

Cancelled. Postponed.

Thanks to COVID-19, those two words have become all too familiar to swim clubs. And with USA Swimming announcing that it's suspending any sanctioned events through June, a lot of swimmers and swim teams have been left treading water.

With recently released guidelines for virtual meets, though, USA Swimming is helping get swimmers back in the water and teams competing. These virtual meets aren't new, but are a good answer to the question of "How do we get swimming again."

Like the traditional postal meet, virtual meets have teams swimming at their home pools but USA Swimming's guidelines include instructions on how the events should be structured and on how meet software should be setup and used.

Some highlights:

- These guidelines will allow both intersquad and intrasquad meets to be sanctioned by USA Swimming.
- USA Swimming technical rules shall apply, to include Timing (102.24 in the USA Swimming Rulebook). Officials at each site shall conform to 102.10 In the Rulebook.

- Swimmers may swim not more than three (3) events per day in a preliminaries and finals meet, or **no more than six (6) events** each day in a timed final meet, according to 102.2.2. and 3 in the Rulebook.
- It's recommended that one club be selected as the event host and handle the logistics of hosting the meet (developing the meet announcement, determining the fee structure, applying for the sanction, handling meet scoring and scoring submission, etc.).

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While these types of virtual events aren't new--they have been used in other extreme circumstances, like weather--not everyone has experience with running them. That's why USA Swimming's guidelines also include instructions on how to set up the virtual meet inside of ACTIVEWorks Meet Manager and then report out the results.

Click here to read the full USA Swimming Virtual Meet Guidelines.

