

Swimming Season Format

Special Olympics



Objective



- The purpose of this document is to educate our swimming programs on the updated criteria for all levels of competition throughout the swimming season. It is our goal that by the end of the document the person viewing it will have all of the advancement information for the upcoming season and understand how Special Olympics Massachusetts developed these updates.
- Swimming has been identified as a capacity sport at Special Olympics Massachusetts. It is the goal of SOMA to continually evaluate our capacity sports and find avenues to offer more opportunities for our athletes to compete and train throughout the season.

Capacity Sports



- It is in keeping with the sports philosophy of Special Olympics International that regardless of ability level, competition progression is key to acknowledging and rewarding every athlete's hard work, improvement and athletic excellence. This practice is consistent with many of the world's sports organizations.
- Other factors such as venue capacity, schedules, funding, volunteer workforce, and more, dictate realistic parameters regarding the size and duration of Games. This inherently necessitates constraints on how many participants can be accommodated and how many competitions can be contested during a set time.

Swimming Season Overview



- April 22nd - State Qualifying Meet Bridgewater State University
- April 22nd - State Qualifying Meet Milford High School
- May 5th - State Qualifying Meet Chicopee Comprehensive High School
- May 5th - State Qualifying Tournament Boston University
- June 9th & 10th - Summer Games Competition

Swimming Season Overview



- Athletes are permitted to register for two events and participate in one relay
- Athletes in developmental events are limited to choosing from that category

Swimming Season Overview



Traditional Events

Developmental

10M Assisted Swim

15M Flotation Race

15M Unassisted Swim

15M Walk

25M Flotation Race

Individual

25M Butterfly 25M Backstroke

25M Freestyle 25M Breaststroke

50M Butterfly 50M Backstroke

50M Breast Stroke 50M Freestyle

100M Butterfly 100M Backstroke

100M Breast Stroke 100M Medley

100M Freestyle

200M Butterfly 200M Backstroke

200M Breast Stroke 200M Medley

200M Freestyle

Relays

4X25M Freestyle Relay

4X50M Freestyle Relay

4X100M Freestyle Relay

4X200M Freestyle Relay

4X25M Medley Relay

4X50M Medley Relay

4X100M Medley Relay

4X25M Freestyle Relay

4X50M Freestyle Relay

4X100M Freestyle Relay

4X200M Freestyle Relay

4X25M Medley Relay

4X50M Medley Relay

4X100M Medley Relay

Swimming- Flotation Events/Equipment



- **3.2 Equipment**

- **3.2.5** For flotation events, each athlete is responsible for his/her own flotation device. The device must be of the body wraparound type such that if the athlete were to not be able to hold onto the device, the device would still support the athlete with his/her face out of the water. (Flotation devices such as inner tubes or floats that wrap around the arms are not acceptable for use at any time).
- **These devices include vests and belts. Flotation devices such as kickboards, inner-tubes or floats that wrap around the arms are not acceptable for use at any time.**

Registration Timeline



Wednesday, April 4th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registrations due Bridgewater State Meet• Registrations due Milford High School Meet
Wednesday, April 11th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registrations due Boston University Meet• Registrations due Chicopee Comprehensive High School Meet
Monday, May 21st	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Registrations sent to coaches
Wednesday, May 23rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing forms due• Changes to Final Registrations due• All head coaches to be fully certified• All recently expiring class A/medicals, and new chaperone class A's due

Advancement Criteria

As a capacity sport each level of competition (State Qualifying Meet, State Tournament) has specific criteria each program and athlete must meet in order to qualify to participate.

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State Qualifying Tournament Criteria

- **Submit complete registration on or before established deadline**
- **Fully Certified Head Coach by registration deadline**
 - Class A
 - Protective Behaviors
 - General Orientation
 - Sport Specific Swimming Training
 - Concussion Training
 - Unified Sports Training- Only for Unified teams
- **Program must fundraise in one of the following manners**
 - Agency paid fees
 - LP/Independent Fundraising Event
 - Participate in a SOMA Fundraiser
- **Program must have at least one member who attends practice that is certified in CPR & First Aid**
 - This does not need to be the head coach.
 - Can be an assistant coach or chaperone

State Tournament Criteria



- Must have met all prior advancement criteria
- Must have participated in a State Qualifying Meet
- Must finish in the top 2 of assigned division at State Qualifying Meet to advance. Only in quota events-
 - 4 x 50M Freestyle Relay
 - 4 x 25M Freestyle Relay
- Fully Certified head coach at or before established deadline
- Individual within the program who attends practices that holds a First Aid/CPR certification

State Tournament Quota



- The quota for Summer Games will be 600 swimmers.

Divisioning & Awards

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State Qualifying Tournament- Divisioning



- Divisions at the 2018 State Qualifying Tournament will be limited to 3 relay teams per division or 6 athletes in individual events
 - Division sizes may expand in future years
- The Maximum effort rule (*within %21 of registration time*) will be enforced when medaling in all events.

Swimming Season- Awards



- **State Qualifying Tournament-** Medals & Ribbons will be awarded to athletes based on their placement within their division
- **State Championship: Summer Games –**
 - Traditional: Medals & Ribbons will be awarded to individuals based on their placement within their division



Thank you for reviewing the Special Olympics Massachusetts Swimming Season Format