

To: Coaches, Athletic Directors, Tournament Representatives
From: Carolyn Strunk, Northwest District Meet Manager
(General tournament questions go to: nwdistrictmanager@gmail.com)
Re: OHSAA Northwest District Meet Information
(Coaches, please read the entire document – you are responsible for all information)

Coaches, please remember that sportsmanship will be enforced at all times. The behavior/actions of you, your athletes, and your spectators in all regards to the NW District Tournament are a reflection of your school. Please remind everyone (your staff, athletes, spectators) of the OHSAA policy on Good Sporting.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Competition Dates:

Friday February 20, 2026: Division 2 Swimming @BGSU Girls AM/Boys PM
Saturday February 21, 2026: Division 1 Swimming @BGSU Girls AM/Boys PM

COACHES OF PARA ATHLETES:

Please read the document entitled Para Athlete Entry Instructions for 2026 Para Athlete Competition which are posted on the OHSAA.org and NWDAB.org websites. Make sure to complete the Para Athlete verification form also found on the OHSAA.org swimming link. Note specific dates for submitting the verification form and how to enter your para swimmers.

Para swimmers may choose to compete at the District Championships (in addition to the State Championships). If coaches will be entering a Para swimmer into the DISTRICT meet, please indicate that in the email when you send your sectional entries and be sure to use the proper Para event numbers. Para swimmers will swim same gender/session as able-bodied teammates.

Coaches Meeting:

All schools with swimming qualifiers in the D1 and D2 District Championships are required to have a coach representative attend a mandatory zoom meeting at 8pm on Wednesday February 18th, 2026. Use the link located on the NWDAB website that will be provided after qualifiers are posted.

Inclement Weather:

In the event of inclement weather, a decision will be made by the Northwest District Athletic Board no later than 6 hours prior to the start of the meet. Decisions will be disseminated via the NWDAB website and the NW District Meet Manager via official channels (i.e. Sectional meet managers to contact their member schools, news outlets, social media, etc).

Potential alternatives are:

1st preference: Delaying 1-3 hours and staying on the same date/time schedule.

2nd preference: Shift D2 from Friday to Sunday to only change one Division schedule.

There are other alternatives that will be taken into consideration based on specific weather details.

Facility:

- Cooper Pool uses a fully automatic COLORADO timing and judging system.
- A horn start will be used.
- Water depth in the racing course is from 13 to 17 feet.
- The Northwest District site will be using the Colorado backstroke start device.

District Meet General Information:

- **Safety:** In an effort to promote safety at the District meet, the district board is requiring all swimmers to enter the water feet first with one hand on the pool deck during warm ups.

- Relay alternates provided with sectional entries/results are NOT automatic qualifiers and will not be counted in the District qualifiers' list.
- Communicable disease precautions – while risk of an athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to non-existent, there is greater risk that other blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as in other body fluids. Precautions for reducing the potential for transmission of these infectious agents' means **NO** athletes are permitted to shave down at the Student Recreation Center. Individuals who insist on shaving will be asked to vacate the premises.
- Competitors who are bleeding, have an open wound or blood on the uniform may not participate in any event until proper treatment has been administered. Competition areas and equipment that becomes contaminated must be cleaned properly before competition is conducted.
- Per state association orders, the facility will be closed concluding the last swimming event. No in-pool celebrations are permitted after the NW District Championship Meets.
- Live stream info and cost will be on the NWDAB website when it's available.

District Site General Information:

- Only official school banners are allowed to be displayed at the District meet site with rope, bungees, etc, **NO** tape.
- Athletes are responsible for valuables as neither the SRC nor the NWDAB are responsible for lost or stolen items.
- NO rubdown tables or masseuse.
- NO lounge chairs will be permitted on the pool deck
- Athletes are not permitted past the tiled area in their wet swim suits unless covered by warmups/clothes.
- NO COOLERS ARE PERMITTED into the facility.
- Concessions will be available.
- There are new upgraded water bottle refill stations on deck and the locker rooms that can be used.
- There is no insurance coverage for property damage. If there is damage at the tournament site to locker rooms, bleachers, or the pool facility, the school or schools are liable and must pay the cost of repair. Vandalism will result in removal from the premises. Schools and the president of the NWDAB will be notified on the next working day of any damages.

Diving Format

Championship diving format will govern the meet.

Preliminaries – All divers will do 5 preliminary dives.

Semi-finals – The field will be cut to 20; divers will do 3 dives.

