



OBSERVED SWIMS GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION

Overview

USA Swimming rules provide a means for results at swimming competitions not sanctioned by USA Swimming (i.e. high school, college) to be submitted for entry into the SWIMS database. These are termed “observed swims” because the rules specify that certified USA Swimming officials must be in attendance to verify compliance of the swims with that part of the USA Swimming rule that differs from the organization’s rule. While other swimming organizations such as high school and college have very similar rules there are a few differences. Observers ensure that where there are differences, a swim conforms to USA Swimming rules. If it does, then it is eligible for submission into SWIMS.

The following conditions must be met for a meet to be observed.

1. Timing systems must comply with conditions outlined in 102.23. 2 & .3 USA Swimming Rules & Regulations.
2. Course dimensions and Starting Platforms must comply with the conditions outlined in 103.3 and 103.14 USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.
3. 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

How does this affect members of Wisconsin Swimming?

Having results from an observed high school championship meet in the USA Swimming SWIMS database simplifies the entry process for your club coach. **Times for all USA Swimming athletes registered and in good standing at the time of the swim will be entered into SWIMS.** Club coaches no longer need to submit forms to request to load times. **It would be helpful if the club coach could provide the athlete’s USAS Member ID to the high school meet coordinators, but it is not required.** Slight delays in posting of times may result without the correct Member ID info.

Currently, printable or viewable results from a season-ending high school swim meet are accepted as proof of entry time for Wisconsin Swimming state championships. However, they are not accepted for advanced level USA Swimming meets such as Zones, Sectionals, Grand Prix, Junior Nationals, and Nationals unless the meet was observed and the times were accepted into the USA Swimming SWIMS database.

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CHECKLIST for your Observed Swim Certification Report

- ☐ Date of the event
- ☐ Location
- ☐ WIAA Officials Names: Referee, Starter, Stroke & Turn Judges (2 minimum)
(ask if they are USAS certified)
- ☐ What timing system is being used? Electronic timing must be used in accordance with USAS Rule 102.23
 - Primary (Pads, buttons, watches)
 - Back up(s) (Pads, buttons, watches)
- ☐ Did the observations conform to all conditions outlined in 102.23 (Timing) and 103.3 & 103.14 (Course Dimensions and Starting Platforms)?

If you are not recommending certification, please be sure to have detailed notes as to why.

CHECKLIST for your Observed Infractions of Rules Report

- ☐ Athlete Name
- ☐ Athlete Team
- ☐ Event Number, Heat and Lane
- ☐ Event Name (100 Freestyle, 200 IM, etc.)
- ☐ Description of the violation

SWIMMING RULES: COMMON ELEMENTS and DIFFERENCES (as of August 15, 2024)						
COMMON ELEMENTS WITH GOVERNING BODIES	Start	Freestyle	Backstroke	Breaststroke	Butterfly	I.M.
	• Whistle preparatory commands; • Verbal preparatory "TAKE YOUR MARKS" • No recall; • Forward - after TYM's - foot/feet at front of block (see USMS); • Back - feet can be above water; not above lip of gutter or curling of toes over gutter. • Requires a stationary starting position.	• All common	• All common except backstroke turn and use of starting ledges - See NFHS	• All Common	• All Common	• All common except NFHS Backstroke turn.
DIFFERENCES - see specific rule book for exact wording						
NFHS	• Verbal or whistle preparatory commands - State option.		• Kick/glide is permitted <u>before</u> and <u>after</u> turning action. • Backstroke starting ledge device <u>not permitted</u>.			• See stroke differences.

Other rule differences: NFHS rules permit taping to treat a documented medical condition, provided signed documentation from an appropriate health-care professional has been produced. **Taping is generally not allowed under USA Swimming rules regardless of medical need, and use of Kiniseo tape is never permitted.**