

4.0 TYPES OF MEETS INCLUDED

This summary is intended to help clarify the key differences about the various types of swims generating “official” USA Swimming times. More detailed information and definitive regulations are available in USA Swimming Rules and Regulations (Article 202) in which requirement and conditions for sanction, approved competitions, NCAA meets, and observed swims are defined.

4.1. SANCTIONED MEET

- A. All participants must be members of USA Swimming (including meet directors, coaches [all persons acting in any coaching capacity must be coach members], officials, athletes, and participating clubs.
- B. Meet must be conducted under USA Swimming technical and administrative rules.
- C. All official times achieved will be recognized by USA Swimming.

4.2. APPROVED MEET

- A. There are no requirements for USA Swimming athlete membership for meet participation.
- B. Approvals may be issued to non-member clubs/organizations for meets conducted in accordance with USA Swimming technical rules, including those requirements stipulated under the Timing Rules section of the Technical Rules portion of USA swimming Rules and Regulations.
- C. Approvals may be issued to member clubs for closed competition (such as YMCAs) conducted in accordance with USA Swimming technical rules.
- D. Approvals may be issued to member clubs for open competition conducted in accordance with USA Swimming technical rules if that competition has been specifically approved by the USA Swimming staff leader or designee(s). (See Form E in attachments.)

4.3. OBSERVED MEET

- A. There are no requirements for USA Swimming athlete membership for meet participation.
- B. Meet is conducted under technical rules other than USA Swimming (e.g., high school, Masters, IPC).
- C. A request for observation must be made to the LSC at least ten (10) days prior to the meet. Policies and procedures may vary between LSCS.
- D. Times from swim(s) observed and approved by association officials working season culminating championship meets and invitationals are recognized by USA Swimming (except for NCAA meets – see below). Official times of USA Swimming members are eligible for inclusion in the SWIMS database.

A USA Swimming official must verify that all swims approved for USA Swimming purposes were in accordance with the following requirements.

- 1. Minimum of one referee, one starter and two stroke & turn judge association officials working season-culminating championship meets and invitationals.
 - 2. 102.24 (Timing Rules)
 - 3. 103.3 (Racing Course Dimensions); and
 - 4. 103.14 (Starting Platforms)
- E. Times for events achieved at NCAA bona fide competition as defined in the current NCAA Rules and Interpretations shall be regarded as approved times for USA Swimming purposes and are to be submitted within 72 hours after the meet has ended to ncaa@usaswimming.org.
 - F. If technical rules of the stroke differ from USA Swimming as defined in Article 101, at least two observers from USA Swimming and/or the YMCA, who shall be certified Stroke & Turn Judges assigned or approved by the LSC, must be present on the deck. If at least two of the four association officials are dually certified, no further observers are required. Where the technical rules are identical, the judgement of the organization officials shall be sufficient.