

- YMCA competition
- Summer league competition
- Conference competition
- Closed competition does not include representing a group within USA Swimming such as LSC, Zone, Region, or Section, nor does it include dual meets, invitationals, or other meets where only certain clubs are invited to participate.

CLUB — an organization which has been accepted for membership in USA Swimming.

COMPETITION CATEGORY — stated as men or women for the purpose of athlete swimming eligibility, competition, selection and records. An athlete's stated competition category shall be referred to as "gender."

CONFORMING TIME — time achieved in a course that corresponds to the meet competition course.

COURSE — designated distance over which the competition is conducted.

LONG COURSE — 50 meters.

SHORT COURSE — 25 yards or 25 meters.

DECK CHANGE — changing, in whole or in part, into or out of a swimsuit when wearing just one suit in an area other than a permanent or temporary locker room, bathroom, changing room or other space designated for changing purposes.

DECK REFEREE — the deck level Referee who may be assigned by the Meet Referee to perform specific duties as enumerated under 102.11 during a session.

DELEGATION EVENT — individually or collectively as applicable, the Olympic Games, the Olympic Winter Games, the Paralympic Games, the Paralympic Winter Games, the Pan American Games, and the Parapan American Games.

DISABILITY — a permanent physical or cognitive disability that substantially impacts one or more major life activities.

DRAW — random selection by chance.

DUAL COMPETITION — competition between two teams.

END OF COURSE — designated wall for racing turns and finishes.

ESCORT CRAFT — boats or paddle boards used in open water competition for the swimmers' safety and logistical support.

ESCORTED SWIM — an open water event in which each swimmer is required to have an escort craft accompany the swimmer throughout the race.

EVENT — any race or series of races in a given stroke and/or distance. For competitive limits, one event is inclusive of preliminary heat(s) plus its related final(s), or one timed final, or one time trial.

EX-OFFICIO — a member of a board or committee serving by virtue of some other office or position held (whether in USA Swimming, in an Allied or Affiliate Member, or otherwise), or by virtue of an appointment to such committee or board pursuant to the Bylaws of USA Swimming. Ex-officio members have full rights of membership including the right to vote (unless otherwise provided in the Bylaws or Policy Manual). Ex-officio members without the right to vote are not counted to establish a quorum (unless expressly provided otherwise in the Bylaws).

FEED POLE — a mechanical implement used by coaches or support personnel to deliver fluid and/or food to open water swimmers during the race.

FINALS — a session of a meet in which the concluding heats of an event are contested which may include championship, consolation, or bonus finals.

• **Championship (A) Final** — the fastest heat of swimmers competing in Finals

• **Consolation Final(s)** — the second fastest and subsequent heats of swimmers competing in

Finals for which team selection, scoring points and/or prize money are awarded

- Bonus Final(s) — any finals heat in which no points or placement prizes are awarded

FINISH — the instant that a swimmer touches the wall at the end of the prescribed distance.

FINISH POINT — the physical location where an open water race terminates.

FIRST DAY OF MEET — day on which the first competitive swimming event is conducted.

FOREIGN SWIMMER — an athlete member of a World Aquatics member-country federation, other than USA Swimming, or an athlete member of USA Swimming who is not eligible to represent the United States in international competition due to World Aquatics sports citizenship requirements. (See Sports Citizen)

FORWARD START — an entry made while facing the course.

FOUL — an instance of obstruction, interference, collision, or equipment malfunction which prevents the successful completion of a race.

HEADQUARTERS — USA Swimming's office in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

HEATS — a division of an event in which there are too many swimmers to compete at one time. (See Preliminary Heats and Timed Final Heats)

HORIZONTAL — parallel to the surface of the water.

INITIAL DISTANCE — that first portion of a race for which an official time may be recorded but which is not in itself a completed event.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION — any athletic competition between any athlete(s) or member organization(s) of USA Swimming, either individually or as part of a team, and any athlete(s) or member organization(s) (e.g., clubs) representing any foreign country.

INTRA-SQUAD MEET — a competition exclusively among members of a single club.

LANE DIVIDER — continuous floating markers attached to a line stretched from the starting end to the turning end of the course for the purpose of separating each lane.

LEAD BOAT — the boat used as a course guide for open water swimmers.

LENGTH — extent of the course from end to end.

LSC (LOCAL SWIMMING COMMITTEE) — an administrative division of USA Swimming with supervisory responsibilities within certain geographic boundaries designated by USA Swimming.

MANUAL START — the start of any timing device by an individual in response to the same starting signal given to the swimmer(s).

MAY — permissive, not mandatory.

MEET ANNOUNCEMENT — document setting forth information of the meet events, schedule, and procedures.

MEET COMMITTEE — unless otherwise specified in the meet announcement, the Meet Committee shall consist of the Meet Director, Meet Referee, and coach and athlete members as appropriate.

MEET REFEREE (OPEN WATER (OW) COMPETITION) — an experienced OW referee who oversees the operations of the entire OW swim meet and ensures that all safety plans, rules, and regulations are followed, and who makes final decisions on any procedure, modification, dispute, or protest to ensure a safe, fair, and equitable competition.

MEET REFEREE (POOL COMPETITION) — an experienced referee who oversees the entire swim meet and ensures that all rules and regulations are followed by making final decisions on any procedure, modification, dispute, or protest for a fair and equitable competition.