

## What's a Swim Meet Like?

Meets can take between 2 ½ hours and 3½ hours, not including the warm-up period. Swimmers are entered in events depending on the coaches' assessment of their ability to swim each stroke.

A meet consists of five individual events and two relay events. The order of events is:

- Medley Relay (4 swimmers, with each swimming a different stroke)
- Individual Medley (IM) (1 swimmer who swims all four strokes)
- Freestyle
- Breaststroke
- Butterfly
- Backstroke
- Free Relay (4 swimmers, each swimming freestyle)

Swimmers are divided up according to their age on June 15. The age groups are:

- 6 and under
- 7-8
- 9-10
- 11-12
- 13-14
- 15-18

Swimmers recorded times also go into determining which meets and events they are entered into. There are times designated by our swim league (CCSVC) as 'A' times. (Go to "Qualifying Times" under the Team Info menu item to see this year's times) Once a swimmer has achieved their 'A' time in a stroke, they may not swim that stroke in a 'B' meet. However, they may swim in an 'A' meet even if they have not reached their 'A' time. Because of this, swimmers are divided between 'A' and 'B' meets. If a swimmer has two 'A' times but hasn't received 'A' times in the rest of his or her strokes, they will likely be swimming in *both* 'A' and 'B' meets. Always check the meet board to see if your child is swimming in a meet, even if you don't expect them to be entered.

Meet entries will be posted on the bulletin board at the pool a day or two prior to a meet. If a swimmer is entered in a meet, they will swim at least two individual events. A swimmer may swim a maximum of three individual and two relay races.

For 'A' meets, ribbons are awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place swimmers in each individual event and to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place swimmers in relay events. In 'B' meets, 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> place swimmers are awarded ribbons for individual events and 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbons for relay events. At Woodlands meets, all 6&U and 7-8 swimmers receive a ribbon regardless of place. In addition, Heat Winner ribbons will be provided in these age groups.

Because swimmers may be entered into meets that you don't expect them to swim in, please make sure you sign out your swimmers when you know they won't be able to swim at a meet.