

	<b>POLICY &amp; PROCEDURE</b>	<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b> 2011
	<b>Subject:</b>  <b>ADMINISTRATION –  AGE GROUP SWIMMING</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> <b>12/01/04</b>  Approved: 11/17/2004

## **A. QUALIFYING FOR AGE GROUP CLASSES**

1. Athletes will qualify for a specific class meet 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.
3. Athletes who compete in a classified meet event at or better than the minimum standard shall thereafter be considered to be in that particular class in all courses and may not again compete in the same event in a lower class meet, even if they have not actually performed at or better than the time standard.
4. **Qualifying By Stroke and Distance**
  - a. Athletes who have qualified for B, A, or 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 for the duration of a meet even if they qualify for the next class during the meet.
  - c. Any athlete, upon changing age groups, who has already met the B, A, or Q+ (Plus) standard 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 A/B or Q+ (Plus) meets, the A/B or Q+ (Plus) times achieved in sanctioned or approved competition in any three strokes and/or distances will permit entry into any event offered in the meet with entry at the minimum time standard. No Time Standard (NTS) entries are excluded. If this provision for 3 qualified times allowing for entry in any event is not to be allowed, the meet flyer must so state, otherwise this rule is in effect for all Arizona sanctioned meets except Championship meets.
- d. For Age Group Q- and 8 & Under meets, only USA-S registered athletes will be allowed to compete.

## **2. Relay Eligibility**

- a. There is no limit to the number of relays that any one club can enter into State Championship meets but only two (2) relays from one club may score in an event. All relays at State Championships meets are No Time Standard (NTS).

## **3. Event Limitations**

- a. /SC/ 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 the entry fee.

## **C. CONDUCT OF MEETS**

- 1. /SC/ The prelims and finals system shall be used in all Arizona Age Group Q+ (Plus) State Championships but is optional in all other meets.
- 2. **Proof of Time for Q+ 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 \$25.00 per event.
  - b. If an athlete fails to achieve the entry time standard for an event in meets with a minimum or maximum time standard, fines may be imposed by Arizona Swimming and collected by the Meet Director or his representative. Those fines shall be refunded upon verification of entry times (within 30 days from the date of the infraction).
  - c. Proof of entry times will consist of one of the following:
    - 1) Official meet results from a USA Swimming sanctioned or approved meet.
    - 2) Official time verification form provided by a LSC of USA Swimming, or LSC Records Chairman.
    - 3) SWIMS
    - 4) Electronic verification from USA Swimming online database or its equivalent.
- 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.