

TEXAS AMATEUR ATHLETIC FEDERATION

SWIMMING

FOR INFORMATION CALL:

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T.A.A.F. WINTER GAMES OF TEXAS

January 15-17, 2010

Frisco

For Games information visit the T.A.A.F. website: www.taaf.com

T.A.A.F. SUMMER GAMES OF TEXAS

August 5-8, 2010

Waco

For Games information visit the T.A.A.F. website: www.taaf.com

T.A.A.F., P.O. Box 1789, Georgetown, TX 78627-1789

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A non-profit organization established in 1925, incorporated and dedicated to develop and perpetuate interest in amateur sports and to further the spirit of sportsmanship in Texas.

SPORTS GENERAL REGULATIONS

The following rules and regulations apply to all sports and all participants must meet these requirements. Unless a rule specifically names an exception for one of the divisions (member city, independent, affiliate, etc.), the following Sports General Regulations pertain to all teams and participants. See the specific sports sections for any special regulations that may exist.

ARTICLE 1 TEAMS: MEMBER CITY & AFFILIATE MEMBERS

1.1 In order to be eligible to compete for state honors, each team must have:

- .01 Been a registered T.A.A.F. team by the registration deadline date.
- .02 Fulfilled all roster requirements as specified by the member city representative of T.A.A.F. or by the regional director, if an independent or affiliate team.

1.2 LEAGUE PARTICIPATION:

- .01 Member City Team - Must have been a member of a league composed of at least four (4) teams.
- .02 Independent Team - Be in a town of less than 30,000 population that does not have regular leagues.
- .03 Affiliate Member Team - Must have been a member of a league composed of at least four (4) teams.

1.3 Teams playing in a T.A.A.F. league cannot register as an independent team.

NOTE: This does not prevent independent registration; it only prevents teams from playing in T.A.A.F. leagues and registering as an independent.

1.4 MINIMUM GAME REQUIREMENT:

- .01 Played a minimum of eight (8) regular league games or at least eight (8) games, if an independent team.

1.5 QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS:

- .01 Each member city will have the right to advance any team that the member city has registered with T.A.A.F. in all team sports except for the following sports and classifications.

Men's 8 on 8 Flag Football
Youth Flag Football
Winter Youth Basketball
Girl's Fast Pitch

The state tournament director may or may not limit the number of teams that are accepted in the state tournament. The state tournament director must accept a minimum of 20 teams in each division of youth and adult basketball and youth or adult volleyball. The state tournament director must accept a minimum of 32 teams in each division of adult or youth flag football and adult or youth softball.

- a. In the Men's and Youth Flag Football State Tournaments and Girls Fast Pitch Softball Tournaments each Member City member will have the right to advance one (1) T.A.A.F. registered team to participate in the T.A.A.F. State Championship Tournament. The state tournament host city will have the

authority to accept additional teams, if team registrations for the state tournament from the “automatic berths” do not fill the tournament.

- b. The teams in the Winter Youth State Basketball Tournament must qualify through regional tournament. The Winter Boys and Girls State Basketball Commissioners will set the number of teams that qualify for the Winter Youth State Basketball Tournament. The State Commissioners and State Tournament Directors will determine the total number of teams accepted in the Boys and Girls Winter State Basketball Tournaments.

.02 Youth and adult softball teams may advance to the state tournament through T.A.A.F. qualifying tournaments. (This would be in addition to the one team guaranteed per division registered by the city).

.03 In a regional or state T.A.A.F. tournament, any team that fails to show up may be suspended from T.A.A.F. play for one year unless the team notifies their regional director and the state tournament director of their intent to be a no show. This notification must be made prior to the start of the tournament. This rule applies to every participant; all team members and all coaches, on the official team roster.

1.6 ROSTER REQUIREMENTS:

.01 Local level - In order to participate locally, a team must fulfill the various roster requirements of that particular city or affiliate.

