**International Competition**

* **Swimmers with physical disabilities and swimmers who are blind -**The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) conducts the quadrennial summer Paralympic Games in the same years as Olympic Games. There are 10 classifications for swimmers with varying physical abilities and 3 classifications that represent different degrees of vision loss. The primary events at the Paralympic Games for most classifications are 50-100-400 freestyle, 100 backstroke, 100 breaststroke, 100 butterfly, 200 IM, 4 x 100 freestyle relay, and 4 x 100 medley relay. Shorter distances are offered in some events for swimmers in the lower ability classifications. A more comprehensive set of events is offered at world championships and for purposes of world records and world rankings. U.S. Paralympics is responsible for selecting USA teams for international competitions.
* **Swimmers who are deaf -**The Comite' International des Sports des Sourds (CISS) conducts the quadrennial Deaflympics in the years following the Olympic Games. There is one classification that accommodates swimmers with a 55+ decibel hearing loss in the better ear. The primary events at the Deaflympics are 50-100-200-400-800-1500 freestyle, 100-200 backstroke, 100-200 breaststroke, 100-200 butterfly, 200-400 IM, 4 x 100 and 4 x 200 freestyle relays, and 4 x 100 medley relay. The USA Deaf Sports Federation and its subsidiary U.S. Deaf Swimming group are responsible for selecting USA teams for the Deaflympics and other international competitions.
* **Swimmers with cognitive disabilities -** Special Olympics International (SOI) conducts the quadrennial summer Special Olympics World Games in the years preceding the Olympic Games. Participating athletes must have an intellectual disability, a cognitive delay, or closely related developmental disability that results in functional limitiations in both general learning and adaptive skills. Athletes are classified/divisioned according to their previous times in competition. A full slate of swimming events is offered. Special Olympics North America works with statewide Special Olympics offices to select USA teams for the Special Olympics World Games.