

USA Swimming Non-Sanctioned Virtual Meet Solution

Will your meet satisfy USA Swimming Sanctioning Rules with Officials and timing systems?

Yes

Host a Sanctioned Virtual Meet

- Sanctioned Meet Protocol does not change
- Times should be sent to your LSC Times Officer in an uploadable file format (.sd3 (Hytek), .cl2 (Team-Unify, Swimmingly, HyTek), .lef (Omega), .xml).
- Times count towards all USA Swimming meet entry and recognition program purposes.
- Time Standards and PowerPoints will be assigned to these times.
- Times will show up in all USA Swimming times searches.
- A Sanctioned Virtual meet counts towards a Flex member's two meet limit.
- All Clubs must be USA Swimming clubs
- All Athletes must be USA Swimming members and must be APT compliant. LSC's will be responsible for Meet Recon, following normal Sanctioned Meet Protocol.
- Sanctioned meets can be combined into a singular meet file using other software like Team-Unify Touch Pad, HyTek, Swimmingly, SwimTopia, Swim Connection etc.

No

Host a Non-Sanctioned Virtual Meet

- Times should be sent to virtualmeets@usaswimming.org in one of the following uploadable file format (.sd3 (Hytek), .cl2 (Team-Unify, Swimmingly, Hytek), .lef (Omega), .xml).
- Times **DO NOT** count towards all USA Swimming meet entry and recognition program purposes.
- Time Standards and PowerPoints **will not** be assigned to these times.
- Times will show up in separate Non-Sanctioned meet search (both an individual search and a top times leaderboard search)
- A Non-Sanctioned Virtual meet **DOES NOT** count towards a Flex member's two meet limit.
- All Clubs must be USA Swimming clubs
- All Athletes must be USA Swimming members and must be APT compliant. Any non-compliant athletes will not be loaded into the the SWIMS database

How to Use USA Swimming Meet Simulator

- Using USA Swimming's Meet Simulator tool, coaches, athletes, and parents will be able to simulate a meet between any USA Swimming clubs across the country. As long as the meet has been loaded into the USA Swimming SWIMS database, it will show up in the Simulator.
- The simulator will include all Sanctioned and Non-sanctioned meets,
- The first step is to select a date range from which meets will populate.
- Then select the LSC(s) from which you want to compare clubs.
- Next, select the specific clubs you want to compare and which meets you want their times pulled from. The Simulator will populate all meets from which the selected clubs have participated.
- After selecting age groups and events, the simulator will simulate a meet between the selection of teams.
- If the user selects multiple meets and multiple teams, the simulator will take the best time from each athletes across the meets selected.
- Meets are scored for the top 8 in each age group and event using the following points system: (1st: 9 points, 2nd: 7 points, 3rd: 6 points, 4th: 5 points, 5th: 4 points, 6th: 3 points, 7th: 2 points, 8th: 1 point). Relay events will receive double points.
- The end user will have the ability to print the results to a pdf file.

USA Swimming Rationale

- In a world where large meets are unlikely to happen, USA Swimming recognizes the need to provide racing opportunities to all USA Swimming registered clubs
- This Non-Sanctioned virtual meet solution ensures that all clubs across the country can participate in FUN racing and competition today, even if you don't have access to a Meet Management software or cannot satisfy USA Swimming's Officials and timing systems requirements for Sanctioned competitions.
- With the ability to load all non-sanctioned times into the SWIMS database without sacrificing the data integrity of Sanctioned times, there is more incentive to track results and submit results files.
- With this solutions, swimmers can enjoy a competitive atmosphere while clubs can quickly host a meet without the typical restrictions.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a virtual meet?

A virtual meet allows club teams to compete against each other but swim locally within their own LSC's or difference LSC's. It is a collection of competitions that may occur at different pools with results sent to a central location to be merged into a collective database of results.

What is the difference between a Sanctioned meet and a Non-Sanctioned meet?

Non-Sanctioned meets are **FUN** competitions that are completely free and do not have any officiating or timing system requirements per the USA Swimming rule-book. The times for these meets **DO NOT** count for any purposes other than fun racing. Sanctioned meets satisfy all USA Swimming rules with proper timing requirements and officiating requirements. These times count for all USA Swimming meet entry and recognition program purposes.

What is the Virtual Meet Simulator?

