

SECTION 4

AGE GROUP COMPETITION

A. Qualifying For Age Group Classes

1. Athletes shall **be** qualified for a specific class meet in a given stroke and distance when they have equaled or bettered the time standard for that event.
2. Only times in the USA Swimming SWIMS database shall be acceptable to qualify for Junior Olympics and Far Westerns level competition and LSC Championship meets. In all other Age Group competition, coach-verified entry times may also be accepted.
3. Athletes who compete in a classified meet event at or better than the minimum standard shall thereafter be considered to be qualified 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. An athlete who achieves any Pacific Swimming age-group qualifying standard in one course (SCY, SCM, or LCM) shall be considered qualified at that same standard 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. This rule also applies to relay events.
 - c. Any athlete, upon changing age groups, who has already met any standard in an event offered in the new age group shall be considered qualified at that level for that event in the new age group, as long as the time has been achieved in the qualifying period (if any) for entry into the meet.
 - 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 18, are eligible to compete in the Age Group program in those events scheduled for their age group and must swim in events offered for that age or age group for an entire meet. Age on the first day of the meet governs for the entire meet.
- b. Athletes are eligible to compete only in the individual events for which they qualify in any classified meet unless provisions in the meet announcement allow for bonus events.
- c. In multi-classed meets, the zone may further restrict an event to a specific time standard.
- d. Invitational meets are open only to athletes from invited clubs. Invited clubs shall be named in the sanction.
- e. Athletes registered in other LSCs may swim in Pacific meets for which they qualify **with the exception of Junior Olympics and Age Group Championships.**
- f. To be eligible for a Pacific All-Star team, an athlete **must be a lawful resident of the United States** and a member of Pacific Swimming.

2. Relay Eligibility

- a. Athletes may compete in relays in meets of higher classification than that for which they qualify in individual events.
- b. Athletes may not compete in relays in meets of lower classification than that for which they qualify in the like individual event.

3. Event Limitations

- a. In preliminaries and finals meet, an athlete may compete in not more than three (3) individual events per day.
- b. In timed finals meet, an athlete may compete in not more than five (5) individual events per day.
- c. An athlete may enter as many events as they wish, but shall not compete in more than the maximum events allowed by the meet format, and are not guaranteed a refund of excess entry fees.

C. Conduct of Meets

1. The preliminaries and finals system shall be used in all Pacific Swimming Age Group Far Western, Junior Olympics, and Age Group Championships meets. All other Pacific Swimming Age Group meets shall operate on the timed finals. Zones shall determine the system to be used in zone scheduled meets.
2. Individual Scratch Rule –Athletes shall inform themselves of the meet starting time and shall report to the proper meet authorities promptly upon call.
 - a. Pre-Seeded Meets –Athletes shall report promptly to the starting blocks when their event/heat is called.
 - (1) Any athlete not reporting for or competing in an individual timed final event shall not be penalized.
 - (2) Any athletes not reporting for or competing in a preliminary heat when finals are scheduled shall not be penalized.
 - b. In Zone awarded meets that are Deck Seeded–
 - (1) No event shall be closed more than 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the session. Close of check-in for remaining events shall be no more than 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.
 - (2) Any athletes not reporting for or competing in an individual timed final event that they have checked in for shall not be penalized.
 - c. In LSC awarded meets that are Deck Seeded–
 - (1) No event shall be closed more than 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the session. Close of check-in for remaining events shall be no more than 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.
 - (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. Failure to compete in an event shall result in being barred from their next individual event in which the athlete is entered on that day or next meet day, whichever is first.
 - (3) Athletes entered in an individual event in a Preliminaries and Finals meet 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. Failure to compete in an event shall result in being barred from their next preliminary individual event in which the athlete is entered on that day or the next meet day, whichever is first.
 - d. Scratching from Consolation Finals and Finals –
 - (1) Athletes may scratch or declare their intent to scratch a final event, or multiple final

events at the beginning of competition for that day.

- (2) Any athlete qualifying for any level of finals in an individual event who does not wish to compete must scratch within 30 minutes after the announcement of qualifiers. During this period, qualifiers may also notify the referee that they may not intend to compete in consolation finals or finals. In this case, they must declare their final intention within 30 minutes after the announcement of qualifiers following their last individual preliminary event.
 - (3) In the event of a withdrawal 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 they are unavailable to compete in the finals.
 - (4) Where consolation finals have not yet been swum and barring or withdrawal 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.
 - (5) If a consolation final has already been contested, the Championship final shall be swum without reseeding for the empty lane(s).
- e. Penalty for No-Show at Finals
- (1) Any athlete qualifying for a consolation final or final race in an individual event who fails to report to the blocks in said consolation final or final race prior to calling the alternate shall be barred from the remainder of any final events for that day. Should the athlete have no additional final events for that day they shall be barred from their next preliminary event on the next day of the meet they are entered.
 - (2) 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 be fined \$100.00. The fine will be increased to \$150.00 if after 30 days of receiving the letter of notification the party has not made the payment.
- f. Exceptions – No penalty shall apply for failure to withdraw or compete in an individual event if:
- (1) The referee is notified in the event of illness or injury and accepts the proof thereof.
 - (2) It is determined by the referee that the No-Show is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the athlete.
 - (3) The athlete qualified for any level of finals due to scratches of one or more original finalists.
 - (4) The athlete is an alternate for any level of finals.
- g. 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.

ADDENDUM:

I MOTION(S) TO CLARIFY AN EXISTING RULE OR ADD A RULE:

C Conduct of Meets

3. Individual Scratch Rule

d. Scratching from Consolation Finals and Finals –

- (1) Athletes may scratch or declare their intent to scratch in finals for that day at the beginning of competition for that day. (current practice)

II. TO BE MOVED TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A.4.d. If it is a multi-class meet, the athlete shall be moved to the proper classification rather than being scratched. If the time is greater than the classification cap, the athlete shall be scratched.

