



The sport of swimming

Your child will be swimming with other swimmers of the same gender, same age and same ability.

To ensure this, there are a few different levels (classifications) of competition. Classification levels are determined by their fastest times set at previous swim meets. If your child has never swam competitively for a swim club before, they will start with a NT designation meaning “no time” and will be eligible for ABC or Age Group designated meets. Once your child sets a time in an event, they will be ranked in each event by the classification levels below for future swim meets.

C classification: At this entry level, the swimmer is new to the sport and learning the different swimming strokes. There is a timed classification that once your child achieves, they move up to the next classification, which is the B standard.

B classification: The beginner swimmer has learned skills and stamina for his/her event to be swum. When your child swims faster, they get promoted to the next classification, “A” standard.

A classification: Intermediate level. Mastering their swim strokes, getting stronger and faster. The swimmer gets better at their flip turns, finishes and starts off the starting block. All the time, your child will be competing with other swimmers of their gender, age and ability. Again, a very fair race.

AA classification: the swimmer is approaching the level of a state qualifier. But still competing with swimmers of their ability. As they build and move through the different levels, they build strength, confidence and competitiveness!

AAA classification: At this level, the swimmers are racing at the highest level of the state. Again, your child will be competing with athletes of the same gender, age and, well, varied performance levels. Depending on how much your child puts into the strength building and race strategies - will determine how well they do in competition.

The Coaches will, over a course of time, bring your child out of their comfort zone and will help to push them, to do the best that they can do.

Granted, all swimmers may not achieve “Olympic” caliber achievement, but they will achieve their greatest levels for their own abilities.

GOING INTO A SWIM MEET: When the announcement goes out for an upcoming swim meet, please read through the meet announcement before you declare your child will swim or will not swim. Keep in mind that some meets have time classification requirements, so please keep in mind that your child may not be able to enter all the meets or certain events at the meets based on the times they have achieved at previous meets. If at any point you have questions regarding meet or event eligibility, please feel free to contact your child's coach for advice.

You can declare or decline attendance at meets by going to "Events" "commit" click the box to declare that your child wants to swim. If you go to your child's entry page, if the times or events are in RED, your child has not yet achieved the classification to compete. (Remember, we want the swimmers to race within their classification and not compete against a higher level athlete). If the time and event is in BLUE, that's the event that your child may compete in. It is VERY IMPORTANT, if you are not completely familiar with your child's level of performance, please, check with your coach for what event might best suit your child.

After you have selected the events for your child, your coach will review your events; sometimes make suggestions if they think your child should swim a different event. And then the coach will approve your selected events.

Once you commit to a swim meet, you will be charged for the meet entry fees. Unfortunately, if your child is unable to swim the meet and entries have already been submitted, you and the club cannot get a refund of the meet fees.

We hope this will help to understand the levels (classifications) of competitive swimming and help to clarify what meet your child is eligible to swim in, and which they are not. If at any point you have questions or are unsure, please feel free to reach out to your child's coach.

Thank you,
HSC Administration