

USA SWIMMING
OBTAINING AN OVC
2007-2008

Requests for OVC's must be initiated by the athlete or his/her representative. OVC's are issued only for qualifying times for USA Swimming Nationals, Trials, U.S. Open, and World Cup competitions hosted by USA Swimming. OVC's will not be issued for any other purpose. Other than times from competitions listed in B below, there are no "automatic" entries to the database.

A. There are three (3) types of competition from which OVC's may be obtained.

1. USA Swimming sanctioned competitions (202.2 & .3) - meets which are sanctioned by an LSC, and conducted in compliance with *USA Swimming Rules and Regulations*. Swimmers, or their representatives, should inquire of the meet director or meet referee, prior to the start of the competition, about the procedures to be followed to obtain an OVC. Normally, this would be done by completing an OVC request form (see sample form in this Handbook, page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**), which can be done prior to or subsequent to the swim for which an OVC may be required.

2. USA Swimming approved competitions (202.4) - meets which are "approved" are those conducted with sufficient USA Swimming officials to certify conformance to USA Swimming rules, but with competitors who are not necessarily USA Swimming members. Follow the procedures outlined for sanctioned competitions (above).

3. Observed swims (202.5) - Official times may be achieved at meets which are not conducted according to USA Swimming rules, provided that the meet is approved, in advance, for observation, and the particular swim is observed by USA Swimming officials, who confirm that USA Swimming technical swimming rules were followed. See information on subsequent pages for details regarding observed swims.

B. Times for which OVC's DO NOT have to be requested - Individual and relay team times achieved at the following meets will either be in the OVC database, or results will be available at USA Swimming championship competitions for the purpose of proving entry times. Please note: Relay lead-off times and intermediate distance splits ARE NOT automatically entered from this list of competitions, and OVC's must be requested from an OVC officer in the LSC in which the competition took place. For competitions conducted outside the U.S., official meet results may be used to prove entry times, including relay lead-off and intermediate distance splits, subject to the approval of the National NTV Coordinator and/or Program Operations.

1. ConocoPhillips National Swimming Championships, including time trials.

2. U.S. Open Swimming Championships, including time trials.

3. World Cup, World Championships (Short & Long Course), and Olympic Trial competitions, including time trials.
 4. Olympic Games.
 5. NCAA Women's & Men's Division I Championships.
 6. Certain other international competitions at which a USA Swimming National Team competes (see Championship Administrative Guide in appropriate Meet Information Book for detailed listing.)
- C. Times for which OVC's must be requested – times achieved at any other competition, including observed swims at non-USA Swimming competitions, and any relay lead-off splits or intermediate distance splits which meet an applicable qualifying time, must be requested through an NTV Coordinator from the LSC in which the swim took place.
- D. Procedures
1. Well in advance of the meet, consult with the Meet Host, Meet Director, Meet Referee, or LSC NTV Coordinator, to determine if the meet will be conducted in a manner which will qualify the swims for issuance of an OVC.
 2. For non-USA Swimming meets, such as high school, YMCA, or collegiate meets which are in the progression of season-ending championship level meets, requests must be submitted to the LSC a minimum of 10 days in advance of the competition. See Article 202.5 and refer to "Request for Observation – Form B", page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**, in this Handbook.
 3. Other meets, such as invitationals and other multiple team (more than two teams) meets hosted by the above organizations require application for authorization 28 days in advance and are subject to review by USA Swimming Program Operations, through the National NTV Coordinator. See "Request for Observation – Form A", page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**, in this Handbook. An application fee of \$50 must accompany the "Request for Observation – Form A".
 4. The coach or swimmer will be asked to complete an OVC request form prior to the event. Following the event, the local NTV Coordinator will write OVC's for times meeting an applicable USA Swimming championship qualifying standard. One copy is delivered to the coach, one copy to the USA Swimming OVC data input center, and one file copy for the LSC NTV Coordinator.
- E. Relays
1. "Team" relay times – a qualifying time achieved by four swimmers attached to the same club competing in a relay event. This time belongs to the club, regardless of whether one or more of the swimmers leave the club subsequent to achieving the time.
 2. "Aggregate" or "Add-up" relay times are those which are obtained by adding up four individual swims to achieve a qualifying time. Please note, individual event times belong to the swimmer, and even though achieved while

attached to a particular team, once that swimmer leaves that team, his/her individual time may no longer be used by a former team for the purpose of proving an aggregate relay.

F. Miscellaneous Provisions

1. OVC requests at sanctioned or approved competitions may be made before or after the swim, but should be submitted prior to the end of the competition.
2. Requests made at a later date are subject to a fee or up to \$5.00 for postage, phone, etc., at the discretion of the issuing LSC.
3. OVC's are only issued for the purpose of proving entry times which equal or better the qualifying standards for USA Swimming Championship level competitions. OVC's for "Relay Only" times which may be used to prove aggregate (add-up) relay entry times may also be requested, provided the time is within a reasonable deviation of the comparable individual event qualifying time.

G. Coaches Responsibilities

1. Please do not assume that any of the above steps are automatically in place. Check with a responsible person well in advance of the competition. If you experience any delay in obtaining your copy of the OVC, contact the LSC NTV Coordinator, who was responsible for writing the OVC.
2. When entering a USA Swimming championship meet, send a photocopy of the OVC for each swim entered, unless the time is one which is automatically entered, or for which results will be available at the meet (see above).
3. Keep a file of every current OVC that you have obtained for any of your athletes, and bring OVC's for any participating athlete to any USA Swimming Championship which you attend. Even if a time is "supposed" to be in the OVC database, bring your records as a back-up.
4. Upon arrival at a USA Swimming championships in which you have athletes entered, you must check the copy of the psych sheet in the OVC area to see if there are any asterisks (*) by the times of any of your swimmers. An asterisk (*) indicates that the time has not been proved. See the OVC officer assigned to that meet and present proof of time. The asterisk (*) will then be removed.
5. Time which cannot be proved by the scratch deadline for that specific event will result in the swimmer being scratched from the event, and are subject to a \$100.00 fine per unproved time (206.11.5). If a slower, but qualifying, time can be proved by the scratch deadline for a given event, the swimmer will be reseeded at the proved time and allowed to swim. However, the team will be assessed a fine if the originally submitted time cannot be proved within sixty (60) days following the competition.

H. References – Additional information about the OVC system and proof-of-times procedures can be obtained from the following sources.

1. *USA Swimming Rules and Regulations*, Articles 202 & 206.
2. USA Swimming Meet Information Books.
3. USA Swimming OVC Handbook (revised annually), available from the National NTV Coordinator, see page 4, *USA Swimming Rules and Regulations*, or the USA Swimming Headquarters.

4. The Gulf Swimming NTV Coordinator:

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5. The National NTV Coordinator, see page 4, *USA Swimming Rules and Regulations*.

6. USA Swimming, Inc., OVC Data Input Office, One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909-5770, Phone 719-578-4578, FAX 719-578-4669.

