

2020 Olympic Team Data Summary

Senior Development Committee Meeting (9/13/2021)

Presented by: USA Swimming National Team Division

Basic Medal Stats

- 30 medals won. That is consistent with our recent history – 33, 31, 31, 28, 33 from Rio to Sydney, respectively.
- The most women's team medals in a non-boycott Olympics with just 2 athletes per event.
- The most medals by a US sport for the 7th consecutive Olympics going back to 1996 Atlanta.
- 27% of Team USA's total medal count and 28% of Team USA's gold medal count.

Team Age/Experience

- Average age of team at 23.0 is the 3rd oldest, behind 2012 London (23.6) and 2016 Rio (23.3)
- Average age of women's team at 22.4 is the 2nd oldest, behind 2016 Rio (22.5)
- 2/3 of the team (68%) was Olympic rookies, which is a very normal percentage for us.
- The perception that this team was unusually young comes from the less experience this year's rookies had compared to 2016 rookies. The international experience was there at the Junior Team, Pan Am, and WUGs level, but not as noticeable at the Worlds or Pan Pacs level. Zach Apple, Regan Smith, and Ashley Twichell were the only rookies that competed at all of 2017 Worlds, 2018 Pan Pacs, and 2019 Worlds. In 2016, our Olympic rookies like Lilly King, Ryan Murphy, Simone Manuel, Chase Kalisz, and Maya DiRado came into the Olympics with a lot of top-level experience and success.

Positive Metrics

- From Trials to Games, 55% of our flat start swims improved. This is consistent with our Trials to Games improvement at recent Olympics. This is a great number compared to other countries with a similar Trials selection meet – Australia 35%, Japan 32%, Great Britain 43%.
- 21 of 25 of our individual medals came from swims that improved from Trials to Games.
- We had a finalist in all 35 events. A feat we haven't accomplished at an Olympics or Worlds since 2012. Australia had a finalist in 24 events. Italy 19 events, Russia and Great Britain 18 events.
- Junior Team competition experience was valuable for our Olympic rookies. We had 16 athletes win individual medals. 9 of those were rookies. 7 of those rookies had raced with the Junior Team this Quad, and for many of those, the Junior Team was the majority of their international competition experience.
- There were 9 teenagers that won individual medals across the entire swim competition. We had 5 of those teenagers (Regan Smith, Alex Walsh, Kate Douglass, Emma Weyant, Lydia Jacoby).

National Select Camp

- At least 1 athlete from 2000 to 2019 National Select Camp has made an Olympic Team.
- An average of 3 athletes from each of those Select Camp years make an Olympic Team.
- This Olympic Team – 27 of 53 athletes went to National Select Camp. 16 of 33 athletes on relays went to National Select Camp.

Meet Metrics

We performed exceptionally consistent even with this Olympics being faster than ever.

- Advancing to semifinals: 17 of 20 events was the fastest since tech suits (85%)
- Advancing to finals: 16 of 28 events was the fastest since tech suits (57%)
- Winning an individual medal: 13 of 28 events was the fastest since tech suits (46%)

Relays are faster than ever, too.

- 6 of 7 were the fastest to final since tech suits
- 4 of 7 took a world record to win gold

The floor to win a medal has risen so much. From 2012 to 2021, 4th place relay splits:

- 4x200 FR: Men 1:46.6 to 1:45.6. Women 1:57.6 to 1:55.9.
- 4x100 FR: Men 47.9 to 47.7. Women 54.1 to 53.4.
- 4x100 MR: Men improved 0.75 seconds per 100 leg. Women improved 0.5 seconds per 100 leg.

Opportunities

- We had 2 finalists in an event in 15 of 28 events. Lower number and lower percentage than Rio (20 of 26 events) and London (18 of 26 events).
- We had more 4th place finishes in Tokyo (8) than Rio (5). On top of that, for medals decided by less than 0.20 seconds, we won 4 and lost 2 in Tokyo (whereas in Rio, we won 7 and lost 0).
- We've never missed a relay medal at an Olympics. We missed 2 in Tokyo.
- We've never won less than 3 relay golds at an Olympics where at least 4 relays have been contested (since 1960). We won 2 golds in Tokyo.