



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



NEYS Swim Season Structure

We are members of the PennDel YMCA Swim League, Pennsylvania YMCA, National YMCA of the USA, Mid-Atlantic USA and National USA Swimming organizations.

[YMCA of the USA](#) - Governing body of all YMCA swim teams in the nation. Composed of several hundred teams from across the nation; organizes **YMCA National Championships** held each April.

[Pennsylvania Region YMCA](#) - Governing body of PA YMCA swimming. Composed of around 70 teams; organizes state and district championship meets.

[PA State Championships](#): Usually held late March each year at Penn State. Must qualify by earning a top 6 position at a District Meet. There are three districts, West, Central, and East.

[District Meet](#): Must qualify by achieving a district time in an event. Usually held early to mid March each year. NEYS is part of the Central District.

[PennDel League](#): Nazareth/Easton YMCA Swimming (NEYS) is part of this league. It is composed of around 30 teams and 3,000+ swimmers. It is also the largest YMCA swim league in the nation. The league draws from both PA Central and East Districts, as well as, some Delaware teams.

The PennDel website is great for swimming info (swimmer times, meet results, swim links, competition rules, and swimming news). So, we highly recommend you register on it if you are part of the NEYS team.

The league is comprised of five divisions. NEYS is part of the Madison Division.

We swim dual meets against teams in our division and again at division championships too.

- *Poconos*
- *Bethlehem*
- *Doylestown (AKA: Central Bucks)*
- *Nazareth/Easton*
- *North Penn*
- *Quakertown (AKA: Upper Bucks)*

How long does the season run?

- **Pre-season** runs in September and is a separate YMCA program fee.
- **Regular Season** starts Oct. 1 and runs through early to mid February ending with the Madison Division Championship meet.
- **Post Season** starts immediately after the Madison Division Championship in February, and can go as long as swimmers continue to advance up to the National YMCA Championship in early April. There is usually a \$15 fee to continue to the CHMC (Silver Champs), and a \$10 fee to continue to Districts (total of \$25 should a swimmer make it to Districts and beyond).
- **MUST maintain** your monthly **YMCA membership** throughout.

What are the different types of swim meets?

- **Dual Meets** - Regular Season: NEYS vs another PennDel, Madison Division Team. Dual meet results determine the division team champion. These are considered “MANDATORY” meets. Mandatory because attendance declarations (Attending/Not Attending) are required, and everyone should attend if possible. The coaches make the line-up and choose all events for all swimmers.
- **Madison Division Championship** - Regular Season: All Madison Division teams compete in one championship meet. Considered a “Mandatory” meet, but swimmers largely choose their own events. All NEYS swimmers should attend. *See below for additional details.*
- **Invitationals** - Optional, no need to declare attendance unless you want to go. These are not considered team events, but coaches will attend if swimmers sign-up for them. You choose the events your swimmer will compete in. All fees, session times, locations, meet requirements, etc. are determined by the host team. You choose the events on our website, coaches send the entries, you pay at the YMCA, the YMCA sends one check for all swimmers and entries. Be sure to look closely at entry deadlines, they are usually several weeks in advance of the actual meet date.
 - If you’re a YMCA/USA swimmer, sign up for any Invitational.
 - If exclusively a YMCA swimmer, do NOT sign up for “USA Only” meets.
 - For info on USA swimming go to <https://neys.swimtopia.com/usa-registration-info>, and contact Coach Carlton.
 - ANY of our swimmers may attend “YMCA Only” and “YMCA/USA” invitationals. ONLY our YMCA/USA swimmers may attend “USA Only” invitationals.
- **Charley Hartley Memorial Championship (CHMC)** - Post Season: Need a qualifying time to attend. It’s considered the league silver championship. *See below for additional details.*
- **PA Central District Championship** - Post Season: Need a qualifying time to attend, it is a higher level meet compared to CHMC. Need to compete in a minimum of three YMCA closed meets (dual meets, Madison Champs, YMCA invitationals - any combo) to be eligible, plus a qualifying time. *See below for additional details.*
- **PA State Championship** - Post Season: Considered the highest YMCA level meet held in the state. Need to qualify at Districts. *See below for additional details.*
- **YMCA Nationals**: Need three YMCA closed meets, plus one YMCA championship meet, plus a qualifying time to attend.

