



YMCA Sanctioned Swim Meet Requirements

A YMCA Sanctioned Meet is a celebration of the relationships, achievements and sense of belonging that are facilitated through competitive swimming in the YMCA. It is part of the progression from local to regional to national competition, by which YMCA teams and swimmers become part of an expanding community.

Purpose of a YMCA Meet Sanction

A YMCA sanction verifies that an invitational or championship meet operates under a standard set of rules, thus ensuring the integrity of the times achieved. These standards are also recognized by USA Swimming as sufficient to earn *USA Swimming Approved* meet status and thus, the results may be entered into the SWIMS database. *Please note: USA Swimming Approval is not automatic. Host teams must apply for USA Swimming approval and follow their LSC's procedures for doing so.*

Types of YMCA Meet Sanction

- A YMCA sanctioned *championship* meet satisfies one of the eligibility requirements for participation in YMCA Nationals.
- A YMCA sanctioned *invitational* meet satisfies the requirements to earn *USA Swimming Approved* status and have the results be entered into the SWIMS database.

Submitting a Sanction Request

- YMCA Swimming and Diving website [registration portal](#) or, if your team is a TeamUnify customer, through your team site. Once logged in, go to YMCA Admin -> Meet Sanctions.
- Deadline: 60 days prior to the first day of the meet.

Required Elements of YMCA Sanctioned Championship Meets

Once a sanction has been issued, the meet format and management may not be changed. The meet director and host YMCA (head coach and CEO/Executive Director) are responsible for ensuring that each element is achieved.

- The meet is a closed YMCA meet.
- The meet is an end-of-season meet for a given league or region or is a championship-style invitational that includes competitors from multiple regions and with a level of competition higher than that offered within their regions.
- The meet and all participants adhere to the [Rules that Govern YMCA Competitive Sports](#) and the [Swimming Addendum to the Rules that Govern](#).
- The meet is conducted in accordance with [USA Swimming Technical Rules](#).
- The USA Swimming [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy](#) (MAAPP) is followed.
- The meet is conducted by a minimum of four certified officials. More are strongly recommended whenever possible and the [Pool Staffing Guidelines](#) should be followed.
 - A minimum of two of the officials must be certified YMCA Swim Officials; USA-S certified Swim Officials may fill the other deck positions.
 - One of the YMCA certified officials must be a certified YMCA Level II Official and serve as the meet referee.
 - One of the officials must serve solely as the Administrative Official.
- All YMCA coaches:
 - Are required to maintain current certifications in Basic Life Support (Professional Rescuer CPR), First Aid, Safety Training for Swim Coaches, Child/Athlete Protection Training and Principles of YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving. These are verified at the meet.
 - Have completed the online YMCA coach registration for the current season.
- Athletes:

- Age 18 and older have completed Child/Athlete Protection Training within the past 12 months.
- Age 12 and under may not compete in Technical Suits, as defined in the [USA Swimming Rulebook](#).
- Have, for a period of at least 90 days prior to the first day of the meet, both:
 - been full privilege members of their YMCA and
 - represented only their YMCA in competition (with the exception of closed interscholastic and closed summer league competition).
- All participating teams have completed the YMCA Team Registration for the current season.
- The CEO or executive director of each participating YMCA has signed the declaration form acknowledging that all swimmers and coaches representing his/her YMCA satisfy the sanction meet requirements.
- The meet offers at least 75% of the individual events and 60% of the relay events offered in the YMCA National Championship Meet.
- Preliminaries/Finals format is preferred.
- There are entry standards, preferably time standards.
- Team scores are kept.
- The use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, locker rooms, or behind starting blocks.
- Deck changing is not permitted.
- Operation of a drone, or any other flying apparatus, is prohibited over the venue (pools, spectator areas, and open ceiling locker rooms) any time athletes, coaches, officials, and/or spectators are present.
- Following the meet,
 - Meet results are sent to the regional representative and submitted to SwimCloud.
 - Meet director submits electronic scans of all declaration forms to the regional representative.

