

Championship Meet Series

What is the Championship Meet Series?

The championship meet series is the way we refer to a series of swim meets that happen at the end of every swim season. There are two swim seasons each year.

The first takes place during Spring and Summer, in which swimmers race in 50-meter long pools. This is called 'Long-Course Season.' The second takes place during Fall and Winter, in which swimmers race in 25-yard long pools. This is called 'Short-Course Season.'

The reason the championships series is special is that it isn't open to everyone, in the way that a normal meet is. Instead, you can only swim at a championship meet if you've earned the appropriate time, i.e. you've made a *qualifying cut*.

The easiest championship meet to qualify for is B-Champs, requiring the swimmer to earn a "B" time. While it is the first meet in the series, earning a B-Cut is a major milestone in a swimmers career!

The next meet in the series is BB-Champs. This meet has even tougher qualifying times – the "BB" standards.

After that, comes STAGS and TAGS. STAGS stands for South Texas Age Group Championships, and TAGS for Texas Age Group Championships. These meets aren't as simple as earning an A-cut. Because Texas is one of the biggest and fastest swimming states in the nation, the cuts for these meets are listed separately.

TAGS is the highest level of competition for our youngest swimmers, but as you age up and begin looking towards college, more meets open up. Speedo Sectionals and Futures, Zones and Nationals, and of course Olympic Trials. These meets also have their own sets of qualifying times, and they are incredibly tough. If you see a Sailfish with a Sectionals cap on, you know they mean business. Watch them swim and see if you can pick up any tips to try in the water!

The last thing to remember is that the championship meets are event exclusive. To understand how this works, let's take an example:

Severus Snape swims for the Sailfish. He earns a B-cut in his 50 freestyle. He then swims the 500 freestyle and finds that he's a fantastic distance swimmer and earns a BB-cut on his first try! Snape is now eligible to swim the 50 at B-Champs. He cannot swim the 500 at B-Champs because he is *too fast* (he already has a higher-level cut). He cannot swim the 50 at BB-Champs because he is *too slow*. BUT WAIT! Snape summons forth the swim of a lifetime at B-champs and earns a BB-time for his 50. Now he CAN swim the 50 at BB-champs, because he has earned the BB-cut.

In other words, you cannot swim a specific event at a meet if you've already earned a faster cut than the meet requirements in that specific event. This does not, however, prevent from swimming your slower events at that meet.

Earning Cuts

Qualifying cuts can be earned at any official USA Swimming meet. This means that Summer League meets do not count. *Some* high school meets may count, provided that they are sanctioned and officiated by USA Swimming.

Once you earn a cut in an event, you are eligible to swim that event at the appropriate championship meet until you age into the next age bracket. This means that if you earn a B time in the 50 free as an 11-year-old, then don't swim it all year, you can still swim the 50 free again at the following year's B-Champs (you'll be 12 years old by that point).

A list of all qualifying cuts (time standards) can be found on [THIS PAGE](#). Remember – there are two seasons, short-course and long-course, so make sure you are looking at the correct time standards!

Swimmers that earn a B-cut are also eligible to purchase a team cap with their name printed on the side. Swimmers that earn an A-cut are eligible to receive a free A-Team cap. Swimmers that earn TAGS and Sectionals times are eligible to receive a free cap displaying their respective achievements.

B-Champs

B-Champs is the first level of the championship series. This meet is run in much the same fashion as a normal meet, but is a chance for the teams of South Texas to compete against one another and bring home some glory for their team!

B Time Standards can be viewed [HERE](#).

Jr. STAGS

Jr STAGS (formerly BB-Champs) is the next level. This year, Jr. STAGS will also be run as a timed finals meet, just like the B champs. Many of the time standards necessary for qualifying for Jr. STAGS match up with the BB-time standards, however there are some events that require up to an A-time.

BB and A Time Standards can be viewed [HERE](#).

STAGS

STAGS, sometimes referred to as "A-Champs," is the next level in the series. It has its own set of times, found below. This meet introduces a new mechanic – it is run in prelims/finals format. This means that swimmers will swim their events in the morning, then the top 16 swimmers in each event will return to swim again in the evening for finals.

If you place in the top 16, then fail to show up for finals, the LSC will fine you and prevent you from swimming the remainder of your events in the meet, so be sure to return or, if you cannot return for finals, let a coach know so we can scratch you from the race and prevent you from being fined!

STAGS Time Standards can be viewed [HERE](#).

TAGS, Sectionals and Beyond

By the time you make it to the deep end of championship season, you're a veteran. These are extremely tough meets to qualify for. In the wise words of our state, if you've qualified for one of these meets, then it's because "This ain't your first rodeo."

Swimming at Championship Meets

If you make a cut in an event, you are expected to swim that event at the appropriate championship meet. Not only is it a capstone for your swim season, it also brings prestige to our team.

Prelims, Finals and Relays

From the BB-Meet and beyond, meets will be held in the Prelims/Finals format. This means that swimmers will swim their events in the morning, then the top 16 swimmers in each event will return to swim again in the evening for finals.

If you place in the top 16, then fail to show up for finals, the LSC will fine you and prevent you from swimming the remainder of your events in the meet, so be sure to return or, if you cannot return for finals, let a coach know so we can scratch you from the race and prevent you from being fined!

These meets also introduce RELAYS! Relays rely on all four members to be present and count for double points in the final meet scoring. Failing to show up for a relay can wind up scratching three of your fellow teammates, so always be sure to check if you're on any relays before leaving the meet!

Goal Setting and Communication

No matter where you are in the process, setting achievable goals and talking to your coaches is the best possible way to move forward and reach higher. A goal can be as straightforward as earning your first B-cut, or as extensive as earning BB-cuts or faster in every single event. Write down *your* goals. Tape them to your wall and revisit them after every meet.

And, most importantly, be sure to share them with your coach, so that we can do our best to help you reach your highest aspirations! Go FISH!

FAQ

Question: I didn't sign up for X-Champs, but somehow I'm registered to swim???

Answer: We signed you up for everything you made a cut in.

Question: But I don't want to swim the 500 again!

Answer: You're swimming the 500 again.

Question: I have something preventing from swimming that weekend, though.

Answer: No, you have swimming preventing you from doing something else that weekend.

Question: No, seriously.

Answer: Well, then you're gonna have to take it up with Coach Chris. Email him at:

ckjeldsen17@gmail.com

Question: I have more questions!

Answer: Ask Coach Nate. Email him at:

Yzt.nate@yahoo.com