

## North Texas Swimming - Swim Meet Terminology Self-Assessment

1. What does the acronym "LCM" stand for ?
  - a. Last Chance Meet
  - b. Late Checkin Meet
  - c. Long Course Meters
  
2. What is "seeding" ?
  - a. Swimmers who are already entered in an event are assigned to a heat and lane.
  - b. Swimmers signed up for a meet are entered into their events.
  - c. Backstrokers are instructed to enter the water to begin their race.
  - d. Swimmers are instructed to report to the starting area.
  
3. What is the 2-character LSC code designated for North Texas Swimming ?
  
4. What is the acronym for the state age group championships sponsored by the Texas Swimming Association (TSA )?
  
5. Select four valid swim meet classifications based on USA Swimming age group motivational time standards. Example: an "A" meet is for swimmers who best times are classified as "A" times.
  - a. A/BB
  - b. AA
  - c. C
  - d. Unclassified
  - e. Division II
  - f. D
  
6. Match the swim meet report with its best description. Choose each answer only once.

a. Lists the swimmers entered in the meet in event, heat, lane order along with their seed times	1. Team Scores
b. Used by stopwatch timers to record backup times. Sometimes it is a half-sheet of paper rather than a full sheet.	2. Psych Sheet
c. Lists the swimmers entered in the meet and their rank in each event fastest to slowest (or slowest to fastest)	3. Event Results
d. Lists the events that each swimmer is entered into	4. Meet Program, or Heat Sheet
e. Shows the placing, scoring, and officials times for the actual swims. May be divided by time standard classification. May also show split times	5. Lane Timer Sheet
f. Lists the point totals for each team	6. Entry Report
  
7. True or False: An example of a swim-off event would be when two or more swimmers tie for 8th place during a prelims-finals event and wish a chance to advance to the "A" final.
  
8. What does it mean when a swimmer is entered into a meet event as "Exhibition" ?
  - a. The swimmer has recently changed teams and is not eligible to represent their new team in competition for 120 days. Their team code will start with the letter "U"

## North Texas Swimming - Swim Meet Terminology Self-Assessment

- b. The swimmer will be able to swim for an official time but may not earn awards or score team points. There is an "X" by their result time.
  - c. A professional swimmer is paid to conduct a clinic during a meet, including an in-water demonstration.
  - d. The swimmer is not registered with USA Swimming but wishes to swim in a USA Swimming sanctioned meet anyhow. There is an "E" next to the result times.
9. Choose one other option for an event if it is not conducted as "Timed Finals" ?
- a. Stopwatch-timed event
  - b. 2-per-lane event
  - c. Scratch event
  - d. Prelims/finals event
10. What is a sanction number ?
- a. When a swimmer is disqualified in an event, a sanction number is filed against their swim
  - b. A sanction number is a reference to a North Texas LSC policy or procedure that has been broken by the meet host, such as not meeting deadlines for filing a financial report after a meet.
  - c. A sanction number is assigned to a meet when an LSC administrator has verified that the meet information conforms to LSC and USA Swimming rules, regulations, policies, and procedures.
  - d. A sanction number is assigned by USA Swimming headquarters to indicate that a meet may be conducted despite inclusion of non-USA Swimming athletes such as YMCA swimmers, Masters swimmers, High School swimmers, or foreign athletes belong to a FINA federation.
11. What is a "non-conforming time" ?
- a. A time achieved when the swimmer did not follow the rules of the stroke, such as swimming backstroke in a freestyle event.
  - b. A time associated with an alternate pool course. An example would be a long-course seed time used to enter an event in a short-course yards meet.
  - c. A time expressed using European punctuation, such as tick marks after minutes and seconds or use of dots.
  - d. A seed time that does not meet the qualifying time standards for an event in a particular meet.
12. True or False: A "split" in swimming terminology is when two referees disagree on a disqualification.
13. True or False: "Scratch" means that swimmers in an event are not scored separately by the time standards corresponding to their entry time.
14. True or False: "Proof of Times" is where a swimmer's eligibility and entry times must be verified. If the entry times cannot be verified, the swimmer may be either fined or not allowed to compete, depending on the meet.
15. True or False: A "Senior" event is the same as a "15 and Over" event.
16. Select the correct definition of "No Time":
- a. A failure of the primary timing system occurred and no automatic time is available.
  - b. A swimmer was disqualified and did not receive an official time for their swim.

## North Texas Swimming - Swim Meet Terminology Self-Assessment

- c. A swimmer entered an event without providing a time to be used for seeding.