The Virtual Meet Simulator is a member service to USA Swimming members. Have you ever wondered what team would have won the meet if the Illinois Age Group Championship was combined the Indiana Age Group Championship? The Virtual Meet Simulator allows the end user to compare any Sanctioned or Non-Sanctioned meet results and print the results to a pdf. The Simulator will simulate the results of the meet and the final team scores. Please note that the Simulator only works for meets that have been loaded into the USA Swimming database.

Will the Virtual Meet Simulator convert times between courses?

The virtual meet simulator will not convert times between courses.

Can I run a Non-Sanctioned Virtual Meet with off events (75 Free, 75 Back, etc.)?

Yes, you can, but off event times **WILL NOT** be loaded into the SWIMS database. Feel free to host any non-sanctioned competition with off events, but please do not send the results to USA Swimming. Within your Meet Management software, a workaround is to run "off events" as Time Trials. Then when you export results, you can exclude the time trial events from the export that is sent to USA Swimming.

Can I run a meet with Hytek, Team-Unify, Swimtopia, or Swimmingly?

Yes! As long as you export results into the correct file format (.sd3 (Hytek), .cl2 (Team-Unify, Swimmingly, HyTek), .lef (Omega), .xml), USA Swimming will load your results into SWIMS.

What is the difference between USA Swimming's Virtual option and what other third party vendors are offering?

Other third party vendors are offering the ability for teams to merge meet results before sending the results to USA Swimming. The USA Swimming Virtual meet solution allows any club to compete against any other club even if the results are not combined and regardless of whether the competition is sanctioned (even if the club does not have a Meet Management software). The main difference with the USA Swimming solution is that results are loaded into the SWIMS database separately and then can be combined via the the Virtual Meet Simulator.

Can I search my times from Non-Sanctioned Virtual meets?

Yes! At usaswimming.org/times/virtual-offerings/non-sanctioned-times-search, you can search all of your non-sanctioned times. Please note that times **do not count** towards meet entry or any USA Swimming recognition purposes. This times search is merely a member service so you don't have to track times yourself!

What is the Leaderboard?

The Leaderboard is a top times search of all non-sanctioned meets. Times can be filtered by gender, age group, course, stroke, and distance.

What if my club does not have a meet management software?

If your club does not have access to a Meet Manager software, you have two options:

- 1) Purchase a Meet Management software like Team Unify Touch Pad (Both Swim Office and Swim Office Pro include access to Touch Pad), Swimmingly, HyTek, or SwimTopia.
- 2) Download a Demo version of Active Meet Manager. With this demo, you will be able to run a meet with a maximum of 6 events. Please refer to the Active Meet Manager Demo Guide. ([Add Link](#))

Coach How-To Guide

How do I plan for a Virtual Meet?

Step 1: Determine if you have the ability to satisfy USA Swimming Sanctioning requirements?

- Yes
 - Host a Sanctioned Virtual Meet
- No
 - Host a Non-Sanctioned Virtual Meet

Step 2: Determine your objective and who is participating. There are plenty of options:

- Intra-squad Meet
- Dual Meet
- Quad Meet
- League
- Male vs Female
- Pentathlon

Step 3: If the meet is intra-squad, very minimal upfront work is required

- Pick a date, a course, and an event order
- Determine how races will be started
 - Utilize a starter
 - Coach saying, "Take your mark" and sounding a whistle or "Go!"
- Determine how races will be timed and results collected
 - Timing System
 - Third party app (Swimmingly)
 - Stop Watches
 - With this solution, coaches/volunteers will have to manually enter times into a meet management software.
- If you have a meet management software, use that to set up events and entries. Ensure that all athletes are USA Swimming members and are APT compliant.
- If you do not have a meet management software, follow the Meet Manager demo ([Insert link](#)).
- Export results and submit to virtualmeets@usaswimming.org if the meet is not Sanctioned.

Step 4: If the virtual meet includes multiple teams, the clubs have 2 options:

- **Option 1:** Follow the same process as Step 3. Each team will run their own meet (coordinate events beforehand). Each team will send their results to virtualmeets@usaswimming.org separately. Use the Virtual Meet Simulator ([Add Link](#)) on the USA Swimming website to merge results and print to pdf.
- **Option 2:** Use a 3rd party vendor meet management software to merge results before sending them to virtualmeets@usaswimming.org. In this scenario, the clubs can customize scoring and will not have to wait for the results to be uploaded to SWIMS.