



Rules and Regulations

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SECTION 1

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SWIMMING PROGRAM

A. Registration and Membership

1. Categories

All athletes who participate in practices with member clubs or meets sanctioned by Pacific Swimming shall be registered with USA Swimming as athlete members. All coaches who are on deck at practices and/or meets shall meet special training requirements to qualify for coach membership as required by USA Swimming. All officials and other non-athlete members shall complete criminal background checks and athlete protection education as required by USA Swimming. In order to meet the requirements for club membership, the club shall have at least one coach member and one athlete member. All meet directors and deck officials shall be non-athlete members.

2. Registration Periods

Athletes may register for a full year, a summer season and/or a fall season. They are offered a single continuous 30-day try out period when first joining USA Swimming, during which time registration is not required. The period ends after 30 days or upon submitting an entry for a meet, whichever is earlier.

3. Applications

The Registration and Membership Chairs handle athlete registration, non-athlete membership and club membership. Club names and abbreviations shall be approved per Pacific Swimming's Policies and Procedures. The current official form(s) may be obtained from the Chair. Refunds of duplicate registrations/memberships will be made upon approval of the Chair.

4. Transfers and Changes

An athlete who changes clubs, intra-LSC or inter-LSC, shall wait for 120 days after his/her last competition representing the old club before representing the new club in competition. The athlete shall compete as an unattached athlete during the 120-day period. The athlete shall notify the Registration Chair of the date of last competition with the old club by completing a transfer form.

5. High School/College Competition

California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) does not penalize USA Swimming members for swimming attached to their local swim clubs during high school season for the Sectionals and National Championship meets. However, the CIF does require that in any other USA Swimming or Pacific Swimming meet held during the high school club season, athletes shall compete unattached. It is the CIF athlete's responsibility to be unattached for these meets.

6. Responsibility

The club shall ensure that all of its athletes, coaches, officials and meet directors are members of USA Swimming. The meet director shall ensure that all athletes, coaches and officials participating in a meet are members of USA Swimming.

B. Classes and Time Standards

1. Classes of Swimming Competition

a. Swimming competition shall be conducted by various classes of swim meets:

(1) Senior

(2) Age-Group — 18 years of age and younger, grouped by ages

i. Age-group meets, with time standards, may offer events grouped by ages or by any combination of ages. Athletes shall qualify at the time standards for their own age group, or if no standards exist for their age group, at the standard for the next oldest age group for their gender where the event is included. Athletes 19 and over shall qualify at 17-18 age-group time standards.

ii. Age group meets, without time standards, may offer events grouped by age or by any combination of ages.

(3) Open Water

2. Time Standards

a. Time standards are used to regulate the qualifying of athletes for a given class of competition and are set by Age Group and Senior Chairs in accordance with Pacific Swimming's Policies and Procedures.

b. Time standards may be found in the Time Standards section of the Pacific Swimming website.

c. Special qualifying times are used as time standards for selected championship meets.

d. Times achieved at an altitude of 3,000 feet or more may be adjusted as provided by the USA Swimming Policies for the purpose of entering any Pacific Swimming meet in which the entered time is subject to verification.

e. Special consideration time is the time standard used to select the team which represents Pacific Swimming at any All Star meet.

f. Zone Championships, League Championships, and City and State Championships may set their own qualifying time.

C. Scheduling

1. Scheduling of Meets

a. A schedule of meets for the ensuing swim season shall be proposed by the Scheduling Committee for approval by the Board of Directors. The Scheduling Committee may propose the procedures for clubs applying for Pacific Swimming meets and limitations on the scheduling of zone autonomy meets.

b. All meets on the combined list of Pacific Swimming and Zone-awarded meets shall be recognized as swim meets under the jurisdiction of Pacific Swimming.

c. Pacific Swimming meets shall be awarded to clubs applying for them by a special committee consisting of the Scheduling Chair (who shall be Chair of this awarding committee), Pacific Swimming Sanctions, Vice Chair- Program Development, Officials Chair, Senior Chair, Age Group Chair, the five Zone Chairs, and such other persons as the General Chair shall determine.

d. Notice of intention to cancel a scheduled Pacific Swimming meet shall be given to the Chair of the Scheduling Committee as per Pacific Swimming Policies and Procedures.

D. Sanctions

1. Sanctioned Meet

- a. All USA Swimming events, whether they are competitive meets or exhibitions, shall be sanctioned. All clubs and/or leagues shall be a member of USA Swimming to be eligible to host a sanctioned meet.
- b. All organizations and athletes participating in a sanctioned meet shall be members in good standing of USA Swimming. Sanction fees for each class of meet can be found in the Pacific Swimming Policies and Procedures.
- c. Any Club in a LSC adjoining the territory of Pacific Swimming shall be permitted to hold a meet at a pool within the territory of Pacific Swimming subject to the approval of the pool owner, any Pacific Swimming club located in the vicinity of the pool, and the Pacific Swimming Board of Directors or Executive Committee. Said meet shall be sanctioned and operated under the using LSC's rules.

2. Approved Meet

- a. An approved meet is a designated meet conducted by either USA Swimming or non USA Swimming organizations, which includes non-USA Swimming athletes as participants. Participating USA Swimming athletes may use their times as USA Swimming qualifying times.
- b. Approvals may be issued to member clubs for open competition conducted in accordance with USA Swimming technical rules if that competition has been specifically approved by the USA Swimming Program Operations Vice-President or his/her designee. Approved meet processing fees can be found in the Pacific Swimming Policies and Procedures.
- c. Approval or disapproval of the meet by the Pacific Swimming National Times Verification (NTV) Officer shall be made after the meet has been held. The decision shall be based on the report of the meet referee, NTV officer, or other designated official as to whether the conduct of the competition conformed to USA Swimming standards.
- d. Approved meets are subject to the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.
- e. Complete official results of an approved meet shall be furnished to the Pacific Swimming NTV Officer.