.02 To advance in T.A.A.F. championship play, each team will be required to submit a complete team roster as follows:

- a) It must be typed on an approved T.A.A.F. team roster form.
- b) Each individual listed on the roster must sign it in ink.
- c) To enter a regional tournament, the local T.A.A.F. member city representative must certify the roster.
- d) The roster must be submitted to the regional tournament director, (**Adult Men's Basketball and Flag Football only**), prior to the deadline established by the region.
- e) To enter a state tournament, the regional director must certify the roster. **Note: This is not the regional tournament director.**
- f) The roster must be submitted to the state tournament director prior to the deadline.
- g) Affiliate teams need to check with the state T.A.A.F. office for their requirements.

1.7 REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS GENERAL REGULATIONS:

Regional tournaments will be conducted according to the guidelines established by the members of that region. This includes, but is not limited to, the following items:

- .01 Regional Tournament Sites
- .02 Dates
- .03 Entry Fees
- .04 Deadlines
- .05 Bracket Size - Number of teams
- .06 Tournament procedures to be followed
- .07 The regional tournament director will have the right to invite additional T.A.A.F. teams to participate in the regional tournament, if needed to fill a bracket. The

selection of these teams will be based upon the procedures adopted by the region.

1.8 STATE TOURNAMENTS GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- .01 The state commissioner and state tournament director shall have the right to select additional T.A.A.F. registered teams based on the total number of registered teams from each member city, for each specific sport.
- .02 If a team is needed within two (2) weeks; the commissioner shall have the right to select teams without regard to the number of registered teams.
- .03 All members hosting a state competition in the following sports must register all officials with the T.A.A.F.: Basketball, Softball and Flag Football. Officials must be certified through the procedures of each individual sport.

1.9 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS:

- .01 All awards for T.A.A.F. state tournaments must be purchased from the official trophy dealer who is awarded the trophy bid from the T.A.A.F. organization. All team trophies shall be standardized at the state level and shall consistently be the same each year, signifying the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation and the particular sport represented. The T.A.A.F. State Office will order and ship the awards to each host city.
- .02 All awards will be ordered by T.A.A.F. as a portion of each T.A.A.F. State Tournament package. The economic impact in a community hosting a state tournament, the awards, use of T.A.A.F. logo and the statewide advertising of the tournament are important portions of each T.A.A.F. tournament package available to be bid upon by a member city. These items are included in the minimum bid to T.A.A.F. when a tournament is awarded.
- .03 AWARDS INCLUDE:
 - a) First through fourth place team awards
 - b) Individual T-shirts awards to champion and runner-up team
 - c) Individual awards to each member of the all tournament team. An all-tournament team will not be selected in youth sports.
 - d) The individual sports awards are the awards specified for that sport in the Participant Guide.
 - e) See MOP 15.5.06 for minimum awards that can be awarded for adult team sports.

ARTICLE 2 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Furnish the following by the registration deadline dates:

- .01 TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / T.A.A.F. STATE OFFICE
 - a) ONE (1) COPY OF THE TEAM NAMES AND
 - b) ONE (1) COPY OF THE NUMBER OF TEAMS REGISTERED IN A DIVISION OR CLASS.
 - c) PLUS THE REGISTRATION FEES.

2.2 These team registrations must be certified by the city where they compete, if it is a member city. An affiliate organization will mail their registrations directly to the T.A.A.F. state office.

2.3 Cities and affiliates are required to submit team rosters on those teams advancing into championship play.

2.4 It is recommended that all youth teams advancing to the state tournament have a minimum of one (1) T.A.A.F. approved National Certified coach, to be listed on the team roster.