Madison Division Championships:

Championship Packet - Can be found on our website; please read through it for all meet details.

How do I know which session or day my swimmer should go to? Each meet packet will have something similar to below.

THIS IS AN EXAMPLE and CHANGES SLIGHTLY EACH YEAR	Session 1 Feb. 4	Session 2 Feb. 4	Session 3 Feb. 5
Age Group	13-14 & 15-21 Boys/Girls for both.	8/U Boys & Girls 9/10 Girls only	9/10 Boys only 11/12 Boys & Girls
Warm-up Start	7:15am	1:15pm	7:15am
Coaches' Meeting	7:30	1:30	7:30
Officials Meeting	7:45	1:45	7:45
Timers Meeting	8:00	2:00	8:00
Session Start	8:30	2:30	8:30

Location? TBD each year.

Who can swim at championships?

Any team member who swam in at least 2 dual meets this season.
There are NO qualifying times for division championships.

How are the Madison Division championship events determined?

This is largely swimmer choice. Coaches will determine relays, swimmers may choose their own events. If the coaches realize there is an issue, like a swimmer wanting to compete in an event they will DQ in, or the number of relays/individual events is not compatible, we will let you know. Also, we may make suggestions for a few swimmers (NOT everyone) if we think there are events those swimmers could do better in, or if there are gaping holes in our team line-up.

How many events can a swimmer compete in at championships?

Up to 4 events total, with no more than 3 as individual events (3 individual/1 relay OR 2 ind/2 relay). Families who plan to attend should review the attached champ packet, and pick up to three individual events their swimmer(s) want to swim. Be sure to tell me which are your PRIORITY in the "Notes" section.

What are the Madison Division championship entry fees?

MUST be paid to the Nazareth YMCA front desk by each family prior to the meet deadline:

- Usually around \$4.00 per individual event - *changes in some years*. Paid for the swimmer.
- Facility surcharge is normally \$5 per swimmer. Paid for by the swimmer.
- Relay events are paid for by the team.
- No shows for an event are not refundable.
- Money goes to financing the league and running championship meets.

Championship Meet Volunteers?

Each team is required to produce "volunteers" to help run the meet for each session (timers & officials). Please SIGN-UP at the website or email links we send out.

What about team awards and points?

Division dual meet results determine team and age group rankings and plaques earned. The Madison Championship meet determines individual swimmer champions (plus top 12 swimmers) per event. There is a team trophy for winning the “championship” meet, but the actual division championship plaque goes to the team with the best dual meet record.

POST SEASON MEETS

Starts immediately after the Madison Division Championship in February, and can go as long as swimmers continue to advance up to the National YMCA Championship in early April. There is usually a \$15 fee to continue to the CHMC, and a \$10 fee to continue to Districts (total of \$25 should a swimmer make it to Districts and beyond).

Charley Hartley Memorial Championship (CHMC)

What is the CHMC?

It is considered the silver championships for those that didn't qualify for Districts, and/or a last chance meet to qualify for Districts. Qualification times are slower than districts, but a swimmer must still achieve those times. If you earn it in one event, you get a bonus event to compete in even if you didn't achieve the time for that event. This rule is only for CHMC.

Date: Mid to late February.

Location: Usually @ Gloucester County Institute of Technology, New Jersey

Fees & Sessions: Similar to Championships

Central District Meet

Date: Early to mid March

Location: Usually @ York YMCA at Graham Aquatic Center, 543 N. Newberry St., York, PA 17404

Fees and Sessions: Similar to Championships.

How are District events determined?

Swimmers largely choose their own individual events, but coaches often make recommendations, and ultimately their decision for events is based upon a balance of what is best for the team and for the individual. However, if you have a different strategy in mind and/or would like to present a different approach, we're open to suggestions.

Prioritization of factors is as follows (#1 being most important):

1. Which events does a swimmer have a realistic shot at a top 6 spot and a trip to States?

Considering both relays and individual events, slight edge goes towards relays. I'd rather see a swimmer go to States with 1 or 2 individual events AND a relay, than 2-3 individual events and no relay.