3. Observed Meet

- a. Swims may be observed by assigned USA Swimming or YMCA officials for conformance with USA Swimming technical rules in a meet conducted under non-USA Swimming technical rules. Official times achieved at observed swims may be submitted for entry into the SWIMS database if all of the following conditions are met.
- b. The meet shall be a season-culminating Championship, e.g., League, Conference, District, Sectional, State, Regional, or be specifically approved by the USA Swimming Program Operations Vice President or designee. A time trial held in conjunction with the season-culminating championship meet that is officiated in accordance with the same standard as the championship meet may also be observed.

E. Pacific Swimming Records and Awards

1. Records

- a. Pacific Swimming records may be set at any USA Swimming sanctioned, approved, observed meet, or sanctioned time trial. The record time shall appear in the results of the meet or time trial, and with the exception of records in 25 yard events, shall appear in the USA Swimming SWIMS database.
- b. Pacific Swimming has two sets of records for 17-18 and senior swimmers. Pacific Swimming Senior Program records may be set by 17-18 age group and senior Pacific Swimming athletes whose date of first registration in Pacific Swimming is prior to Sept. 1 of the calendar year in which the athlete graduated from high school. Pacific Swimming Open records may be set by 17-18 age group and senior Pacific Swimming swimmers regardless of their date of first registration in Pacific.
- c. Times will not be accepted as Pacific Swimming records for Pacific Swimming athletes competing in a foreign meet that are not representing a Pacific Swimming or USA Swimming club.
- d. Record times shall be achieved with fully automatic or semi-automatic timing systems or with three watches. In 50 meter pools, all record times for 50 meter distances shall be achieved with fully automatic or semi-automatic timing systems.

2. Awards

- a. Age Group Athlete and Senior Athlete Awards shall be made annually per Pacific Swimming Policies and Procedures.

SECTION 2

SWIM MEET PREPARATION

A. Meet Announcement

1. Meets shall be conducted under current USA Swimming and Pacific Swimming Rule and Regulations. The sanction application and meet announcement shall be submitted by the deadlines outlined in the Pacific Swimming Policies and Procedures.
2. All sanctioned and approved meet announcements shall be posted in a pdf format by the Pacific Swimming Webmaster on the Meet Schedule page on Pacific Swimming's website within 2 business days of the sanction being granted.
3. The meet announcement shall contain the following statements:
 - a. "Held under the sanction of USA Swimming/Pacific Swimming"
 - b. "It is understood and agreed that USA Swimming shall be free from any liabilities or claims for damages arising by reason of injuries to anyone during the conduct of the event."
 - c. "Photography and video recording from behind the blocks or starting areas is prohibited unless prior permission is granted by the meet referee. Use of any audio or visual recording electronic devices, including but not limited to film and digital camera, cell phones, tablets, and Google Glass, is not permitted in changing areas, rest rooms or locker rooms. Violation of this recording prohibition may result in the ejection from the swimming pool facility by the meet referee or his/her designee."
 - d. Information about water depth measured for a distance of 3 feet 3 ½ inches (1 meter) to 16 feet 5 inches (5.0 meters) from both end walls. USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Article 202.4C
 - e. A complete schedule of lanes and time for all warm-up procedures which shall be adhered to by all participants.
 - f. One of the following two statements as to the certification status of the competition course:
 - (1) "The competition course has been certified in accordance with 104.2.2C(4). The copy of such certification is on file with USA Swimming"; OR
 - (2) "The competition course has not been certified in accordance with Article 104.2.2C(4)"
 - g. "All coaches and deck officials shall visibly display their current USA Swimming membership card".
 - h. "Any athlete entered in the meet shall be certified by a USA Swimming member-coach as being proficient in performing a racing start or shall start each race from within the water. When unaccompanied by a member-coach, it is the responsibility of the athlete or the athlete's legal guardian to ensure compliance with this requirement".
 - i. "Any USA Swimming athlete-member competing at the meet shall be accompanied by a USA Swimming member-coach for the purposes of athlete supervision during warm-up, competition and warm-down. If a coach-member of the athlete's USA Swimming Club does not attend the meet to serve in said supervisory capacity, it is the responsibility of the athlete or the athlete's legal guardian to arrange for supervision by a USA Swimming member-coach. The meet director or meet referee may assist the athlete in making arrangements for such supervision; however, it is recommended that such arrangements be made in advance of the meet by the athlete's USA Swimming Club Member-Coach."

- j. "Changing into or out of swimsuits other than in locker rooms or other designated areas is prohibited"
- k. "Destructive Devices – Destructive devices to include but not limited to explosive devices and equipment, firearms (open or concealed), blades, knives, mace, stun guns and blunt objects are strictly prohibited in the swimming facility and its surrounding areas. If observed, the meet referee or his/her designee may ask that these devices be stored safely away from the public or removed from the facility. Noncompliance may result in the reporting to law enforcement authorities and ejection from the facility. Law enforcement officers (LEO) are exempt per applicable laws."
- l. "If local conditions warrant it, the meet referee, with the concurrence of the meet director, may require a mandatory scratch down, subject to the provisions of Pacific Swimming Rules and Regulations".
- m. "No athlete will be permitted to compete unless the athlete is a member as provided in USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Article 302"
- n. A statement of the nature of prizes to be awarded
- o. Wording shall be included in all non-championship meet announcements as follows: "Disability athletes are welcome to attend this meet and should contact the Meet Director or Meet Referee regarding special accommodations on entry times and seeding per Pacific Swimming policy." The preceding statement may also be included in meet announcements for championship meets at the discretion of the Meet Director and Meet Referee.
- p. The following paragraph relating to late entries shall be included in the Far Western meet announcement:

"LATE ENTRIES: Any team or athlete missing the entry deadline will be permitted to enter late, subject to the following requirements:

 - A. Late entries shall be submitted through the Online Meet Entry system (OME);
 - B. These entries shall be received no later than 11:59 p.m. **Pacific Time** on [day of the week](#), [M/DD/YYYY](#);
 - C. The team of athlete shall pay a one-time processing fee of \$75.00 and pay entry fees of \$20 per individual and \$40 per relay event. "

Late entries shall close two days (48 hours) after the published close of the meet. The purpose of late entries is to assist coaches who have forgotten to enter relays or athlete(s) in event(s).

