requesting observation, or the entire meet may be observed.
  - b) Or, a minimum of two USA Swimming certified officials shall be assigned and in position on the deck, to verify compliance with USA Swimming Rules for those swims requested to be observed.
  - c) Where the technical rules as listed in Article 101 are the same as the host organization, the judgment of the organization officials shall be sufficient.
  - d) The designated USA Swimming certified official must verify compliance with applicable rules and procedures and shall forward any proof of times requests and final results for observed meets to the LSC NTV official.
- 3) **Proof of Times Requests:**
  - a) If an athlete's USA-S ID # or full legal name and birth date is included in the electronic meet results, no individual request for data entry into the SWIMS system should be necessary. The LSC NTV official or SWIMS data officer shall enter times for any such athlete into SWIMS.
  - b) If the above data is not included in the electronic results, individual requests for times may be required by the LSC NTV official where the meet took place.

Name of Meet: \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Facility: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below, the Meet Referee or Meet Director verifies the following:

Check one of the options listed below and complete the remainder of this section.

- This meet will be observed in its entirety, exclusively by USA Swimming Officials, according to staffing guidelines specified in USA Swimming Rules & Regulations.
- This meet will be officiated exclusively by USA Swimming officials, but due to the limited number of verification requests expected, only swims specifically requested in advance will be observed for compliance with USA Swimming Rules.
- This meet will be officiated by the proper number of Association officials and also observed by a minimum of two assigned USA Swimming Stroke & Turn certified officials positioned on deck in compliance with USA Swimming Rules.

Names and phone numbers of USA Swimming officials who will serve as observers at this meet or the dually certified officials:

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1) _____ | 2) _____ |
| 3) _____ | 4) _____ |

Name of Meet Referee \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**This form must be submitted and accepted by the LSC NTV Official prior to submission to the Times Committee NTV designee.**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ (LSC NTV Official)

Please send copy or provide list of authorized meets electronically to the Times Committee NTV designee.



# MEET APPROVAL REQUEST TO USA SWIMMING

## Form D

Reference USA Swimming Rules and Regulations 202.6 – **Requirements for Approval**

Approvals may be issued to **member clubs for open competition** conducted in accordance with USA Swimming technical rules if that competition has been specifically approved by the USA Swimming Staff Leader or his/her designee.

Request for Approval: \_\_\_\_\_ Club of the \_\_\_\_\_ LSC

Hereby requests approval of the following meet: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Facility \_\_\_\_\_

Person initiating request \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

### Requirements

- The meet must be approved by the host LSC before submission to USA Swimming.
- Approval meet status shall not be a means to avoid participants having USA Swimming membership.

### Reasons for hosting the meet as approved rather than sanctioned are as follows:

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Approved by LSC: \_\_\_\_\_

### Approved by USA Swimming

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Times Committee Designee

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Date

*In granting this approval it is understood and agreed that USA Swimming shall be free and held harmless from any liabilities or claims for damages arising by reason of injuries to anyone during the conduct of the event.*