

TEXAS AMATEUR ATHLETIC FEDERATION

SWIMMING

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T.A.A.F. WINTER GAMES OF TEXAS

January 13-15, 2017

For Games information visit the T.A.A.F. website: www.taaf.com

T.A.A.F. SUMMER GAMES OF TEXAS

July 27-30, 2017

McAllen

For Games information visit the T.A.A.F. website: www.taaf.com

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A non-profit organization established in 1925, incorporated and dedicated to develop and perpetuate interest in amateur sports and to further the spirit of sportsmanship in Texas.

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PLEASE READ ALL RULES –THERE ARE IMPORTANT ARTICLES PERTAINING TO AGE DETERMINATION DATES, REGISTRATION DEADLINE DATES AND FEES.

ARTICLE 23 SWIMMING

The T.A.A.F. Swimming Program Goal is to provide a state championship meet for recreational swimmers who have trained exclusively with a summer swim team.

The state commissioner may implement procedures to adjust the eligibility requirements, entries, late fees, protest fee, events, awards, division, and meet operation procedure if the state commissioner deems necessary to assure a more effective meet for both spectators and participants. The information will be available to the member city/coaches in the state meet packet.

- 23.1 Male and female must compete in their age category: 6 & under; 8 & under; 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 18-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-70, etc in 5-year increments.
- 23.2 Swimming is to be considered an individual sport.
- 23.3 RESIDENCE OF PARTICIPANTS: See MOP Article 2 General Participation Requirements and MOP Article 4 Individual Sport Requirements.
- 23.4 The T.A.A.F. rulebook will be the governing rulebook. Rules not specifically covered in this rulebook will be covered by the OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING, DIVING & WATER POLO RULES published by the National Federation of State High School Associations.
- 23.5 T.A.A.F. Swimming will follow FINA guidelines regarding swim suits for participants.
- 23.6 T.A.A.F. swimming is open for anyone who meets the following criteria:
 - .01 From January 1 of the current year to April 30, in the current year, individuals must follow eligibility guidelines as set forth below. Deviations from guidelines will result in disqualification of individual from T.A.A.F. swimming. Repeated violations from individuals on the same team may result in team/coach disqualification from T.A.A.F. swimming.
 - a) Individuals may not compete in USA or other year round swim meets
 - b) Individuals may swim only 90 minutes per week
 - c) Participation in T.A.A.F. Winter Games of Texas (see Sports Rule 23.22)
 - d) Summer season work-outs can begin May 1 each year
 - e) *Exceptions:*
 - May 1 - Winter Games of Texas meet
 - Any swimmer in divisions 13 & older
 - UIL sanctioned meets
- 23.7 Age group swimming is defined as any swimming event where the participants are grouped together through the use of an upper and lower age limit. See Sports Rule 23.23 for divisions
 - .01 A boy or girl must participate in his/her age division. No participant may change or swim in another age classification.
- 23.8 REGIONAL MEET: Each region must host a regional swim meet to qualify their participants for the state meet.
 - .01 Regional meets must be conducted and operated according to T.A.A.F. rules.
 - .02 TAAF Swimming will use the NFSHS protocol for starting races.
 - a) The starter/referee signals the swimmers with a series of short whistles (no fewer than 4) to approach the blocks and prepare to swim, followed by the announcer or starter/referee announcing the event/distance/heat.

