

USA Swimming

What is USA Swimming?

In addition to the SMSL dual meets and Championships, Ypsi Otters also compete in USA swimming meets. We are part of the USA Michigan Local Swim Committee (<http://www.uss-michigan.com>). You will find us listed on the USA Swimming website. To compete at a USA swimming meet, swimmers must be registered with USA Swimming - many of our faster swimmers are, but anyone can join USA Swimming. USA meets are held in the Ann Arbor area and in many other cities near Ann Arbor and across the state. These meets provide an opportunity for swimmers to:

1. Compete with swimmers of similar ability
2. Compete with swimmers from outside the Ann Arbor Area.

Why should my swimmer participate?

Swimming with kids of their own abilities is important. Your swimmer may be competing with kids on the team who have been swimming for much longer or who train year round. It usually takes a while for a new swimmer to gain the strength and speed to compete against the fastest swimmers on our team. USA meets provide an opportunity to compete with kids at your child's level and that makes the competition more fun for everyone. Some families start out swimming one USA meet per session to get a feel for it and see if their swimmer enjoys participating.

Swimmers are grouped by ability at USA meets. There is a list of swim times or "cuts" by event, by age, and by gender. For example, these are the 2005 short course yard times (times made in a 25-yard pool) for 10 and Under Boys and Girls in the 50 yard Freestyle event.

50 Freestyle

10 and Under Girls C time	slower than 38.79
10 and Under Girls B time	38.79
10 and Under Girls A time	33.79
10 and Under Girls Q1 (State Cut) time	31.59
10 and Under Boys B time	38.19
10 and Under Boys A time	33.29
10 and Under Boys Q1 (State Cut) time	32.09

So...your 10 and under girl has a "C" time in the 50 Freestyle event if her time is slower than 38.79. She can swim in USA meets that are open to "C" time swimmers. These are usually designated as ABC or BC meets on the schedule. The nice thing is your swimmer competes with only "C" swimmers and can more easily place or receive a medal in her event as she improves. Once she swims at or faster than 38.79 (but slower than 33.79), she is a "B" swimmer in that event and cannot compete as a "C" swimmer in that event. Similarly, once she swims 33.79 she is an "A" time swimmer in the 50 Free and now only competes with the faster "A" time swimmers. If she can swim the 50 Free in 31.59 seconds, she qualifies for the state championship meet in March – as long as she is still 10 or under on the day the meet starts. These time standards can usually be found on the Ypsi Otters website and always can be found on the USA Michigan site listed previously.

How do I enter a USA meet?

First, register with USA swimming by contacting Brian Chambers at:
brianmchambers@comcast.net

You will then begin to receive emails noting sign-up deadlines for participating in an upcoming meet. We now use a system on Direct Athletics so you can enter events directly on the Internet and our meet entry parent will enter all of our swimmers with their fastest times in those events. If you have any questions, contact the Competitive coaches or one of the Board members.

There is a fee for USA swim meets. Typically \$3.00 per event. The Otters DO NOT cover these costs. We typically target several meets each semester and build coaching costs into the budget to ensure a coach is at the meet with our swimmers. You may enter any USA meet you would like but coaches will be provided only at targeted USA meets. You can either pay as you go with the meet entry parent or write a check in advance to roughly cover the meets you plan to attend.