



Blue Waves Meet Policy
2025-2026 Season

General Information

Finding Meets:

- To find meets that your athlete is eligible for, you may go to the 'Events' tab on our Team Unify site. This will show you the meet start and end date, general meet information, and if your athlete is eligible.
- Meets labeled as USA Only are for athletes with a USA Swimming Membership.
- Meets labeled YMCA Approved are for all athletes, regardless of USA Membership status.
- Being entered into a meet to represent the WSY Blue Waves is a privilege and failure to comply with Blue Waves standards will result in your athlete being uninvited to meets.

Trials/Finals Meets and Championship Meets:

- If your athlete makes it to finals in a Trials/Finals meet, your athlete is expected to participate in finals.
- If your athlete qualifies for a championship meet, your athlete is expected to participate.

Signing Up For a Meet

Registering for a Meet:

- Parents MUST sign up their athletes for meets. Coaches will NOT register swimmers for meets.
- If your swimmer registers for a meet but is no longer able to attend, you still have to pay the meet fees. This is because we cannot get refunds back from the team hosting the meet.

Meet Fees:

- Most swim meets have meet fees (also known as entry fees). This is an additional cost per event entry, i.e. if your athlete is in 7 events and there is a \$5 entry fee, your total cost for the meet will be \$35.
- Unfortunately, financial aid does not apply to meet fees.

- For the 2025-2026 season, we require that each athlete have a credit card on file to cover meet fees. This is so we do not have to track down meet fees well after the meet has occurred, which is difficult for everyone.

Registration Deadlines:

- You must register your athlete by the published registration deadline. This will be included in the Event description on the Team Unify website. The coaches will also send out reminder emails about meet registration deadlines.

Scratching From a Meet or Event

Scratching:

- Scratching from a meet is declaring that your athlete will not attend the entire meet they were previously signed up for
- Scratching prior to the meet affects more people than just your athlete. It is disrespectful to the meet hosts, coaches and teammates.
- The only appropriate reasons to scratch from a meet are if the athlete is sick or there is a family emergency. Please remember, when your athlete makes a commitment to attend the meet they need to see out their promise to compete for the Blue Waves.
- Scratching an event is declaring that, while your athlete is still coming to the meet, they will not be participating in a particular race.

What to do:

- Please contact Head Coaches Alexa Serafine and Caroline Melly at bluewaves@wsymca.org as soon as possible if your athlete needs to scratch from a meet.
- If your swimmer scratches from a meet or from an event, you still have to pay the meet fees. This is because we cannot get refunds back from the team hosting the meet.

Pre-Meet Information

- Athletes must arrive by the time stated on the event page. Failure to do this will result in your athlete being scratched from the meet.
- Athletes are only allowed to represent the West Suburban YMCA Blue Waves at meets. Please make sure your athlete is only wearing Blue Waves gear and is not wearing the logos of any other team.
- Athletes will need to bring their team bathing suit, towel, water, food and Blue Waves apparel.
- The expectation of these athletes is to perform well at meets, please help your athlete best prepare by helping them pack, eat well, and get enough sleep prior to the meet.

Meet Day Information

- Blue Waves athletes are expected to be respectful to all coaches, officials, timers and other volunteers. Failure to do so will result in being scratched from the meet.
- Athletes are expected to swim all events they are registered for. If for some reason this cannot happen, the coaches must be informed (please see the section *Scratching from a Meet or Event*)
- Parents are only allowed on deck if they are volunteer timers.
- Athletes are expected to clean their designated area after the meet session.
- Once the athlete is finished with their events, they are able to leave.