- 4. The meet announcement shall include whether on-deck registration will be permitted and under what condition
- 5. All meets sponsored in whole or in part by Pacific Swimming shall include the statement "co-sponsored by Pacific Swimming" in the meet announcement under the heading which lists the meet host, the dates of the meet and the name of/or classification of the meet.

B. Entry Fees

1. Entry fees shall be charged for each meet category. The meet host is not required to accept entries that do not include applicable fees. Participation fees cannot be charged unless entry fees are charged.

Meet Category	Individual Entry Fees			Relay Entry Fees		
	Total Fee	To Host	Due PC	Total Fee	To Host	Due PC
	LSC MEETS					
Preliminaries and Finals Senior Meets	\$7.50	\$5.25	\$2.25	\$20.00	\$14.00	\$6.00
Timed Finals Senior Meets	\$6.50	\$4.55	\$1.95	\$20.00	\$14.00	\$6.00
JO Championships	\$7.50	\$5.25	\$2.25	\$20.00	\$14.00	\$6.00
FW Championships	\$10.00	\$7.00	\$3.00	\$20.00	\$14.00	\$6.00
	AGE GROUP MEETS					
Other Preliminaries and Finals Meets	\$5.50	\$3.85	\$1.65	\$16.00	\$11.20	\$4.80
Age Group Meets	\$4.00	\$2.80	\$1.20	\$9.00	\$6.30	\$2.70
	"OTHER"					
Time Trials	\$50.00 flat fee (includes sanction fee)					

NOTES:

- a. Multi-class meets – applicable fee will be that of the highest category included in the meet.
- b. Host clubs may impose a participation fee not to exceed \$8.00 for short course meets and \$10.00 for long course meets per athlete to help defray meet expenses. Host clubs of meets scheduled by Zone 4 may increase the foregoing participation fee amounts by \$1.00 per athlete to help defray expenses of the Zone. Relay-Only athletes are exempt from this surcharge, except in relay-only meets.
- c. Leagues charging entry fees shall pay the Pacific Swimming portion applicable to amount of entry fee as listed above.
- d. Alternative entry fee formats for Dual, Tri, Quad, Closed Invitational and Super League are found in the Policies and Procedures.
- e. The Pacific Swimming fee does not apply to Disability Swimming Meets.

C. Events

1. All events shall conform to the current list in the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations. Exceptions may be made by application to and approval of Pacific Swimming Sanctions. All LSC awarded Age Group Meets need approval from the Age Group Chair, and all LSC Senior meets need approval from the Senior Chair. All Zone awarded meets need approval from Zone Sanction Chair.

SECTION 3

CONDUCT OF MEETS

A. Rules

1. Meets shall be conducted under current rules and regulations of USA Swimming and Pacific Swimming. The sanction application and meet announcement shall be submitted by the deadlines outlined in the Pacific Swimming Policies and Procedures.
2. At each sanctioned competition, every warm-up session shall be supervised and controlled using the warm-up procedures adopted by Pacific Swimming. A complete copy of the Pacific Swimming warm-up procedures shall be provided with each sanction and shall be posted at the Clerk of Course during the meet.
3. Except for coaches accompanying athletes participating under the provisions of USA Swimming's "open border" policy, all persons acting in any coaching or officiating capacity shall show proof of valid USA Swimming membership in accordance with Pacific Swimming Policies and Procedures.
4. All animals except service animals are prohibited from all areas of the competition venue.
5. In Preliminaries and Finals meets, the finals may not begin less than one hour after the completion of the last preliminary heat that day.
6. No athlete will be eligible to participate in a Pacific Swimming-sponsored swim meet if the athlete or the athlete's family is indebted to Pacific Swimming. Resolution of the indebtedness subsequent to selection or entry in a Pacific Swimming-sponsored swim meet may not make the athlete eligible for participation. An athlete will not be eligible for further participation as long as the indebtedness remains unresolved.
7. Timing systems to be provided by meet hosts of all meets sanctioned by Pacific Swimming shall conform to USA Swimming Timing Rules Article 102.24. Minimum timing system requirements are described in USA Swimming Policies and Procedures.
8. Any meet having qualifying time standards not in accordance with those published by Pacific Swimming shall be approved by the Board of Directors prior to being sanctioned.

B. Meet Operations

1. Entries
 - a. Competitors shall be current athlete members of USA Swimming. The meet host shall check all athlete registrations against the USA Swimming SWIMS database.
 - b. At all sanctioned meets that include time trials, only athletes that are entered in an individual event in the meet are eligible to enter time trials.
 - c. Once the meet or a meet session has met an imposed capacity and has closed, all further meet entries and payments shall be returned per Pacific Swimming Policies and Procedures.
 - (1) The host club shall accept, in the order they receive them, entries to a CAP meet. Athletes from the host club shall not be given preference.
 - (2) Failure of the host club to notify, in the prescribed manner, the athletes that their entries are not being accepted, shall result in a complaint filed with the Pacific Swimming Administrative Review Board. A host club not attempting to notify non-accepted entrants may be barred by the Board of Directors from hosting meets the following year.

