

SWIM JARGON

Barracuda	A large, ferocious, pike-like sea fish attaining ten feet in length found in the West Indian and Mediterranean Seas. One of the fiercest creatures in the sea.
Bull pen	Area where swimmers assemble prior to an event & are assigned a heat
Clerk of Course	The person who assigns lanes and heat numbers.
Course	The designated distance over which the competition is conducted. Long Course: 50 yards or 50 meters, Short Course: 25 yards or 25 meters
Cuda	Short for Barracuda. A very fast swimmer belonging to the Canton YMCA swim team
District Cuts	The time that must be swam in order to compete in the District Swim Meet. The time may be swum at any point in the season. Swimmers 13 years and older automatically swim at Districts
District Meet	Meet at the end of the winter season during which swimmers can qualify for the Y Illinois Area Championship Meet by placing first in their race or meeting the qualifying time.
Event	Any race or series of races in a given stroke and distance.
Freestyle Relay	Four swimmers each swimming freestyle $\frac{1}{4}$ of the distance
Heat	A division of an event into a series of races when the number of swimmers exceeds the number of lanes available for one heat.
Heat Sheets	A booklet/program sold at invitational meets (usually a few dollars), that lists each event and the names of the swimmers participating in that event. A useful and necessary item to have at all invites.
Individual Medley	(IM) All four of the competitive strokes are swam by one swimmer in the following order: butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle.
Invitational	Usually an all day meet hosted by one team to which several teams are invited. If the swimmer confirms he/she will be swimming at an invitational, there is a fee that is assessed by the host team. If the swimmer does not swim and does not cancel ahead of time, he/she will still be charged for the invitational
Junior Districts	Meet at the end of the winter season for swimmers not qualifying for the District Swim Meet. The swimmer must be under 13 years of age to compete.

Medley Relay	Four swimmers each swimming one fourth of the prescribe distance continuously in the following order: backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and freestyle.
Meet	Series of events determining the basis of competition. Dual – two teams Tri – three teams Invitational – many teams There is no charge for dual or tri meets.
Preliminaries	Session of the meet in which heats are held to select the fastest swimmers for the final heat.
Pyramid Seeding	The seeding system used in preliminaries where the three final heats of an event are arranged so the three fastest swimmers occupy the middle or fastest lane in their heat; the next three fastest swimmers occupy the next fastest lane, etc.
Relay	An event where four swimmers are part of a single event
Scratch	The withdrawal of an entry from competition
Seeding	The assignment of swimmers to heats and lanes according to their submitted or preliminary time
Split time	A time achieved for an intermediate distance within an event or a time achieved by a member of a relay team
State Cut	The time needed to qualify for the Y Illinois Area Swimming Championship
State Meet	The name of this meet is the Y Illinois Area Swimming Championship. This meet is at the conclusion of the winter season in which a swimmer is allowed to compete if they have made the qualifying time or placed first at the Y District Swim Meet
Timed Finals	Competition in which only heats are swam and final placing is determined by the times performed in the preliminary heats