

SECTION 7

SENIOR COMPETITION

A. Meet Formats & Qualifying

1. Senior Circuit
 - a. The minimum age shall be thirteen (13) years old
 - b. Meets to be Preliminaries and Finals and may include Time Trials
2. Senior 2
 - a. The minimum age shall be twelve (12) years old, except High School Walk-On Meets, where athletes shall have been in high school or be a minimum of fifteen (15) years old.
 - b. Meets shall be either Timed Finals or Preliminaries and Finals and may include Time Trials in Preliminary/Final meets.
3. Senior Open
 - a. The minimum age shall be eleven (11) 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.

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 11-12 year old 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. One or both distance events (1000/1650 Y Free in SCY and 800/1500 M Free in LCM) may be offered.
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. Senior Timed Finals Meets that are Deck Seeded
 - (1) No event shall be closed more than thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled start of the session. Close of check-in for remaining events shall be no more than sixty (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. Times of close of check-in for events shall be described in the Meet Announcement.
 - (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. Athletes who declare a false start or are charged with delay of meet are considered to have competed in that event. Failure to compete in an event will result in being barred from their next individual event.
 - b. Senior Trials and Finals Meets that are Pre-Seeded
 - (1) Preliminaries
 - i. Coaches wishing to scratch athletes must follow the instructions listed in the Meet Announcement. The scratch box will be located at the Scratch Desk at the start of the meet on Saturday until the scratch deadline. The penalty for failing to show in an individual preliminary heat in which such athlete is entered and has not been scratched or has not declared a false start will be:
 - ii. The athlete will be barred from the rest of his/her events that day.
 - iii. If the athlete qualifies for a final before missing an event, they may swim that final.
 - iv. The athlete must positively check-in with the Administrative Referee for any subsequent days' preliminary events they are entered in if they wish to swim that event.
 - v. Heat sheets for the next day will be posted as described in the Meet Announcement.
 - (2) Finals
 - i. Any athlete qualifying for any level of finals in an individual event who does not wish to compete shall scratch within thirty (30) minutes after the announcement of qualifiers. During this period, qualifiers may also notify the Referee that they may not intend to compete in Bonus, Consolation or Championship Finals. In this case they shall declare their final intention within thirty (30) minutes after the announcement of qualifiers following their last individual Preliminary Event.
 - ii. Any athlete qualifying for a Bonus Final, Consolation Final or Championship Final race in an individual event who fails to compete in said Bonus Final, Consolation Final or Championship Final race prior to calling the alternate shall be barred from further competition for the remainder of the meet. 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 then be fined \$100.00.
 - iii. The fine shall be increased to \$150.00 if after thirty (30) days of receiving the letter of notification the party has not made the payment.

4. 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 was caused by circumstances beyond the control of the athlete.
 - c. The athlete is an alternate for any level of finals
5. 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.