

Minutes

New England Swimming Technical Committee

August 29, 2019 | 6:00pm | New England Swimming Office, Needham MA

Committee Members Present: Bob Menck (Chair, UN), Scott Ellis (UVAC, Coach), Carol Healey (UN), Gabrielle Hunt (GYT, Coach), Patrick Johnstone (WYST), Rick Osterberg (UN), Abbie Sullivan (SOLO, Athlete), Aaron Zhu (SOLO, Athlete), Ron Zuwallack (CCSC, Coach).

Item 1: Welcome. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Technical Chair Bob Menck welcomed the committee members to the meeting and made introductions.

Item 2: Purpose. The purpose of the Technical Committee was reviewed.

Item 3: Legal Split Form: Definition of use

Proposed: Create new language defining the use of legal split forms at meets.

Rationale: The number of legal split forms generated at meets has become unmanageable. In addition, an administrative back log of work often impacts the timely flow of data at trials/finals meets especially during relays. Relay Lead-off splits are automatically downloaded into SWIMS.

Current Language: (meet announcement template)

LEGAL SPLITS: Legal splits (including relay lead-offs) must be requested before the event, by a coach, using a legal split form (available from the Control Table) and the requesting party must supply an additional timer(s) on the lane for the split, if necessary, to meet the USA-S requirement.(1 timer with a pad, 3 timers when no pad). When this form is submitted for relay take offs, it will be used to verify a time that is in question. It can also be used to verify and record a lead off split in an event that does not automatically go into SWIMS.

Proposed Language: (meet announcement template)

LEGAL SPLITS – Individual Events: Legal splits must be requested before the event, by a coach, using a legal split form (available from the Control Table) and the requesting party must supply an additional timer(s) on the lane for the split, if necessary, to meet the USA-S requirement. (1 timer with touchpad timing, 3 timers without touchpad timing). Timers must be positioned over the lane at the end of the racing course.

LEGAL SPLITS – Relays: All lead-off splits for relays are automatically loaded into SWIMS and do not require additional watches for validation unless there are no touchpads present, or the second swimmer starts in the water. If there are no touchpads, or the second swimmer starts in the water, a legal split form with three watches will be required for entry into SWIMS. Timers must be positioned over the lane at the end of the racing course. It is recommended that coaches report lead-off time discrepancies to the Administrative Referee or Administrative Official.

Effective Date: September 1, 2019

Action: Approved by Technical Committee to present to Board of Directors for consideration. Recommend approval by Board of Directors.

Item 4: New England Swimming Records

Proposed: Combine New England Records and New England Resident Records into one category, New England Records. Historical data will be maintained. Moving forward, New England Records can be set by swimmers registered in New England, and representing the New England LSC (or representing USA in FINA competition).

Rationale: The majority of Resident and New England Records are held by the same person. This change will allow a more streamlined and efficient process for maintaining records. There are very few LSCs in the Eastern Zone that have both LSC Records and Resident Records. In addition, with 2 categories of records and multiple age groups at championship meets, the heat sheets become very cumbersome.

Amended Language: (New England Swimming Policies and Procedures)

R. Records

Any time achieved at a sanctioned meet or at an approved meet where the swimmer's primary representation is their USA Club, and is entered into the USA Swimming SWIMS database, performed by a swimmer who is properly registered with USA Swimming is eligible to set a New England ~~or New England Resident Record~~.

New England Record requirements:

- ~~• The swimmer must represent a USA Swimming club, or be USA Swimming Unattached, at the time of the swim;~~
- ~~• The meet must take place within the geographical boundary of the New England LSC New England Resident Record requirements:~~
- The swimmer must represent a New England LSC club, or be Unattached-NE, at the time of the swim;
- The meet may take place in any USA Swimming LSC territory, or any FINA federation territory;
- Swimmers registered with the New England LSC and representing Team USA may establish a New England ~~Resident~~ Record at any USA Swimming meet or at any FINA federation meet. (~~approved at June 12, 2012 BOD meeting~~)

[Strike language referencing New England Resident Records.]

Effective Date: September 1, 2019

Action: Approved by Technical Committee to present to Board of Directors for consideration. Recommend approval by Board of Directors.

Item 5: New England Senior Championships

Proposed: Only allow New England Swimming members to participate at New England Swimming Senior Championship Meets.

Rationale: These meets are New England Swimming Championship meets and as such, all the athletes should represent New England Swimming. This was a former policy that was not removed by Technical but did manage to leave the Rules and Regs document.