- b) When all the swimmers have approached the blocks, the starter/referee blows a long whistle for the heat to step on the blocks for forward starts or in the water for backstroke starts, and take their preparatory position.
 - c) Once all swimmers are on the blocks or in the water, the referee turns the heat over to the starter.
 - d) When the swimmers are prepared, the starter says 'take your mark.'
 - e) When swimmers have assumed the correct starting position and are motionless, the starter activates the starting signal.
 - f) If a swimmer does not respond promptly to the command 'take your mark,' the starter shall immediately release all swimmers with the command 'stand up' upon which the swimmers may stand up or relax.
- .03 The date for the regional meet will be held no later than two weeks prior to the state meet.
- .04 Each participant must participate in a regional meet and be certified by the regional director to be eligible for advancement to the state finals.
- a) The 15-17, 18-24, 25 and over age groups must register and pay for their state entries at the Regional meet.
- .05 Each participant must possess and show a birth certificate to the regional director to be certified.
- .06 Participants in the 10 & under age divisions may compete in no more than three (3) events.
- a) A swimmer may be entered in any three (3) events and be listed as an alternate on any relay(s). The alternate(s) must be listed in the regional meet entries prior to the region meet in order to qualify. If necessary, he may scratch from one event to swim a relay only if one of the teammates listed on the relay is scratched from the meet.
 - b) These changes must be made before the meet starts or be approved by the Region Meet Director once the meet starts.
- .07 Participants in the 11-14 age divisions may compete in no more than four (4) events.
- b) A swimmer may be entered in any four (4) events and be listed as an alternate on any relay(s). The alternate(s) must be listed in the regional meet entries prior to the region meet in order to qualify. If necessary, he may scratch from one event to swim a relay only if one of the teammates listed on the relay is scratched from the meet.
 - b) These changes must be made before the meet starts or be approved by the Region Meet Director once the meet starts.
- .08 Swimmers 15-17 would be limited to four (4) events at the state meet, plus 3 mixed relay entries (total of 7). Swimmers 18 & over, unlimited entries would be allowed at the state meet (optional at region meet).
- .09 If a region does not allow for electronic registrations via Hy-tek, regional meet registration/entry will be done by on-line registration

23.9 STATE MEET ENTRIES: Each region may enter a minimum of three (3) persons in each event and three (3) relay teams in each relay event in the 6 and under, 8 and under, 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14 divisions. At the regional meet only, if a discrepancy occurs to determine which participant(s) shall advance to the state meet, the meet director must first consider the rule(s) and the timing system

used, then follow the procedures to select the correct time(s) and placement of the swimmers. If that is not successful, then a swim-off for those swimmers only must be done to determine which swimmers advance to state. TIES MUST HAVE A SWIM-OFF. ONLY ALLOTTED NUMBERS OF PARTICIPANTS PER EVENT WILL ADVANCE TO STATE. Swimmers 15-16 will be limited to 4 entries, plus 3 mixed relays (total of 7) at the state meet. For swimmers 18 & over, unlimited entries will be allowed to advance to the state meet.

.01 Additional Entries:

- a) Additional entries from each region may be awarded by the state commissioner based on the total number of individuals registered per region as of the region meet entry deadline (set by the region) of the current year.
- b) Each region must register a minimum of 1,000 individual participants prior to getting additional entries to the state meet. For every 500 individuals registered thereafter, the region will receive an additional entry to the state championship.

.02 Relay events: In relay events, relay personnel will be the four (4) swimmers who qualified the relay at the regional meet, plus the four (4) alternates who were entered at the regional meet. (The four (4) alternates may be any swimmer of the same age group).

.03 Meet entries will only be accepted from the Regional Directors or his/her appointed representative responsibilities after the region meet:

- a) Certify all advancing participants by forwarding entries in the approved manner. Entry procedure will be outlined in the coaches packet (March) and on the website (June) each year.

.04 REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE AT THE STATE SWIM MEET:

- a) Any region that submits regional entries will require the Regional Director or his or her designee to be in attendance at the State Swim Meet to verify entries and settle entry disputes for their respective region.
- b) No changes will be made at the State Swim Meet from the official regional entries submitted to the State T.A.A.F. office without verification from the Regional Director or his or her designee and the approval of the State Commissioner or his or her designee in case of their absence.
- c) Any region without representation at the State Swim Meet shall result in no changes being made to "official regional entries". Any participant, coach or parent with disputes over an officially submitted state entry will be directed to contact the appropriate Region/City representatives of their respective region.

