

# Swim Meets 101

Description of different types of swim meets, time standards needed to compete in certain meets, and how to enter into meets!

## Pre Senior

- **CBA** - This is a beginning age group meet, typically has no time standards for shorter events (200's and longer may have time verification/coaches' verification). We suggest swimming as many events as possible to get times in the USA swimming database, as well as valuable racing experience. These meets split swimmers into age group categories, typically 8&under, 9-10, 11-12, and 13&over.
- **Junior Olympics** - This is a qualifying swim meet for swimmers 14 & under. The meet is split into single age categories (except for 10&under). You must meet qualifying times to participate in this meet (see below section on qualifying times). This is a trials and finals meet, meaning the top swimmers from the morning will come back and compete again in the evening. We sometimes swim relays at these meets if there are enough swimmers/enough interest.
- **Far Westerns** - This is another qualifying swim meet for swimmers 18&under. It is faster than the JO meet and is split into normal age group categories (9-10, 11-12, etc.). You must meet qualifying times to participate in this meet (see below section on qualifying times). This is a trials and finals meet, meaning the top swimmers from the morning will come back and compete again in the evening. We sometimes swim relays at these meets if there are enough swimmers/enough interest.
- **Senior Open** - This is a beginning SR meet. There are no time standards if you are 13 or older, if you are under 13 you must meet qualifying times to participate in this meet (see below section on qualifying times). There are no age groups at this meet - all ages will compete with each other.
- **Other Senior Meets** - There are higher level SR meets with more stringent time standards that a handful of our PS swimmers have qualified for and competed in. Please contact a coach if/when this applies to you.

## Senior

- **Senior Open** - This is a beginning SR meet. There are no time standards if you are 13 or older, if you are under 13 you must meet qualifying times to participate in this meet (see below section on qualifying times). There are no age groups at this meet - all ages will compete with each other.
- **Senior 2** - These are the next step up in the SR meet world. You must meet qualifying times to participate in this meet (see below section on qualifying times). Often these meets will be trials and finals.

- **Super League** - Our SR group is part of a small collection of Bay Area teams that compete periodically throughout the year. These are 1-2 days long, sometimes they have trials and finals, and sometimes they will have time standards. Contact your coach for more info.
- **Sectionals** - This meet is the California/Nevada Spring state championships meet. You must meet qualifying times to take part in this meet (see below section on qualifying times).
- **Senior Travel Meets** - Our team typically travels a few times a year to attend senior trials and finals meets. These have time standards of various difficulties. Look for updates on these meets from your coach via email
- **Futures** – Summer national championship meet - you must meet qualifying times to take part in this meet (see below section on qualifying times).
- **Junior Nationals** - We also participate in Junior Nationals (winter & summer) with our swimmers who qualify. Contact your coach for more info.

## Qualifying Times

[PacSwim Time Standards](#) – you can find qualifying times for Junior Olympics, Far Westerns, Senior Open, Senior 2, Sectionals, Futures, and Junior Nationals

## Meet Entry Primer

Most meets are entered by the individual via online meet entries on [SWIM CONNECTION](#) or [FAST SWIMS](#).

Meet sheets can be found, as available, on our [MEET CALENDAR](#) or on [PACSWIM](#).

We will send out information as the meets we are attending open, and then the responsibility is on you to get your entries in. (Unless meet is indicated as a Coaches Entry meet)

## How to Enter a Meet on Swim Connection

\*\* please make sure you are registered with USA swimming before trying to enter meets \*\*

1. Go to [SWIM CONNECTION](#).
2. Click on enter meets
3. Then choose: Go to the new Online Meet Entries site
4. Select the meet you would like to enter.
5. Click "Online meet entry"
6. Next page you will have a choice... here you can opt to create an account for quick & easy access or you can continue without registering.
7. Fill out your general info and click continue.
8. Choose "Enter Swimmer" on the bottom left of the page and enter your registration number.

9. If you already have your pacific registration card your reg number will be your swimmers 6-digit birthday (i.e. Sept. 15, 2000 would be 091500), the first 3 letters of their first name (i.e. John = joh), their middle initial (\* if they do not have a middle initial), and the last 4 letters of their last name (i.e. Smith = smit). John C. Smith born on Sept. 15, 2000 would be: 091500johcsmit.
10. You can now enter events. If you have not swum in a USA swimming sanctioned meet, your times will be NT (no-time). Once you race, those times will be stored in the USA swimming database and can be used going forward.

### **How To Enter a Meet on FastSwims**

1. Go to [www.fastswims.com](http://www.fastswims.com) and on the top left of the site is a *"create an account"* link
2. After registering/logging in, on the same page there will now be a list of all upcoming meets (both closed and open)
3. If the meet is not closed go to the far-right tab *"actions"* and click the *"enter"* button (in the second pop-up as well).
4. In the new page there will be a search bar with the words *"swimmers name"*, just click on the bar and type your swimmers' name.
5. Make sure while you are searching for your swimmer, if they have previously registered either under an alternate name (ex. john smith vs john P. smith) or another club, to pick the name most recently used for registration.