

Updated Qualification Times & Adopted Proposals

From: Iowa YMCA Executive Committee

Tue, Aug 30, 2022 at 11:39 AM

Coaches and Aquatic Directors,

Attached to this email you will find a copy of the new qualification standards for the 2023 and 2024 YMCA State Championships. I have also attached a comparison document showing the previous Q time next to the new Q time.

We received excellent feedback from coaches in regards to Q times and proposals to help better the experience for our YMCA swimmers, coaches and families. Below I have summarized these proposals as well as the outcome from committee discussion this past weekend.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Best,

Donald

"We would love to see Sectionals go back to the old rules where swimmers who have already qualified for state are also able to medal at Sectionals. Many of these swimmers do not medal at the State level so being denied the opportunity to medal at Sectionals is discouraging"

Swimmers going into the sectional championship weekend ranked with a Top 8 state time in a particular event will continue to enter as exhibition status in those events. Swimmers not listed in the top 8 can enter events regardless of having a Q time or not. It will be the responsibility of the coach to check entries against the updated state top times list and enter those swimmers as exhibition status. There will be no exhibition relays. All relays regardless of Q status will be eligible to score/medal. Sectionals will continue to be an unsanctioned championship level meet and can count as the 3rd meet required for state/regional eligibility.

Awards provided at the State Meet will change to the following:

1st - 3rd - Current YMCA Custom Gold, Silver, Bronze Medal

4th - 8th - Standard Award Medal with 4th-8th designated ribbon

8th - 16th - Ribbons

We propose that we change the following 12-21 Events to 13-21 and 11-12 events: 400 IM, 200 IM, 200 Breast, 200 Back, 200 Fly, and the 500 Free. We feel that offering an 11-12 version of these events will encourage participation by these younger swimmers in these events, better preparing them for competition in the 13-21 age group. You could combine both the 11-12s and 13-21 in the same event but have separate time standards and score/award them separately.

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New event numbers have been created and added to the master event list in the events as noted above. The 11/12 events have a separate Q time. Teams are encouraged to combine the 11/12 with the 13-21 event during in-season meets to help keep manageable timelines. Final results and awards can then be broken back out into 11/12 and 13-21 events.

We propose that the relay entries process be changed.

Every Team that has a qualifier in a certain age group would be able to enter a relay in that age group in each appropriate event.

The qualified swimmer would have to swim on that relay. Current time standards would apply to any additional relays each team would like to enter.

We believe this would increase participation in the state meet and motivate swimmers to qualify on their own. Some relay events featured relay teams from 5 or 6 different YMCAs.

We believe that these or similar changes would increase participation and motivation throughout the state and would have minimal impact on the length of the state meet.

Non-Qualifying Relays (NQR)

Teams without a qualifying relay time in a particular age group may enter one NQR providing they have one or more individual state qualifiers. This swimmer must be assigned to that relay. Only one NQR will be permitted per event/age group/gender.

**Teams with a qualifying relay in a particular age group/gender are prohibited from entering additional relays using swimmers that are not entered in the meet or not able to meet the relay qualifying time. A swimmer without an individual qualifying time may still swim in a relay providing the combined 4 individual swimmers times meet the relay qualifying standard.*

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