

USMS Open Water Swimmer Awards System Proposed Swimmer Ranking System

This document defines a proposed *OW Swimmer Ranking System* and has been approved by the Open Water Committee, as currently presented, for further development. Swimmer rank will be based on points earned in USMS sanctioned events. Data for the compilation of rank will be drawn from the open water module of the USMS event results database.

The following eligibility guidelines apply to the ranking system:

1. Only swims achieved in USMS sanctioned open water events shall be eligible.
2. Only competitive swims (i.e. those swims that give placement for scoring divisions) shall be eligible.
3. All eligible open water events and their swims shall be included in the system.
4. To be eligible for the ranking system, participants must be registered USMS Members with a valid USMS Registration prior to the swim.
5. To be eligible for the ranking system, participants shall swim in a minimum of three (3) competitive swims.
6. Participants using both Category I and Category II swimwear are eligible for the ranking system.
7. USMS OEVT registrants and non-USMS members swimming in the event are not eligible.
8. Awards for a given open water season will be determined by participation in an eligible event that occurs from January 1 through December 31. Awards for events that cross year-end will be designated for the calendar year when they terminate.
9. Age group awards will be determined by the participant's age as of December 31.
10. Results shall be submitted to the event results database by January 31 of the following year in order to be included in the previous year's rankings.

Points Accumulation for Rank

1. Points will be calculated for participants who finish in the top ten places for all scoring divisions by swimwear category. These points will be used to determine rank at the end of the year.
2. The points calculation will be done during the data upload process.
3. To count, the scoring must be done as part of the event scoring and be applied equally to all participants.
4. All age group configurations will be accepted for calculation of points.

Code of Points

1. Points will be earned for places 1-10, if the swimmer's record shows they are a USMS full member as of the day of the swim.
2. In the event of a tie, the swimmers will both receive full points for that place.
3. If a swimmer does not have a full USMS membership, then they will not receive points. However, the following USMS swimmers will not be moved up in placement for points calculation.

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4. The code of points will be based on the current All Star points assignment from place 10 to 1 (22, 18, 16, 14, 12, 10, 8, 6, 4, 2). This will be called BASE points level. For places 11 and over, points will be 0. All swimmers will also receive participation points (TBD later).
5. There will be a three level points assignment system with events on level 1 receiving the BASE points plus bonus points, events on level 2 receiving BASE points plus bonus points (less than level 1) and events on level 3 receiving BASE points.

Assignment of Rank

The manner of assigning rank will be determined after data is collected and analyzed for a minimum of one open water season. In the meantime, we should plan to publish interim data—without designation of rank—in as many permutations as possible.