

Prelims/Finals Swim Meets FAQ

What is a prelim/final meet?

All participating athletes compete in the morning session. This is called the preliminary session. The top swimmers from each event will qualify for Finals, which takes place at night.

Who qualifies for the finals?

The Top 8 or 10 (depending on the meet format) from each event will swim in the A-finals. The Top 16 or Top 20 (depending on the meet format) from each event will swim in the B-final, or consolation final.

Do relays qualify for finals?

Yes. Relays are swum at night.

What is an alternate?

An alternate is an athlete who places just outside of the Final or Consolation Final. There is a 1st alternate and a 2nd alternate. If an athlete who qualifies for finals but does not show for the event or scratches prior to the scratch deadline, the alternate will swim in their place. All alternates need to inform the meet referee, before their event, that they are an alternate. The meet referee will have the alternates stand next to the Starter.

Will my athlete swim in finals if they are an alternate?

All alternates need to return to finals for the opportunity to compete again. Swimmers will compete if there is a scratch or a no show in finals.

What is a scratch?

This is when an athlete qualifies for finals but opts not to swim. The scratch deadline is 30 minutes after the race is completed.