

Meet Types

Age Group Open

These meets do not have qualification time standards. Typically, these meets offer each one of the competitive strokes in the two distances offered by each group. Some events may be open to multiple age groups. Each swimmer is allowed to enter 3-5 events per day.

Intra-Squad Meets/Dual Meets

Competition is only between RAAC swimmers or RAAC v. another team. These are good practice meets for beginning swimmers and are held to build team spirit and camaraderie, and to introduce beginning swimmers to competition. Times normally from these meets do not count.

Invitational

An invitational is a meet hosted by one team, which may invite many other teams to compete. Several hundred swimmers may attend these meets. Frequently, only swimmers with certain qualifying times may attend.

Age Group and Senior State Championships

All swimmers who have reached qualifying time based on the New Mexico Swimming state time standards may compete in the New Mexico State Championships, held at the end of the short and long course seasons. Athletes who meet certain time standards may qualify for additional championship meets such as Far Westerns/SWAGR, Sectional, Zone, and National championships. Each successive level of championship meet brings the swimmer against larger and larger pools of competitors, so that the qualifying times are progressively faster to gain entry into these meets.

Far Western Championships/Southwest Age Group Regionals (SWAGR)

These meets serve as a top-level competition for age group swimmers from around the Southwest and western United States, Canada and Mexico. Far Westerns is held in the Pacific (PC) LSC – Bay Area- and SWAGR is typically held in Sierra Nevada or Central California LSC's. They serve as a high priority meet for our top age group swimmers.

Sectionals

RAAC participates in the 4 Corners sectional championships which includes all teams from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico & Utah. Sectional Championship meets are held at the end of both Short Course and Long Course seasons for swimmers with qualifying times.

Western Zones

USA Swimming also divides the United States into Zones (groupings of Sections) for the purpose of conducting a Zone Championship meet. This meet occurs only at the end of Long Course season. New Mexico Swimming selects a team to represent the LSC at the meet. To be eligible, swimmers must first obtain a qualifying time. Then swimmers submit an application including qualifying times and coach recommendation.

A committee of coaches then selects the team that will represent New Mexico Swimming in competing at the Western Zone Championships.

USA Swimming Junior National Championships

Junior Nationals are exclusively for swimmers aged 18 and under and the meet is held each December (short course) and August (long course). This meet serves as a steppingstone to the top national and international level meets for 18 and under athletes.

USA Swimming National Championships/ Olympic Trials/ US Open

These top national level competitions are held at different times throughout the year and serve as qualifying meets for international level competitions.

Zone Select & National Select Camps

Camps conducted by USA Swimming. These camps are to identify young rising talent. Camps are to expose swimmers to being a part of the USA National Team.

National Junior Team

The National Junior Team is comprised of the top 18 and under swimmers in the country and serves as the first step in the National Team hierarchy. Team members typically attend a National Team camp and an International Competition. Making this team is a goal for many of our top athletes.

USA National Team

The USA National team is comprised of the top 2 swimmers in each event in the country. This team is sent to competitions such as the Olympic Games and the World Championships.

Meet Awards

Swim meets are scored for both individuals and teams. At most dual meets no awards are given. However, dual meets offer the opportunity to earn qualifying times for championship meets. Meets generally award ribbons or medals to individuals.

Occasionally, individuals and teams may be awarded trophies. Meets vary regarding how many individual awards they provide, please refer to the meet sheet for details.