23.10 Admission Fee: An admission charge at the gate to defray the expenses of hosting the state meet is acceptable.

23.11 All state entry fees must be sent to the T.A.A.F. State Office along with all required information by the Region Director/designee by the deadline date outlined in the coaches' packet. Failure to comply may result in disqualification of swimmers.

23.12 AWARDS: Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners in each event. Ribbons or medals will be awarded to the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth place finishers in each event. No high point award will be given.

23.13 The T.A.A.F. swim meet shall be conducted as a time final championship.

23.14 The time schedule of the events will be determined by the sponsoring city with approval by the state commissioner.

23.15 Order of events will be determined by the state commissioner and the host city.

- 23.16 Verification of entries: Once entries have been forwarded to state, all region directors/representatives and/or coaches are responsible for verifying entries on-line prior to the state meet. At the state meet a scratch meeting will be held before the meet begins. Only scratches will be accepted at this meeting. Under no circumstances will any changes be made on the days of the meet. It will be the regional director's responsibility to see that all coaches and individuals understand that no changes will be made after the scratch meeting is over. Relay swimmers must be declared at this meeting.
- 23.17 Any year round eligibility protests must be resolved by 12:00pm (noon) on Tuesday prior to the start of the state meet.
- 23.18 REQUIRED FORM: The official INDIVIDUAL SPORTS PARTICIPANT FORM will be provided by T.A.A.F. and when executed will "follow" participants and coaches to all levels of T.A.A.F. competition during the current season. These forms shall be collected by the region meet host and forwarded to the TAAF State Office prior to the state swim meet
- .01 Each T.A.A.F. participant will sign a form at the lowest level of T.A.A.F. competition affirming that he/she meets the requirements of the T.A.A.F. eligibility and residency rules and that he/she has read, understood and agreed to the release and waiver of liability.
 - .02 Should the participants be under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must also sign the form affirming that their minor participant meets the requirements of the T.A.A.F. eligibility and residency rules and that as a parent or guardian, he/she has read, understood and agreed to the release and waiver of liability.
 - .03 Coaches will sign the form affirming that to the best of their knowledge all of the swimmers in their swimming program meet the TAAF eligibility and residency rules and that the coach will abide by all rules set forth by TAAF. If any eligibility issue arises the coach and swimmer are subject to any disciplinary action to be taken up to and including suspension.
- 23.19 STATE EVENTS PER PARTICIPANT
- .01 Participants in the 10 & under age divisions may compete in no more than three (3) events.
 - a) A swimmer may be entered in any three (3) events and be listed as an alternate on any relay(s). The alternate(s) must be listed in the regional meet entries prior to the region meet in order to qualify. If necessary, he may scratch from one event to swim a relay only if one of the teammates listed on the relay is scratched from the meet.
 - b) These changes must be made before the meet starts or be approved by the State Commissioner once the meet starts.
 - .02 Participants in the 11-14 age divisions may compete in no more than four (4) events.
 - a) A swimmer may be entered in any four (4) events and be listed as an alternate on any relay(s). The alternate(s) must be listed in the regional meet entries prior to the region meet in order to qualify. If necessary, he may scratch from one event to swim a relay only if one of the teammates listed on the relay is scratched from the meet.
 - b) These changes must be made before the meet starts or be approved by the State Commissioner once the meet starts
 - .03 Swimmers 15-16 would be limited to four (4) events at the state meet, plus 3 mixed relay entries (total of 7). Swimmers 18 & over, unlimited entries would be allowed at the state meet.
- 23.20 TAAF Swimming will use the following protocol regarding false starts:
- .01 For ages 10 & under: one false start will be allowed for swimmers age 10 & under. For the initial start, the heat will be recalled if any swimmer is observed before the

starting signal. This initial false start will be charged to the field. The starter shall restart the race upon signal by the referee. If the referee independently observes and confirms the starter's observation that a subsequent violation has occurred, the race shall continue without recall. The swimmer or swimmers who committed the subsequent violation shall be disqualified upon completion of the race.