ARTICLE 3 SPORTS REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

3.1 TEAM SPORTS

.01 DEADLINES FOR T.A.A.F. REGISTRATION: All dates are for CURRENT YEAR

Baseball	June 20
Basketball – Adult	January 15
Basketball – Winter -Youth / High School	February 1
Basketball – High School – Summer	June 1
Flag Football– 8 ON 8	October 15
Flag Football - 4 ON 4	March 1
Flag Football – Youth	November 1
Hockey – In-Line	Register @ State Tournament
Kickball	Register @ State Tournament
Soccer	Register @ State Tournament
Softball- Adult/ Youth – Spring /Summer	June 1
Softball – Fall	September 25
Volleyball – Adult	February 15
Volleyball – Sand	Register @ State Tournament
Volleyball – Youth	April 15

.02 T.A.A.F. TEAM REGISTRATION FEES

MEMBER CITY	\$ 10.00 PER TEAM
AFFILIATE MEMBER	\$ 10.00 PER TEAM
YOUTH SOFTBALL	\$ 5.00 PER TEAM
All Sports (Member & Affiliate) If Less than 4 teams per division/classification	\$ 25.00 PER TEAM

*Region registration fees may be added to the state team registration fees up to \$2.00 per team

.03 T.A.A.F. TEAM REGISTRATION PROCEDURES:

- a) The registering cities shall send properly certified T.A.A.F. registration forms, showing the team names and the number of teams registered in a division/class and appropriate fees to the executive director / state office.
- b) The registering cities shall include the manager's name and address either on the T.A.A.F. form or on a separate attachment.
- c) The executive director / state office shall then:
 - 1. Forward one copy of the team names and team registration forms to the regional director.
 - 2. Forward one copy of the team names to the appropriate state sports commissioner.

.04 REGIONAL TOURNAMENT TEAM REGISTRATION PROCEDURES:

- a) Cities are required to submit to the proper Regional Tournament Director (date to be determined by the Tournament Director) one (1) copy of the T.A.A.F. official entry form per team entering.
- b) The stated registration fee(s) must accompany the entry form(s).

.05 STATE TOURNAMENT TEAM REGISTRATION PROCEDURES:

- a) Each Regional Director is required to certify and forward their Regional team's entry form(s) to the appropriate State Commissioner. (Adult Basketball and Flag Football).
- b) Each member city is required to certify their city's entry through the regional director to the appropriate Regional or State Tournament.
- c) Each member city is responsible for providing the State Commissioner and the State Tournament Director with all fees, rosters, information, etc., as requested in the State Tournament information flyer.

3.2 INDIVIDUAL SPORTS REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

.01 DEADLINE FOR INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION: Individual sports registration deadlines are determined by regional and state tournament dates.

<i>BOXING</i>	GAMES OF TEXAS ENTRY DEADLINE
CHEERLEADING	October 1
GOLF	GAMES OF TEXAS ENTRY DEADLINE
GYMNASTICS	<i>January 1</i>
SWIMMING	June 30
TENNIS	June 30
TRACK & FIELD	June 30

.02 Individual sports include participants in Boxing, Cheerleading, Golf, Gymnastics, Swimming, Tennis and Track & Field.

a) All individual sport registration will be done online at www.taaf.com

b) Individual athletes must register with T.A.A.F. prior to the athlete's participation in any T.A.A.F. meet/tournament on local or regional level.

.03 Each local T.A.A.F. representative or affiliate member must submit the individual sports registration form and the participant release and waiver of liability form as follows:

a) Original of both forms (registration and waiver) and the registration fees to the **executive director / state office**

b) The **executive director / state office** will then forward one copy to the regional director and one copy to the state commissioner.

.04 **The Individual Sports Registration Fee** is five dollars (\$5.00) PER INDIVIDUAL, PER SPORT for T.A.A.F. sports.

a) Region registration fees may add a region individual sports registration fee up to \$1.00 per individual.

b) A late fee of five dollar (\$5.00) per individual may be charged to any registrations after sports deadline.

Note: Insurance may be purchased for an additional fee per person per sport (Contact the T.A.A.F. State Office for fees). The individual sports registration form will serve as the insurance enrollment form.

.05 REGIONAL TOURNAMENT INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION PROCEDURES: Cities are required to comply with all requested information and fees as set forth by the Regional Tournament Director and the Participant Guide.

.06 STATE TOURNAMENT INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION PROCEDURES: Cities should refer to the Participant Guide and are required to comply with all requested entry forms, rosters, information, fees, etc., as set forth by the Tournament Director, the Regional Director and the State Commissioner.

