



# U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM TRIALS



## 2020 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Swimming Important Changes January 26, 2021

### INTRODUCTION

As of January 20, 1,305 (unique) athletes have successfully qualified for the U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Swimming. Under normal circumstances, this number would be an acceptable and manageable number of athletes, however with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the event organizers have concerns related to over-crowding in the athlete areas, warm-up pool and athlete seating areas. For this reason, the Olympic Trials will now have two Waves:

- Olympic Trials Wave I – June 4-7, 2021                      Preliminaries & Finals
- Olympic Trials Wave II – June 13-20, 2021                      Preliminaries, Semifinals & Finals

While the intent is to give every swimmer who has qualified under the originally published time standards the opportunity to participate in a safe and competitive Trials, the priority is to select our best Olympic Team for Tokyo. It remains our intent to hold these Olympic Trials at the CHI Health Center in Omaha.

### IMPORTANT CHANGES/FACTS ABOUT THE TRIALS

- New time standards will be in effect for qualifying into Wave II of the Olympic Trials (see below).
- Swimmers who have achieved the original time standards within the qualifying period, but have not qualified for Wave II, will be invited to participate in Wave I of Trials.
- The qualifying period for both Wave I and Wave II of the Olympic Trials is November 28, 2018, through May 30, 2021, with the exception of the top two finishers in each event at Wave I, who will qualify for Wave II.
- The entry deadline for Wave I is 11:00 a.m. CT on Monday, May 31, 2021, and for Wave II is 11:00 a.m. CT on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.
- Only the athletes taking part in Wave II of the Olympic Trials will be eligible to qualify for the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team.
- If an athlete achieves a Wave II time standard prior to the close of the qualifying period, they must swim in Wave II and will not be permitted to swim in Wave I. These athletes will be allowed to swim any event at Wave II in which they have the new or original qualifying standard.
- Swimmers who compete in Wave I may qualify for Wave II by finishing in the top two (2) places in an event. These swimmers can enter and swim all events in Wave II for which they have achieved the original qualifying standard.
- Competition information for both Wave I and Wave II will be released in early February.
- Additional information on spectators, tickets and hotels will be announced as soon as possible. If you have tickets or hotel reservations for the original Trials dates (June 13-20), please be patient, as additional updates will be available in the coming weeks.
- Please be aware that anyone involved in the Trials will be required to conform to health and safety protocols and anti-COVID measures.
- USA Swimming reserves the right to make further changes to the Trials plan as deemed necessary, including, but not limited to, further restricting the Olympic Trials athlete field if the pandemic expands.
- Please contact USA Swimming with any questions at [mmcnichols@usaswimming.org](mailto:mmcnichols@usaswimming.org).

## **RATIONALE AND METHODS**

A thorough evaluation of objective data from the past five Olympic Trials (2000-2016), along with the current qualifiers for the Trials, has been undertaken to review what seeds entering the Olympic Trials qualified for the Olympic Team and the Olympic Trials finals.

Given a review of the data, it is determined that the optimal number of athletes in each event be in the range of the 50<sup>th</sup> – 60<sup>th</sup> fastest athletes, in order to ensure that the fastest athletes have the opportunity to compete in Wave II. Therefore, we are adjusting the current Trials time standard in each event to the current 41<sup>st</sup> seeded time and those athletes who have met or bettered this adjusted time will automatically advance to Wave II of the Trials. This will yield approximately 750 athletes for Wave II.

Those athletes who have not met this Wave II time standard will have the next four months to try to automatically qualify for Wave II. Athletes who have made an original Trials qualifying time but do not qualify for Wave II will be invited to compete in Wave I of the Trials. At Wave I of the Trials, athletes can advance to Wave II by finishing first or second in the finals of their individual event.

While selecting the Olympic Team for Tokyo is a critical goal for the Trials, it is important to note that the experience gained by some of these lower seeded athletes at these Trials will provide great experience for future Olympic Trials and Games.

As outlined in the “Important Facts” section on page one, athletes who qualify for the Olympic Trials with the adjusted time standard in at least one event will be permitted to swim other events at Wave II of the Olympic Trials (June 13-20) provided they have at least made the original time standard for the Trials (in those other events). For example, an athlete who has the 20<sup>th</sup> fastest time in the 100-meter backstroke and the 85<sup>th</sup> fastest time in the 200-meter backstroke will also be permitted to swim the 200-meter backstroke, provided they have the original Olympic Trials time standard in the 200-meter backstroke.

## **SPECTATORS/TICKETS AND HOTELS**

Additional information on tickets and hotels in Omaha will be provided as soon as possible.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN**

A fully fleshed out health and safety plan at the Trials is currently being assembled. The Organizing Committee is working with USA Swimming National Team physicians, the USOPC, Douglas County Health Department, CHI Health (which is providing medical services for the Trials) and the venue and the USOPC in the development of these plans.

It is extremely likely that COVID-19 testing (and a negative result) will be required for every athlete and attendee prior to their arrival to the venue. There will likely also be regular on-site testing.

The OC will also ensure that anti-COVID measures are enforced and widely available throughout the venue. Daily thermal screening and health questionnaires will also be required to be completed prior to admittance into the venue. Additional regulations will likely be implemented for those athletes who are not swimming on a given day in order to provide proper social distancing during warm-ups.

Ultimately, the OC will consider use of all available methods in order to ensure a safer and healthier environment for everyone attending the Trials.

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**SWIMMING**  
JUNE 2021  
OMAHA, NE

## OFFICIAL TIME STANDARDS

WOMEN			MEN	
WAVE I	WAVE II	2020 OLYMPIC TRIALS	WAVE II	WAVE I
25.99	25.65	50 Freestyle	22.71	23.19
56.29	55.56	100 Freestyle	49.74	50.49
2:01.69	2:00.24	200 Freestyle	1:49.65	1:50.79
4:16.89	4:13.28	400 Freestyle	3:54.21	3:57.29
8:48.09	8:44.01	800 Freestyle	8:08.95	8:12.99
16:49.19	16:44.60	1500 Freestyle	15:35.69	15:44.89
1:02.69	1:01.49	100 Backstroke	55.51	56.59
2:14.69	2:12.94	200 Backstroke	2:00.81	2:02.99
1:10.99	1:09.55	100 Breaststroke	1:01.97	1:03.29
2:33.29	2:30.49	200 Breaststroke	2:15.28	2:17.89
1:00.69	59.59	100 Butterfly	53.37	54.19
2:14.59	2:12.56	200 Butterfly	1:59.63	2:01.19
2:17.39	2:15.26	200 Individual Medley	2:03.02	2:04.09
4:51.79	4:47.72	400 Individual Medley	4:23.24	4:25.99

**WAVE I DATES:** JUNE 4-7, 2021

**WAVE II DATES:** JUNE 13-20, 2021

**QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR WAVE I:** NOV. 28, 2018 - MAY 30, 2021

**QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR WAVE II:** NOV. 28, 2018 - MAY 30, 2021