2. Check-In

- a. No event shall be closed more than 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the session. Close of check-in for remaining events shall be no more than 60 minutes before the estimated time of the start of the first heat of the event.

3. Scratch Down Procedures

- a. Mandatory Scratch-down — If conditions warrant, the referee, with the concurrence of the meet director, may require athletes to scratch an event or events in order to regulate and control the length of time for competition in a sanctioned meet.
 - (1) Meet announcements shall include the following statement “If local conditions warrant it, the meet referee, with the concurrence of the meet director, may require a mandatory scratch down, subject to the provisions of Pacific Swimming Rules and Regulations.”
 - (2) The mandatory scratch procedure shall be applicable to timed final events only.
 - (3) To the maximum extent possible, the mandatory scratch requirement shall be applied uniformly to all age groups and all athletes.
 - (4) The entry fee for each event scratched pursuant to the mandatory scratch procedure shall be refunded in full to athletes in cash prior to the close of the meet.

4. No Show Penalties

- a. Age Group Meet: Refer to Pacific Swimming Rules and Regulations Section 4.
- b. Senior Meet: Refer to Pacific Swimming Rules and Regulations Section 5.

C. Meet Results

1. Meet results shall be submitted to Pacific Swimming no later than 48 hours after the completion of the meet, in the manner and format prescribed in Pacific Swimming Policies and Procedures.
2. Failure to provide meet results as required shall be grounds for denying future sanctions.

D. Financial Reports, Meet Summary Reports and Fees

1. Meet financial report, meet summary report and payment of fees due Pacific Swimming shall be received by the Treasurer within 30 days after the last day of the meet.
2. Failure to provide the meet financial report and payment of fees due Pacific Swimming as specified shall subject the meet host to a penalty of 10% of the Pacific Swimming share of the meet fees and may provide grounds for denying future sanctions.
3. A meet summary report is a copy of the documentation from the meet management software used to determine and calculate the number of individual and relay entries and the corresponding fees due to Pacific Swimming. The meet summary report shall be attached to the meet financial report. Failure to supply the documentation will trigger a reminder e-mail to the club. If the documentation is not provided to the Treasurer within 14 days of the reminder, a penalty fee of 25% of the fees paid to Pacific Swimming shall be assessed to the club.

4. Invoices shall be emailed to clubs who incorrectly calculate the amount due to Pacific Swimming. Payment shall be received by the treasurer within 14 days of the reminder. If the payment has not been postmarked by that deadline a penalty of 10% of the amount due will be added to the amount due. If the invoice has not been paid within 30 days of the reminder, the club shall not be eligible to host a sanctioned meet until the payment has been received.

SECTION 4

AGE GROUP COMPETITION

A. Qualifying Times For Age Group Meets

1. Athletes shall be qualified for a specific meet in a given stroke and distance when they have equaled or bettered the time standard for that event.
2. Only times in the USA Swimming SWIMS database shall be acceptable to qualify for Junior Olympics and Far Westerns level competition and LSC Championship meets. In all other Age Group competition, coach-verified entry times may also be accepted.
3. Athletes who compete in a meet event at or better than the minimum standard shall thereafter be considered to be qualified in that particular event in all courses and may not again compete in the same event in a lower standard meet, even if they have not actually performed at or better than the time standard.
4. Qualifying By Stroke and Distance
 - a. An athlete who achieves any Pacific Swimming age-group qualifying standard in one course (SCY, SCM, or LCM) shall be considered qualified at that same standard in the equivalent stroke and distance in all courses.
 - b. Athletes maintain their time standard level for the duration of a meet even if they qualify for the next level during the meet. This rule also applies to relay events.
 - c. Any athlete, upon changing age groups, who has already met any standard in an event offered in the new age group shall be considered qualified at that level for that event in the new age group, as long as the time has been achieved in the qualifying period (if any) for entry into the meet.
 - d. Athletes, who enter an event for which they are not qualified, or who have met the next higher time standard, shall scratch the event.

B. Eligibility

1. Individual Eligibility
 - a. Registered athletes, up to and including age 18, are eligible to compete in the Age Group program in those events scheduled for their age group and shall swim in events offered for that age or age group for an entire meet. Age on the first day of the meet governs for the entire meet.
 - b. Athletes are eligible to compete only in the individual events for which they qualify in any meet unless provisions in the meet announcement allow for bonus events.
 - c. In multi-classed meets, the zone may further restrict an event to a specific time standard.
 - d. Invitational meets are open only to athletes from invited clubs. Invited clubs shall be named in the sanction.
 - e. Athletes registered in other LSCs may swim in Pacific meets for which they qualify with the exception of Junior Olympics and Age Group Championships.
 - f. To be eligible for a Pacific All Star team, an athlete shall be a lawful resident of the United States and a member of Pacific Swimming.

2. Event Limitations

- a. In Preliminaries and Finals meets, an athlete may compete in not more than three (3) individual events per day.
- b. In Timed Finals meets, an athlete may compete in not more than five (5) individual events per day.
- c. An athlete may enter as many events as they wish, but shall not compete in more than the maximum events allowed by the meet format, and are not guaranteed a refund of excess entry fees.

