

HIGH SCHOOL COACHES and ADMINISTRATORS, PLEASE NOTE!

USA Swimming (USA-S) has made significant revisions to its registration process, which in turn have made changes to the National Time Verification (NTV) program necessary. These revisions of policy and procedure directly effect how certain times from high school competition are permitted to be entered into the National SWIMS Database.

Many, if not most of you, have one or more Club swimmers who are, or should be; registered members of USA-S on your High School Team. Each such athlete, by rule and policy, is ostensibly registered with USA-S for the current year. As proof of that registration, each will have a USA-S Identification (ID) card containing information related to the NTV Program about which you need to be familiar.

The important revisions to USA-S registration include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Parents and guardians are now required create USA-S accounts for athletes and may enter the athlete's name in whatever fashion desired.
- Birth Certificates are no longer checked for "full legal name," so a nickname, the last name they use, etc. are now acceptable, e.g., swimmer's "legal" name may be John William Hernandez-Smith but the swimmer goes by Jack Hernandez and the latter is what can now be entered as the name on the USAS side.
- That is also the name high school coaches must now use.
- It is imperative that the name in the high school database perfectly matches what is in SWIMS, including the middle initial.
- Consequently, PLEASE do not use "full legal names" any longer as there is no guarantee the swimmer's full legal name is in SWIMS.
- The date of birth and gender must be included
- The correct USAS ID must also be included. The USAS ID is now 14 random, alphanumeric characters. SWIMS will not recognize the older IDs (6 digits followed by 8 characters).
- Athletes must be a member of USA-S in good standing as of the meet start date for the times from observed meets to be loaded to the SWIMS database.
- For athlete members ages 18 and older, a current Athlete Protection Training (APT) is also required.
- Effective September 9, 2023; Gulf Swimming may no longer go back and load times achieved at observed meets by swimmers who were not members of USAS in good standing as of the observed meet's start date even if they later register with USA-S, renew an expired membership, and complete the APT if applicable.

SWIMS Users always endeavor to match athletes to times that will not load, but it is generally unknown if the mismatch is because of the name, birth date or if the athlete is not currently registered. When there is complete and correct data in the high school database, SWIMS Users can almost always match athletes easily.