



Rules & Regulations

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1. Introduction

Georgia Swimming Inc. shall have jurisdiction over the sport of swimming as delegated to it as a Local Swimming Committee by USA SWIMMING. It shall have the responsibility to sanction, approve, observe and oversee competitive swimming events within the geographic boundaries of the LSC. The Rules and Regulations for conducting swim meets within the GA Swimming LSC are presented here.

2. Meet Bidding Procedure

The short course and long course meet schedules for the LSC are determined at the spring and fall House of Delegates meetings, respectively.

- 2.1 In order to gain permission to host a USA SWIMMING meet, a club must have a representative at the appropriate LSC meeting to make known the club's desire to host a meet on certain dates and give a defined meet format.
- 2.2 Notification of the Technical Planning Chairman prior to the LSC meeting about proposed meets allows for overall LSC meet planning.
- 2.3 Clubs must provide information about event fees, awards, and surcharges for each bid(s). Except as provided herein, no surcharges are allowed without the advance consent of the GSI Board of Directors. Requests for sanction or approval of any meet not bid at the LSC Meeting will be reviewed by the Sanction Committee to determine if the meet interferes in anyway with previously bid meets. If the committee determines a conflict, request for sanction/approval will be denied.
- 2.4 Approval is given by vote of the House of Delegates.

3. Meet Entry Fees

Swim Meet Maximum Entry fees.

3.1. Beginning with the 2011 – 2012 Short Course Season, entry fees will be determined by the host teams.

3.2. Guidelines for late entries must be spelled out in the meet announcement.

3.3. A facility surcharge of up \$15.00 per swimmer is allowed for any meet at the Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia Facilities.

3.4. Swim Meet fees paid to LSC

- 3.4.1 Inter-squad, Dual and Tri Meets (if sanctioned) 7% of entry fees per meet.
- 3.4.2 Approved Meets, 7% of entry fees for member organizations, \$50.00 for non-member organizations.

- 3.4.3 The GPRA State A and B Championship meet sanction fee is \$50.00 each.
- 3.4.4 Invitational or Open Meets, Sanction fee 7%.
- 3.4.5 Travel Surcharge, \$ 2.00 per out of state swimmer.
- 3.4.6 Observed Meets, \$50.00 flat fee per meet - waived for "GHSA" and GISA.

3.5. Swim-A-Thon Fees, Reference the USA Swimming Swim-A-Thon Handbook and contract.

4. **Team bids for State Championship Meets**

The LSC allows the host team of any Georgia State Championship Meet to charge a facility surcharge in order to defray expenses and ensure a championship quality meet. The limitations of the surcharge are as follows:

- 4.1. A facility surcharge up to \$10.00 per swimmer is allowed at any Championship Meet at any facility in Georgia; A facility surcharge of up to \$15.00 per swimmer is allowed for any meet at the Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia Facilities.
- 4.2. Meet hosts will provide a financial statement post meet to the General Chairman, Age Group and/or Senior Vice Chair, and Finance Chair.
- 4.3. Meet Information - Executive Office shall be responsible for archival and distribution of State Championship meet information.
- 4.4. In the interest of offering Georgia swimmers as many competitive opportunities as possible, clubs may bid and run meets concurrent with the LSC Championships, provided they have approval from the appropriate committee (Age Group or Senior) responsible for the conduct of the championship meet.

5. **Meet Sanctions**

Georgia Swimming, the administrative arm of USA Swimming, is authorized to issue sanctions or approvals involving competitive swimming within the geographical boundaries of the LSC.

5.1. Sanction Committee

The Sanction Committee shall have the authority to approve, reject or revoke a meet sanction in accordance with Article 202.1 of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations. The Sanction Committee shall consist of:

- Sanction Committee Chairman
- Admin Vice-Chair
- Officials Chair
- Senior Committee Chair
- Age-Group Committee Chair
- At-Large Member

Types of Sanctions for swim meets:

There are three (3) types of sanctions which can be issued for competitive swim meets held within the geographical borders of the LSC.

5.2. Sanctioned Meet

A swim meet shall be considered a Sanctioned Meet if all participating swimmers are members of USA Swimming and it is conducted in accordance with current USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.

