

	<b>POLICY &amp; PROCEDURE</b>	<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b>  <b>257</b>
	<b>Subject:</b>  <b>Minnesota Scratch Rule</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> <b>05-01-1999</b>  Approved: 04-20-1999 Retired:

### **Individual Scratch Rule**

**Each swimmer shall inform himself/herself of the starting time and shall report to the proper meet authorities promptly upon call.**

1. ***Pre-seeded Meets*** ~ Each swimmer shall report promptly to the Clerk of Court (if provided) or the starting area prior to the start of each race in which he/she is entered.
  - a. Any swimmer not reporting for or competing in an individual timed final event shall not be penalized.
  - b. Any swimmer not reporting for or competing in a preliminary heat when finals are scheduled shall not be penalized.

**2. *Events Seeded on Deck*** ~ Any swimmer entered in an individual event that is seeded on the deck, in whole or in part, who has checked in for the event, must swim the event unless he/she notifies the Clerk of Course before the seeding for that event has begun that he/she wishes to scratch. Failure to scratch prior to seeding and not swimming the event will result in his/her being barred from the next individual event in which he/she is entered on that day or the next meet day, whichever is first. Events seeded on the deck shall be closed for seeding no earlier than ninety minutes prior to the start of the event.

### **3. *Scratching from Finals Heats***

- a. Any swimmer qualifying for an individual final heat, as specified in the meet information, who fails to compete in said final heat race shall be barred from further competition for the remainder of the meet, except as noted in 4, below. Any points that the swimmer has accumulated during the meet shall be removed from their individual point total and that individual's point total, exclusive of relays, will be subtracted from the total for the team they are attached to.
- b. In the event of withdrawal or barring of a swimmer from competition, the Referee shall fill his/her position in the final heat, when possible, with the next qualified swimmers(s). First and second alternates shall be announced along with the final qualifiers. Alternates shall not be penalized if unavailable to compete in the finals.
- c. Where the first final heat (usually the consolation final) have not been swum and a barring or withdrawal is known to the Referee, the Referee shall reseed the

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first final heat and all following heats, if necessary, to insert alternate(s) in the appropriate lane(s), filling all lanes in the final heat.

d. If the final heat (usually the consolation final) has already been contested, the companion final heats shall be swum without reseeding for the empty lane(s).

4. **Excepting 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 or it is determined by the Referee that failure to compete is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the swimmer.

b. The swimmer notifies the Referee within thirty minutes after announcement of the qualifiers for that final race that he/she may intend not to compete and further declares his/her final intentions within thirty minutes following his/her last individual preliminary event.

### **Relay Scratch Rule**

**Each swimmer shall inform themselves of the starting time and shall report to the proper meet authorities promptly upon call.**

1. **Pre-Seeded Meets** ~ Any relay team entered in a pre-seeded relay event that fails to compete in or report for that event shall not be penalized.

### **2. Relays Seeded at the Meet**

a. Any relay team entered in a relay event that is seeded at the meet in whole or in part, that has been checked in and the swimmers' names declared for that event, must swim the event unless the Clerk of Course is notified before the seeding for that event is begun that the relay team wishes to scratch. Failure to do so will result in each individual member of that relay team being barred from the next relay event in which those members may otherwise be eligible to compete, either that day or the next meet day they are scheduled to compete. The relay team members who do appear ready to swim shall not be penalized for failure of other relay team members to appear.

b. A relay team member failing to appear ready to swim for said relay event shall be barred from the next individual event in which he is entered, either that day or the next meet day they are scheduled to compete. The relay team members who do appear ready to swim shall not be penalized for failure of other relay team members to appear.

c. Exceptions ~ Relay teams or team members who give acceptable notification to the Referee of illness, injury, or that failure to compete is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the swimmer(s) shall not be penalized.