



NAIA SWIMMING & DIVING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION PROTOCOL

The following is the qualification protocol for the NAIA Swimming & Diving National Championship

MEET CAP:

Maximum of 300 Swimmers (140 Men & 160 Women) and maximum of 32 Divers (Top 8 Divers per Board and per Gender) – in the case of a tie for the final spot, a "+1" will be added to the meet.

INDIVIDUAL STANDARDS:

AUTOMATIC QUALIFYING STANDARD

Based on the average of the previous three years' third-place finish in finals at the NAIA National Championships. If the third-place times are slower in the future years, the current time standards will remain.

PROVISIONAL QUALIFYING STANDARD

Updating and revising Provisional Qualification Standardization. Using the Automatic Standard as the baseline, the new Provisional standard for each individual event will be 8.25% slower than the automatic. This number correlates similarly with the current standard (Indicated in **RED** in the qualification table). This process will be conducted by the current year Executive Committee after the Annual Business Meeting.

INVITE PROCESS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES:

- Swimmers achieving automatic qualifying standards are invited to the meet.
 - Once a swimmer is invited to the meet, he/she can swim two additional individual events, provided they have achieved the provisional time standard in said events.
- The next fastest swimmers in each event are added until every event has the same number of entries.
 - For example, if the 50 free were to have the most "A" cuts of any event with 5, then every other event would get swimmers with the top 5 fastest times in.
- Finally, one entry is added to each event to keep the entries per event even. This process is repeated until all the swimming spots (140 for men, 160 for women) are filled.
- The swimmers with entry times closest to the NAIA AUTOMATIC cut will get added first in the final row, and when the 140th man or 160th woman is added, the process stops.
 - In the case of a tie for the final spot, a "+1" will be added to the meet.*
- Any school that has 3-5 individual swimming qualifiers and achieves an automatic **relay** qualifying time in a single event may bring one additional relay only swimmer for the qualified relay.
 - Automatic Relay Standards are to be the average of 10th place in the previous three (3) national championships.
 - Relay only swimmers may not swim in any individual event.

New 2026-27: Relay-Only Swimmer Clarification and New Policies:

- No more than one relay-only swimmer is permitted per qualifying team.
- The relay-only swimmer provision does not apply to teams adding an officially invited swimmer through the scratch/alternate process.
- Teams utilizing the scratch process remain governed solely by existing alternate procedures and do not receive additional relay-only swimmer eligibility as a result.
- The relay-only swimmer may compete in any of the 5 available relays provided that the school has achieved at least one NAIA relay standard.

- Schools with 4 or more qualifiers are automatically entered into all relays.
- An alternate list of 10 swimmers is compiled in case a student-athlete is scratched prior to the meet.
- In the event an institution enters more than 18 athletes per gender (including alternates), that institution will be required to declare their maximum 18 athletes for competition. If an institution does not enter the maximum of 18 scorers, then no further action is necessary.

DIVING STANDARDS:

- Limited to the Top 8 Divers per Board and per Gender.

New 2026-27: Select the top 8 divers per board, per gender. Divers will need to have the national qualifying score and degree of difficulty

- Qualifying Standards (6 Dives)
 - 1-Meter Board
 - Men's – Score of 200, 12.0 Difficulty
 - Women's – Score of 180, 10.8 Difficulty
 - 3-Meter Board
 - Men's – Score of 200, 12.0 Difficulty
 - Women's – Score of 180, 12.0 Difficulty
- Divers will count as ½ persons toward overall roster number
- If the number of qualified divers is less than 8 in either Gender, no additional spots are available for swimming.

[SwimCloud](#) is proud to be partnering with the NAIA to process NAIA swim meet results as well as the meet entries for the NAIA National Championships.

To get started, simply submit your team's meet result files to results@swimcloud.com.

Or, for more information, contact Swimcloud's NAIA representative, Scott Kitman at scott@swimcloud.com.

Diving entries must be reported to [Swimcloud](#) and the [NAIA](#). Entries not reported to the NAIA could result in a Diver not being eligible for the National Championships.

After the official release of all qualifiers, Diving submissions must be sent to [DiveMeets](#).

NAIA SWIMMING & DIVING QUALIFICATION PROCESS TIMELINE

FEBRUARY 17	11:59pm CST	DEADLINE – Submit men's and women's swimming and diving entries through Swimcloud and NAIA .
FEBRUARY 18	10:00am CST	RELEASE – Initial Psych Sheet sent via email to all coaches. Those teams that qualify more than 18 athletes will be sent an email from Swimcloud.
FEBRUARY 19	5:00pm CST	RELEASE – Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving National Championship Qualifiers and Alternates.
FEBRUARY 20	11:59pm CST	DEADLINE – Submit final roster in NAIA Connect with the maximum 18 athletes for competition.
FEBRUARY 20	11:59pm CST	DEADLINE – Submit Diving Entries into DiveMeets .
March 2	4:00pm CST/ 5:00pm EST	RELEASE – Final Psych sheet sent to all qualified coaches.
MARCH 4-7		NAIA Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving National Championships

SWIMCLOUD REPORTS EXPLAINED:

- Initial Psych Sheet: (anyone who is entered in an individual event includes all automatic times and provisional times) would give the starting point for each event before cut-off/line by line is done; meaning a team would have above the 18 allowable swimmers showing and each event would be listing every swimmer who could swim in that event.
- Exception Report: would list all teams who have more than 18 swimmers. Next step is to cross check the schools with 16-18 swimmers to see if they have any invited divers that could put them over the 18-roster limit.

SWIMCLOUD/NAIA/RULES COMMITTEE STEPS:

- February 18, 10:00am CST Pre-Selection/Pre-Invite Psyche Sheet to all coaches via email.
- Coaches will be contacted if their roster is above the roster limit of invited swimmers/divers per gender (divers will count as .5 towards total of 18 invitees).
- 5:00pm CST Swimcloud will remove the scratched athletes from the meet and run the straight 140/160 invite list/document along with the alternate list of 10 swimmers for each gender.
- Rules Committee will review final Psych Sheet to verify all numbers and entries are correct.
- February 19, by 5:00pm CST Qualifiers Released/Posted.