



## Section 203.3 (60-Day Rule)

*USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Section 203.3: For a swimmer to represent a USA Swimming club in a competitive event, sixty (60) consecutive days must have elapsed before the swimmer is permitted to represent any other USA Swimming club in USA Swimming open or closed competition. The 60-day count shall begin on the day following the last day the athlete represented a USA Swimming club in open competition.*

Section 203.3 of the *USA Swimming Rules and Regulations* is frequently referred to in the swimming community as the 60-day rule. Simply stated, the 60-day rule states that for a swimmer to represent a USA Swimming club in a competitive event, 60 consecutive days must have elapsed without the swimmer having represented any other USA Swimming club in competition.

Listed below are frequently asked questions and answers about section 203.3

**Q** Is there a form for Athlete Transfers?

**A** No. Transfers are initiated from the member's record in SWIMS. Transfers can be initiated by the member, by the team that they are leaving or the LSC Registrar.

**Q** How do I count the 60 days?

**A** SWIMS will count the 60 days when the transfer is processed in SWIMS. SWIMS begin counting the 60 days from the last date the swimmer swam representing a USA Swimming club in Open competition.

**Q** Club ABC has folded and swimmers must join another USA Swimming club. Must the swimmers wait 60 days?

**A** The USA Swimming Rules and Regulations specifies that 60 consecutive days must have elapsed before a swimmer can represent any other USA Swimming club in competition. Even though the club disbanded, the swimmers must still wait 60 days to represent another USA Swimming club in competition.

**Q** USA Swimming club is changing its club name from ABC to DEF. No other changes with exception of club name. Must swimmers wait 60 days?

**A** In this instance, the 60-day rule does not apply. The club has a name change only - in essence; it is not a different club. Club should report name change to LSC Membership Chair who will change the name in SWIMS.

**Q** Club ABC is merging with the DEF swim club and swimmers will swim as the DEF swim club. What swimmers must wait the 60 days?

**A** The swimmers coming from the ABC swim club must wait 60 consecutive days before representing the DEF swim club in competition.

**Q** ABC swim club and DEF swim club are merging to form the GHI swim club. Must all swimmers wait 60 days to represent the GHI swim club in competition?

**A** A new swim club (GHI) has been formed. GHI must submit a new club application, which must be approved before any swimmers can represent GHI. Swimmers from the ABC swim club and the DEF swim club must all wait 60 consecutive days before representing the GHI swim club.

**Q** YMCA club (also USA Swimming club) holds a YMCA Invitational meet for YMCA athletes and teams only. Swimmer A represents the club in the meet and subsequently switches to another USA Swimming club. Does the 60-day rule apply?

**A** If the YMCA Invitational meet was in fact closed competition involving only YMCA teams and YMCA member athletes, it is not a USA Swimming competition, and the 60-day rule would not apply (except as to last date of competition for prior USA Swimming club).

**Q** If you have been notified by a family that they are getting relocated. Are they exempt from the 60-day rule?

**A** No, they are not. However, it is encouraged to talk to the club coach to see if it is beneficial to switch the athlete to unattached status prior to their relocation. This would allow them to attach to their new club sooner and not diminish their involvement in our sport.

If additional information is needed, please contact the Member Services Department at National Headquarters.