

# 2008 Olympic Selection Procedures

## How do swimmers qualify for the U.S. Olympic Team at the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Swimming?

There is an official document posted on [usaswimming.org](http://usaswimming.org) and available in the Media Center that outlines the official USOC qualifying procedure for athletes trying to make the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team.

The below is provided as an **unofficial explanation** written for the fan program by SPLASH editor, Jim Rusnak.

1. Athletes must qualify for and compete at the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Swimming, held June 29-July 6, in Omaha, Neb. If you don't compete here, you cannot make the Olympic Team in the pool events. Open Water Trials are a separate affair and have already been contested.
2. Swimmers who finish in the top four of the 100- and 200-meter freestyle at Trials, along with the first-place finishers in all the other events are named to the team first.
3. A maximum of 26 men and 26 women can be named to the Olympic Team, so provided all the spots have not been filled by the top four finishers in the 100 and 200m free and the first-place finishers in all the rest of the events, the second place finishers in each of the other events will be added to the team in a priority order based on an integrated world ranking from 2007 and 2008.
4. If, after adding the second-place finishers from each of the other events there is still room on the team, the fifth-place finishers from the 100 and 200m free are added (using the same world ranking as listed in #3 above).
5. If, after adding the fifth-place finishers from the 100m and 200m free there is still room on the team, the sixth-place finishers from the 100m and 200m free are added. For your average spectator, that's really all there is to know (using the same world ranking as listed in #3 above).

### Of Note:

Since the Olympic Trials have taken on this format, the top six swimmers in the 100m and 200m free, along with the top two swimmers in each of the other events, have always made the U.S. Olympic Team.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Number of swimmers registered as USA Swimming members:**

About 250,000.

**Number of swimmers competing at Trials:**

About 1,250, or one-half of one percent of the swimmers who are members of USA Swimming.

**Number of spots available on the U.S. Olympic Team:**

Maximum of 52

**Percentage of swimmers at Trials who will make the Olympic Team (if maximum number selected):**

About four percent. That's the maximum percentage. The actual percentage will probably be lower.

**Maximum percentage of USA Swimming athlete members who will be named Olympians at Trials:**

About .02 percent. Again, the actual percentage will probably be lower.