.02 For ages 11 & older: any swimmer starting before the starting signal is given shall be disqualified if the Referee independently observes and confirms the starter's observation that a violation occurred. Swimmers remaining on the blocks shall be relieved from their starting position with a 'stand up.' The race will be restarted upon signal by the referee. If the starting signal has been given before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue without recall. If the referee independently observes and confirms the starter's observation that a violation occurred, the swimmer or swimmers who are in violation shall be disqualified upon completion of the race.

.03 If the recall signal is activated inadvertently, no swimmer shall be charged with a false start and the starter shall restart the race upon signal by the referee. A swimmer who would otherwise be charged with a false start may be relieved of the charge if the false start was caused by the swimmer's reaction to the 'stand up' command. A swimmer shall not be disqualified for an illegal starting position at the start if the race is permitted to proceed. Enforcement of the correct starting position is the responsibility of the starter.

23.21 Officials Finish Times: The meet director shall approve all finish times and have the authority to adjust the finish times due to problems associated with the electronic timing system/ touching the electronic touch pads and /or manual times.

23.22 WINTER GAMES OF TEXAS

.01 This event will be open to all interested swimmers (USA, YMCA, TAAF).

.02 TAAF registered swimmers can compete with the following eligibility policy:
If a T.A.A.F. swimmer wishes to compete in the T.A.A.F. Winter Games of Texas and plans to swim in the T.A.A.F. Summer Games of Texas, they will be allowed to practice after December 31st of the current year, up until T.A.A.F. Winter Games of Texas swim meet provided they register and compete in the T.A.A.F. Winter Games of Texas.

23.23 EVENTS (SAME FOR GIRLS AND BOYS):

.01 6 & UNDER

25	FREESTYLE
25	BACKSTROKE
100	FREESTYLE RELAY

Swimmers ages 6 & under who wish to swim any other event will compete in the 8 & under age division. Swimmers may NOT compete in the same event in two age groups.

.02 8 & UNDER AND 9 - 10 AGE GROUPS

100	MEDLEY RELAY	25	BACKSTROKE
100	FREESTYLE RELAY	25	BREASTSTROKE
25	FREESTYLE	25	BUTTERFLY
50	FREESTYLE	100	INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

.03 11 - 12 AGE GROUPS

200	MEDLEY RELAY	50	BACKSTROKE
200	FREESTYLE RELAY	50	BREASTSTROKE
50	FREESTYLE	50	BUTTERFLY

100	FREESTYLE	100	INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY
.04 13 - 14 AND 15 - 17 AGE GROUPS			
200	MEDLEY RELAY	50	BACKSTROKE
200	FREESTYLE RELAY	50	BREASTSTROKE
50	FREESTYLE	50	BUTTERFLY
100	FREESTYLE	100	INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY
200	FREESTYLE	200 Mixed Freestyle Relay (15-16 only)	
100 Mixed Freestyle Relay (15-16 only)		200 Mixed Medley Relay (15-16 only)	

Mixed Relays are of mixed gender, of which at least two must be female.

.05 18 - 24, 25-29; 30-34; 35-39; 40-44; 45-49; 50-54; 55-59; 60-64; 65-70, etc in 5 year increments

NOTE: All relays will be for 18 +

200	MEDLEY RELAY	50	BACKSTROKE
200	FREESTYLE RELAY	50	BREASTSTROKE
50	FREESTYLE	50	BUTTERFLY
100	FREESTYLE	100	INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY
200	FREESTYLE	200 MIXED FREESTYLE RELAY	
100	MIXED FREESTYLE RELAY	200 MIXED MEDLEY RELAY	

Mixed Relays are of mixed gender, of which at least two must be female.

- 23.24 The state commissioner shall have the authority to select a core group of T.A.A.F. personnel to assist in the running of the state meet. Those individuals selected would have their travel expenses reimbursed by the T.A.A.F. state office.

