

	<b>POLICY &amp; PROCEDURE</b>	<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b> 201 H
	<b>Subject:</b> <b>MEET OPERATIONS</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> <b>11/19/09</b>  Approved: 11/18/2009

## MEET OPERATIONS

### 1. Entries

- a. Electronic entries are encouraged for all meets. Non electronic entries must be made on the AZSI Individual Entry Card or AZSI approved Consolidated Entry Form.
- b. Consolidated Entry or Individual Entry Cards, together with printouts from electronic entries, shall be kept at the Clerk of Course as a ready reference in case of dispute over an entry.
- c. Entries must be completely filled out including, but not limited to, the current USA Swimming registration number. Use correct names and club abbreviations as contained in the SWIMS database.

### 2. Registration

- a. Registration is required for all participating athletes and coaches. The host club must verify registration of all athletes and coaches prior to the start of competition. See c below for acceptable methods of proof of registration.

Individual athletes for whom registration cannot be verified must register at the meet (“Deck Register”) with the Clerk of Course. An additional handling fee will be added to the registration fee at the meet. (See Section 1.F.) Coaches who pay annual registration fee on deck still must receive clearance from the Membership Coordinator prior to coaching.

Athletes and/or coaches who are not registered will not be allowed to check in or participate in competition, including warm up.

In addition to the above, penalties for failure to register athletes and/or coaches may be assessed against the athletes or coaches team in accordance with section 3.A.9 of policy 201A.

- b. Registration for athletes and/or coaches may be substantiated by any club, whether from in or out of state by: 1) submit team roster signed by the applicable LSC registration coordinator certifying the registration of all athletes and coaches or 2) submit the appropriate electronic registration verification file

for their LSC from SWIMS (currently the .RE1 file) for use in electronic verification of registration status, or 3) supply copies of current registration cards to the Clerk of Course, or 4) verify registration through direct access to SWIMS data base, if available.

### **3. Positive Check-In (Deck Seeded Events)**

- a. Meet flyers shall clearly delineate closing of check in times for deck seeded events. (commonly referred to as Positive Check In Events.)
- b. If the Meet Flyer does not clearly delineate the closing times for such deck seeded events, then the closing of check-in for the first four deck seeded events shall be no more than 30 minutes before the scheduled time of the start of the meet, and the
- c. Close of check-in for subsequent events shall be no more than 30 minutes before the estimated time of the start of the first heat of the event.
- d. However, nothing in this policy shall preclude the Host from setting a required time for check-in for deck seeded events (i.e. for distance events) sufficient to allow time to seed, distribute seeding and announce the event in a manner that will provide for an on-time start of competition

### **4. Seeding**

- a. Seeding for meets shall be accordance with meet flyers.

### **5. Scratch Procedures (Commonly referred to as the “Arizona Scratch Rule”)**

- a. **Scratch Procedure.** When, following a round of competition, an athlete qualifies for subsequent round of competition (i.e., bonus (C), consolation (B), or championship (A) finals) the athlete may notify the Referee, or his designee, of 1) his intention not to swim the event in further rounds of competition (“Scratch”) or 2) his intention to wait until after his last individual preliminary event to make such decision(s) (“Intent to Scratch”).

The athletes must make his declaration of Scratch, or his possible Intent to Scratch within 30 minutes of the announcement of the qualifiers for the next round of competition. Such declaration shall be made at the place designated by the Referee. An athlete who has recorded his Intent to Scratch has 30 minutes after the conclusion of his last individual preliminary event to declare his/her intention to swim the event in further rounds of competition or to Scratch.

Athletes who do not Scratch or fail to notify the Referee, or his designee, of their decision regarding their Intent to Scratch, (see above) will be seeded into the further rounds of competition and subject to the penalties below.

Subsequent to the expiration of the 30 minutes period in which an Athlete may Scratch or Declare his Intent to Scratch, the Referee shall cause the list of athletes qualifying for the next round of competition to be announced. If an Intent to Scratch exists for this event, the Referee shall cause an announcement to be made indicated that an Intent to Scratch exists. Subsequent to the expiration of the Intent to Scratch, the Referee shall cause the list of athletes qualifying for the next round of competition, including alternates, to be announced.

It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to ascertain if he has been seeded into the next round of competition. Failure to Compete as the result of not being aware of the seeding of the next round of competition shall be subject to the penalties below.

