

2009 CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP SWIM MEET ELIGIBILITY RULES

GENERAL POLICY

The Contra Costa County Championship Swim Meet is intended to provide top recreational swimmers with a venue to compete against each other. Recreational swimmers are NOT year-round swimmers. Swimmers who want to pursue a more serious swimming career are encouraged to join a year-round team in the area.

- Recreational swimmers may swim in the County Championship Swim Meet, either attached (representing a team) or unattached.
 - *Attached* – Attached swimmers are those swimmers who are members of a Recreational team. If he/she is representing a team, he/she must have swum with this team only for the course of the summer and must have participated in at least three meets with them during the summer. If a swimmer moves his residence during the summer, he may swim with another team in his local vicinity with written approval in advance.
 - *Unattached* – Unattached swimmers are those individual swimmers not affiliated with a team, but who must still meet all other eligibility requirements.
- Participation in various clinics and lesson programs will not jeopardize eligibility, provided the total hours of participation does not exceed 15 hours between December 31st and the beginning of the recreational season.
- Recreational swim teams may not begin training earlier than the second Monday in April. - **APRIL 13, 2009.**
- Swimmers (other than high school and college swimmers) may not compete as members of a year-round swim team or train with a year-round swim team after December 31, 2008. These swimmers **MAY NOT** compete in any USA swim meets after **December 31, 2008 and until August 20, 2009.**
- High school and college swimmers who are members of their scholastic teams may continue to train with a year-round swim team until **February 15th**. High School and college swimmers may swim in USA meets unattached until **February 15th**.
- Swimmers assisting with the coaching of participating teams may compete, provided they meet all other eligibility rules and are bona fide members of the team they represent. Head coaches are not eligible to compete.

- Any protest of a swimmer's eligibility to participate in the County Meet must be submitted in writing and signed by the head coach to the LMYA Contra Costa County Championship Swim Meet Committee to the address provided in this packet.
- There is no complimentary swimming at the County Meet.

AGE

- Swimmers enter the meet according to their age on June 15, 2009 including 18 year old swimmers. Swimmers may not be any older than 18 as of June 15, 2009.
- Entrants may NOT swim up an age group and must enter the same age group in all events, including relays.

QUALIFYING TIMES

- Individual swimmers must meet the minimum qualifying times as sent to teams in the information packet. Qualifying times change from year to year. A participant's qualifying time must have been from a recorded result in a recreational meet held during the summer. Team time trials and intra-squad meet times are not acceptable.

ELIGIBILITY PROTESTS

- LMYA and the County Meet Committee will not position themselves as detectives or policing agents. The County Meet Committee is comprised of the current and past County Meet Directors and is responsible for ruling on eligibility of swimmers. Parents, coaches, and swimmers are advised to call with questions. However, protests must be submitted in writing. Protests will be handled individually, and it is the responsibility of the protesting agent to collect facts regarding the violation.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

- We understand that some swimmers have been led to believe that they can participate in year-round swim team programs and still participate in the County Meet. We are sorry that young people are being misled in this way. The rules have not changed, and we hope that coaches, directors, and parents will help their swimmers to decide which program they wish to participate in and to remind them that they cannot do both and still participate in the County Meet.
- LMYA County Meet Committee sets the rules for the County Meet. We have no jurisdiction over any other meet, league, or team and request that each rule-making body discuss and decide what eligibility rules apply vis-à-vis Recreational and year-round swim team programs for their own events.
- ***Coaches and/or directors are encouraged to copy this eligibility information and distribute it to team members to avoid unhappy misunderstandings and eligibility violations.***