



11550 Meridian Street, Suite 260, Carmel, IN 46032

INDIANA SWIMMING DIVISIONAL, SENIOR & AGE GROUP **SUMMER** CHAMPIONSHIP PROCEDURES FOR INCLUSION OF SWIMMERS WITH DISABILITIES

1. By invitation only, Indiana Swimming may select up to 2 swimmers with disabilities in each age group and gender in any manner deemed appropriate to enter the Divisional, Senior or Age Group State Championships.
2. Invitations to apply for one of the selected spots will be sent to club coaches of those athletes who completed the Disability Section on the annual Indiana Swimming registration application.
**USA Swimming rules permit disability accommodations and exceptions for swimmers who have "a permanent physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more life activities." This definition encompasses swimmers who are deaf; swimmers who are blind; swimmers with cognitive disabilities, or autism; and swimmers with physical disabilities such as amputations, cerebral palsy, dwarfism, spinal injury, or other mobility impairments.*
3. The attached application must be completed and submitted by the applicable deadlines in order to be considered for entry. In order to be eligible to apply for Indiana Swimming's most prestigious meets for the current season, a swimmer must have competed in 2 Indiana Swimming sanctioned meets since January 1, 2021 for consideration. **Additionally, the coach must attest to swimmer's commitment to swimming and readiness for this level of competition.**
4. Swimmers with disabilities may compete without having achieved the qualifying standard for their age group. However, they must provide a time for each event they enter. Entry times will also be subject to the times verification process stated in the entry letter.
5. Classification of a swimmer with a disability is irrelevant.
6. Swimmers with disabilities may compete in finals (if distance is equal and their preliminaries time earns a spot), earn awards and score points for their team in the same manner as the able bodied swimmer. There are no special awards necessary.
7. It is the responsibility of the swimmer, or his/her coach, to inform the Meet Referee of any disability-related accommodations he/she may need to compete. **This information must be given in advance of the meet. The Meet Referee shall inquire about the swimmer's needs and determine any modifications that may be required. This information shall be relayed to the starter and stroke and turn judges.** Visually impaired swimmers who require tappers must bring their own devices and individuals to use them.
8. Aside from the norm, the Meet Referee has the ability to seed the swimmer with a disability in a number of ways. These options include: seed the swimmer with others of the appropriate gender, allowing the swimmer to complete half the distance of their age group (swim the 100 backstroke during the 200 race), or swim with a younger age group where their entry time is similar to the able-bodied swimmers for the same distance (a 14 year old swimmer with a disability could swim the 100 freestyle with the 10 & U age group). The final meet results should show the swimmer with a disability listed in the correct age and event, regardless of where he/she actually competed. The Meet Referee may reassign the lane of a deaf swimmer if a required view of the strobe light is obscured, and the light cannot be repositioned.

