MIXED CLASSIFICATION — meet in which events of Age Group and Junior, Senior, or any other classification are offered.

NATIONAL AGE GROUP (NAG) RECOGNITION TIME — an official time that qualifies as one of the fastest for a given age group as defined in the SWIMS portion of the Operating Policy Manual.

NON-CONFORMING TIME — entry time achieved in a course which does not correspond to the course in which the meet will be conducted.

NOTICE — a written communication notifying about a scheduled meeting of a committee, board or other governing body or group, or other fact or occurrence, required to be made by law, bylaw, rule or regulation. To be considered written, the communication must be addressed, using the last known address on file with the LSC or in SWIMS, to the intended or required recipient(s) and delivered by hand, first class mail, overnight or second day delivery by a national delivery service, facsimile transmission, electronic mail or text message.

OBSERVED SWIM — a swim observed by assigned USA Swimming officials for conformance with USA Swimming technical rules in a meet conducted under other than USA Swimming rules.

OFFICIAL TIME — a time achieved in a USA Swimming sanctioned or approved competition or in an observed swim in accordance with USA Swimming technical rules.

ON THE BACK — position of the body when the shoulders are past vertical towards the back.

ON THE BREAST — position of the body when the shoulders are at or past vertical towards the breast.

OPEN COMPETITION — competition that is not otherwise defined as a closed competition in which any qualified club, organization or individual may enter.

OPEN EVENT — an event in which any qualified individual may compete, regardless of age.

OPEN WATER SWIMMING — any swimming competition that takes place in rivers, lakes, or oceans.

OPERATING POLICY MANUAL — document maintained by the President/CEO that specifies operating policies and procedures not contained in Rules & Regulations. New policies adopted shall be vetted and approved by the Board of Directors and appropriate committee chair.

OUTREACH MEMBERSHIP — a reduced-fee category of athlete membership for under-represented and/or economically disadvantaged swimmers.

PACING — an attempt by a person not participating in an open water race to enter the water with the intent of providing moral support or otherwise assisting a swimmer in setting the tempo of the race.

PADDLER — a person on a paddle board or manually propelled craft who supports an open water swimmer or group of swimmers.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT — an individual who assists an athlete requiring help with activities of daily living and preparation for athletic participation. A Personal Assistant provides support unique to the needs of the athlete(s) in their care. This support may include, but is not limited to, mobility guidance, assistance with transfer, entering/exiting the pool, dressing, showering, toileting, medication administration, and communication. Some athletes require a Personal Assistant to enable successful participation in the sport, while others need help to assure personal safety in practice and meet environments.

PLACE JUDGE — official assigned to record the order of finish of all swimmers by lane in each heat.

PRACTICE — the instruction of swimming techniques, skills, knowledge, conditioning, aptitude and motivation.

PRELIMINARY HEATS OR PRELIMINARIES — competition in which a number of heats are swum to qualify the fastest swimmers for the Finals.