



Newsletter for Novice/Bronze Swimmers and Their Parents

Volume 1, No. 2

What's the Deal with Meets?

Swim meets are an opportunity to test your skills, race other swimmers, and have FUN. But the meet schedule can look confusing. This guide should help you understand meets better. To see the meet schedule, go to www.blackdogswimming.org, and click on "Meets."

Sanctioned Meets

All of the meets on the upper section of the schedule are "sanctioned" meets. These meets have officials to make sure that USA Swimming rules are followed. Swimmers who break a rule are disqualified. Times achieved in a sanctioned meet are considered "*verifiable*," which means that a swimmer can prove their time.

Unsanctioned Meets

Unsanctioned meets are a great way for young swimmers to start out. Times from these meets are *not verifiable*, but they show the swimmer and coaches what a swimmer is capable of achieving. There are three types of unsanctioned meets that you will see.

- **Conference Meet** – These meets are listed on the bottom section of the schedule. Several teams sponsor these meets for beginner swimmers. They are intended for swimmers who have not yet achieved a C time.
- **Mini Meet** – These are intersquad meets for our Novice and Bronze teams. These are not listed on the meet schedule yet.
- **Country Club Meet** – We may have a summer meet at Brackett's Crossing Country Club. It will have the informal atmosphere of a Mini Meet, but it is outdoors.

Event Type – A series of letters (e.g., A/B/C, B/C, etc.) refers to the time standard needed to enter the meet (time standards are available on our [website](#)). For example, in a B/C meet, a swimmer can enter events in which they have B or C times, but not A times. Other event types (e.g., "TWIN-vite," "MILE Meet," etc.) have no time standards, or they have special standards.

SC or LC – SC means Short Course – a 25-yard pool (just like the ones we practice in); LC means Long Course – a 50-meter pool. The spring/summer season is a long course season, but there are still several short course meets, because of the lack of 50-meter facilities in Minnesota.

Special Considerations

If a swimmer achieves a C time or better in an unsanctioned meet (such as a Conference Meet or Mini Meet), they should enter that event in a sanctioned meet to get a *verifiable* time. For championship meets like ABC Finals and State, we need to *prove* our swimmers' times with a time from a sanctioned meet.