C. Conduct of Meets

1. All Pacific Swimming Age Group Far Western, Junior Olympics, and Age Group Championship meets shall be Preliminaries and Finals meets. All other Pacific Swimming Age Group meets shall operate as a Timed Finals meet. Zones shall determine the format to be used in zone scheduled meets.
2. Individual Scratch Rule – Athletes shall inform themselves of the meet starting time and shall report to the proper meet authorities promptly upon call.
 - a. Pre-Seeded Meets
 - (1) Athletes shall report promptly to the starting blocks when their event/heat is called.
 - (2) Any athlete not reporting for or competing in an individual timed final event shall not be penalized.
 - (3) Any athletes not reporting for or competing in a preliminary heat when finals are scheduled shall not be penalized.
 - b. In Zone awarded meets that are Deck Seeded
 - (1) No event shall be closed more than 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the session. Close of check-in for remaining events shall be no more than 60 minutes before the estimated time of the start of the first heat of the event. Athletes who fail to check-in shall not be seeded in the event.
 - (2) Any athletes not reporting for or competing in an individual timed final event that they have checked in for shall not be penalized.
 - c. In LSC awarded meets that are Deck Seeded
 - (1) No event shall be closed more than 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the session. Close of check-in for remaining events shall be no more than 60 minutes before the estimated time of the start of the first heat of the event. Athletes who fail to check-in shall not be seeded in the event.
 - (2) Athletes entered in a timed final individual event that is Deck Seeded who have checked in for that event, shall compete in the event unless they notify the clerk of the course before seeding for that event has begun that they wish to scratch. Failure to compete in an event shall result in being barred from their next individual event.
 - (3) Athletes entered in an individual event in a Preliminaries and Finals meet that is Deck Seeded who have checked in for that event, shall compete in the event unless they notify the clerk of the course before seeding for that event has begun that they wish to scratch. Failure to compete in an event shall result in being barred from their next preliminary individual event.

- d. Scratching from Consolation Finals and Finals
- (1) Athletes may scratch or declare their intent to scratch a final event, or multiple final events at the beginning of competition for that day.
 - (2) Any athlete qualifying for any level of finals in an individual event who does not wish to compete shall scratch within 30 minutes after the announcement of qualifiers. During this period, qualifiers may also notify the referee that they may not intend to compete in consolation finals or finals. In this case, they shall declare their final intention within 30 minutes after the announcement of qualifiers following their last individual preliminary event.
 - (3) In the event of a withdrawal or barring of an athlete from competition, the referee shall fill the consolation final or final when possible with the next qualified athlete(s). First and second alternates shall be announced along with the final qualifiers. These alternates shall not be penalized if they are unavailable to compete in the finals.
 - (4) Where consolation finals have not yet been swum and barring or withdrawal is known to the referee, the referee shall reseed the consolation final and the final, if necessary, to insert the alternate(s) in the appropriate lane(s), filling all lanes in the final.
 - (5) If a consolation final has already been contested, the Championship final shall be swum without reseeding for the empty lane(s).
- e. Penalty for No-Show at Finals
- (1) Any athlete qualifying for a consolation final or final race in an individual event who fails to report to the blocks in said consolation final or final race prior to calling the alternate shall be barred from the remainder of any final events for that day. Should the athlete have no additional final events for that day they shall be barred from their next preliminary event.
 - (2) If the No-Show occurs on the last day that the athlete is entered in an individual final event in the meet, and no other individual event penalty is applicable, the athlete shall be fined \$100.00. The fine will be increased to \$150.00 if after 30 days of receiving the letter of notification the party has not made the payment.
- f. Exceptions – No penalty shall apply for failure to withdraw or compete in an individual event if:
- (1) The referee is notified in the event of illness or injury and accepts the proof thereof.
 - (2) It is determined by the referee that the No-Show is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the athlete.
 - (3) The athlete qualified for any level of finals due to scratches of one or more original finalists.
 - (4) The athlete is an alternate for any level of finals.
- g. Relay Scratch Rule – Any relay team entered in a relay event that fails to compete in or report for that event shall not be penalized.

SECTION 5

SENIOR COMPETITION

A. Qualifying – Senior Competitions

1. Senior Circuit
 - a. The minimum age shall be thirteen years old
 - b. Meets to be Preliminaries and Finals and to include Time Trials
2. Senior 2
 - a. The minimum age shall be twelve years old (except High School Walk-On Meets, where athletes shall have been in high school or be a minimum of 15 years)
 - b. Meets shall be either Timed Finals or Preliminaries and Finals and may include Time Trials.
3. Senior Open
 - a. The minimum age shall be eleven years old
 - b. Meets shall be either Timed Finals or Preliminaries and Finals and may not include Time Trials.
4. An athlete shall qualify in any sanctioned or approved competition, or in an observed swim.
5. An athlete who qualifies for Senior competition in a specific stroke and distance shall be considered qualified in the same stroke and distance in all courses.

B. Eligibility

1. Senior Meets
 - a. In Senior Circuit and Senior 2 Preliminaries and Finals meets, athletes are eligible to enter all events in which they have equaled or bettered the listed time standards and shall not compete in more than three (3) individual events per day.
 - b. In Senior 2 Timed Finals and Senior Open meets athletes are eligible to enter all events in which they have equaled or bettered the listed time standard, but shall not compete in more than four (4) individual events per day.
 - c. Proof of time using the USA Swimming SWIMS Database as a standard shall be used to verify times for all athletes entering Senior Circuit and Senior 2 meets, and 12 and under athletes entering Senior Open meets. The time shall have been achieved prior to the closing date for entries to the meet. If the time cannot be proven prior to the meet, the athlete shall not be allowed to check-in for the event until the entry time has been proven. When possible the coaches will be notified of their athletes who have not proven their entry time.

C. Conduct of Meets

1. Senior meets shall offer all events that are swum in the National Championship meets. Relay events are optional.
2. Senior meet formats will be outlined in the Minimum Senior Meet Criteria document established by the Senior Committee.