17. Select each of the five competitive individual events:

- a. Butterfly
- b. Breaststroke
- c. Individual Medley
- d. Backstroke
- e. English crawl
- f. Freestyle

18. Match each of these swim meet job descriptions with the job title. Use each title only once.

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| a. At a minimum, enters official result times for each swim into the computer and scores them. Typical other duties include using meet management software to set up a meet database with the events to be contested; entering swimmers into events; performing scratches and seeding events; printing reports to be used before, during, and after the competition. | 1. Meet Director                  |
| b. Oversees all aspects of the meet and is in charge of planning, organizing meet staff and volunteers, and ensuring that LSC policies and procedures are followed.  | 2. Stroke and Turn Judge          |
| c. Organizes swimmers (typically novices and younger athletes) to ensure that they go to the starting area at the proper time and in the correct heat and lane for their event.  | 3. Meet Computer Operator         |
| d. Final Authority over the conduct of a sanctioned meet. The meet operations staff and all other officials work under his direction.  | 4. Head Timer                     |
| e. Watches swimmers in assigned lanes to determine if swims followed the technical rules of form. Must be a certified member of USA Swimming   | 5. Timing System Console Operator |
| f. Compares touchpad, button, and stopwatch times to determine official times for each swim. Works under the supervision of the Meet Referee.  | 6. Ready Bench                    |
| g. Operates the electronic timing system that collects data from the starting system, touchpads, and buttons and generates a scoreboard display, printout, and electronic interface to a computer.   | 7. Clerk of the Course            |
| h. Instructs the lane timers of their duties. Starts backup stopwatches in case a lane timer fails to start their watch. Liason between the lane timers and the rest of the meet staff.  | 8. Meet Referee                   |
| i. Accepts deck entries and is an administrative liason between swimmers, coaches, parents and the meet staff  | 9. Timing Judge                   |

19. True or False: Official times are recorded at the precision of the primary timing equipment, whether it be to the tenth, hundredth, thousandth, or smaller fraction of a second.

## North Texas Swimming - Swim Meet Terminology Self-Assessment

20. The 2005-2008 USA Swimming Age Group Top-16 Based Motivational time standards (the ones we use) list these minimum achievement times for the Boys 11-12 200-yard Freestyle:

Time Std	Minimum Time
AAAA	1:59.49
AAA	2:05.19
AA	2:10.89
A	2:16.59
BB	2:27.99
B	2:39.39
C	[not listed]

If Tommy Thrashersplasher's best time is a 2:21.34, what time standard does that fall within ?

21. What is a "mixed" event ?

- An event such as the medley relay or individual medley where one or more strokes are swum.
- An event such as the 1650 Free where the referee decides to combine a partial heat of the men's 1650 free with a partial heat of the women's 1650 free to make the meet run faster.
- An event where men and women compete against each other based on times and the fastest overall swimmer gets first place regardless of gender.
- An event such as a pentathlon where the times from several races are combined to obtain a composite time used for scoring.
- An alternative to a traditional individual medley or medley relay event where a different order of strokes is performed.
- An event where swimmers in different age groups swim together but are scored separately.

22. True or False: A time trial event is the same as a swim-off event.

23. True or False: An official time is always the time shown on a scoreboard immediately following a race.

24. True or False: The term, "DQ", is from the French phrase "de quatre" ("of four") and means that one of the swimmer's four limbs has not been moved in accordance to the technical rules for swimming a given stroke. A swimmer may be DQ'ed in a race for any breach of rules or other misconduct by any USA Swimming official, the meet director, or his coach at a meet.

## North Texas Swimming - Swim Meet Terminology Self-Assessment

### Answers

1. **C.** Long Course Meters, indicating that a pool is 50 meters long. Other courses are Short Course Yards (25 yards long) and, less commonly in the USA, Short Course Meters (25 meters). These are the three recognized pool lengths for contemporary USA Swimming times.
2. **A.** Meets may be pre-seeded or deck-seeded, but swimmers must be given a heat/lane assignment before they can swim their race. They are assigned based on their entry time (seed time) and a specific set of rules in the USA Swimming rulebook based on the number of lanes in the pool.
3. **NT** is the LSC code for North Texas.
4. **TAGS**, the Texas Age Group Swimming championships. Two meets are conducted each year – a spring short course yards championships, and a summer long course meters championships. Swimmers must qualify for individual events by meeting the TAGS qualifying time standards set each year by TSA.
5. **A, B, C, D are all valid.** "A/BB" is a meet for swimmers with "A" or "BB" or faster best times. "AA" is a meet for swimmers with "AA" times, which are faster than "A". This designation is not commonly used but is valid. "C" meets are for novices who do not have a "B" or faster time. Typically North Texas meets for novice swimmers also include the "B" swimmers ("B/C") or both the "BB" and "B" swimmers ("BB/B/C"). Unclassified meets are where swimmers are not restricted by time standards.

There are no "D" meets since the slowest meet classification is "C". "Division II" is a meet division based on which team a swimmer belongs to, not a description of the time standard eligibility.

