

Disclaimer

This FAQ is intended to assist with interpretation and understanding of the LA28 Swimming Qualification System. Any inquiries should be directed to the World Aquatics office. The Qualification System officially published on Olympics.com stands as the primary and authoritative source of information.

New Events Qualifying

- If our NOC/NF does not qualify any athletes at the Swimming World Cup, can our athletes still compete in the New Events?
 - Yes, your NOC/NF can enter athletes in the New Events provided that they are already accepted into the overall quota of 830 athletes via another method (A, B, ARC or Universality) and provided he/she has equalled or bettered the Minimum Time Standard in that event (for A, B and ARC athletes). Universality athletes do not need to have satisfied the Minimum Time Standard. Please see the additional information related to qualifying for the New Events in the pages below.

Relays

- What happens if we qualify a relay team but only have two or three athletes in the quota of 830?
 - If your NOC/NF does not have enough athletes to fill out a relay team either through A, ARC, and/or B qualifying, your NOC will not be permitted to enter and swim the relay event.
- Can the athletes on our relay who are ARCs also swim in individual events?
 - Yes, these athletes can take part in individual events, provided they have met the “B” time in that event and do not exceed the two per NOC limit in individual events.
- If our NOC has an ARC who is later invited as a B Entry Standard swimmer as part of the 830-athlete quota, does our NOC get to add a replacement ARC?
 - Yes, the NOC can add a new ARC to take the place of the swimmer who is invited as a B Entry Standard swimmer.

Additional Information Related to Qualifying for the New Events at the Swimming World Cup 2027

In each New Event, six (6) athletes will receive a direct qualification place based on their performances at the Swimming World Cup 2027. World Aquatics will announce the dates and host cities for the three World Cup 2027 stops as soon as reasonably possible. The process to determine which athletes receive the direct qualification places will be as follows:

- At each of the three (3) World Cup 2027 stops, two (2) of the New Events will take place:
 - The six (6) athletes who finish in the first six (6) places in the final of each New Event will be offered a direct qualification place to compete in that New Event at the Olympic Games LA28.
 - If two (2) or more athletes are tied for the sixth (6th) place, then each of the tied athletes will be offered a direct qualification place to compete in that New Event at the Olympic Games LA28.
 - The competition rules for the New Events held at the World Cup 2027 will be set out and published by World Aquatics in a separate document.
- On the first day at each of the World Cup 2027 stops, entered athletes will compete in preliminary heats:
 - There will be no limit in the heats to the total number of athletes who may enter and swim, or the number of athletes per NOC who may enter and swim.
 - The fastest thirty-two (32) athletes in the preliminary heats will qualify for the quarterfinals.
 - If two (2) or more athletes are tied for the 32nd place, the athletes will compete in a swim-off and the winner will qualify for the quarterfinals.
 - Notwithstanding the times or places achieved in the heats, only the four (4) fastest athletes from an NOC may qualify for the quarterfinals.
 - Accordingly, a fifth (5th) fastest athlete from an NOC will not be permitted to proceed to the quarterfinals, take part in a swim-off, or be nominated as a reserve.
 - If more than four (4) athletes from the same NOC are in the list of the fastest thirty-two (32) athletes:
 - The NOC's fifth fastest (5th) (and sixth (6th, and so on, if applicable) athletes will be eliminated from the list.
 - The remaining athletes on the list will be moved up one (or more, if applicable) places.
 - The athletes who qualified thirty-third (33rd) (and thirty-fourth (34th), and so on, if applicable) will be added to the list.
- On the first night at each of the World Cup 2027 stops, the thirty-two (32) qualified athletes will compete in four (4) quarterfinals:
 - The winner of each quarterfinal will qualify for the semifinals.
 - The twelve (12) athletes with the fastest times across all the quarterfinals (not including the times of the four (4) quarterfinal winners) will qualify for the semifinals.
 - If two (2) or more athletes are tied for first place in any quarterfinal, then all tied athletes will qualify for the semifinals and the number of other athletes that qualify based on fastest times will be reduced from twelve (12) accordingly.
 - If two (2) or more athletes are tied for the sixteenth (16th) place in the semi-finals, those athletes will compete in a swim-off and the winner will qualify for the semifinals.
 - Notwithstanding the times or places achieved in the quarterfinals, only the two (2) fastest athletes from an NOC may qualify for the semifinals.
 - Accordingly, a third (3rd) or fourth (4th) fastest athlete from an NOC will not be permitted to proceed to the semifinals, take part in a swim-off, or be nominated as a reserve.
 - If more than two (2) athletes from the same NOC are in the list of the sixteen (16) provisionally qualified athletes:
 - The NOC's third (3rd) (and, if applicable, fourth (4th)) fastest athlete will be eliminated from the list.
 - The remaining athletes on the list will be moved up one (or more, if applicable) places.
 - The athlete who qualified next fastest in the quarterfinals will be added to the list.
- On the second night of the World Cup 2027 stop, the sixteen (16) qualified athletes will compete in two (2) semifinals:
 - The winner of each semifinal will qualify for the final.

- The six (6) athletes with the fastest times across both semifinals (not including the times of the two (2) semifinal winners) will qualify for the final.
- If two (2) or more athletes are tied for first place in any semifinal, then all tied athletes will qualify for the finals and the number of other athletes that qualify based on fastest times will be reduced from six (6) accordingly.
- If two (2) or more athletes are tied for the eighth (8th) place in the final, those athletes will compete in a swim-off and the winner will qualify for the final.
- Notwithstanding the times or places achieved in the semifinals, only the two (2) fastest athletes from an NOC may qualify for the final.
 - Accordingly, a third (3rd) fastest athlete from an NOC will not be permitted to proceed to the final, take part in a swim-off, or be nominated as a reserve.
 - If more than two (2) athletes from the same NOC are in the list of the eight (8) provisionally qualified athletes:
 - The NOC's third fastest (3rd) athlete will be eliminated from the list.
 - The remaining athletes on the list will be moved up one place.
 - The athlete who qualified next fastest in the semifinals will be added to the list.
- On the third night of the World Cup 2027 stop, the eight (8) qualified athletes will compete in the final:
 - The six (6) athletes who finish in the first six (6) places in the final will be offered an automatic qualification place to compete in that New Event at Los Angeles 2028.
 - If two (2) or more athletes are tied for the sixth (6th) place, then each of the tied athletes will be offered an automatic qualification place to compete in that New Event at Los Angeles 2028.

World Aquatics will formally confirm (via the athlete's NOC) the direct qualification place to compete in the relevant New Event at the LA28 Olympic Games in writing on or before 1 December 2027. The NOC must accept or reject the allocated quota place offer in writing on or before 1 February 2028.