Required Elements of YMCA Sanctioned Invitational Meets

Once a sanction has been issued, the meet format and management may not be changed. The meet director and host YMCA (head coach and CEO/Executive Director) are responsible for ensuring that each element is achieved.

- The meet is a closed YMCA meet with three (3) or more teams competing. Dual meets are not eligible for a YMCA sanction.
- The meet and all participants adhere to the [Rules that Govern YMCA Competitive Sports](#) and the [Swimming Addendum to the Rules that Govern](#).
- The meet is conducted in accordance with [USA Swimming Technical Rules](#).
- The USA Swimming [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy](#) (MAAPP) is followed.
- The meet is conducted by a minimum of four certified officials. More are strongly recommended whenever possible and the [Pool Staffing Guidelines](#) should be followed.
 - A minimum of two of the officials must be certified YMCA Swim Officials; USA-S certified Swim Officials may fill the other deck positions.
 - One of the YMCA certified officials must be a certified YMCA Level II Official and serve as the meet referee.
 - One of the officials must serve solely as the Administrative Official.
- All YMCA coaches:
 - Are required to maintain current certifications in Basic Life Support (Professional Rescuer CPR), First Aid, Safety Training for Swim Coaches, Child/Athlete Protection Training and Principles of YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving. These are verified at the meet.
 - Have completed the online YMCA coach registration for the current season.
- Athletes:
 - Age 18 and older have completed Child/Athlete Protection Training within the past 12 months.
 - Age 12 and under may not compete in Technical Suits, as defined in the [USA Swimming Rulebook](#).

- Must have been full privilege members of the YMCA they represent for at least 30 days prior to the first day of the meet.
- All participating teams have completed the YMCA Team Registration for the current season.
- The CEO or executive director of each participating YMCA has signed the declaration form acknowledging that all swimmers and coaches representing his/her YMCA satisfy the sanction meet requirements.
- The meet offers at least 50% of the individual events offered in the YMCA National Championship Meet.
- The use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms, locker rooms, or behind starting blocks.
- Deck changing is not permitted.
- Operation of a drone, or any other flying apparatus, is prohibited over the venue (pools, spectator areas, and open ceiling locker rooms) any time athletes, coaches, officials, and/or spectators are present.
- Following the meet,
 - Meet results are sent to the regional representative and submitted to SwimCloud.
 - Meet director submits electronic scans of all declaration forms to the regional representative.

Additional Elements For All Sanctioned Meets

YMCA sanctioned meets are encouraged to include the participation of swimmers with disabilities who have gone through the classification process as defined by <https://www.teamusa.org/USParaSwimming/Classification>. Meet qualifying time standards should be waived for classified swimmers who have met the other meet eligibility standards.

Some USA Swimming LSCs require the use of their own meet information template in order for a meet to receive USA Swimming approval. A YMCA meet may use the LSC template but must add each of the required YMCA sanctioned meet elements in order to receive a YMCA sanction.

*Please check any wording required by an LSC to be sure that it does not apply USA Swimming requirements (such as membership or diving certification by a USA Swimming member coach) to all YMCA participants.

YMCA Sanctioned Swim Meet Requirements

Expanded Explanations

Purposes

- In order to participate in YMCA Nationals, a swimmer must compete in a sanctioned YMCA **championship** meet during the current season.
- The requirements of a sanctioned meet – championship or invitational – reflect the requirements for the YMCA National Championship meets and therefore are the recommended standards for the conduct of all YMCA meets.
- The YMCA sanction standards ensure that minimum standards are met for USA Swimming Approval of the meet and inclusion of times into the SWIMS database. Please note that meet hosts must still apply for approval with their LSC, pay required fees and follow the procedures for such approval.