- .07 The determining factor of which City/Organization/Region an individual will represent in their attempt(s) to qualify for State Level Competition is based on the City/Organization/Region that they declare at the time of T.A.A.F. online registration is done.
- a) This rule is to allow INDIVIDUALS to compete outside of their City of residency due to the fact that they are participating with another City or Organization's program on an ongoing basis.
 - b) It is NOT the intent of this rule to allow TEAMS as a whole to compete in or represent other Cities/Regions due to location of Regional meets, changes in individual schedules or other such situations.

3.3 OFFICIALS REGISTRATION FEE:

- .01 Each MEMBER CITY and AFFILIATE has the option to register their local league officials at ten dollars (\$10.00) per official in the sports of basketball and volleyball.
- .02 Flag football officials will pay a \$25.00 registration fee the first year and a \$10.00 subsequent fee each additional year.
- .03 Softball officials only need to pay the T.A.A.F. insurance fee.
- .04 The Officials registration fees shall be collected and remitted as each sport is organized throughout the year. These fees shall be sent to the Executive Director at the T.A.A.F. State Office.

3.4 OFFICIALS CERTIFICATION (Regional and State): All members hosting a regional or state competition in the following sports must register all officials with T.A.A.F.: Basketball, Softball and Flag Football. Officials must be certified through the procedures of each sport.

- .01 Agencies failing to register all officials who officiate a regional or state tournament, in Basketball, Softball or Flag Football, will be suspended from hosting any regional or state tournament for one year.

ARTICLE 4 PARTICIPANTS: MEMBER CITY & AFFILIATE MEMBERS

NO PLAYER SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY IN ANY T.A.A.F. SPORTS UNLESS THE PLAYER MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING RULES:

- 4.1** Must be an amateur in said sport and shall receive no pay to play for any team. An amateur is defined as "one who engages in sport for pleasure and for the physical, mental or social benefits, which he or she derives from that sport and to whom the sport is nothing more than an avocation."
- 4.2** Any player who has played professional sports shall be ineligible to participate in that sport for one (1) year after his last day as a member of a professional team. This rule shall not conflict with AABC rules in baseball.

NOTE: The protesting individual(s) bear the entire burden of proof regarding a player's participation as a member of a professional team. The T.A.A.F. state commissioner has the final authority to accept or reject the protesting individual(s) "proof".

- 4.3** Meets all team qualifications in Article 1.
- 4.4** Does not play under an assumed name.
- 4.5** In order to compete in any T.A.A.F. play, a foreign player must reside in the state of Texas continuously for a minimum period of one (1) year prior to being eligible to play. EXCEPTION: Men's and Women's Fast Pitch foreign softball players' eligibility will be determined by the National Governing Body (NGB) for Softball. To be eligible to participate in T.A.A.F. softball, a copy of any document required to be on file by the NGB for softball must also be filed with the T.A.A.F. state office. The same filing deadline applies for the NGB and T.A.A.F.

- 4.6** An adult player may play on more than one team within a region, but must choose one team as his own prior to T.A.A.F. championship play.
- .01 No player may be on more than one roster, in a T.A.A.F. division, during T.A.A.F. championship play (region and state tournaments).
 - .02 A player must be on the sports roster by the deadline stated in the Participant Guide.
- 4.7** A player forced to transfer from one region to another by his employer may participate in the new region providing the player has been employed by the firm for at least one (1) full year prior to the transfer and the player remains employed by the same firm.
- 4.8** INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT
- .01 All individual sports participants must reside in the State of Texas.
- 4.9** No participant in an individual sport or a team in team sports may attempt to qualify through more than one city, region or affiliate. Should any team or individual be discovered in violation of this rule, he/she, or they shall be disqualified from that sport for that year. The team or individual attempting to qualify for state competition must attempt to qualify through the regional qualifier of the region in which they are registered.
- 4.10** PLAYER IDENTIFICATION:
- .01 A player must be prepared, at all times, to provide proof of identification. A driver's license or comparable identification, which includes a current photograph and signature, is acceptable.
 - .02 PROOF OF AGE: A player must be prepared, at all times, to provide proof of age when participating in T.A.A.F. sports categorized by age classifications or divisions. A driver's license or copy of a birth certificate from the Bureau of Vital Statistics is acceptable.
 - .03 A player failing to provide appropriate proof of age or identification, when requested by a Meet Director, Tournament Director or State Commissioner, may be declared ineligible and the team subject to disqualification.
- 4.11** AGE DETERMINATION DATES FOR YOUTH SPORTS

