

	POLICY & PROCEDURE	POLICY NUMBER: 2011
	Subject: ADMINISTRATION – AGE GROUP SWIMMING	EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/16/2011 Approved: 11/16/2011

A. QUALIFYING FOR AGE GROUP CLASSES

1. Athletes will qualify for a specific class meet, such as Q+, in a given stroke and distance when they have equaled or bettered the time standard for that event.
2. Athletes may qualify in any sanctioned or approved meet or time trial.

4. Qualifying By Stroke and Distance

- a. Athletes who have qualified for Q+ (Plus) in a specific stroke and distance will be considered qualified at that same level in the equivalent stroke and distance in all courses.
- b. Athletes maintain their classification (ie Q-) for the duration of a meet even if they qualify for the next class, (ie achieve Q times) during the meet.
- c. Any athlete, upon changing age groups, who has already met the Q+ (Plus), various other time standards including but not limited to USA Swimming National Motivational Times, in events offered in the new age group will be considered qualified at that level for those events in the new age group.
- 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 14 are eligible to compete in the Age Group program in those events scheduled for the particular age group and must swim in the one age group for an entire meet. Age on the first day of the meet governs for the entire meet. Exceptions to the age on the first day of the meet shall be noted on the meet flyer.
- b. Athletes must swim in their respective age brackets. However, 8 & Unders will be allowed to swim in both the 8 & Under and 10 & Under events in the same

meet as long as they qualify for the time standard and follow the meet's event limit per day rule (five maximum). The 8 & Under and 10 & Under events will be scored separately for high point consideration.

- c. For Age Group Q- and 8 & Under meets, only USA-S registered athletes will be allowed to compete.

2. Relay Eligibility

- a. Only 2 relays per team may be entered in the State Championship meets. All relays participants at State Championships meets must be entered in the meet electronically at time other entries are due. The relays are No Time Standard (NTS) but an aggregate time standard may be required.

3. Event Limitations

- a. In prelims and finals meets, qualified athletes may compete in three events per day, plus relays, for which they are eligible.
- b. In timed finals meets, qualified athletes may compete in a maximum of five events per day, plus relays for which they are eligible. Meet may limit athletes to less than five events in a meet.
- c. The appropriate limitation of events in timed finals and trials and finals meets is inclusive of any time trials held at that facility that day.
- d. An athlete who enters more events than allowed shall scratch events to conform to the above limitation. If not scratched in advance, the events with the highest event number will be scratched. There is no refund of any entry fee.

C. CONDUCT OF MEETS

- 1. The prelims and finals system shall be used in all Arizona Age Group State Championships but is optional in all other meets. Minimum and maximum time standards will be required for State Championship meets.
- 2. **Proof of Time for Time Standard Meets.** Athletes and coaches should both recognize that it is not ethical to enter times that are not accurate and should be prepared to verify entry times in Arizona swim meets with minimum or maximum time standards.
 - a. The penalty applicable to athletes for failure to verify entry times shall be \$100.00 per event. Such penalty invoice shall be sent to the athlete with copy to the Club which entered the athlete with invalid time(s). Such invoices are payable to AzSI.

- b. Failure to pay such fines may result in Board of Review action to prohibit meet participation until such fines are paid.
 - c. Entry times will be validated through SWIMS, the USA Swimming online database.
3. **Warm-up Procedures.** The Arizona Controlled Warm-up and Safety Guidelines shall be followed at every sanctioned and closed meet. The Arizona Warm-up Guidelines are available online.

UPDATES

<u>Date:</u>	<u>By Whom</u>	<u>Abstract of Change</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Control #</u>
11/16/2011	HOD	limit relays to 2	2.a	12-007