Finals – The field will be cut to 16; divers will do 3 dives.

Check your rule book for the required sequence of dives (voluntary and optional).

Swimming Format

This is a timed final meet and heats will be seeded as such.

Times performed at the Sectional Meets will be used to seed the meet.

Scratch Procedure/Event Alternates for the District Championships

- Published meet results from sectionals/district psych sheets will not indicate alternates. The tournament manager will contact coaches who have an alternate for the district championships.
- Medical scratches will be filled by alternates based on qualifying times from sectionals.
- The Tournament Manager must be notified by 5pm the day before the competition in which the scratch will take place so the event/s can be reseeded and coaches of alternates notified.
- Notification after 5pm will result in an open lane unless extreme circumstances need to be taken into consideration on a case by case basis.

****If your swimmer knows they will NOT be competing at the District Championships, the coach should notify the SECTIONAL Meet Manager BEFORE leaving the facility so the next qualifying competitor has the opportunity to swim at Districts. This is different from a medical scratch!

Heat Sheets

Heat sheets will be provided to coaches at their team check-in. Please check posted psych sheets to see that your contestants are properly entered. See the computer operator at your sectional site immediately upon your arrival if you find errors of any kind in the heat sheet (name spelling, grade, etc.).

Relay Cards

Step 1: Relay names are required to be submitted via email the night before your meet by 8pm. The preferred format is to create an entry list showing 4-8 names. Email to: northwestdistrictentries@gmail.com

Step 2: Your 4 relay swimmers must be listed IN ORDER as the top 4 names. This is how they will be printed on the lane timer sheets.

Step 3: You may list *up to 4 alternates* for each qualified relay. Lane timer sheets will also have these names printed on them. If the alternates have not qualified individually to the District meet, no additional athlete stamp counts will be issued.

Step 4: Changes will only be made on the lane timer sheets. These names/orders will be verified when lane timer sheets are collected after each relay event. NFHS Rules require that only swimmers on the relay sheet may be designated or that relay will be disqualified. No swimmers may exceed entry limitations.

****Exception:** In the case of schools with qualifying only ONE relay to Districts. In that situation, an alternate pass code may be requested from the tournament manager by noon the day before your day of competition. This code will be used to purchase a spectator ticket. If arrangements are not made by this time, no additional hand stamp will be issued.

Coach Passes (issued based on initial number of posted qualifiers)

- 1-4 Athletes, 1 coach stamp
- 5-12 Athletes, 2 coach stamps
- 13+ Athletes, 3 coach stamps

**Coach names must be submitted to the Tournament Manager by 8pm the night before your day of competition. Coaches must be on the school emergency contact list or they will not be stamped for deck access.

Parking

Any person parking a vehicle as a guest on Bowling Green State University campus must have purchased a parking pass ONLINE. Instructions will be posted at ohsaa.org/Northwest-Sports-Tournaments/ Swimming-Diving when they are available.

Awards

Awards will be presented as indicated on the posted timeline on the NWDAB website. Timelines will be posted around the pool deck.

District Qualifiers:

Top 32 individual times swum in each individual event, pulled from each division sectional swims. Top 24 relays by time swum, pulled from each division sectional swims.

State Championship Automatic Qualifiers

Diving qualifier numbers by district will be based on the actual number of entered divers to the 2025 tournament:

Division I Boys Diving: TBD after sectional entries have closed.

Division I Girls Diving: TBD after sectional entries have closed.

Division 2 Boys Diving: TBD after sectional entries have closed.

Division 2 Girls Diving: TBD after sectional entries have closed.

Division 1 Boys Swimming: 3

Division 1 Girls Swimming: 3

Division 2 Boys Swimming: 3

Division 2 Girls Swimming: 3

(Remaining 20 will qualify at-large to the State Championship - individuals ONLY)

Relays - remain at 2 automatics per district and 16 at-large.

Swimming Warm-up General Schedule

See posted timeline for general meet event times and gender meet start times.

Facility, check-in, and warmup times will be posted Monday prior to districts.

The OHSAA Northwest District meet will be a USA Swimming “Observed” meet

#OH- 26SC- 153OB. The entry file MUST include the following for times for be loaded to SWIMS: swimmers correct and full name, date of birth and USA Swimming ID. **USA ID #'s will NOT be added during the meet. It is each team's coaches' and athletes' responsibility to ensure applicable athletes are current USA Swimming members in good standing prior to the first day of the meet for times to load into SWIMS.**