

Helpful hints for new parents regarding OPEN events:

OPEN events are open to all swimmers who meet the time standard. However, that doesn't mean it is always a great idea to sign up for an OPEN event.

Some meets have OPEN events available. They are often operated during the afternoon session. These events generally are recommended for swimmers ages 13 & over. If you have a 12&U, 10&U or 8&U swimmer, you would typically sign them up within their own age category. The younger swimmers often swim in the mornings. These are not a hard and fast rules, but a general guideline.

Technically, a young swimmer could sign-up to race in those OPEN events that they qualify for. However, if you sign your child up for an OPEN event at a meet, their swim buddies from practice probably won't be there and neither will their Age Group coach. Your child will be racing with teens and will be coached by a Junior or Senior level coach at the meet.

There are some meets, especially at the University of Minnesota and often in the long course 50 meter spring/summer season, where all the events/races are OPEN. In which case, your young swimmer will race side by side with swimmers of all ages, even a 40 year old master's swimmer or a person of the opposite gender.

Ultimately, your swimmer or yourself should consult with the coaching staff with any questions you may have about choosing the right events for an upcoming meet. Coaches are usually available for brief conversations before or after practice. The individual email addresses for the coaches are available under CONTACTS in the Facebook files and under the COACHES tab on the Storm web page. You may also contact the Storm meet director with questions. The meet director is listed under CONTACTS on the web page.