

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.