

At the National YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee Fall Meeting, two significant changes were made to swimmers' eligibility for YMCA Nationals. These changes are effective immediately and apply to the current season that began September 1, 2006.

I. With a desire to be consistent with the YMCA's culture of openness to all members of a community the YMCA of the USA Competitive Swimming and Diving Committee has made a change in eligibility requirements for swimmers to compete in YMCA Nationals. This change was made to align but not supersede the requirements of the YMCA Rules that Govern.

Until now a swimmer who competed for a team other than their YMCA or school team during the current season, (defined September 1 – August 31) was ineligible to compete for their YMCA team at Nationals except as permitted by Transfer by Consent Rule 2 section 2 in the Rules that Govern.

Effective September 1, 2006 a swimmer may represent a team other than their YMCA or school team during the current season but before their eligibility period commences (30 days prior to competition for local meets, 90 days prior for District/Regional/State/National competition).

This change will allow a swimmer who has represented a non- YMCA team in the current season as defined above to still be eligible to compete for their YMCA team assuming compliance with all other eligibility requirements. For example; this change will permit a swimmer, who has represented another team or whose family has relocated, to join and represent a YMCA team at Nationals even if he/she has represented another non-YMCA team in competition since September 1.

II. The qualification periods for Short Course and Long Course Nationals have been extended. For Short Course Nationals, entry times may be achieved between March 1 of the previous year through the current entry deadline. The 2007 Short Course YMCA Nationals qualification period is March 1, 2006 through March 21, 2007. For Long Course Nationals, entry times may be achieved between July 1 of the previous year through the current entry deadline. The 2007 Long Course YMCA Nationals qualification period is July 1, 2006 through July 18, 2007.

This will allow swimmers who achieved Nationals qualifying times after the entry deadline for this year's meet to use those times to enter next year's meet. Previously, swimmers had to achieve the qualifying time during the current season (September 1 – August 31) or at the previous YMCA Nationals.

The Committee is pleased to extend greater opportunities to our athletes through these two rule changes. Please visit the National YMCA Swimming and Diving website (www.ymcaswimminganddiving.org) often for updated information on meets, trainings and other information regarding the YMCA competitive swimming and diving program.