Sport	Age Determining Date
Basketball (Boy's & Girl's Winter)	September 1 of Current <i>School</i> Year
Basketball (Boy's & Girl's Summer)	September 1 of Current <i>Calendar</i> Year
Boxing	Based on age as of Games of Texas dates
Cheerleading	September 1 of <i>Current</i> Year
Flag Football - Youth	September 1 of <i>Current</i> Year
Golf - Youth	September 1 of <i>Current</i> Year
Inline Hockey	September 1 of <i>Current</i> Year
Kickball – Youth	September 1 of <i>Current</i> School Year
Youth Softball	December 31 of <i>Current</i> Year
Swimming	June 1 of <i>Current</i> Year
Tennis	Based on age as of Games of Texas dates
Track & Field	Based on <i>the Year</i> the Athlete was born
Volleyball - Youth – Fall season	September 1 of <i>Current</i> School Year
Volleyball - Youth – Spring season	March 1 of the <i>Current</i> School Year

- 4.12** All participants in adult team sports must have attained the age of sixteen (16) prior to the registration date for teams in that sport, unless specific sport regulations provide otherwise.
- 4.13** All teams must wear like colored, non-duplicated numbered jerseys for regional and state tournaments.

ARTICLE 32 SWIMMING

The T.A.A.F. Swimming Program Goal is to provide a state championship meet for recreational swimmers who have trained exclusively with a summer swim team. It is our desire to give participants a chance to compete in a sport and to be successful against swimmers of their own ability and have the same opportunities to train in order to enhance their self-esteem.

The state commissioner may implement procedures to adjust the eligibility requirements, entries, late fees, protest fee, events, awards, division, and meet operation procedure if the state commissioner deems necessary to assure a more effective meet for both spectators and participants. The information will be available to the member city/coaches in the state meet packet.

- 32.1** There will be eight (8) divisions for men and women: 8 and under; 9-10; 11-12; 13-14; 15-17; 18 - 24, 25-39 and 40 and Over.
- 32.2** **Age classification** for all divisions will be their age as of **June 1 of the current year**. Birth certificates must be from the Bureau of Vital Statistics.
- 32.3** Swimming is to be considered an individual sport.
- 32.4** **RESIDENCE OF PARTICIPANTS:** See Article 4.8 Individual Sports Participants.
- 32.5** The T.A.A.F. rulebook will be the governing rulebook. Rules not specifically covered in this rulebook will be covered by the **OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING, DIVING & WATER POLO RULES** published by the National Federation of State High School Associations.
- 32.6** **TAAF Swimming will follow FINA guidelines regarding swim suits for participants.**
- .01** For female swimmers, the swim suit shall not cover the neck, extend past the shoulders, or past the pelvis.
 - .02** For male swimmers, the swim suit shall not extend above the navel or below the knees.
 - .03** Wearing more than one swim suit at a time during competition is prohibited. The restriction applies only to actual competition; swimmers may wear more than one suit during warm-up and cool-down as well as around the pool deck between actual races.
- 32.7** T.A.A.F. swimming is open for anyone who meets the following criteria:
- .01** From January 1 of the current year to April 30, in the current year, any individual who has not participated with, trained with or competed with, any organized or unorganized swim program, will be eligible to compete at the T.A.A.F. State Age Group Swimming Championships. Exceptions:
 - a) *Any school related activity.*
 - b) *Participation in the TAAF Winter Games (swimmers may workout until the date of the Winter Games if they participate in the Winter Games).*
 - c) *Participation in off-season swim clinics -See Rule 32.22.*
 - d) *Any family lap swimming programs.*
 - e) *Any swimmer in the Divisions 15-17, 18-24, 25-39 and 40 & over.*
- 32.8** Age group swimming is defined as any swimming event where the participants are grouped together through the use of an upper and lower age limit. (Examples: 8 & under, 9-10, 11-12, 25 & over).
- .01** A boy or girl must participate in his/her age division. No participant may change or swim in another age classification.
- 32.9** **REGIONAL MEET:** Each region must host a regional swim meet to qualify their participants for the state meet.
- .01** Regional meets must be conducted and operated according to T.A.A.F. rules.
 - .02** **TAAF Swimming will use the NFSHS protocol for starting races.**