T.A.A.F. Manual of Procedures

ARTICLE 2 GENERAL PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

No player shall be eligible to play in any T.A.A.F. sport unless the player meets all of the following rules:

- 2.1 Must be an amateur in said sport and shall receive no pay to play for any team. An amateur is defined as "one who engages in sport for pleasure and for the physical, mental or social benefits, which he or she derives from that sport and to whom the sport is nothing more than an avocation."
- 2.2 Any player who has played professional sports shall be ineligible to participate in that sport for one (1) year after his last day as a member of a professional team. This rule shall not conflict with the AABC rules in baseball.

Note: The protesting individual(s) bear the entire burden of proof regarding a player's participation as a member of a professional team. The T.A.A.F. state commissioner has the final authority to accept or reject the protesting individual(s) proof.

- 2.3 Meets all team qualifications in MOP Article 3.
- 2.4 Does not play under an assumed name.

- 2.5 In order to compete in any T.A.A.F. play, a foreign player must reside in the state of Texas continuously for a minimum period of one (1) year prior to being eligible to play.
- Exception: Men's and women's fast pitch foreign softball players' eligibility will be determined by the national governing body of softball. To be eligible to participate in T.A.A.F. softball, a copy of any document required to be on file by the NGB for softball must also be filed with the T.A.A.F. state office. The same filing deadline applies for the NGB and T.A.A.F.
- 2.6 An adult player may play on more than one team within a region, but must choose one team as his/her own prior to T.A.A.F. championship play.
- .01 No player may be on more than one roster, in a T.A.A.F. division, during T.A.A.F. championship play (region and state tournaments).
- .02 A player must be on the sports roster by the deadline state in the participant guide.
- 2.7 A player forced to transfer from one region to another by his employer may participate in the new region providing the player has been employed by the firm for at least one (1) full year prior to the transfer and the player remains employed by the same firm.
- 2.8 Individual sport participants must reside in the state of Texas.
- 2.9 The team or individual attempting to qualify for state competition must attempt to qualify through the regional qualifier of the region in which they are registered. No participant in an individual sport or a team in team sports may attempt to qualify through more than one city, region or affiliate. Should any team or individual be discovered in violation of this rule, he/she/they shall be disqualified from that sport for that year.
- 2.10 Any region competition must take place within the established boundaries of the assigned region. If it becomes necessary to host a region competition outside of the designated boundary, prior written consent is required by the region in which the event is being held.
- 2.11 Player identification:
- .01 A player must be prepared, at all times, to provide proof of identification. A driver's license or comparable identification, which includes a current photograph and signature, is acceptable.
- .02 A player must be prepared, at all times, to provide proof of age when participating in T.A.A.F. sports categorized by age classifications or divisions. A driver's license or copy of a birth certificate from the Bureau of Vital Statistics is acceptable.
- .03 A player failing to provide appropriate proof of age or identifications, when requested by a meet director, tournament director or state commissioner, may be declared ineligible and the team/player subject to disqualification.
- 2.12 All teams must wear like colored, non-duplicated numbered jerseys for regional and state tournaments.
- 2.13 All participants in adult team sports must have attained the age of sixteen (16) prior to the registration date for teams in that sport, unless specific sport regulations provide otherwise.

2.14 Age determination for youth sports

Sport	Age Determining Date
Basketball (Boy's & Girl's Winter)	September 1 of current school year
Basketball (Boy's & Girl's Summer)	September 1 of current calendar year
Boxing	Based on age as of the Games of Texas
Cheerleading	September 1 of current year
Flag Football – youth	September 1 of current year
Golf – youth	September 1 of current year

Gymnastics	January 1 of the year of competition
Inline Hockey	September 1 of current year
Kickball – Youth	September 1 of the current school year
Softball – Youth	December 31 of current year
Swimming – Summer	June 1 of current year
Swimming – Winter	Age as of the Winter Games of Texas swim meet
Tennis	Age as of Games of Texas dates
Track and Field	Based on year the athlete was born
Volleyball – Youth	September 1 of current school year

ARTICLE 4 INDIVIDUAL SPORT REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Individual Sports: Individual sports included participants in boxing, golf, gymnastics, swimming, tennis, and track & field. Individual sport registration will be done online at www.taaf.com. Individual athletes must register with T.A.A.F. prior to the athlete's participation in any T.A.A.F. meet/tournament on a local or regional level.