3. Individual Scratch Rule – Athletes shall inform themselves of the meet starting time and shall report to the proper meet authorities promptly upon call.
 - a. Pre-Seeded Meets
 - (1) Athletes shall report promptly to the starting blocks when their event/heat is called.
 - (2) Any athletes not reporting for or competing in an individual timed final event shall not be penalized.
 - (3) Any athletes not reporting for or competing in a preliminary heat when finals are scheduled shall not be penalized.
 - b. Senior meets that are Deck Seeded
 - (1) No event shall be closed more than 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the session. Close of check-in for remaining events shall be no more than 60 minutes before the estimated time of the start of the first heat of the event. Athletes who fail to check-in shall not be seeded in the event.
 - (2) Athletes entered in a timed final individual event that is Deck Seeded who have checked in for that event, shall compete in the event unless they notify the clerk of the course before seeding for that event has begun that they wish to scratch. Failure to compete in an event will result in being barred from their next individual event.
 - (3) Athletes entered in an individual event in a Preliminaries and Finals meet that is Deck Seeded who have checked in for that event, shall compete in the event unless they notify the clerk of the course before seeding for that event has begun that they wish to scratch. Failure to compete in an event shall result in being barred from the rest of his/her events that day including relays. If the athlete qualified for a final before missing an event they may swim that final.
4. Scratching from Bonus and Consolation Finals and Finals
 - a. Athletes may scratch or declare their intent to scratch a final event, or multiple final events at the beginning of competition for that day.
 - b. Any athlete qualifying for any level of finals in an individual event who does not wish to compete shall scratch within 30 minutes after the announcement of qualifiers. During this period, qualifiers may also notify the referee that they may not intend to compete in consolation finals or finals. In this case, they shall declare their final intention within 30 minutes after the announcement of qualifiers following their last individual preliminary event.
 - c. In the event of a withdrawal or barring of an athlete from competition, the referee shall fill the bonus final, consolation final or final when possible with the next qualified athlete(s). First and second alternates shall be announced along with the final qualifiers. These alternates shall not be penalized if they are unavailable to compete in the finals.
 - d. Where bonus or consolation finals have not yet been swum and barring or withdrawal is known to the referee, the referee shall reseed the bonus final, consolation final and the final, if necessary, to insert the alternate(s) in the appropriate lane(s), filling all lanes in the final.
 - e. If a bonus and consolation final has already been contested, the Championship final shall be swum without reseeding for the empty lane(s).
 - f. In a Preliminaries and Finals meet, for final heats where athletes are not provided any recognition other than an opportunity to compete, alternates may be inserted into empty lanes regardless of order that finals are swum. USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Article 102.5.6(B)

5. Penalty for No-Show at Finals
 - a. Any athlete qualifying for a bonus final, consolation final or final race in an individual event who fails to report to the blocks in said consolation final or final race prior to calling the alternate shall be barred from further competition for the remainder of the meet.
 - b. If the No-Show occurs on the last day that the athlete is entered in an individual final event in the meet, and no other individual event penalty is applicable, the athlete shall be fined \$100.00. The fine shall be increased to \$150.00 if after 30 days of receiving the letter of notification the party has not made the payment.
6. Exceptions – No penalty shall apply for failure to withdraw or compete in an individual event if:
 - a. The referee is notified in the event of illness or injury and accepts the proof thereof.
 - b. It is determined by the referee that the No-Show is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the athlete.
 - c. The athlete is an alternate for any level of finals
7. Relay Scratch Rule – Any relay team entered in a relay event that fails to compete in or report for that event shall not be penalized.

SECTION 6

ZONE MEET AUTONOMY

A. Rules

1. Eligibility of athletes and conduct of meets shall conform to Pacific Swimming Rules and Regulations except as follows:
 - a. Zones may restrict entry to residents of the zones in certain meets.
 - b. Meet time standards may be set by the Zone
 - c. Meet format may be set by the Zone
 - d. Zone meets shall be reviewed and approved by the meet referee and Zone Sanction Chair prior to submission to Pacific Swimming Sanction Chair for final approval.
 - e. Zones may make their own policies regarding restrictions to be applied to their athletes.
 - f. Each Zone may set their own requirements for minimum number of officials required per club for Zone meets, and shall meet or exceed the requirement set by USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.

SECTION 7

CLOSED LEAGUES WITHIN PACIFIC SWIMMING

A. Sanctions

1. Meets shall be sanctioned by Pacific Swimming in accordance with Section 1.D. Sanction applications shall be requested from the Pacific Swimming Sanction Chair or the local Zone Sanction Chair
2. All clubs and/or leagues shall be a member of USA Swimming to be eligible to host a sanctioned meet.
3. Dual Meets may submit one blanket application to cover sanctions for all scheduled dual meets with one (1) copy of the schedule and one (1) copy of the list of events to be offered in the dual meet to the Zone Sanction Chair and Pacific Swimming Sanctions Chair. Meet dates and list of events offered shall be included if meet events vary.
4. Championship meets shall be sanctioned separately.
5. Member leagues which charge entry fees for a meet by individual, by club or through the league shall pay all fees to Pacific Swimming. The fee schedule can be found in Pacific Swimming Policies and Procedures.
6. Dates of league championship meets shall be approved by the zone in which the meet will be held.

B. Age Groups

1. In Closed League meets athletes shall compete within the age groups specified in Pacific Swimming Rules and Regulations Sections 1.B.1.c

SECTION 8

OFFICIATING

A. Operation of Swimming Meets

1. Pacific Swimming meets shall be staffed by currently registered non-athlete members of USA Swimming certified as officials. Officials certified by Pacific Swimming or other LSCs, who are volunteers shall be qualified by training and experience in the various capacities of officiating.
2. Officials' positions and duties are described in the USA Swimming Rulebook.

B. Organization

1. All currently registered non-athlete members of USA Swimming certified as an official registered with Pacific Swimming shall be considered Pacific Swimming officials.
2. The LSC Officials Chair shall preside over the Officials Committee.
3. The LSC Officials Chair shall appoint, with the advice and approval of the Pacific Swimming General Chair and the Zone Chair, an Officials Chair in each of the five zones. The Zone Officials Chair may appoint qualified officials to conduct officials' clinics as necessary.

