

Submitted by George Geanon, Chair, Rules Committee, Wisconsin Swimming

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4.1 Wisconsin Individual Scratch Rule

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

4.1.1 Scratching events in pre-seeded Meets – Each swimmer shall report promptly to the starting blocks prior to the start of each race in which the swimmer 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.

4.1.2 Scratching in Positive Check-In Events – Any swimmer entered in an individual event that is a positive check-in event, who has checked-in for the event, must swim in the event. Failure to swim the event will result in the swimmer being banned from the next individual event in which the swimmer is entered on that day or the next day, whichever is first.

Exceptions for failure to compete – No penalty shall apply for failure to withdraw or compete in an individual event if:

1. The swimmer or coach notifies the Clerk of Course, before the seeding for that event has begun, that the swimmer wishes to scratch.
2. The swimmer or coach notifies the deck referee prior to the swimmer’s assigned heat, of a Declared False Start.

~~Events seeded on the deck shall be closed for seeding no earlier than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the event.~~

~~unless the swimmer notifies the Clerk of Course before the seeding for that event has begun that the swimmer wishes to scratch. Failure to scratch prior to seeding and not swimming the event will result in the swimmer being barred from the next individual event in which the swimmer is entered on that day or the next day, whichever is first.~~

~~Events seeded on the deck shall be closed for seeding no earlier than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the event.~~

4.1.3 Scratching from bonus heats, consolation finals, and finals:

A. Any swimmer qualifying for a bonus heat, consolation final, or final race in an individual event, who fails to compete in said bonus, consolation final, or final race, shall be barred from further competition for the remainder of the Meet.

Disqualification under this section shall apply only to swimmers qualifying based on the original preliminary results. However, if a swimmer or coach is notified that the swimmer has scratched into a bonus heat, consolation final or final race in an individual event, accepts the position, and then fails to compete, the swimmer shall be barred from further competition for the remainder of the meet.

B. In the event of withdrawal or barring of a swimmer from competition, the Meet Referee shall fill the bonus, consolation final, or final race, when possible, with the next qualified swimmer(s). First and second alternates shall be announced along with the final qualifiers. These alternates shall not be penalized if not available to compete

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45 in finals. However, if the alternate is notified that they have scratched into a bonus/consolation
46 finals or finals prior to the start of the session, accepts the position, and then does not compete,
47 that swimmer is barred from further competition for the remainder of the Meet.

48 C. When bonus/consolation finals have not been swim and a barring or withdrawal is
49 known to the Meet Referee, the Meet Referee shall reseed the bonus/consolation
50 final, and final, if necessary, by inserting the alternate(s) in the appropriate lane(s),
51 filling all lanes in the final race.

52 D. If a bonus heat or consolation final has been contested, the remaining final shall be
53 swim without reseeding for empty lane(s).

54 E. Finals shall include those events ~~deck seeded in a preliminary-finals competition but swum as~~
55 timed finals, with the fastest heat swimming in finals. in a preliminary-finals competition.

56 Typically, those are the distance events and relays events. A Declared False Start is allowed in
57 timed finals events swum in preliminary sessions and also in the fastest heats swum with finals.

58 F. Exceptions for failure to compete – No penalty shall apply for failure to withdraw or compete
59 in an individual event if:

- 60 1. The Referee is notified in the event of illness or injury and accepts the proof thereof.
- 61 2. A swimmer qualifying for a C, B, or A (bonus or consolation final or) final race based
62 upon the results of the preliminaries notifies the Referee within thirty (30) minutes
63 after announcement of the qualifiers for that race that they may not intend to compete,
64 and further declares their final intentions within thirty (30) minutes following their
65 last individual preliminary event.
- 66 3. It is determined by the Referee that failure to compete is caused by circumstances
67 beyond the control of the swimmer.

68 ~~For a swimmer to scratch, a swimmer shall declare his/her intent to scratch within~~
69 ~~thirty (30) minutes after initial posting of the individual event results. A swimmer~~
70 ~~shall scratch officially within thirty (30) minutes after his/her last individual event.~~

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72 **4.2 Wisconsin Relay Scratch Rule**

73 4.2.1 Scratching from Relay Events in Pre-Seeded Meets -- Any relay team entered in a
74 preseeded event that fails to compete in or report for that event shall not be penalized.

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76 4.2.2 Scratching from Relay Events in Positive Check-In Events

77 A. Any relay team entered in a relay event that is seeded at the Meet, that has checked-in
78 and the swimmers' names declared for that event, must swim the event. ~~unless the~~
79 ~~Clerk of Course is notified before the seeding for that event has begun that the relay~~
80 ~~team wishes to scratch.~~

81 Exceptions for failure to compete – No penalty shall apply for failure to withdraw or compete in
82 a relay event if:

- 83 3. The Relay Team notifies the Clerk of Course, before the seeding for that event has
84 begun, that the team wishes to scratch.
- 85 4. The Relay Team or coach notifies the deck referee prior to the team's assigned heat,
86 of a Declared False Start.

87 B. A relay team member failing to appear ready to swim for the relay event shall be
88 barred from his/her next individual event in which the swimmer is entered, on that

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89 day or the next Meet day, whichever is first. The relay team members who do appear
90 ready to swim shall not be penalized for failure of other relay team members to
91 appear.

92 C. Exceptions for failure to compete – No penalty shall apply for failure to withdraw or compete
93 in a relay event if:

94 1. The Referee is notified in the event of illness or injury and accepts the proof thereof.

95 2. A relay team qualifying for a C, B, or A (bonus or consolation final or) final race
96 based upon the results of the preliminaries notifies the Referee within thirty (30)
97 minutes after announcement of the qualifiers for that race that they may not intend to
98 compete, and further declares their final intentions within thirty (30) minutes
99 following their last individual preliminary event.

100 3. It is determined by the Referee that failure to compete is caused by circumstances
101 beyond the control of the swimmer.

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

105 D. Finals shall include those events ~~deck seeded in a preliminary-finals competition~~ but swum as
106 timed finals, with the fastest heat swimming in finals. A Declared False Start is allowed in timed
107 finals events swum in preliminary sessions and also in the fastest heats swum with finals. ~~in a~~
108 ~~preliminary-finals competition. Finals shall include those relay events deck seeded but swum as~~
109 ~~timed finals in preliminary-finals competition.~~

110 **Rational: Update the Rule for consistency with recent practice for LSC Championship Meets.**