

DONNER SWIM CLUB

MEET ENTRY POLICY

2026–2027 Membership Year

Donner Swim Club uses competition as part of athlete development. Meet participation should support the athlete's training level, competitive readiness, long-term development, and the objectives of the training group.

1. Meet Selection

Donner Swim Club will publish a team meet schedule identifying the competitions designated for each training group.

The coaching staff determines which meets are appropriate for each group and may recommend that individual athletes attend or not attend specific competitions based on:

- training level;
- age and experience;
- qualifying standards;
- developmental needs;
- attendance and preparation;
- competition schedule; and
- long-term athlete development.

Families are responsible for reviewing the meet schedule and communicating availability by the published declaration deadline.

2. Meet Declaration & Commitment

Families must declare each athlete as either:

- **Attending**
- **Not Attending**

through the Club's designated meet-entry system by the published deadline.

No response will be treated as Not Attending.

Once the declaration deadline has passed, the athlete will be considered either **committed or uncommitted** to the meet based on the declaration submitted.

Late declarations will not be accepted.

Once an athlete is committed to a meet, the coaching staff plans meet entries, events, relays, staffing, and competition strategy with the expectation that the athlete will attend.

Committed athletes are therefore expected to participate unless illness, injury, family emergency, or another extenuating circumstance prevents attendance.

Families should notify the coaching staff as soon as reasonably possible if circumstances change after the declaration deadline.

3. Event Selection

The coaching staff determines athlete event entries.

Event selection may consider:

- athlete development needs;
- current training objectives;
- qualifying standards;
- meet limitations;
- athlete experience;
- competition opportunities; and
- overall meet strategy.

Athletes and families are welcome to communicate preferences or goals, but final event selection remains a coaching decision.

4. Meet Entry Fees

Families are responsible for applicable meet entry fees, facility surcharges, athlete surcharges, or other meet-specific charges.

Once entries have been submitted to the host organization, meet entry fees are generally nonrefundable, including when an athlete later withdraws, becomes unavailable, or does not attend.

If the host organization refunds fees to Donner Swim Club, the Club may credit or refund the family as appropriate.

5. Scratches, Missed Events & Prelim/Final Meets

Families should notify the coaching staff as soon as possible if an athlete cannot attend a meet after being entered.

Failure to attend does not automatically result in a refund of meet entry fees.

Athletes and families are responsible for following all meet-specific scratch procedures communicated by the coaching staff.

This is especially important at **prelim/final and championship-format meets**.

Athletes who qualify for finals, consolation finals, semifinals, swim-offs, or other advancement opportunities are expected to follow all applicable scratch and participation procedures.

Failure to properly scratch from an event may result in penalties imposed by the meet host or governing organization, including removal from subsequent events or other meet-specific consequences.

Families should not assume that simply leaving the facility or notifying another parent constitutes a valid scratch.

When a formal scratch procedure applies, athletes must communicate directly with the coaching staff and follow the procedure established for that meet.

6. Relays

Relay assignments are always determined by the coaching staff.

Relay participation is not guaranteed by meet entry or individual performance.

Relay decisions may consider:

- athlete availability;
- performance;
- event schedule;
- qualifying opportunities;
- team scoring;
- developmental objectives; and
- overall team strategy.

At championship meets, Donner Swim Club will generally enter the **fastest available relay** based on the coaching staff's determination of the athletes most likely to produce the strongest team performance.

Relay personnel and order may change before or during the meet based on performance, availability, scratches, illness, injury, or other competitive considerations.

7. Championship and Qualifying Meets

Athletes who achieve applicable qualifying standards may be eligible for championship competitions.

Qualification does not necessarily guarantee entry in every eligible event.

The coaching staff will determine championship entries based on:

- applicable meet rules;
- athlete readiness;
- qualifying standards;
- training objectives;
- event schedules; and
- team considerations.

Families should communicate championship-meet availability by the published deadline. Championship deadlines are often earlier and less flexible than regular-season meet deadlines.

8. Meets Outside the Donner Schedule

Families shall consult the Head Coach before entering an athlete in any competition that is not part of the published Donner Swim Club meet schedule.

Participation in meets outside the Donner schedule is **generally discouraged** because the Club meet schedule is intentionally selected to support training progression, appropriate competition, team participation, championship preparation, and overall athlete development.

Outside competitions may also create conflicts with:

- training objectives;
- recovery;
- team commitments;
- meet-entry planning;

- relay availability;
- championship preparation; and
- the athlete's overall competition load.

When an outside meet is being considered, the Head Coach will determine whether participation is appropriate within the athlete's current training and competition plan.

Donner Swim Club coaches are not automatically responsible for coaching, supervising, administering entries, or providing meet coverage for competitions outside the Club schedule.

9. Meet Changes and Cancellations

Meet schedules, sessions, events, timelines, and entry procedures may change due to:

- host-club decisions;
- facility availability;
- weather;
- meet capacity;
- governing-body requirements; or
- other circumstances outside Donner Swim Club's control.

Donner Swim Club will communicate material changes as soon as reasonably possible.

Relationship to Other Club Policies

This policy should be read together with:

- The Donner Swim Club Membership Agreement
- Membership Fees & Associated Costs
- Parent & Athlete Standards
- Athlete Group Placement & Advancement Policy
- Communication Policy
- Applicable USA Swimming and meet-specific requirements.

Meet participation, event selection, and competition planning remain subject to coaching judgment and applicable governing-body rules.