

Example wording for meet information when swimmers with a disability are competing

Preferred wording as of April 2021

USA Swimming National Disability Committee April 2021

- **Swimmers with a Disability**
- **Parallel Championship Time standards for swimmers with a disability**
If sanctioned meets are LCS championships, Zones or Sectional meets
- **Current wording of disability groupings under review to change to ability placement.**

Southern Zone

Disabled Swimmers

- All disabled swimmers must meet the [USA-Swimming Para-Motivational Time Standards](#) for their Age Group in every event they wish to participate in the meet. For information on disabled classification contact (Name) Southern Zone Disability Coordinator
- Any swimmer with a disability that is not classifiable by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) standards, that has been diagnosed by a physician as having a disability may compete if they meet the national version of the time standard derived from that disabilities' international governing body world standards
- Coaches with disabled swimmers competing must notify the Meet Referee prior to the meet.
- Disabled swimmers are eligible to compete in the 50, 100, and 200-yard events. The meet referee may elect to have them swim the 50's during the 100 able-body 100 events, 100's during the 200 events, and 200's during the 400/500 events, based on entry times. The swimmers will swim in their correct age groups.

Age Group Meet

Disclaimer this is how Sothern Zone decided to run their meet.

This is an all-star meet with each LSC limited to the number of athletes they can bring. Each LSC picks their zone team by their own procedures. They may bring 6 swimmers in addition to their regular team who have a disability according to the requirements stated below.

DISABILITY ENTRIES

Each LSC may bring up to six (6) swimmers; three (3) boys and three (3) girls with disabilities who are 11 to 18 years of age; selected in any manner deemed appropriate and assisted by the Southern Zone Adapted Swimming Coordinator, if necessary. Swimmers' disability must satisfy the definition of a disability as outlined in USA Swimming Rules and Regulations: a permanent physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. These swimmers with disabilities are in addition to the

permitted forty-eight (48) swimmers and are not required to meet the time standards for their age group/events, however, they must provide a time for each event they enter. Swimmers with disabilities may compete in finals, earn awards and score points for their team in the same manner as the able-bodied swimmers. Each swimmer is limited to six (6) individual events for the meet with no more than three (3) events per day. Entries for swimmers with disabilities should be submitted on the attached entry form indicating preference for seeding and highlighted on the hard copy of the LSC's meet entry. Shorter events that are not included in the listing for each age group may be requested. (Such events may be swum with longer events or other age groups during preliminaries, but will be swum separately in finals, possibly combined by gender and stroke and considering intervals between swims. It is the responsibility of the swimmer, or his/her coach, to inform the Meet Referee of any disability related accommodations he/she may need to compete. This information must be given in advance of the meet. Failure to provide advance notice may limit the host's ability to accommodate requests.

Central Zone

Ohio

Disability Swimmers LSC sanctioned meets

Ohio Swimming welcomes swimmers with a disability.

- Entry Procedures:

1. Enter the USA-S swimmers with a disability electronically or on the paper entry form.

2. Provide the grouping the swimmer is identified under (P1, P2, P3) and any necessary accommodations.

3. List in the email with the electronic entry (or on the paper entry) the swimmer's name, entry times, based on grouping (P1, P2, P3) strokes/distances and days/sessions.

- Preferred seeding is in the swimmer's age group entered event at the same distance with their equivalent nonconforming time to ensure seeding in the initial heats.
- See the Ohio Swimming Policy Book for Grouping descriptions (P1, P2, P3).

Sectional Meets

Swimmers with a disability

Please inform the Meet Referee of any swimmers needing additional accommodations prior to the start of each session. P1, P2, P3 Sectional Motivational Times are attached below.

Entry Procedure for Swimmers with a disability into Championship level meets (Central Zone)

Entry Procedure for swimmers with a disability

Coaches/club entry contact should:

- A. Enter the USA-S swimmers with a disability electronically, or, on the paper entry form.
- B. Provide advance notice of any “necessary accommodations.”
- C. List in the email with the electronic entry (or, on paper) the swimmer’s name, entry times, based on grouping (P1, P2, P3) strokes/distances and days/sessions.

Eligibility for swimmers with a disability

A. For entry into [\[name of meet\]](#), USA-S swimmers with a disability approved time(s) must meet or exceed the Nationally Approved Motivational Time Standards for USA-S swimmers with a disability [\[refer to Parallel Time Standards for a Swimmer with a Disability attached\]](#). USA-S swimmers with a disability for one event and Bonus Time Standards for up to 3 bonus swims in the self-reported ability placements (P1, P2, and P3).

The ability standards are provided as a means to place swimmers with similar impairments into general groups and provide the appropriate nationally recognized. time-standards as a qualification for entry. Inclusion in any one of these groupings will be athlete/coach-reported and any questions should be referred to the host LSC’s Disability Chair (or, if the host LSC does not have a designated Disability Chair, the Disability Chair for the athlete’s LSC) for clarification.

Grouping Descriptions for USA-S swimmers with a disability

P1 - non-ambulatory (wheelchair-bound): limited use of all four extremities

P2 - dwarfism, multiple limb deficiencies, ambulatory with assistance, can be wheelchair-bound with a high functioning upper body.

P3 - single limb deficiencies, visual impairments, and intellectual impairments, ambulatory without significant assistance

B. Swimmers with a disability will be given the designation of D-2.

Conduct of the meet for swimmers with a disability (D-2)

1. D-2 Swimmers will swim events based on the meet format/order of events for the meet. Any additional swims may be swum at time trials providing time trials are offered and at the discretion of the host team.

2. D-2 Swimmers will swim preliminaries during their respective event, or paired event and

seeded by time. Preferred seeding is in the swimmer's entered event at the same distance with their equivalent non-conforming time to ensure seeding in the initial heats.

3 D-2 Swimmers in distance, timed-final events where they are the only D-2 athlete entered will have the option to complete their swim in the morning heats so as to avoid having to final on their own in the evening (as, being the lone entrant into their event, they'd be considered top-8 and would need to swim accordingly). The meet host should address this matter with the athlete/coach once all entries have been finalized to determine the athlete's preferences.

4. D-2 Swimmers will swim a separate final for each of the championship events, which may include a combination of male and female athletes not to exceed one full heat of finalists per event.
5. D-2 Swimmers will score points and be awarded and recognized in the same fashion as the D-1 swimmers.
6. D-2 Swimmer final events may be combined if the total number of finalists does not exceed one full heat of competitors.
7. The D-2 finals heat will precede the respective D-1 heat. Similarly, the D-2 awards will be handed out before the D-1 awards for each event.

Note: This format may be modified by the Zone Championship Meet committee to best accommodate the swimmers with a disability and allow for a more efficient timeline.

Accommodations:

Coaches entering swimmers with disabilities that require any accommodations, including the needs for personal assistants and/or registered service animals must provide advance notice in writing, accompanying their meet entry file, to the meet director by the entry deadline. Failure to provide advance notice may limit the host's ability to accommodate all requests.