



SWIM BC TIME STANDARDS REVIEW PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (2026-2027)

Following a comprehensive review of the Provincial Championship qualifying standards throughout the 2025-2026 season, Swim BC has updated the Provincial Championship time standards for the 2026-2027 season.

The review was undertaken to ensure that the qualifying standards continue to reflect current athlete performance trends, provide appropriate competitive opportunities across all age groups, and support the effective delivery of the Provincial Championships.

The standards and methodology were reviewed by the Swim BC Competitions Committee prior to implementation.

Methodology

Order of Adjustments: Standards were revised first in Short Course Metres (SCM), with Long Course Metres (LCM) derived subsequently.

Data Sources: Psych sheets from the past three seasons of Provincial Championships were analyzed. Placement benchmarks of 20th position were applied to races 50-400m, and 12th position to 800m and 1500m freestyle events.

Rolling Averages: A three-year rolling average was calculated on the placement benchmarks.

Entry Analysis: The number of event entries per age group from last year's championships was evaluated.

Key Findings

Athlete participation remains disproportionately concentrated in the 13–14 and 15–16 age categories, with fewer athletes than our registration numbers would predict in the 11-12 age category. Numbers of athletes in the 17 & O category was lower, but in the expected range with many 17& O athletes not attending provincials while at post-secondary school.

Objectives

Establish more equitable representation across the lower three age groups, and genders.

Target approximately 20-30 athletes per age group in the 16 & U age categories, per event for races of 50-400m. Target approximately 15-25 athletes per 17 & O events for races 50-400m.

This target was reduced to 10-20 athletes per age group, per event in the 800m and 1500m freestyle events.

Rounding

For simplicity and ease of reference, all SCM standards have been rounded to the nearest tenth of a second.

Long Course Standards

LCM standards were calculated directly from the SCM benchmarks using a 2% conversion factor ($SCM \times 1.02$). This aligns with the default conversion applied in Hytek Meet Manager, enabling automated recognition of BC Championship qualifications at Divisional meets.

Implementation Notes

The standards were adjusted based on overall averages from the last 3 years to a maximum change of 1.5%.

If the calculated average from the last 3 season was slower than the 2025-2026 standard, the previous standard remained.

If the number of athletes in an event did not meet a designated threshold, the previous standard remained.

If the calculated average was slower than the standard for the younger age category, the younger age category's time standard was applied to the older age category.

This approach ensures that qualifying standards continue to reflect improvements in athlete performance while maintaining consistency from year to year.

Average Percent Change from 2025-2026

Age Group	Male	Female
12 & Under	0.2%	0.3%
13 – 14	0.3%	0.3%
15 – 16	0.5%	0.9%
17 & Over	0.0%	0.1%