

Championship Meets Offered by Michigan Swimming

The Michigan Swimming LSC (Local Swim Committee) offers three levels of championship competition with seven championship meets at the conclusion of the short course season. This system creates both a competitive and progressive atmosphere.

The first tier offered is labeled as District Championships. Michigan Swimming hosts three District Championship Meets spread geographically across the state. Competition for all ages is offered. Club Wolverine participates in the District Championship Meet hosted by the Livonia Community Swim Club at the Livonia Recreation Center in Livonia, Michigan.

The middle tier championship meet has been named the Junior Olympics, or “JO’s”. Two JO meets, an East and a West meet, are hosted each year. Competition for all ages is offered. Club Wolverine participates in the Junior Olympics West, hosted by the Capital Area Swim Team at Holt High School in Holt, Michigan.

The highest competition hosted by Michigan Swimming are the two State Championship meets, one for 12 & Under swimmers and one for 13 & Older swimmers. In 2009, the 12 & Under State Championships will be hosted by Jenison Area Wildcats Swimming at Jenison High School in Jenison, Michigan. The 13 & Older meet will be co-hosted by the Dearborn Recreation Dolphins and the Plymouth Canton Cruisers at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Higher level competitions are offered each short course season, but are usually hosted outside the Michigan LSC and are generally for 13 & Older swimmers only. These meets include Speedo Sectional Championships, NCSA Junior Nationals, Grand Prix Series Meets and others.

Qualifying for Championship Meets

Michigan Swimming uses its own set of qualifying standards for its three tiers of championship meets, labeled Q1 and Q2. All championship meets do have qualifying periods (date ranges) in which times must have been achieved (typically about one year) as well as criteria for meets where qualifying times were achieved. Summer club meets and high school or middle school dual meets, for example, are not acceptable qualifying meets.

There are no qualifying times for District level championship meets; instead, there has been a “ceiling” placed on the meets. No swimmer may swim an event in which they have achieved a Q2 time standard at a District level competition. This policy makes the meets both competitive and very positive experience for participants. Swimmers who do not have an official time in an event (NT) may swim that event at the District level.

The middle tier championship, the Junior Olympics, has minimum qualifying time standards as well as a participation “ceiling”. Athletes may swim events in which they have achieved the Q2 time standard but have not bettered the Q1 time standard.

At both the 12 & Under and 13 & Older State Championship meets, swimmers may only swim events in which they have achieved the Q1 qualifying time. These meets both offer individual and team scoring, unlike the District and Junior Olympic meets.

These championship meets generally fall in consecutive weekends. Although initial meet registration will take place several weeks in advance, swimmers may advance from one meet to the next by achieving new qualifying times. For example, a swimmer who has a “NT” in the 100 backstroke and swims at the District Championships where he or she achieves a Q2 qualifying time may enter the 100 backstroke at the Junior Olympics the following weekend.

Choosing a Championship Meet & Events

Generally speaking, your coaches would like CW athletes to swim at the highest level possible. For many CW athletes, this selection will be a simple and straight-forward process. For those with multiple options or personal/family conflicts, please discuss your entries with your coaches.

Common circumstances that your coaches can help with include:

- Event qualification split between two meets (four Q2 times and 3 Q1 times)
- Too many events to choose from or event selection.
- Birthday/Age-Up during the championship season.

Higher Level End of Season Meets

CW athletes routinely attend higher level meets outside of state of Michigan. These meets commonly carry their own qualification times and participation rules. Nearly all higher level meets are “open” age group meets, which means qualifiers of all ages compete against each other. Athletes will begin to qualify for these meets around the age of 12 (girls) and 14 (boys), however, the vast majority of the athletes in these meets will be 16 and older.

Common meets to see on the CW schedule include Speedo Sectional Championships, Junior Nationals, Nationals and Grand Prix events.