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TIME STANDARDS

The USA Swimming National Age Group Time Standards Committee publishes a list of time standards that are intended to serve as a stepping-stone to the pinnacle of Age Group swimming. When first developed, these National Standards were developed without consideration as to the number of swimmers in each classification, but were to act only as stepping-stones to the top. They have become to be used also as a meet management tool to define the level and number of swimmers in a meet.

I. National and Iowa Swimming Time Standards (Age Group and Senior)

Iowa will adopt and use the National Time Standards. Time standards are published as event cut-offs with each meet invitation. The 10 & Under, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, and 17-18 National Time Standards and Iowa Time Standards are the same. Senior events and 15 & over events use 15-16 times.

Iowa Time Standards will be in effect when the National Time Standards take effect. The Current year's USA Swimming Rules and Regulations rulebook will include the National Time Standards.

A. The ISI Technical Planning Committee will:

1. Review and establish the cut-off times for Iowa Swimming Q times – SCY, SCM, LCM
2. Set 8 & Under time standards each year.

Above shall be established every four years after presented at the USA Swimming Fall convention and distributed at the ISI Fall House of Delegates meeting and shall be published following the meeting.

II. Iowa 'Q' Time Standards

A. New Q times will be established for the 2012 season and re-established September 1, 2012 then every four years thereafter. Changes in conjunction with quadrennial National time standards.

1. Establish Q times will not be faster than national A times & BB times
2. Raising Time Standards
 - a. In order to raise a standard, ISI has had to have averaged more than 32 swimmers in an event over the previous four years.

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- b. The new standard will be the average of the 32nd place times (rounded up to the nearest .09 seconds) over those years no faster than the National A standard.
3. Lowering Time Standards
 - a. In order to lower a time standard, ISI has had to have both
 - 1) Averaged less than 24 swimmers in an event over the past four years
 - 2) Had less than 24 swimmers in the event the previous year.
 - b. In these instances, the new standard will reflect a 1% increase from the previous standard (rounded up to the nearest .09 seconds) no slower than the national BB time standard.
 4. In all other instances, there will be no change to the previous time standard.

III. Classification Rules

- A. A Class "A" swimmer in any stroke event is one who, in a sanctioned or approved meet, equals or betters the Class "A" time set by ISI for that stroke event. A Class "BB" swimmer in any stroke event is one who has not equaled or surpassed the "A" Qualifying standard for the stroke event, but has achieved the class "BB" standard. A Class "B" swimmer is one who has not surpassed the "BB" time standard for that stroke event, but has achieved the "B" Standard. A Class "Q" swimmer in any stroke event is one who has equaled or surpassed the Iowa State "Q" time. A class "Q-" swimmer is one who has not surpassed the Iowa "Q" time standard for stroke event.
- B. Any person who is "A" qualified in an event in any length pool for which standards are maintained (25 yard or meter or 50 meter), may not swim that stroke at that distance in a "BB" or slower meet for any purpose, including exhibition or relays. Additionally, a swimmer who is "A" qualified in freestyle at a specific distance may not swim that distance on a freestyle relay in a "BB" or slower meet, regardless of which stroke he/she swims. The same rule applies between "BB" and "B" and between "Q" and "Q-" For example, meeting the standard for the 50 free in a 50-meter pool also at the same time meets the standard in 25 yard or 25 meter pools.
- C. If a person achieves an "A" qualification in any stroke event, he/she must not subsequently participate in that stroke event in any "BB" or slower meet, even though entry was made prior to achieving the "A" qualification. However, he/she may compete in the meet in which the "A" time was made, even though it is more than a one-day meet, providing it is held on a single weekend. This includes additional distance or relay legs of the stroke, providing they are all part of the same meet in which the "A" time was achieved. "BB" or slower meet directors must allow entry changes without charge which may be necessitated by a "BB" swimmer gaining an

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"A" qualification in a particular event subsequent to submitting his or her entry for that event. Should the meet host, after the beginning of the meet, be notified or otherwise find out that a swimmer has changed classification by persons other than the swimmer or his/her representative, he/she shall have forfeited the opportunity for change and may be penalized. The same rules apply between "BB" and "B".

- D. Unclassified (open), A-BB, or BB-B meets have all classifications swum in the same event.
- E. A/BB or BB/B meets have separate events for each classification.
- F. There are three classifications for 8&Unders (C, B, and A). The minimums for 8&Under will be published by ISI.
- H. For 10&U, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, and 17-18 there are six classifications (B, BB, A, AA, AAA, AAAA). The minimum standards for these age groups are found in the USA Swimming Rule Book and published by ISI.
- I. For 8&U, 10&U, 11-12, 13-14, and Senior, there is also a State Championship Qualifying or "Q" Time which is published by ISI
- J. It must be emphasized that failure to observe the minimum entry classification and entering a meet where one has already met or exceeded the maximum time allowed is a serious breach of the rules.

IV. Exceptions for Meet Hosts Swimmers

A swimmer must have achieved a qualification in each of the separate stroke events that he or she expects to enter in a classified meet. Team members of a club that is sponsoring an "A" meet may enter the non-distance events (400 yard/meter and greater is considered a distance event) only in their Age Group in that meet even though said members may not have achieved an "A" qualification in any stroke event. "B" members of a club that is sponsoring a "BB" meet may enter the non-distance events in that meet. A meet hosts "A" swimmers may not swim in a "BB" or "B" meet, nor may "BB" swimmers enter a "B" meet.

At ISI non championship meets with qualifying time standards, host teams who enter their swimmer who have not met the qualifying times, shall seed those swimmers with either the lowest non-conforming time standard (for that swimmer's age division and gender) or a 'NT'.

Championship Meet: The host team's swimmers may not compete unless they have met the qualifying time standards.

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V. Posting of Meet Results

The directors of all meets will post, in a prominent place at the meet site, the results for each event. Final results will also be posted on the ISI website.

On final results for all age group events (not senior), time classifications must be denoted or a line must be drawn to indicate A, BB, etc. times, regardless of the classification of the meet.

VI. Senior Events

- A. All registered swimmers are eligible for the Senior class. Any swimmer may swim in a senior event at any given meet provided that:
 - 1. He/she is a member of USA Swimming, and
 - 2. He/she meets or betters the time standard for that event of that particular meet as published in the information for that particular meet.
- B. Time standards for senior events are subject to change at the discretion of the meet host. Therefore, a swimmer must check the meet information if he/she qualifies to swim a particular senior event at a specific meet.
- C. Swimmers may swim Senior events and their Age Group events up to the daily event limit.