

Motion 2211CB01: Rescind action of Executive Committee on 10/16/22

Rescind the action of the Executive Committee on October 16, 2022, which passed Motion 2210VCO01VH Penalty for entering a meet with an unverifiable qualifying time

Summary:

In order to understand the Entry Time Verification problem that now faces Pacific Swimming one should look at it from an Historical perspective in order to realize where we are and the original intent of having an Entry Time Verification process.

A review of the Policies and Procedures shows that at one time we had a time verification database that would review all entries before a meet and notify the Meet Officials and teams of those individuals who entered times that they had not yet achieved. Under this procedure the swimmers were either scratched from those events or changed their time to the correct times if they were still able to meet the meet standards. This system no longer exists. Therefore, Pacific Swimming just moved on. What happens now is all our Zone Development meets do not have a verification process. This allows parents to enter their swimmers with times that “could” place them in the wrong Division. We do not have a way to verify these changes, so we just overlook them. As far as meeting the minimum requirements to enter a Zone level meet this can be verified by a coach so impact on a meet is minimal.

Now, moving beyond the level of a Zone Scheduled meet to those meets at the level of the LSC: Far Westerns, Pacific Swimming Championships (formally Junior Olympics), Senior Circuit, Senior 2, and Senior Open. To qualify for these meets the swimmer must have achieved the qualifying time in a USA sanctioned, approved, or observed meet (one which has been entered into the USA Swimming Swims Database). According to our Policies and Procedures any swimmers who enter one of these meets without a verified qualifying time will not be allowed to check in or swim that event. In order to verify these times, Meet Directors were required to submit the times to our Times Verification person who would then run a program that would check all the times against the times in the USA Swimming Swims Database. Since USA Swimming changed their website in September, we no longer have access to this type of verification. We believe that in the coming months USA Swimming will bring this capability back. However, until they do, Pacific Swimming needs to have an alternative plan to deal with this issue.

The Pacific Swimming Executive Committee passed a resolution on October 16, 2022, to deal with this issue

For each event that an athlete swims (completes) without a verifiable qualifying time, a fine of \$50 will be billed to that athlete’s club. This fine will be effective immediately and upheld until such time that USA Swimming has updated Swims to be able to run time verifications electronically prior to meets.

This action while well intentioned may cause several additional issues, for example: how will we handle a team not paying the fine? Currently Pacific Swimming does not have an Administrative

Review Board. Will the team be fined for every time that the swimmer enters and can not prove their time? I understand that the intent is not to hold the swimmer accountable but the team. This may seem admirable, except that the swimmers are the ones who enter the meet not the team.

Therefore, I move to rescind the action of the Executive Committee on October 16, 2022. Should this resolution pass, then I propose a new resolution.

For any Pacific Swimming LSC level meet that has a stated time standard for any event, any swimmer who competes in an event and does not achieve the stated time standard, must report to the assigned Administrative Official with verification that the swimmer had achieved that time at a prior meet. If they do not do this prior to the close of their next event they will be scratched from that next event even if it is a final. This penalty is applied because the swimmer did not achieve the stated time standard prior to the close of that preliminary event.

Rational:

In reviewing previous actions of Pacific Swimming, it appears that the intent was to hold the swimmer accountable for the times they enter. This places the responsibility on the swimmer to enter a correct time. The swimmer or the coach could provide the proof of time. Our goal should be to not fine teams but to make swimmers accountable for their entries.