C. Duties of the Zone Officials Chair

1. Schedule and conduct training clinics in the Zone.
2. Maintain a list of trained officials, indicating qualifications of these people based on experience, performance, and interest.
3. Zone Officials Chair is responsible for the assignment of qualified officials to Zone scheduled and sanctioned meets as needed.
4. Assist the LSC Officials Chair and meet directors in obtaining qualified officials suitable to the needs of scheduled LSC meets.

D. Qualification of Officials

1. Clinics for the instruction of officials in various capacities shall be conducted by qualified instructors and hosted by the Officials Committee, Zones, and clubs.
2. All clinics shall be sanctioned and shall be approved by the Pacific Swimming Officials Chair or the Zone Officials Chair. A sanction fee is not required.
3. Persons instructed as officials at clinics shall serve at meets as trainees under the supervision of experienced qualified officials. Certification of officials shall require the evaluation of the trainee and/or official according to Pacific Swimming Officials Advancement Criteria and recommendation by meet referees under whom the training was accomplished in addition to the clinic instruction and the approval of the Zone Officials Chair.
4. The position and level for which the official is certified shall be entered into the Officials Tracking System database of USA Swimming.
5. Swimming officials shall wear a uniform of appropriate clothing prescribed by the Officials Committee during the performance of duties and display their current USA Swimming membership card at all times while performing their duties.

SECTION 9

TRAVEL SUPPORT

A. Purpose

1. To help defray the travel costs of Pacific Swimming clubs with athlete members competing in “national” level meets as determined by the Board of Directors.
2. To help defray the travel costs of Pacific Swimming coaches attending “national” level meet as determined by the Board of Directors.

B. Control of Funds

1. The Treasurer shall have control of disbursements. The disbursements shall be managed in accordance with Pacific Swimming Bylaws Article 6.7. All disbursements shall be paid to Pacific Swimming registered clubs.
2. No travel support payment will be made to a club if the club, coach or athlete is indebted to Pacific Swimming. No payment will be made until the indebtedness has been resolved.

C. Eligibility

1. Representation
 - a. The athlete shall compete attached to a Pacific Swimming club or compete unattached as a Pacific Swimming member.
 - b. The coach shall be a USA Swimming registered coach in good standing.
 - c. For relay-only athletes’ travel support, see Pacific Swimming Policies and Procedures Senior Travel Support Guidelines.
2. Registration
 - a. To be eligible for travel support athletes shall meet the eligibility and registration requirements as stated in the Pacific Swimming Policies and Procedures
3. Travel Support Requirements
 - a. A copy of the club’s Travel Policy shall be on file with Pacific Swimming’s Membership Office.
 - b. A signed Code of Conduct for all athletes attending the meet shall be on file with Pacific Swimming’s Membership Office.
4. Citizenship
 - a. To be eligible for travel support, an athlete shall be a United States citizen or have a permanent resident visa issued by the United States.
5. Appeals
 - a. A club can appeal the decision of the Travel Committee.

SECTION 10

HONOR CODE

A. Purpose

The purpose of the Honor Code is to define and govern the behavior of athletes, coaches, managers and other staff members employed, associated with or representing Pacific Swimming-sponsored travel trips. The Honor Code shall apply to all of the above mentioned individuals while attending and participating in events or competition acknowledged, sanctioned, sponsored or hosted by Pacific Swimming. The Honor Code is designed to instill basic honorable principles in laying the foundation for one to act in an appropriate, ethical and responsible manner in furtherance to the achievement of excellence in the sport of swimming and in life.

B. Authority

The review committee (consisting of the Age Group Chair or his delegate, the Head Coach, the Age Group Coach(es) of the individual(s) involved, a female athlete, a male athlete, and a non-coach member) shall have the enforcement authority to act and to effectuate adherence to the Honor Code and the Code of Conduct in compliance with Pacific Swimming and USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, Policies and Procedures, and guidance.

C. Applicability

The Honor Code shall apply to and are subject to adherence and compliance by all athletes, coaches, managers and other staff members while attending and participating in events or competition acknowledged, sanctioned, sponsored or hosted by Pacific Swimming or its subsidiaries.

D. Compliance

Each athlete, coach, manager or other staff member of Pacific Swimming or of any club representing Pacific Swimming in competition is required to sign the Pacific Swimming Athletes Honor Code (Appendix A), or the Pacific Swimming Coaches/Managers Code of Conduct (Appendix B)

The signed document shall be turned in before the competition and a signed copy of the document shall be available at the competition.

If needed, at the conclusion of the event, a committee consisting of the Age Group Chair, the head coach, a member of the staff, and two member athletes shall conduct an evaluation to determine if any aspects of the honor code/code of conduct were violated and to make recommendation for changes, if necessary. Said evaluation shall be submitted to the Board of Directors within seventy-two (72) hours following the event.

SECTION 11

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

1. Pacific Swimming recognizes the prevalence of electronic communication and social media in today's world. Many of our athletes use these means as their primary method of communication. While Pacific Swimming acknowledges the value of these methods of communication, Pacific Swimming also realizes that there are associated risks that shall be considered when adults use these methods to communicate with minors.
2. All communications between a coach or other adult including but not limited to official chaperone, manager and athlete shall be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about club activities. The content and intent of all electronic communications shall adhere to the USA Swimming Code of Conduct regarding Athlete Protection.

APPENDIX A PACIFIC SWIMMING ATHLETES HONOR CODE

This Honor Code and any additional guidelines regarding conduct will be reviewed by the Head Coach at the first team meeting.

