

IHSA Girls' Swimming and Diving Terms and Conditions for Athletes with Physical/Visual Disabilities

Classification

1. Anyone with a permanent physical or visual impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities is a qualified student-athlete with a disability for the purposes of this event. A statement of such disability must be on file with the appropriate personnel responsible for student health issues at the student's school.

Equipment

1. Swimmers and divers shall wear suits that comply with specifications included in the modified NFHS Rule 3-3. Coaches and athletes are encouraged to work with their distributor to determine if any suit meets the new standards defined in 3-3-2. To be deemed a legal suit, any suit must meet the style and construction restrictions described in rule 3-3-2, (ie.: must be completely permeable to water and air). A suit listed on the FINA list of approved suits will be legal for competition. Not being included on that list does not necessarily mean the suit is not legal. It is legal to wear two caps.

Eligibility

1. All participants must be in compliance with all IHSA eligibility rules, in addition to any other school rules or policies.

Participation

1. In order to participate in the physical/visual disabilities division at the IHSA Swimming and Diving State Finals, student-athletes must compete in one of the IHSA Sectional Meets and meet the established qualifying procedures outlined in the 'competition' section listed below.
2. In order to participate at the sectional, member schools must enter its competitors on-line by the established date for completion of the *List of Participants*.
3. Competitors with physical/visual disabilities will be categorized into one of two classifications based on U16/18 standards developed by Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports USA (WASUSA).
 - a. Competitors who are classified as S1-S7 shall participate in Classification A.
 - b. Competitors who are classified as S8-S13 shall participate in Classification B.
4. Student athletes with physical/visual disabilities (or any adult acting on their behalf, e.g., a coach, parent, or guardian) are required to provide their school with a written statement of their classification, for purposes of the 2012 IHSA swimming and diving championship series, by any of the following means at the time of registration for the 2012 swimming season:
 - a. Provide an official WASUSA classification card or other evidence demonstrating the athlete's classification category; or
 - b. Provide a written statement, completed and signed by high school coach, physical therapist, family physician or other health care practitioner, or adaptive sports program employee, indicating classification category of the student athlete.
 - c. If a student athlete with a physical/visual disability is not classified as detailed above by the time of the Sectional meet, the athlete shall be able to complete a written statement of classification before participating at the meet with assistance from a coach, parent, or school administrator. If they are unable to provide this, the athlete will

still be allowed to swim in the athletes with physical/visual disabilities division but will automatically be classified to swim under Classification B.

5. Member schools can enter a maximum of two (2) participants per event in each gender for the physical/visual disabilities division.
6. Participants in the swimming and diving state series for athletes with physical/visual disabilities will be assigned to a sectional meet in accordance with IHSA Policies.

Competition

1. The following swimming events shall be sanctioned as individual events for athletes with physical/visual disabilities:
 - a. 50 yard freestyle
 - b. 100 yard breast stroke
 - c. 100 yard freestyle
 - d. 200 yard freestyle
2. All competitors in the physical/visual disabilities division will race at the same time at the sectional and state finals, with a maximum of six (6) athletes in any one heat. In the event more than six (6) athletes compete in a given sectional or the state finals event, multiple heats of a particular race shall be run. At the state meet, if there are 13 or more entrants in an event for students with physical/visual disabilities, preliminary qualifying heats will be held on Friday, interspersed among the events for able-bodied swimmers, with the 12 fastest times from preliminaries qualifying for Saturday's Championship finals. In the Championship Finals, place finishers in each classification will be determined solely on the times swum by each competitor. If there are 12 or fewer entrants in an event for students with physical/visual disabilities, than place finishers in each classification will be determined solely on the times swum by each competitor in Saturday's Championship Finals.
3. Student-athletes in the physical/visual disabilities division shall be allowed to swim in up to four individual events in the Sectional meet. In the State Championship Meet, an athlete with a physical/visual disability, who qualified in the applicable events through the sectional, shall be guaranteed to swim in at least two events and shall be able to swim in up to four (4) events as long as there are two (2) athletes with disabilities of any classification swimming in the third and fourth events. Starts at both the sectional and state finals can be from the platform or in-water.
4. The current Swimming and Diving Rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations shall govern the competition in the physical/visual disabilities division unless otherwise specifically provided for in these rules.
5. The first place winners in each individual swimming event for swimmers with physical/visual disabilities from each Sectional meet shall advance to the State Final meet and compete in the events in which they qualify. In addition, any individual who equals or surpasses a minimum qualifying time in the Sectional meets shall be certified by the meet manager and shall advance to the State Final in the qualifying event(s). Qualifying times for girls to advance from the sectional to the state finals in the physical/visual disabilities division shall be as follows (based on the gender appropriate WASUSA S5/U16/18 standard for Classification A and WASUSA S8/U16/18 standard for Classification B):

Classification A

Race	Girls
a. 50 yard freestyle	3:00
b. 100 yard breast stroke	5:30

- c. 100 yard freestyle 4:45
- d. 200 yard freestyle 7:30

Classification B

- | | Race | Girls |
|----|------------------------|-------|
| e. | 50 yard freestyle | 2:15 |
| f. | 100 yard breast stroke | 5:00 |
| g. | 100 yard freestyle | 3:30 |
| h. | 200 yard freestyle | 5:30 |

Awards

1. Awards will be given the first five individual finishers in each classification at the state final meet.