

Proposal #1

Safe Sport Recognition for Meet Hosts

Host teams must have completed the Safe Sport Recognition Program before submitting a bid or requesting a sanction for a New England Swimming meet. This policy will become effective on February 1st, 2022.

Rationale

The Safe Sport Recognition Program standardizes the definitions, documents, and training LSCs and clubs provide to their constituencies. Completing the process ensures that teams have the appropriate policies in place and that they make all Safe Sport information public and available to families, meet hosts, especially, should be leaders in providing safe environments for swimmers, and these clubs ought to be well versed in Safe Sport policies and procedures. Rather than developing our own set of standards, it makes sense to use SSRP to ensure that we have a uniform standard across the LSC. The Safe Sport committee recommends that New England Swimming require all meet hosts to be SSRP certified.

The Safe Sport Chair and the New England Swimming office staff are able and willing to assist teams through the SSRP process.

Changes to Rules and Regulations Document

Changes to Section III.B – Meet Bidding Process

Add a new paragraph in the indicated place:

All bids for sanctioned, approved, calendar and non-calendar meets in short course are due in July prior to the short course season, and all bids for sanctioned, approved, calendar and non-calendar meets in long course are due in February prior to the long course season. Exact dates will be posted on the website at least 4 weeks before the bids are due (changed September 1, 2018).

Any team bidding on a meet must have completed the Safe Sport Recognition Program before submitting the bid. (Effective February 1, 2022)

Bids for all “end of season meets” will be listed on the web site as they are received so that all New England teams know who has bid for which meets at which pools. If no bids have been received for an “end of season meet” by two weeks following the bid deadline, New England will attempt to obtain a pool and run the meet with the cooperation of all teams entering the meet. If there are competing bids for an end of season meet, priority may be given to teams that have bid on another New England calendar meet.

Changes to Section III.E.1 – Meet Sanctions

Add the following to the end of the section:

New England Swimming member teams must have completed the Safe Sport Recognition Program before requesting a sanction. (Effective February 1, 2022)

Proposal #2

Allow coaches or swimmers to request a Legal Split on an initial distance of an individual event after the race has been swum.

This proposal would remove the requirement for the coach to have a timer(s) present on the lane in advance of the swim to obtain a Legal Split for an initial distance when electronic timing is in use. The AO would have the discretion to confirm or deny the request if the available evidence suggests that the split provided by the timing system is invalid. Requests for backstroke Legal Split for backstroke would still require advance notice to ensure that a legal backstroke finish is performed. Coaches are encouraged to have a timer(s) in position to ensure a legal time in the event of a timing system failure. Legal splits must be requested by the end of the session.

Rationale

We already allow lead off splits in relay events to be loaded into SWIMS without the requirement of a backup timer. This change would cover the case when the swimmer swims an unexpectedly fast time in the initial part of a race and allows for that time to be properly recognized. While the existing policy is the preferred method, this would allow swimmers to be awarded valid times when the swimmer swims a faster than expected time for any reason. The AO retains the sole discretion to review the available evidence and either confirm or deny the initial split. The requirement for a Legal Split request form remains in place for proper bookkeeping. Requests in backstroke events still require advance notice so that a legal backstroke finish can be confirmed by the S&T judge. Such requests that come after the fact should be automatically rejected. Three watches would still be required when touchpads are not present.

Changes to Meet Announcement Template

LEGAL SPLITS – Individual Events: Preferably, legal splits should be requested before the event, by a coach, using a legal split form (available from the Control Table) and the requesting party should supply an additional timer(s) on the lane for the split, if necessary, to ensure an accurate time. (1 timer with touchpad timing, 3 timers without touchpad timing). Timers must be positioned over the lane at the end of the racing course. Optionally, a legal split may be requested after the event (but before the end of the session) using a legal split form when using a fully automatic timing system. The Admin Official has discretion to either grant or deny the request after reviewing the available evidence. Backstroke legal splits must be requested in advance to ensure a legal finish.

Proposal #3

Change to the Calendar Protection Policy

Allow meets to be sanctioned or approved on the December Senior Championship meet weekend when such a meet includes only 12&Under swimmers. This policy will become effective when bids are due for the 2022-2023 SCY season.

Rationale

This proposal is an attempt to further tweak a policy that has undergone much discussion and change over the last several years. While the LSC has a desire to protect its championship meets, some believe that shouldn't prevent opportunities for other swimmers. This incremental change would allow younger swimmers to potentially participate in a mid-season meet that may not be available to them under the current policy.

Changes to the Rules and Regulations Document

Changes to Section III.D – Calendar Protection

Add the indicated language to the end of the first paragraph:

New England Swimming will protect the dates of the New England Swimming Annual Meeting, other House of Delegate meetings, the New England Swimming Award Banquet, New England Swimming Age Group Championships, New England Swimming Open Championships, New England Swimming Senior Championships. No meets will be sanctioned, approved, or observed if in direct date and time conflict with these events, ***except that meets for only 12&Under swimmers may be sanctioned on the weekend of the December SCY Senior Championship.***

Proposal #4

Reinstate meet personnel restrictions temporarily removed during Covid.

All restrictions on meet personnel that were suspended during Covid are reinstated. Among these are:

- The Meet Director and the Admin Official cannot be the same person.
- The Admin Official and the Timing System Operator cannot be the same person.
- The Admin Official may not serve in any other officiating capacity.

Due to Covid restrictions or other circumstances, meet hosts may request a waiver of these restrictions from the New England Swimming Technical Chair. This change would be effective immediately.

The guidance from USA Swimming allowing the Meet Referee or Starter to also be the Admin Official (if certified in that position) may be withdrawn at some point. Because the original restriction is in the USA Swimming Rulebook, when the guidance is withdrawn New England Swimming will no longer be able to grant a waiver of that provision.

Rationale

Many of the meets on the upcoming calendar are more normal in size and suggest that the original restrictions should be reinstated. However, while many restrictions due to Covid have been lifted, some are still in place and the possibility of future surges may require a return to smaller meets with fewer people on deck. This proposal is meant restore the restrictions to their original intent, while allowing for the possibility of special circumstances such as Covid restrictions, intra-squad meets, dual meets, or other situations where the number of people on deck needs to be limited.

Changes to the Rules and Regulations Document and Meet Announcement Template

Add language stating that teams can request a waiver on the personnel restrictions from the New England Swimming Technical Chair or their designee.