

## **Swimmers with a Disability**

### **In Southern Zone**

#### **USA Swimming Meets**

Below are the suggested statements drafted by the USA Swimming Disability Subgroup of the National DEI Committee for use in Meet Information Letters. There are different statements for different types of meets being held.

##### **Club Meets, sanctioned by an LSC (no time standard)**

Club meets without a time standard required for entry, whether timed final or prelim/final format, should include the following statement.

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

Coaches may use the Necessary Accommodation Form to satisfy this requirement.

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##### **LSC Meets (time standard required for entry, i.e., LSC Championships or Large Invitationals)**

LSC governed meets such as senior championships, age group championships, or closed invitational meets with time standards should include the following statement.

“All swimmers with a disability (swads) must meet the LSC Parallel Time Standards in every event they wish to participate in the meet.

Coaches with swimmers with a disability (swads) competing must notify the Entry Chair with their entry and the Meet Referee prior to the meet.”

Coaches may use the Necessary Accommodation Form to satisfy this requirement.

LSC PARA motivational times (Parallel Time Standards LSC) should be included in meet information.

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##### **Zone Meets (with or without time standards, i.e., Sectionals, AG Sectionals, Sr. Zone)**

Zone governed meets such as sectionals, short course and long course, and senior zones all have time standards for entry. Age group zones, long course, does not. Those meets with time standards should include the following statement.

“All swimmers with a disability (swads) must meet the Sectional or Zone Parallel Time Standards in every event they wish to participate in the meet.

Coaches with swimmers with a disability (swads) competing must notify the Entry Chair with their entry and the Meet Referee prior to the meet.”

Coaches may use the Necessary Accommodation Form to satisfy this requirement.

Sectional or Zone Parallel Time Standards should be included in the meet information.

In the Southern Zone, Age Group Long Course Zone Championships (SZAG) is an all-star meet. The statement in the meet information letter is deemed current and states:

**“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.”

These suggestions only refer to entering swimmers with a disability into meets. The decision to include swads in finals or to score points is left to each individual meet committee. Some meets do not provide any alternative way to qualify for finals and swads are therefore prevented from swimming. Other meets create a separate event after prelims and place all swads in finals. They may combine heats by gender or stroke, like time trials, and until there are larger numbers of swads competing this has little impact on timelines. \*It is important to ask the swads if they would like to be in finals.