6. **A-4**  
**B-5**  
**C-2**  
**D-6**  
**E-3**  
**F-1**

7. **TRUE.** The swimmers may also agree to have an official flip a coin if they did not wish to jeopardize a final swim by using the energy to do a swim-off. If one swimmer does not wish to advance, the swim-off does not need to take place. When a swim-off occurs, the winner is awarded the faster place in prelims (Judge's decision) and the prelims swim time (not the swim-off time) is used to seed them into their next swim. The Meet Manager placing is manually revised using "Judge's Decision" software features.
8. **B.** One example is in a dual meet where the coach does not want to run up a big margin of victory. Another example would be a very small school wanting to get some experience for their swimmers but not being able to field a full team – they may be able to enter a few Exhibition swimmers in a dual meet between two different schools if there are extra lanes. In North Texas Swimming USA Swimming meets the usual case is when a "BB" swimmer has one or two "A" times and wishes to swim those events in a "BB" or "BB/B/C" meet.
9. **D.** Timed finals are when each athlete swims once to determine an official time that is ranked by time to determine the event winner. In a prelims/finals event, the swimmers are ranked by a preliminary swim and

## North Texas Swimming - Swim Meet Terminology Self-Assessment

then in a later session the top swimmers swim against each other in a finals heat. Typically there are 1, 2, or 3 finals heats (championship, consolations, bonus finals; or A, B, C finals). Preliminary heats are typically "circle-seeded" for the fastest 3 heats.

10. **C.** In North Texas, the sanction number will look something like "NT XXX-YY", where XXX is a number 0-999 and YY is the last two digits of a year. NT is the LSC code. Each LSC has their own naming convention for assigning sanction numbers. The sanction number should be on all meet report headings.
11. **B.** Non-conforming times are designated with a suffix on the time. Y is for short-course yards, L is for long-course meters, and S is for short-course meters. North Texas Swimming does not allow mathematical conversion of times from one course to another. Example: 1:02.49L is a long-course time (achieved in a 50-meter pool.) It is relatively faster than a 1:02.49Y short-course yards swim (achieved in a 25-yard pool.)
12. **FALSE.** A split is an intermediate time during a race. Official legal splits begin at the start of the race (either for an individual event or for a relay) and end with a legal finish for the stroke, such as a hand-touch in the backstroke as opposed to a foot-touch turn. Legal splits may be used for official times in the corresponding individual event. Other splits are not legal to use for official times but are of interest to determine how the swimmer paced his race.
13. **FALSE.** A "scratch" is when a competitor entered into an event decides not to compete and notifies meet management prior to the event being seeded. Typically in a positive check-in meet, if the swimmer does not check-in for an event it is implied that their intent is to scratch.
14. **TRUE.** For some meets such as TAGS, the swimmer must provide official results from a sanctioned meet showing an exact (or faster) swim. For a pre-proof meet, the swimmer will not be allowed to compete if the meet qualifying time cannot be proven, and the swimmer cannot be seeded faster than the proven time. For a post-proof meet, the swimmer may only need to prove his entry time if his result was slower than the meet qualification time. Failure to prove after being allowed to compete typically results in a fine.
15. **FALSE.** In North Texas, swimmers of any age may participate in a "Senior" event if they meet the qualifying time standard.
16. **C.** Typically if the swimmer has never swum this event in sanctioned competition they are entered with "NT", or No Time. These swimmers will be seeded into the slowest heats.
17. **A,B,C,D,F.** Butterfly (Fly), Breaststroke (Breast), Individual Medley (IM), Backstroke (Back), and Freestyle (Free).
18. **A-3, B-1, C-6, D-8, E-2, F-9, G-5, H-4, I-7**
19. **FALSE.** Official times are always recorded to the hundredth of a second. Times are truncated, not rounded, for timing equipment capable of greater precision. Only digital timing devices may be used and they must be accurate to .01 second.
20. **BB.** His time of 2:21.34 is faster than the minimum (slowest) "BB" time of 2:27.99 and is not fast enough to be an "A" time (slowest time 2:16.59).

## North Texas Swimming - Swim Meet Terminology Self-Assessment

21. **C.** The meet information will state that the event is mixed. This is usually just done for "fun" events in USA Swimming meets.
22. **FALSE.** A swim-off event is to break a tie when determining which swimmers will advance from a preliminary heat to the next round of competition. Typically the place is more important than the swimmer's time. A time trial is a special kind of event where a swimmer swims for an official time without awards, scoring, or placing. All emphasis is on the swimmer's time such as achieving the qualifying time standards for an upcoming meet or on improving best times. Time trial events are typically offered at upper-level championships meet in a separate time trials session. There may also be "last chance" time trials meets at the end of the qualifying period to enter a championships.
23. **FALSE.** The time showing on a scoreboard is the electronic touchpad time when touchpads are used. If the swimmer fails to finish his race by pressing on the sensitive face of the pad then the scoreboard will not reflect the actual time that he completed his race. Other factors can result in a touchpad time being incorrect, such as another individual pressing the touchpad when climbing out of the pool or when stepping on the pad. A timing judge will compare the touchpad times against the backup button and watch times to determine an official time according to USA Swimming Rules and Regulations. The timing judge works under the supervision of the Meet Referee.
24. **FALSE.** DQ's (Disqualifications) are only written by assigned officials within jurisdiction of an infraction. Only Starters, Referees, and Stroke and Turn officials may write DQ's. Specifically, timing judges, meet directors, and meet computer operators cannot DQ a swimmer although they may bring an administrative issue to the meet referee's attention.