- a) **The starter/referee signals the swimmers with a series of short whistles (no fewer than 4) to approach the blocks and prepare to swim, followed by the announcer or starter/referee announcing the event/distance/heat.**
- b) **When all the swimmers have approached the blocks, the starter/referee blows a long whistle for the heat to step on the blocks for forward starts or in the water for backstroke starts, and take their preparatory position.**
- c) **Once all swimmers are on the blocks or in the water, the referee turns the heat over to the starter.**
- d) **When the swimmers are prepared, the starter says 'take your mark.'**
- e) **When swimmers have assumed the correct starting position and are motionless, the starter activates the starting signal.**
- f) **If a swimmer does not respond promptly to the command 'take your mark,' the starter shall immediately release all swimmers with the command 'stand up' upon which the swimmers may stand up or relax.**

- .03 The date for the regional meet will be held no later than two weeks prior to the state meet.
- .04 Each participant must participate in a regional meet and be certified by the regional director to be eligible for advancement to the state finals.
 - a) The 15-17, 18-24, 25 and over age groups must register and pay for their state entries at the Regional meet. The Regional Meet Director has the option of requiring these individuals to swim at the Regional Meet.
- .05 Each participant must possess and show a birth certificate to the regional director to be certified.
- .06 **ENTRIES WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED FROM THE REGIONAL MEET DIRECTOR FROM EACH REGION.**
- .07 Each participant may compete in no more than three (3) events.
 - a) *A swimmer may be entered in any three (3) events and be listed as an alternate on any relay(s). The alternate(s) must be listed in the regional meet entries prior to the regional meet in order to qualify. If necessary, he may scratch from one event to swim a relay only if one of the teammates listed on the relay is scratched from the meet.*
 - b) These changes must be made before the meet starts or be approved by the Regional Meet Director once the meet starts.
 - c) **Swimmers 15-17 would be limited to 4 events at the state meet, plus 2 mixed relay entries (total of 6) for the state meet. For swimmers 18 and over, unlimited entries would be allowed at the state meet.**
 - d) If a region does not allow for electronic registrations via Hy-tek, regional meet registration/entry will be done by on-line registration.

32.10 STATE MEET ENTRIES: Each region may enter a minimum of two (2) persons in each event and two (2) relay teams in each relay event in the 8 and under, 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14 divisions. At the regional meet only, if a discrepancy occurs to determine which participant(s) shall advance to the state meet, the meet director must first consider the rule(s) and the timing system used, then follow the procedures to select the correct time(s) and placement of the swimmers. If that is not successful, then a swim-off for those swimmers only must be done to determine which swimmers advance to state. TIES MUST HAVE A SWIM-OFF. ONLY ALLOTTED NUMBERS OF PARTICIPANTS PER EVENT WILL ADVANCE TO STATE. Swimmers 15-17 will be limited to 4 entries at the state meet. For swimmers 18 & over, unlimited entries will be allowed to advance to the state meet.

