



WESTERN PA YMCA SWIM LEAGUE

Anita Murphy – President
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Parents of the WPYSL:

It has come to our attention that there have been families wanting permission for their swimmer(s) to represent both a YMCA team and a USA team not part of the YMCA team they swim for. The answer is no. According to the Rules that Govern YMCA competitive sports, handed down by the YMCA of the USA, dual Representation is not permitted.

Dual Representation (Rule III)

Rule I defines dual representation as occurring when “an athlete represents more than one team in a particular sport during the current season.” Rule III further explains that “A YMCA athlete may represent a non-YMCA team in the same sport, provided that the non-YMCA team could* not compete against the athlete’s YMCA team in open competition,” (eg. A high school team). Because it is possible for YMCA teams to be members of USA Swimming, and thus compete against non-YMCA teams in USA Swimming meets (which are considered open competition), it is a violation of the dual representation rule for a swimmer to represent a YMCA team and a separate USA Swimming team during the current season. *Note: The word “could” in the permissible dual representation statement refers to the possibility, not the actuality of whether a YMCA team is also a member of USA Swimming.

USA Swimming competition is open because although all teams and swimmers must be members of USA Swimming, teams with other affiliations (YMCA, prep school, college) are permitted to join and participate.

YMCA Swimming competition is closed because only YMCA teams and swimmers may participate. Other examples of closed competition include interscholastic (e.g. high school) competition and summer league competition in which only member teams of a local summer league compete.

A YMCA swimmer may represent his/her interscholastic institution (eg. High school) in closed interscholastic competition.

A YMCA swimmer may represent a local summer league team that is different than his/her YMCA team in closed league competition, as long as a YMCA team does not also participate in that league.

When a YMCA team is not also registered with USA Swimming, a member of that YMCA team may participate in USA Swimming competitions as an Unattached swimmer. A member of a YMCA team may practice with a separate USA Swimming club, if permitted by the YMCA team’s coach/director, but needs to be aware of the YMCA dual representation and transfer rules. YMCA leagues, states and regions have the right to further restrict such dual participation.

Our league, The WPYSL does not permit members of a YMCA swim team to practice with a separate USA Swimming Club as stated in our WPYSL Rules that Govern:

G. ELIGIBILITY:

1. A competitor must be an amateur and a member in good standing, entitled to physical activity privileges, of the association represented. A swimmer is prohibited from competition in this league if he or she represents any other organization (except academic teams – i.e. junior high or high school) in open or closed competition during the period of September 1 to April 30 of a given year.

2. A swimmer must be a "bona fide" member of the team he/she is representing in dual meet competition. To be considered bona fide, a swimmer must practice 100% of his/her practices with the represented team, with the exception of varsity high school swimmers who practice primarily with their high school teams. Any swimmer who is not a bona fide swimmer, but represents a team in dual meet competition shall be disqualified from that meet.

I hope that clears up any confusion.

Sincerely,



Anita Marie Murphy, President WPYSL