Current Language: (New England Swimming Rules and Regulations)

3. New England Senior Championship Meet – General Meet Hosting Policies:

...

d) The LCM Senior meet will be closed to out of LSC teams

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Proposed Language: (New England Swimming Rules and Regulations)

3. New England Senior Championship Meet – General Meet Hosting Policies:

...

d) ~~The LCM~~ **Both Long Course and Short Course Senior Championship** meets will be closed to out-of-LSC teams

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Effective Date: September 1, 2019

Action: Technical Committee recommends no change, and will not refer this item to the Board of Directors.

Item 6: New England Swimming Bylaws Update:

Rick Osterberg updated the Committee on progress being made with the updated New England Swimming Bylaws that will be presented at the October 6, 2019 Special House of Delegates Meeting.

Item 7: Championship Meet Start Times

Proposed: All New England Swimming Championship Meets will begin finals at 5:00pm whenever possible (facility pool time issues).

Rationale: The biggest complaint from coaches and parents to the Meet Referee is that Finals Sessions are too long and the athletes are getting out of the pool too late to eat and be prepared for the next session. Many other LSCs and many National Level meets begin finals at 5:00pm.

Effective Date: September 1, 2019

Action: Technical Committee recommends no policy change, and recommends that the Senior Committee and Age Group Committee be responsible for determining appropriate session start times for championship meets.

Item 8: Creation of 100% (Invitational) Meet Entry Category

Proposed: Create a new “Invitational” entry category for all meets.

Rationale: The past two years have seen a significant increase in the number of meets requiring changes to the meet announcement after posting, centered on the combination of sessions at under-subscribed meets. We have received requests from two of our meet hosts, who host a significant number of meets, to create a new category or remove the 75/25% policy completely.

Amended Language: (New England Swimming Rules and Regulations)

2. **Entry Acceptance policies:** Host teams may choose one of ~~two~~ **three** methods to limit entries into their meet, which are detailed below. The method to be used must be specified in the meet announcement.

a. **75%/25% Procedure**

[unchanged]

b. **First-Come-First-served (FCFS) Procedure**

[unchanged]

c. **100% Procedure**

i. Host teams may invite any teams at their discretion. New England LSC clubs must have first priority. If the meet is not full 48 hours after entries open, the host may accept entries from teams outside the New England LSC.

Effective Date: April 1, 2020. The policy will be evaluated no later than December 31, 2020. Unless further action is taken before December 31, 2020, the policy will automatically discontinue on March 31, 2021.

Action: Approved by Technical Committee to present to Board of Directors for consideration. Recommend approval by Board of Directors.

Item 9: Championship Meet Qualification

Proposed: Reinstate the rule that a swimmer must have completed in one New England Swimming Calendar Meet in the previous 12 months in order to swim at any End-of-Season Championship except for the Senior Championships.

Rationale: Although we want to encourage athletes to compete in Championship meets, it is important that those athletes also participate in local meets and support New England Swimming.

Effective Date: September 1, 2019

Action: Technical Committee recommends no change, and will not refer this item to the Board of Directors.

Item 10: Increased Swimmer Participation fee for Senior Championship Meets

Proposed: Increase the Swimmer Participation Fee for all New England Swimming Senior Championship meets to \$20 (currently \$10).

Rationale: The cost of our top facilities is growing each year. This increase will help offset some of the costs necessary for a host to provide a quality Championship meet.

Discussion: The Technical Committee decided to recommend increasing the Swimmer Participation Fee to \$20 for all championship meets, not just the Senior Championship meet.

Amended Text: (New England Swimming Meet Rules and Regulations)

J. Meet Entry Fees, Surcharges, Awards and Subsidy Policy

	Calendar Meets	Reg/Silv	AG Championship	15-18/Senior Champs
[Other Items]	[unchanged]	[unchanged]	[unchanged]	[unchanged]
Participation Fee per	[unchanged]	[unchanged]	\$20.00	\$20.00

Effective Date: September 1, 2019

Action: Approved by Technical Committee to present to Board of Directors for consideration. Recommend approval by Board of Directors.

Item 11: Reimbursement Policy LCM Seniors

Proposed: For the purpose of New England Swimming Reimbursement Policy, the LCM Senior Championship meet will count as participating in two (2) LSC meets, making the requirement the same as it is for short course.

Rationale: Policy standardization.

Amended Text: (New England Swimming Reimbursement Policy)

ELIGIBILITY: [...] The SCY **and LCM** Senior meets counts as two meets.

Effective Date: September 1, 2020

Action: Approved by Technical Committee to present to Board of Directors for consideration. Recommend approval by Board of Directors.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.