Upon notification of any violation of the Honor Code, a review committee (consisting of the Age Group Chair or his delegate, the Head Coach, the Age Group Coach(es) of the individual(s) involved, a female athlete, a male athlete, and a non-coach member) shall promptly investigate the circumstances of the violation, notify the individual(s) charged of a time for hearing, and shall conduct an informal hearing on the evidence. This review committee shall then promptly determine what disciplinary action, if any, shall be taken. Code of Conduct violations will be immediately referred to the Zone Board of Review. All other violations and disciplinary actions will be reported to the Pacific Swimming Administrative Review Board.

I, _____, as a member of Pacific Swimming understand and will comply with the following as approved by the Pacific Swimming Board of Directors:

(Athlete)

1. The possession or use of alcohol, tobacco products or controlled substances is prohibited throughout the designated duration of the trip.
2. Curfews will be established and adhered to during the trip.
3. Attendance is required at all team functions which include, but are not limited to, meetings, practices, exhibitions, press conferences, and competitions unless otherwise excused or instructed by the head coach, or designated person in charge of the team.
4. The hallway door will be left fully open (so the interior of the room can be viewed from the hallway) when any athletes other than those assigned to occupy the room are in the room.
5. Uniform requirements established for the trip will be followed.
6. Proper respect, sportsmanship and courtesy towards coaches, officials, administrators, competitors, and the public, will be displayed.
7. The manner in which one behaves will present a positive image of Pacific Swimming and will provide an atmosphere to meet the competitive performance objectives.
8. Additional guidelines may be established as needed to ensure the safety and well-being of the team members and will be adhered to during the trip.

I understand that failure to comply with the Pacific Swimming Honor Code as set forth in this document or additions necessary for the safety and well-being of the team members may result in disciplinary action which may include but is not limited to the following:

1. Disqualification from one or more swimming activities.
2. Dismissal from team and return home at my own expense.
3. The infraction(s) will be reported to the Pacific Swimming Administrative Review Board who may take additional disciplinary action including but not limited to disqualification from future Pacific Swimming sponsored activities.

I may appeal any disciplinary action in accordance with USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Part Four and Pacific Swimming Bylaws Article 10.

(Printed Name of Athlete)

(Signature)

(Date)

(Printed Name of Parent or Legal Guardian)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPENDIX B



Coaches/Managers Code of Conduct

I, the undersigned staff member agree to participate in the Pacific Swimming sponsored activity named below. I agree to abide by the standards of conduct outlined below, in addition to those guidelines established by the activity director at the activity site. Any additional guide lines regarding conduct will be presented at the first team meeting following establishment of these guidelines.

1. Staff members are required to attend all team functions. These include, but are not limited to, meetings, training sessions, practice sessions, competitions, exhibitions and press conferences unless excused by the activity director.
2. The possession or use of alcohol, tobacco or any controlled substances, is prohibited.
3. Staff members are prohibited from wearing any home team clothing or trying to recruit swimmers, either directly or indirectly, for their home club.
4. Staff members are required to help supervise the athletes at all times during the activity.
5. Barring acceptable extenuating circumstances, failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may result in the following:
 - a. Code of Conduct violations will be immediately referred to the Zone Board of Review.
 - b. Loss of compensation for the activity
 - c. Suspension from participating in future activities
 - d. Reimbursement to Pacific Swimming for all costs incurred on my behalf
6. The Pacific Swimming Administrative Review Board shall within 30 days determine the penalty and notify the staff member of their findings.
7. Any disciplinary action may be appealed in accordance with USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Part Four and Pacific Swimming Bylaws Article 10.

Signature

Date

Print Name

CATALOG OF CHANGES

October 10, 2015	HOD approved revisions of Rules and Regulations document
October 10, 2015	Old Rules and Regulations archived
October 28, 2015	Rules and Regulations formatted for uniformity
November 16, 2015	Section 1E1b(1) and (2) reworded to match website regarding new Senior Records
	Section 2B1 chart changed to spell out Preliminaries and Finals and change CBA+ to Age Group Meets
	Section 3B3a(1)3 reworded for clarity
	Section 4C1 reworded and capitalization corrected for meet names
	Section 9C1c reworded information regarding relay-only swimmer travel support, redirecting them to Policies and Procedures.
November 19, 2015	Section 6A1e removed for redundancy
January 22, 2016	Section 5A5 sentence removed as it is a Procedure not a Rule
May 7, 2016	Section 1B1b & c moved to Section 1B1a(2) i & ii
May 7, 2016	Section 1B1a(3) wording deleted
May 7, 2016	Section 2B1 wording changed from “class” to “category”
May 7, 2016	Section 3B3a(3) wording changed
May 7, 2016	Section 4A1-4 wording changed to remove “class”
May 7, 2016	Section 4B2 deleted; Section 4B3 becomes 4B2
May 7, 2016	PC P&P Section IX2.0 becomes R&R Section 2A3o
May 7, 2016	PC P&P Section IX3.0 becomes R&R Section 3A8
May 7, 2016	PC P&P Section IX12.0 becomes R&R Section 2A5
May 7, 2016	Section 4C2c(2) deleted wording to close loophole
May 7, 2016	Section 4C2c(3) deleted wording to close loophole
May 7, 2016	Section 4C2e(1) deleted wording to close loophole
May 7, 2016	Section 5C3b(2) deleted wording to close loophole
May 7, 2016	Section 3D3 changes 30 days to 14 days
May 7, 2016	Section 3D4 added re: invoices and penalties
October 19, 2016	Section 2, Far Western Late Entry wording added

May 19, 2018	Section 5C4-5 changed to positive check-in
May 19, 2018	Section 5A3b changed Senior Open Meet parameters
May 19, 2018	Section 2B1 changed Senior Meet categories for fees
May 19, 2018	Appendix B changed wording on allowable substances