- .01 Additional Entries:

- a) Additional entries from each region may be awarded by the state commissioner based on the total number of individuals registered per region as of the region meet entry deadline (set by the region) of the current year.
 - b) Each region must register a minimum of 1,000 individual participants prior to getting additional entries to the state meet. For every 500 individuals registered thereafter, the region will receive an additional entry to the state championship.
- .02 Relay events: In relay events, relay personnel will be the four (4) swimmers who qualified the relay at the regional meet, plus the two (2) alternates who were entered at the regional meet. (The two alternates may be any swimmer of the same age group).
- .03 Regional Directors or his/her appointed representative responsibilities after the region meet:
 - a) Certify all advancing participants by forwarding entries in the approved manner. Entry procedure will be outlined in the coaches packet (March) and on the website (June) each year.
- 32.11 ENTRY FEE:** An entry fee of up to *six dollars (\$6.00)* can be charged per person per event, as well as having an admission charge at the gate to defray the expenses of hosting the state meet.
- 32.12 AWARDS:** Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners in each event. Ribbons or medals will be awarded to the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth place finishers in the 17 and under age groups only. No high point award will be given.
- 32.13** The T.A.A.F. swim meet shall be conducted as a time final championship.
- 32.14** The time schedule of the events will be determined by the sponsoring city with approval by the state commissioner.
- 32.15** Order of events will be determined by the state commissioner and the host city
- 32.16 SCRATCH MEETING:** At the state meet a scratch meeting will be held before the meet begins. Any changes will be made only at this meeting. Under no circumstances will any changes be made on the days of the meet. It will be the regional director's responsibility to see that all coaches and individuals understand that no changes will be made after the scratch meeting is over. Relay swimmers must be declared at this meeting.
- 32.17 REQUIRED FORM:** The official INDIVIDUAL SPORTS PARTICIPANT FORM will be provided by T.A.A.F. and when executed will "follow" participants and coaches to all levels of T.A.A.F. competition during the current season.
 - .01 Each T.A.A.F. participant will sign a form at the lowest level of T.A.A.F. competition affirming that he/she meets the requirements of the T.A.A.F. eligibility and residency rules and that he/she has read, understood and agreed to the release and waiver of liability.
 - .02 Should the participants be under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must also sign the form affirming that their minor participant meets the requirements of the T.A.A.F. eligibility and residency rules and that as a parent or guardian, he/she has read, understood and agreed to the release and waiver of liability.
 - .03 Coaches will sign the form affirming that to the best of their knowledge all of the swimmers in their swimming program meet the TAAF eligibility and residency rules and that the coach will abide by all rules set forth by TAAF. If any eligibility issue arises the coach and swimmer are subject to any disciplinary action to be taken up to and including suspension.

32.18 STATE EVENTS PER PARTICIPANT

- .01 Each participant may compete in no more than three (3) events.
 - a) A swimmer may be entered in any three (3) events and be listed as an alternate on any relay(s). The alternate(s) must be listed in the regional meet entries prior to the regional meet in order to qualify. If necessary, he may scratch from one event to swim a relay only if one of the teammates listed on the relay is scratched from the meet.
 - b) These changes must be made before the meet starts or be approved by the State Commissioner once the meet starts.
 - c) Swimmers 15-17 would be limited to 4 events at the state meet, plus 2 mixed relay entries (total of 6) for the state meet. For swimmers 18 and over, unlimited entries would be allowed at the state meet.**

32.19 TAAF Swimming will use the following protocol regarding false starts:

- .01 For ages 10 & under: one false start will be allowed for swimmers age 10 & under. For the initial start, the heat will be recalled if any swimmer is observed before the starting signal. This initial false start will be charged to the field. The starter shall restart the race upon signal by the referee. If the referee independently observes and confirms the starter's observation that a subsequent violation has occurred, the race shall continue without recall. The swimmer or swimmers who committed the subsequent violation shall be disqualified upon completion of the race.**
- .02 For ages 11 & older: any swimmer starting before the starting signal is given shall be disqualified if the Referee independently observes and confirms the starter's observation that a violation occurred. Swimmers remaining on the blocks shall be relieved from their starting position with a 'stand up.' The race will be restarted upon signal by the referee. If the starting signal has been given before the disqualification is declared, the race shall continue without recall. If the referee independently observes and confirms the starter's observation that a violation occurred, the swimmer or swimmers who are in violation shall be disqualified upon completion of the race.**
- .03 If the recall signal is activated inadvertently, no swimmer shall be charged with a false start and the starter shall restart the race upon signal by the referee. A swimmer who would otherwise be charged with a false start may be relieved of the charge if the false start was caused by the swimmer's reaction to the 'stand up' command. A swimmer shall not be disqualified for an illegal starting position at the start if the race is permitted to proceed. Enforcement of the correct starting position is the responsibility of the starter.**