.01 Deadline for T.A.A.F. Registration is determined by the regional and state tournament dates.

Boxing	Games of Texas Entry_Deadline
Golf	Games of Texas Entry Deadline
Gymnastics	January 1
Swimming	June 30
Tennis	June 30
Track & Field	June 30

.02 The registering city or affiliate shall send a signed individual waiver or a signed individual sports participant waiver to the T.A.A.F. state office.

.03 The determining factor of which city/organization/region an individual will represent in attempt(s) to qualify for state level competition is based on the city/organization/region declare at the time of registering online with T.A.A.F..

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a. This rule is to allow individuals to compete outside of their city of residency due the fact they are participating with another city or organization's program on an ongoing basis.

b. It is NOT the intent of this rule to allow teams as a whole, to compete in or represent other cities/regions due to the location of the regional meets, changes in individual schedules or other such situations.

4.2 Individual Registration Fees

.01 The participant fee for T.A.A.F. individual sports shall be five dollars (\$5.00).

- a. A late fee of five dollars (\$5.00) per individual may be charged to any registration after the deadline date.
- b. Regions may add a regional individual sports registration fee of up to \$1.00 per individual.

.02 Unattached Individual Participants: The fee for an unattached participant are twenty dollars (\$20.00) per year. Payment of this fee allows the unattached member to participate in T.A.A.F. individual sport programs and includes the cost of the individual sport fee of \$5.00.

- a. Unattached athlete is a singular registration, thus they are ineligible for team events (i.e. relays). Additionally, unattached athletes do not get all privileges of teams (i.e. coaches passes or other similar team privileges).

.03 Insurance may be purchased for an additional fee. Contact the T.A.A.F. state office for fees and enrollment information.

4.3 Regional Tournament/Meet Registration: Cities, Affiliates and Unattached Participants are required to comply with all requested information and fees as set forth by the Participant Guide regional tournament/meet director.

.01 Maximum regional meet entry fee for track & field and swimming shall be \$7.00 per competitor, per event.

a) In lieu of regional meet entry fees, the region may elect to implement a regional participation fee not to exceed \$15.00 per competitor.

.02 Online registration for region meets is mandatory for track and field. Online registration or Hy-Tek Team/Meet Manager is mandatory for swimming.

.03 The deadline for regional track meet registration is midnight, one (1) week prior to the start of the region meet.

4.4 State Tournament Registration: Cities, Affiliates and Unattached Participants should refer to the participant guide and are required to comply with all requested information, fees, etc., as set forth by the tournament director, regional director and state commissioner.

4.5 Individual State Meet/Tournament Entry Fees:

Boxing	\$8.00 per competitor
Golf	\$5.00 per competitor
Gymnastics – Qualifying Achievement Levels 1-3A	\$35.00 per gymnast
Gymnastics – Qualifying Placement Levels 3P-8 & Xcel	\$40.00 per gymnast
Gymnastics - Qualifying Team Fee	\$15.00 per level
Gymnastics - Qualifying Late Fee (Optional)	\$15.00 per gymnast
Gymnastics - State Achievement Levels 1-3A	\$50.00 per gymnast
Gymnastics - State Placement Levels 3P-8 and Xcel	\$65.00 per gymnast
Gymnastics – State Team Fee	\$25.00 per level
Gymnastics State Late Fee	\$20.00 per gymnast
Swimming	\$7.00 per competitor, per event
Tennis	\$15.00 per competitor, per event
Track & Field	\$7.00 per competitor, per event