

# Dexter Community Aquatic Clubs

## Fall travel Meet Standards

### Purpose

Our goal at DCAC is to provide competitive opportunities that align with the developmental stage, commitment level, and performance goals of each training group. Fall travel meets are a unique experience for our swimmers — they require independence, responsibility, and a high level of dedication to the sport.

To maintain fairness and consistency, travel meets are reserved for **Age Group Performance, Junior Performance, and Senior training groups**.

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### Why This Standard Exists

1. **Celebrating Dedication**

Fall travel meets are not intended as a restriction for younger swimmers, but rather as a recognition of the time, training, and commitment that our older swimmers have shown. These athletes have often been with the program for many years, and travel meets serve as an opportunity to celebrate their dedication and hard work.

2. **Developmentally Appropriate Competition**

Younger swimmers already have access to numerous local and regional meets that fit their age, skill level, and training focus. Travel meets are structured to provide challenges that are more appropriate for athletes who are preparing for higher levels of competition such as state, sectional, or national meets.

3. **Building Independence and Team Culture**

Traveling as a team fosters independence, teamwork, and leadership — qualities that are best developed in athletes who are ready for the demands of higher-level training groups. By setting this standard, we ensure the travel experience remains focused, rewarding, and age-appropriate.

4. **Consistency with Team History**

This standard has been in place since we decided to provide a travel meet for our older swimmers. It was developed to give our older swimmers opportunities that reflect their

commitment, and it continues to be a cornerstone of how we structure our program.

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### What This Means for Younger Swimmers

- Younger athletes are **not being excluded** from opportunities — they are gaining experience at meets designed for their stage of development.
  - As swimmers progress through the program and demonstrate the dedication required for higher training groups, they will earn the opportunity to participate in travel meets.
  - This creates a **clear pathway** of growth: as swimmers advance, new opportunities open up for them.
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### Summary

Travel meets are a privilege and a milestone in a swimmer's journey at DCAC. They are designed to celebrate the dedication of our older athletes while ensuring that every swimmer, regardless of age, has opportunities appropriate to their level.

We believe this standard builds excitement for younger swimmers as they look forward to earning the opportunity in the future, while also honoring the athletes who have committed themselves to the sport at a higher level.