**b. Individual Scratch Rule.** It is the athlete's responsibility to know and understand the starting time of the meet and his or her events. It is the athlete's responsibility to be in the proper vicinity and ready to swim at the appropriate place and time.

**1) Pre-Seeded Meets.** Athletes shall report promptly to designated area and/or individual prior to the start of each race in which they are entered.

**i)** Any athlete who does not report or compete (i.e., no show) in an individual timed final event shall not be penalized.

**ii)** Any athlete who does not report or compete (i.e., no show) in a preliminary heat when finals are scheduled shall not be penalized.

**2) Events Seeded on the Deck.** In timed finals meets or timed final events swum in prelim/final meets, there is no penalty for athletes who fail to check in for a particular event; they will be scratched from that event and neither seeded in the event or allowed any opportunity to swim. Athletes who have Positively Checked (see 3. above) into an individual event that is Deck Seeded (see 3 above) must compete in the event unless they declare a false start to the Referee prior to the initial start of the race.

Failure to compete in an event will result in the athlete being barred from the next individual event in which he or she is entered, whether on that day or on a subsequent day of the meet.

**3) Scratching from Bonus, Consolation, and Championship Finals**

**i) Senior Level -** The following procedure is mandatory for all Senior preliminary/finals meets unless other scratch rules are delineated in appropriate meet flyer.

**(1)** Any athlete qualifying for a bonus, consolation, or championship final competition in an individual event who fails to compete (no show) ("Failure to Compete") in either bonus, consolation, or

championship final race shall be barred from further competition for the remainder of the meet, including relays, (except as noted in paragraph 4) below. A declared false start or deliberate delay of meet is not permitted and will be regarded as a Failure to Compete.

- (2) In the event of withdrawal, no show or barring of an athlete from competition, the Referee shall fill the bonus, consolation, or championship 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 unavailable to compete in any levels of finals.
- (3) For events with bonus finals, where bonus finals have not yet been swum and a withdrawal, no show or barring is known to the Referee, the Referee shall reseed the bonus, consolation, and championship final, if necessary and practicable, to insert the alternate(s) in the appropriate lane(s), filling all lanes in the finals.
- (4) For events without bonus finals, where consolation finals have not yet been swum and a withdrawal, no show or barring is known to the Referee, the Referee shall reseed the consolation final and the final, if necessary and practicable, to insert the alternate(s) in the appropriate lane(s) filling all lanes in the final.
- (5) For events with bonus finals, if a bonus final has already been contested, the companion consolation and championship finals shall be swum without reseeding for the empty lane(s).
- (6) For events without bonus finals, if a consolation final has already been contested, the companion championship final shall be swum without reseeding for the empty lane(s).

**ii) Age Group.** The following procedures are mandatory for Age Group championship preliminary/finals meets. At the discretion of the meet host these or other scratch rules may be used in any other Age Group preliminary / final meets. In such case, the meet flyer must indicate the existence of a scratch rule and its terms.

- (1) Any athlete qualifying for a consolation final or final competition in an individual event who fails to compete (no show) (“Failure to Compete”) in either consolation final or final race shall be barred from the rest of that sessions events, including that sessions relays, and disqualified from their next individual event in the competition whether that event be a timed final event or a preliminary event except as noted in paragraph 4 below).
- (2) In the event of withdrawal, no show 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 unavailable to compete in any level of finals.

- (3) Where consolation finals have not yet been swum and withdrawal, no show or a barring 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.
- (4) If a consolation final has already been contested, the companion championship final shall be swum without reseeding for the empty lane(s).

4) **Exceptions for Failure to Compete.** 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 failure to compete is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the athlete.

## 6. Time Trials

- a. Time trials may be held at sanctioned meets, as specified in the meet flyer. Conduct of time trials must meet the following requirements:
  - 1). They are run at a properly sanctioned meet with the required number of officials and timing systems appropriate to the type and class of the meet (see USA Rules & Regulations).
  - 2). A reasonable standard be set by the referee to minimize the entrants to a reasonable number.
  - 3). Time trials do not interfere with the published meet format.
  - 4). Athletes are limited to a maximum number of events including those swum in the sanctioned meet.
- b. The Referee and Meet Director will determine whether the conduct of the time trials met these requirements.