2. **In age groups where we can score significant points (top two teams in each group earn trophies in Districts and States), what is best for the team?** The combination of swimmers and events we qualify to go to States with while swimming in Districts, can have a large effect on the outcome of our performance at States. So, our calculation cannot just be for what is best for us at Districts, but what may be best for us at States as well. For example, sending a relay to States is more important than sending an individual in terms of earning points. An 8th place relay earns the same # of points as a 6th place individual. As a result, if we must gamble and choose between a bubble relay and a bubble individual at Districts, we will opt for the bubble relay. *Bubble = on the border line of qualifying.*
3. **Relay Speed vs. Number of District Participants:** If #2 above does not apply, and if swimmers are close in time to each other, but the time difference is not likely to result in a change in their final ranking, then we will likely opt for more swimmers. However, if there is a significant time difference, then we will opt for the stronger relay combo. "Significant time difference" is relative though, and really comes down to the coaches' judgment. In one age group or event it may be a one second difference that decides it, in another it may be a three second difference. It depends upon the swimmer, the year, the competition in the age group, and the swimmer's individual circumstances.
4. **Order of events:** If a swimmer has a much stronger shot in event "B" than in event "A", then skipping event "A" in preparation for event "B" is often the wiser choice. That is, just because a swimmer qualifies in three events, doesn't mean they should swim three events if it will only hurt their chances in a later event.
5. **Swimmer Preference:** It is important to us that swimmers feel good about what they are swimming and understand the different ways they can be successful (even if it is something different than what they have done in the past). As coaches, we often have insights swimmers/parents may not have realized; however, swimmers and parents may see things we didn't catch or didn't fully consider either. Therefore, we are definitely open to your feedback, so please feel free to offer your thoughts on event selection for your swimmer.

When are District Relays determined? We ONLY declare final District relay swimmers after CHMC. All qualifying relay combos shared/achieved in season are only used as place holders until after CHMC.

We do this for several reasons:

1. **Fairness** - Between Madison Champs, invitationals, and CHMC, everyone gets the chance to demonstrate their best swims in their personally chosen events. Since coaches create dual meet lineups, some swimmers may not get as many opportunities to swim all the events they want to excel in that often. However, there are enough opportunities for everyone to show their best in the events of their own choosing throughout the season, with the last chance at CHMC. As a result, it's only fair, and we can only know the true strengths/weaknesses of potential relays, after CHMC.
2. **Family Consideration** - It takes some families, especially ones new to swimming, time to figure out all the logistics of extra fees, to stay at a hotel or not, which day and times their swimmer's age group is actually competing, and events they qualified for. As a result, we provide a couple of weeks for families to fully consider whether they will attend or not before making final decisions on relays.
3. **Potential Alternates:** In some age groups we need to ask non-qualifying district swimmers to join a relay. Sometimes this is a slow process, as these families need to consider all of the above.

4. **Team/Age Group Strategy:** As a coach, I often like to take the time to do the extra research of District result trends from the last several years, the current season champ results from the PA Western League and YSCAP league, not to mention the PennDel League top times. Obviously, this takes time for us to formulate the best strategy for both individual swimmers, relays, and age groups.

State Championship

Who goes? Need to finish in the top six at Central Districts, then you compete against the other top finishers from the East and West Districts (24 total: top 6 from each district & next top 6 fastest times across all three districts).

How are events chosen? May only swim in the events you competed in and qualified for at Districts. Relay alternates can come only from those who qualified at Districts in that age group.

National Championship: It's a whole different ball game, with a slew of requirements, and dozens of pages in the meet info packet. If you make it to this level, no need to worry, I'll be in contact with you personally to explain. :)

USA Swimming - National governing body for competitive swimming in the United States. Composed of around 2,800 teams. Organizes official national and international level meets, such as the Olympic trials.

Many YMCAs teams and swimmers are part of USA swimming, but not required to be. There are no requirements for age group swimmers to being part of both YMCA and USA swimming, but some swimmers like to have the option of competing in different meets held in each, and it really just depends upon availability of teams in a region. Nazareth/Easton YMCA Swimming (NEYS) competes in both, and fully supports both, but primarily focuses on YMCA meets.

Mid Atlantic Swimming (MA) - Local Swimming Committee (LSC): Regional USA Swimming organization composed of about 130 teams and 11,000+ swimmers (including unattached swimmers). Organizes meets such as Junior Olympics (qualifying time needed). NEYS is part of the MA LSC.

For info on USA swimming go to <https://neys.swimtopia.com/usa-registration-info>, and contact Coach Carlton.