

# Swim Lingo

**Age Group:** groupings according to age. GRAL age groups are: 8 and under, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14 and 15-18. Swimmers in the 8 and under group swim together however standings and ribbons are awarded in groups: 6 and under and 7-8.

**Swimmer Classifications:** GRAL uses 5 time classifications for swimmers based on time standards. 2024 time standards can be found here [2024 Time Standards](#)

**Novice (N):** any swimmer who does not have a recorded time in an event or who has not achieved a higher time classification.

**Advanced (Adv):** any swimmer who has achieved a valid advanced time in an event but had not yet reached a higher time classification.

**Junior Varsity (JV):** any swimmer who has achieved a valid JV time but has not yet reached a higher time classification. JV times qualify a swimmer for the Champs meet in that event meet at the end of the season.

**Varsity (V):** any swimmer who has achieved a valid V time but has not yet reached a high time classification. V times qualify a swimmer for the Champs meet in that event at the end of the season.

**Senior Varsity (SV):** any swimmer who has achieved a valid SV time. SV times qualify a swimmer for the Champs meet in that event at the end of the season.

**Event:** a particular gender and age group swimming a specific stroke and distance. Each event is numbered and there are 55 events in a swim meet. Example: Event #44 Girls 9-10 50 freestyle. Order of events can be found in [this linked document](#).

**Heat:** one race of the event. Events often have multiple heats because the number of swimmers participating exceeds the number of lanes in the pool. Swimmers in an event are computer seeded based upon their previous best time, with the slower times (or no previous time) going first. Then each successive heat will have progressively faster seed times.

**Relay:** Event that has teams of 4 swimmers with each swimming one leg of the race (25 or 50 meters). Relays are either freestyle or medley. Meet # 1,3 & 5 have freestyle relays and Meet # 2,4 & 6 have medley relays.

**Medley:** Event where a swimmer (individual medley) or relay team swim the prescribed distance using all of the four strokes. For an individual medley the swimmer will swim in the order of butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, and freestyle. For a medley relay the four swimmers on each team will swim in the order of backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and freestyle.

**Heat Sheet:** This is the event program. Heat Sheets list the events and who is swimming in which heat and in which lane. Heat Sheets will be available for sale at each home meet. Heat Sheets allow you to follow along even when you don't have a swimmer in the pool so you can cheer on your friends. As the sun goes down it can be hard to determine who is who when they are all in the same bathing suit and swim cap.

**Clerk of Course ("Clerk"):** This is the staging area for swimmers before they race. Swimmers come to the area when called by the announcer to check in with volunteers and get lined up for their race. Only swimmers who are in events that have been called up are allowed in the area. Clerk is located by the baby pool at The Colonies. The location at pools for away meets will be communicated to you prior to arriving at the away location.

**Welcome Letter:** Before an away swim meet, you will be provided with a welcome letter from the home team telling you what to expect when you arrive. Welcome letters give details of parking, concession offerings, length of the pool, where to sit and so on.