Meet Director Responsibilities

- Submit sanction application with all supporting documents and payment no later than 60 days prior to the first day of the meet.
- Apply for USA Swimming Approval from LSC as early as possible, according to LSC deadlines and procedures.
- Ensure the meet is conducted in accordance with all sanction requirements (collaboratively with the meet referee and administrative official).
- Verify the team registration, coach registration and coach certifications (collaboratively with the regional representative) for all teams and coaches participating in the meet.
- Verify that all athletes age 18 and older have completed Athlete Protection Training within the past 12 months.
- Collect, check and scan meet declaration forms. Send scanned forms to regional representative immediately following the conclusion of the meet.
- Send results (Meet Manager results file) and list of participating teams, coaches and officials to regional representative and SwimCloud.
- Send results to LSC that issued the USA Swimming approval.

Meet Committee Responsibilities

- Comprised of meet director, meet referee, regional representative (if present), regional officials' coordinator (if present), league/regional chair or representative (if it is a league or regional sponsored meet) and any others as designated by the YMCA, league or region sponsoring the meet. At least one coach and one athlete should be included among these representatives.
- Assist meet director in planning for an efficient, positive and supportive meet environment.
- Support meet director in execution of his or her responsibilities including recruitment of meet volunteers.
- Address eligibility issues and other potential violations of sanction requirements.
- NOT part of Meet Committee responsibilities are adjudicating protests against the judgment decisions of starters, stroke, turn, place and relay take-off judges. These protests can ONLY be considered by the referee and the referee's decision shall be final. (USA-S Rule 102.23.1)

Meet Referee Responsibilities

The Meet Referee is responsible for the conduct of the competition, including instructing and assigning the other officials, ruling on all protests made against the judgment calls of the officials, modifying the rules for swimmers with disabilities, etc.

Note that all meets require a dedicated Administrative Official. YMCA Level II officials have received training in the various duties of an Administrative Official, most specifically resolution of timing differences, so any YMCA Level II official can serve in that category, but not as both the Administrative Official and another deck position.

Meet Conduct and Administration

It is expected that YMCA Sanctioned Championship Meets will obtain "Approved Meet" status from the appropriate USA-S LSC and enter the results into the USA-S SWIMS database.

YMCA Sanctioned Championship Meet Declaration Form

(Return signed form to the meet director)

Participating YMCA: [YMCA_NAME]

YMCA Address: [YMCA_ADDRESS]

Meet Name: [MEET_NAME]

Meet Date(s): [MEET_START] - [MEET_END]

Meet Host: [MEET_HOST_ORGANIZATION]

Meet Location: [MEET_LOCATION]

We the undersigned attest to the following:

SWIMMERS - All swimmers representing the YMCA above are full privilege members of the YMCA and meet all eligibility requirements. All swimmers age 18 and older have completed Child/Athlete Protection Training within the past 12 months.

COACHES - All coaches representing the YMCA above hold current certifications in BLS (Professional Rescuer CPR), First Aid, Safety Training for Swim Coaches, Child/Athlete Protection Training and Principles of YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving and have completed the annual YMCA coach registration online.

INSURANCE - Our Association now has insurance coverage for representative(s) including participants, coaches, volunteers and leadership who will be in attendance at the [MEET_NAME] for the entire period of the meet. I hereby certify that YMCA has a minimum of \$1,000,000/\$2,000,000 in liability insurance that covers our participants, coaches, volunteers and leadership during their participation in the [MEET_NAME].

RELEASE - In consideration of your accepting this entry, I hereby, for myself, heirs, executor and administrators, waive and release any and all right and claim for damages I may have against the YMCA of the USA, [MEET_HOST_ORGANIZATION], their agents, representatives or assigns, and the [MEET_LOCATION] for any and all injuries which may be suffered by participants at the [MEET_NAME]. Furthermore, we understand that the YMCA of the USA and [MEET_HOST_ORGANIZATION] are not responsible for any intended or unintended consequences related to removing an athlete from competition for a head injury. This includes, but is not limited to, any financial reimbursement associated with such removal.

Name and Signature of Head Coach

Name and Signature of YMCA CEO, Exec. Director or Designee