



Updated Time Standards for 2024-2025 Frequently Asked Questions

About the Time Standards Process

Swim Alberta has used a Time Standards Process since the 2012-2013 swimming season. The time standards process uses a 5-year average, ensuring standards are stable, and evolve over time. The process to set provincial time standards was updated based on coach working group and survey feedback resulting in the strategic shifts for the 2024-2025 swimming season. These changes include the shift to single year standards, revised competition ages, and the new Festival format.

Future Updates

Time standards will evolve each season based on alignment to the new competition format. The time standards process will be reviewed following the 2024-2025 season based on gap analysis, coach working group and survey feedback. As in prior seasons, Time Standards will be updated and published at the start of each season.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many standards are required to qualify for provincial competitions?

One standard is required to qualify for each level of provincial competition, including Festivals, Provincial Trials and Provincial Championships.

The female standards are faster than the male standards, the male festival standards used to be faster. Why are the female standards faster than the males? Is this an error or are the genders switched?

The standards are correct. In prior seasons, the Festival standards were set one year older than the females, which provided the males a significant advantage based on growth and development. As outlined in the time standards process, festival times are based on the 5-year average of 40th rank. Generally, more females tend to swim faster than males at a younger age, based on technical skills, growth, and development

At the 2024 Summer Festival South, the 10 & under times appear to be about the top 10 swimmers, isn't the standard supposed to be set at 40th rank?

The Festival time standards have been set using 5-year average of 40th Rank from the province of Alberta for each season. Times are not set using results from a single competition.



The competition information states the Festivals will have a 9 & under category, however the youngest time standard is 10 & under. Is this an error, will the 9 & under swimmers have their own category at the Festivals?

Swimmers aged 9 & under, can qualify for the festival by achieving the 10 & under time standard. At the competition, 9 & under swimmers will compete in their own category.

Some of the Provincial Trials standards are slower than the Festival standards, are they correct?

The standards are correct. The Festivals and Provincial Trials are different competitions, and both use a different time standards process to qualify. It is acknowledged there are a few events where the festival times are faster than provincial trials. These times and the process to set the time standards will be reviewed prior to the 2025-2026 swimming season.

My swimmer is 12 and has Festival standards, if they achieve a Provincial Trials standard, can they attend both competitions? What if they achieve a Provincial Championships time?

Yes, they can attend both competitions if they have the time standard to qualify for Provincial Trials. If they achieve a Provincial Championships time standard, they are de-qualified from the Provincial Trials.