32.20 Officials Finish Times: The meet director shall approve all finish times and have the authority to adjust the finish times due to problems associated with the electronic timing system/ touching the electronic touch pads and /or manual times.

32.21 Winter Games of Texas

- .01 This event will be open to all interested swimmers (USA, YMCA, TAAF).
- .02 TAAF registered swimmers can compete with the following eligibility policy:
If a T.A.A.F. swimmer wishes to compete in the T.A.A.F. Winter Games of Texas and plans to swim in the T.A.A.F. Summer Games of Texas, they will be allowed to practice after December 31st of the current year, up until T.A.A.F. Winter Games of Texas swim meet provided they register and compete in the T.A.A.F.

Winter Games of Texas. T.A.A.F. Swimmers that practice after December 31st and fail to compete in the following T.A.A.F. Winter Games of Texas will be ineligible to compete in that year's T.A.A.F. Summer Games of Texas.

32.22 TAAF SUMMER ONLY SWIM PROGRAM - OFF SEASON GUIDELINES

- .01 January 1 through March 31 – Swimmers may participate in clinics two (2) days per month during this time period.
- .02 Beginning April 1 – April 30, swimmers may participate in clinics not to exceed 90 minutes per week.
- .03 Summer Season Work-outs can begin on May 1st each year
- .04 Registration/Notification - It is required that the State Commissioner be notified of clinics as to eliminate any questions or concerns that arise during the season.

32.23 EVENTS (SAME FOR GIRLS AND BOYS):

.01 6 & Under

25	FREESTYLE
25	BACKSTROKE
100	FREESTYLE RELAY

Swimmers ages 6 & under who wish to swim any other event will compete in the 8 & under age division.

.02 8 & UNDER AND 9 - 10 AGE GROUPS

100	MEDLEY RELAY	25	BACKSTROKE
100	FREESTYLE RELAY	25	BREASTSTROKE
25	FREESTYLE	25	BUTTERFLY
50	FREESTYLE	100	INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

.03 11 - 12 AGE GROUPS

200	MEDLEY RELAY	50	BACKSTROKE
200	FREESTYLE RELAY	50	BREASTSTROKE
50	FREESTYLE	50	BUTTERFLY
100	FREESTYLE	100	INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

.04 13 - 14 AND 15 - 17 AGE GROUPS

200	MEDLEY RELAY	50	BACKSTROKE
200	FREESTYLE RELAY	50	BREASTSTROKE
50	FREESTYLE	50	BUTTERFLY
100	FREESTYLE	100	INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY
200	FREESTYLE		
200 Mixed Freestyle Relay (15-17 only) (minimum of two females)		200 Mixed Medley Relay (15-17 only) (minimum of two females)	

.05 18 - 24 AND 25 - 39 AND 40 & Over AGE GROUPS

NOTE: All relays will be for 18 +

200	MEDLEY RELAY	50	BACKSTROKE
200	FREESTYLE RELAY	50	BREASTSTROKE
50	FREESTYLE	50	BUTTERFLY
100	FREESTYLE	100	INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY
200	FREESTYLE	100	MIXED FREESTYLE RELAY (minimum of two females)
200 MIXED MEDLEY RELAY (minimum of two females)		200 MIXED FREESTYLE RELAY (minimum of two females)	

32.24 The state commissioner shall have the authority to select a core group of T.A.A.F. personnel to assist in the running of the state meet. Those individuals selected would have their travel expenses reimbursed by the T.A.A.F. state office.