

Base Time Proximity

Definition: "Base Time" - the qualifying time set by the meet organizers to swim in that event. Example: The qualifying "B" time or "OST" (Olympic Selection Time) for the **Olympics 2020**, in the Men's 100 free is 50.03. The "A" time or "OQT" (Olympic Qualifying Time) is 48.57.

Issue: Assume we have 3 top swimmers, but we can only send one to a very important event. Who do we send, and why?? What method do we use to make the determination? Is the FINA point system the only correct or fair method? .

Answer: No. There may be other methods.

Alternative Method: Base Time Proximity analysis. Determines who has achieved a time that is closest to the qualifying "Base Time" for an event. .

Reasoning: The athlete with a time that is closest to the Base Time of an event, means that athlete has a higher probability of achieving the Base Time, meaning the athlete is better than an athlete who is further away from the Base Time.

The use of the Base Time standard eliminates other issues when comparing athletes participating in in different events.

DISCUSSION ON USING THE BASE TIME AS A STANDARD:

Base Time from "B" qualifying time for 2020 Olympics:

Event:	a. 100 Free	b. 200 Back	c. 200 Medley (I.M.)
Base Time:	50.03	2:01.03	2:03.26

Assume: 3 Guam athletes, 3 events and times, Men:

Event:	a. 100 Free	b. 200 Back	c. 200 Medley (I.M.)
Time:	53.60	2:09.30	2:16.80

Step 1. Convert FINA **Base Time** to be in "seconds".

Event:	a. 100 Free	b. 200 Back	c. 200 Medley (I.M.)
Base Time:	50.03	2:01.03	2:03.26
In Seconds:	50.03	121.03	123.26

Step 2. Convert athletes time to be in “seconds”.

Event:	a. 100 Free	b. 200 Back	c. 200 Medley (I.M.)
Time:	53.60	2:09.30	2:16.80
In Seconds:	53.60	129.30	136.80

Step 3. Formula: $\frac{\text{Athletes time}}{\text{Base Time}} = \text{Proximity to Base Time, in “\%”}$

Explanation:

- i. If athlete made exactly the base time, then it would be 1/1 or 1.
- ii. Example: Athlete swims 100 fr. in 50.03; Base Time is 50.03.
So $50.03/50.03 = 1$
- iii. Base Time is the common denominator.
- iv. If athlete swam it in 53.60, then: $\frac{53.60}{50.03} = 1.0713571856\%$
- v. 53.40 is 1.0713571856% greater or larger than the Base Time of 50.03.

Step 4. Compare the other athletes times to the Base Time for their event. Use the converted times in seconds in the Formula.

Event:	a. 100 Free	b. 200 Back	c. 200 Medley (I.M.)
Athlete:	<u>53.60</u>	<u>129.30</u>	<u>136.80</u>
Base Time:	50.03	121.03	123.26
Calculate:	1.0713571856%	1.0683301660%	1.1098490994%

Step 5. Results or Findings:

The athlete with a time closest to the Base Time (or “1”) for his event is for the “**b. 200 Back.**”

Step 6. Compare to FINA points method.

Event:	a. 100 Free	b. 200 Back	c. 200 Medley (I.M.)
Time:	53.60	2:09.30	2:16.80
FINA Points:	670	648	578

FINA Points method would determine that the 100 free athlete is the better swimmer. But is this true? The 100 free is the world’s most popular event and may have been given more weight. This fact is not stated or made a part of FINA’s determination or explanation.

Note: The above FINA points from: 2021 LCM FINA POINT system.

Conclusion: The FINA POINT method differs from the Base Standard methodology I presented. **But is it correct when it comes to sending the best athlete? Not necessarily.** What is really correct may depend on one's philosophy.

Submitted:

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8/9/22