

Connecticut Swimming Inc.
Adapted Swimming Policy
2/4/03

Objective: To provide swimmers with disabilities the opportunity to compete with “able-bodied” swimmers in Connecticut’s qualifying and championship swim meets.

Introduction: In article 202.2.13 in the USA Swimming rule book, Local Swim Committees or LSCs, may develop special administrative standards and conditions that encourage athletes with disabilities to participate in swim meets. Currently, Connecticut Swimming Inc. does not have any specific guidelines or standards to which our disabled swimmers can apply to compete in championship meets. CSI is encouraged to have a policy in place for the inclusion of athletes with disabilities.

Adapted Swimming Policy

I. TIME STANDARDS

1. Connecticut Swimming shall annually establish “A” and “B” Time Standards for disabled swimmers by classification.
2. The USA Swimming Disability Championships qualifying times shall be the CSI “A” Time Standards. For those events not swum at Disability Championships, CSI’s Adapted Swimming Chairperson in consultation with CSI’s Time Standards Chairperson shall establish the “A” standard.
3. The CSI “B” Time Standards shall be [117%] of the CSI “A” Time Standards. The percentage shall be reviewed from time to time by CSI’s Adapted Swimming Chairperson in consultation with CSI’s Time Standards Chairperson.

II. MEET PARTICIPATION

1. In regular season meets (Qualifiers, Invitationals, etc) that have no time standards, swimmers with a disability are encouraged to participate. The Meet Referee shall have the authority to accommodate the swimmer without substantial negative impact on the meet timeline. Examples of such accommodation are:
 - a. Allow the disabled swimmer to swim at a shorter distance than others in the event, i.e., swim the 50 yard fly in a 100 yard event.
 - b. Seed the disabled swimmer by time rather than age, i.e., an 18 year old disabled swimmer could be seeded in the 11-12 age group of the same event.
2. In Championship level meets (Regionals and Ct. Age Groups), disabled swimmers shall compete in the meet for which they have the qualifying time standard. Disabled swimmers who have not achieved the published Regionals and/or CT. Age Group time standards may enter, provided that they have achieved the following:
 - a. For CT Age Groups, have achieved a CSI “A” disability qualifying time for their classification in that event.

- b. For CT Regionals, have achieved a CSI “B” disability qualifying time for their classification in that event. Swimmers who have achieved a CSI “A” disability qualifying time for their classification in an event may not swim that event at Regionals
 - c. Be a CT Swimming registered member of USA Swimming for the current year.
 - d. Comply with all other eligibility requirements as published in the Meet Announcement.
3. Places and awards for disabled swimmers can only be earned in the swimmer’s actual event and/or age group. At the discretion of the meet host, special awards may be given to disabled swimmers.

This policy shall apply only swimmers with disabilities as defined in Section 105 of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations: those with “a permanent physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.”

III. USA SWIMMING DISABILITY CHAMPIONSHIPS TRAVEL FUNDS

Athlete reimbursement for the annual USA Swimming Disability Championships will be equivalent to that year's National Championships reimbursement as approved by the CSI Board of Directors. Athletes applying for reimbursement must meet the following Connecticut Swimming, Inc. eligibility requirements and otherwise comply with the procedures applicable to reimbursement for National Championships participation:

1. Swimmer must be registered with Connecticut Swimming Inc. for at least four (4) years.
2. Swimmers must have competed in at least four (4) CSI sanctioned meets within the year preceding the Disability Championship for which the athlete is requesting funding, except:
 - a. College swimmers must participate in at least two (2) CSI sanctioned meets.
 - b. High School Graduates who will attend college in the fall must participate in three (3) sanctioned meets during the year.
3. Swimmer must participate in at least one (1) CSI Senior Invitational or Championship meet during the year.

IV. CSI COMMITMENT TO FURTHER PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

1. CSI representative to be a liaison to USA Swimming on matters related to adapted swimming and possibly on USA Disabilities Committee.
2. Budget at least one individual (non-athlete) to participate/volunteer as representative of CSI at the USA Disability Championships. (*Budget Committee*)
3. Develop marketing/publicity strategic plan to promote participation in CSI sanctioned meets by disabled swimmers. (*Administrative Division*)
4. Recognition/Swimmer of the Year at CSI Annual Banquet. (*Senior Committee/Banquet Chairperson*)
5. Develop Officials’ Manual and procedures for officials’ briefings (*Officials Committee*)