B.1.g. Maximum number of clubs to be invited shall be two per competitive lane, i.e. 6-lane pool =12 teams; 8-lane pool = 16 teams.

C.2. Proof of time for Junior Olympics and Far Western Meets PP - Rule already stated above in 4.A.2.

- a. Proof of Time using an approved USA SWIMS Database as a standard will be used to verify times for all athletes entering these meets. The Time must 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 will be 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.
- b. Converted times are not to be used.
- c.. An athlete who qualifies for a Junior Olympics or Far Westerns in a specific stroke and distance shall be considered qualified in the same stroke and distance in all courses. If the time was made SCY and it is a SCM or an LCM meet, enter your SCY time. If the time was made SCM and it is a SCY or an LCM meet, enter your SCM time. If the time was made LCM and it is a SCY or an SCM meet, enter your LCM time. When entering a meet if your qualifying time is in yards, enter the yards time and put a 'Y' after the time. If the qualifying time is in Short Course meters, enter that time with an 'S' after it. If the qualifying time is in long course meters then enter that time with an 'L' after it.

D. Awards

1. Awards will be given in accordance with Policies and Procedures and the LSC meet bid requirements. Awards for Zone sanctioned meets will be determined by the Zone.

Far Westerns & A Meets — Awards for all finalists. The minimum is three (3) medals or other distinctive awards (something other than a single ribbon) with ribbons for the balance of the finalists.

2. Junior Olympics Meets – Award to all championship finalists ages 14/Under. The minimum is three (3) medals or other distinctive awards (something others than a single ribbon) with ribbons for the balance of the finalists. Athletes in the 15-18 age groups shall not receive awards.
3. B Meets — Standard A medals only shall be awarded athletes attaining A times in each event, regardless of the place achieved in the event. No other medals shall be awarded. Ribbons only shall be awarded place winners. Team scoring is optional.
4. Age Group Open Meets — Appropriate awards at the discretion of the host club. No awards by time standard (A, B, etc.).” A” medals are optional for athletes attaining A times for the first time.
5. Multi-class meets — Awards for each listed class. For example: C-B-A, 3 sets of awards; B-A+, 2 sets of awards.
6. In meets where events are offered which include more than one age group or single or combined ages, awards may be given to any age or combination of ages at the option of the host club.
7. High point and team awards are optional in championship meets, Junior Olympics, A+, A and Age Group Open meets. No perpetual trophies may be established or awarded in A meets.
8. Awards for 19/over athletes in 15/over or Post Age group events shall be approved by the zone.

III. ITEMS TO BE DELETED

- A. 2. Swimmers Athletes are permitted to qualify in any sanctioned or unsanctioned meet such as school competition, time trial, or by coach verification. For JO and FW level competition, and LSC Championship Meets, times from sanctioned or approved meets only will be acceptable.

A.4.a. Athletes who qualify B, A, Junior Olympics or Far Westerns for a specific stroke in a specific distance shall be considered qualified at that same level in the equivalent stroke and distance in all courses. For a C, B, A+ meet if you met the standard short course, then enter a long course meet at the long course standard, or if you met the long course standard, enter the meet at the short course standard. For C/B/A+ meets the athlete shall enter that event at or faster than that standard for the conforming course of the meet.

A.4.c. Any athlete, upon changing age groups, who has already met the Junior Olympics or Far Westerns standard in events offered in the new age group shall be considered qualified at that level for those events in the new age group

B.1.b. (B, A, Junior Olympics Far Westerns),

B.1.c. In multi-class meets, i.e., C/B/A+, B/A+, etc., athletes shall compete only in the division(s) for which they qualify and shall not compete in divisions of lower classification in any event for which they have achieved the time standard (in any course) for the higher division.

B.1.d. (C/B, C/B/A+, etc.), allow an event to be restricted to certain of those classes.

B.1.e. In events with only minimum standards, i.e., A+, B-A+, etc., athletes may compete in events for which they have achieved the minimum standard, subject to limitations specified in Section 4.B.3a and 4.B.3b Event Limitations.

B.1.f. Age Group Open Meets are open to all registered athletes, up to and including age 18, and athletes shall not be classified by time standards. Post Age Group events may be offered in accordance with policies established by the Pacific Board of Directors.

B.1.i. be a U.S. citizen or have a U.S. permanent resident visa. Certification of such eligibility shall be obtained from a parent or guardian of the athlete.

B.2.a. (i.e., a swimmer an athlete an in 50 Free may swim on a relay in JO or FW meets, etc.).

B.2.b. (i.e., a swimmer JO in 50 Breast shall not be eligible for the breaststroke leg on a 200 Medley Relay team in an A meet).

B.3.a. , plus relays, for which they are eligible.

B.3.b. , plus relays, for which they are eligible. (Already stated in 102.2.3)

B.3.c. An athlete who enters too many events shall scratch events to conform to the above limitations. PP_There is no guarantee of refund of the entry fee. Suggest:

C.1. meets and in and shall be Optional in A+ meets. A meets, B meets, multi-class, and Age Group Open meets; system unless otherwise requested, in writing, to the Pacific Swimming Sanctions Chair and approved by the Pacific Swimming Board.

C.3.b.1. for all events shall be no more than 60 minutes before the estimated start time of the start of the first heat of the event. No event shall be closed more than 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the meet session.

C.3.c.1. Close of check-in for all events shall be no more than 60 minutes before the estimated time of the start of the first heat of the event. No event shall be closed more than 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the meet session.