

Ribbons and Scoring at a YMCA Dual Meet

For parents new to the sport of YMCA Swimming, we would like to explain the scoring of a Dual Meet, the significance of the various heats and how the swimmers earn ribbons.

At a Dual Meet, in the individual events, two -three HAY swimmers are put into the official heat, depending on the number of lanes in the pool. These swimmers swim in the first heat and are competing against the other team's official swimmers for points. The first place finisher in this heat scores 5 points for their team, second place scores 3 points and third place scores 1 point. The only exception to this is if one team comes in first, second and third. Then the rules specify that a team cannot "sweep" an event so the 1 point for third place would actually go to the "fourth" place finisher from the other team. For the relay events, only the winning team scores points and they receive 7 points for the first place finish.

Swimmers who are in subsequent heats are listed as "unofficial" swimmers. Their times do count towards qualifying for championship meets and become part of our database, but they do not score points in these heats.

There is no set YMCA policy as to who receives ribbons; each team makes that decision on their own. The HAY Lightning team awards Place Ribbons to those swimmers who come in first, second and third place in the official heat because those are the swimmers who score points.

In addition to these Placement Ribbons, the HAY team also awards Personal Best "PB" Ribbons. All swimmers who improved their times from their previous best time will receive a Personal Best Ribbon. Keep in mind though, that the swimmer needs to swim the event more than once for a PB Ribbon because they need to show improvement. These ribbons are a great way to encourage our less experienced swimmers who might not have the opportunity to be swimming in the official heats for placement ribbons. They are also a true representation of improvement.

We encourage the parents to check the meet results once they are posted on the web site or bulletin boards. Mistakes do happen both at the meets and when the times are input into the database. We keep all timecards so if something doesn't look right, let us know and we can go back to the source!

Hope this clarifies the scoring of the meet. Please ask the coaches or Stephanie if you have any other questions.