- 5.2.1 The requirements for and conditions of sanction are given in Article 202.2 and 202.3 in the current USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.
- 5.2.2 A Sanction Application Form must be submitted to Sanction Committee 45 days prior to the meet. A copy of the Sanction Application Form can be obtained from the Georgia Swimming website:
- 5.2.3 A copy of the meet announcement must be submitted to the Sanction Committee accompanying the Sanction Application Form for approval. The following link provides a copy of the Sanction Application.

<http://www.gaswim.org/TabGeneric.jsp? tabid =106783&team=lscszgs>

- 5.2.4 The meet announcement for a sanctioned meet shall include the following statement:

"Except where venue facilities require otherwise, changing into or out of swimsuits other than in locker rooms or other designated areas is not appropriate and is strongly discouraged." The host club and/or the LSC may change the last two words in this statement to "prohibited."

- 5.2.5 Any changes or modifications to the meet announcement must be addressed prior to issuance of the sanction.
- 5.2.6 A minimum of four officials are required in order for a Sanction to be granted. A referee, a starter, at least one Stroke & Turn official and an administrative official are required. The names of these officials must accompany the Sanction Application.
- 5.2.7 Granted sanctions are non-transferrable to other organizations or clubs. Any such transferred sanction shall be void and the Sanction Committee shall deny any further sanctions to the organization or club violating this provision.
- 5.2.8 Sanction Fees

The fees for a Sanctioned Meet, pursuant to Section 3 herein, are payable to the Georgia Swimming Treasurer within 14 days after completion of the meet. The fees for individual events and relays shall be set by the host team when the meet is bid. The fees for time trials at championship meets will be determined by the host teams. Please note that LATE CHARGES will be assessed in accordance with current LSC policy adopted April 20, 2008. For fees which are 31-60 days late, add an additional 50% of the sanction fees. For fees which are greater than 60 days late add 100% of the sanction fees. Any team

with an outstanding balance by the next LSC meeting will be prohibited from bidding any meet for the next season.

5.3 Approved Meet

A swim meet shall be considered an Approved Meet if there are non-USA Swimming registered swimmers participating in the meet and it is conducted in accordance with current USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.

5.3.1 The requirements for and conditions of sanction are given in Article 202.4 in the current USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.

5.3.2 An Approved Meet Application Form must be submitted to Sanction Committee 45 days prior to the meet. A copy of the Approved Meet Application Form can be obtained from the Georgia Swimming website:

<http://www.gaswim.org/TabGeneric.jsp?tabid=106783&team=lscszgs>

5.3.3 The meet announcement for an approved meet shall include the following statement: "Except where venue facilities require otherwise, changing into or out of swimsuits other than in locker rooms or other designated areas is not appropriate and is strongly discouraged." The host club and/or the LSC may change the last two words in this statement to "prohibited."

5.3.4 A copy of the meet announcement must be submitted to the Sanction Committee accompanying the Approved Meet Application Form for approval.

5.3.5 Any changes or modifications to the meet announcement must be addressed prior to issuance of the sanction.

5.3.6 A minimum of four officials are required in order for an Approved Meet to be granted. A referee, a starter, at least one Stroke & Turn official and an administrative official are required. The names of these officials must accompany the Approved Meet Application.

5.3.7 Approved sanctions are non-transferrable to other organizations or clubs. Any such transferred sanction shall be void and the Sanction Committee shall deny any further sanctions to the organization or club violating this provision.

5.3.8 Sanction Fees

The fees for an Approved Meet, pursuant to Section 3 herein, are payable to the Georgia Swimming Treasurer within 14 days after completion of the meet. The fees for individual events shall be determined by the host teams. The fees for time trials at championship meets shall be determined by the host teams. Please note that LATE CHARGES will be assessed in accordance with current LSC policy adopted April 20, 2008. For fees which are 31-60 days late, add an additional 50% of the sanction fees. For fees which are greater than 60 days late add 100% of the sanction fees. Any team with an

outstanding balance by the next LSC meeting will be prohibited from bidding any meet for the next season.

5.4 Observed Meet

A swim meet shall be considered an Observed Meet if there are non-USA Swimming registered swimmers participating in the meet and it is conducted in accordance with Rules and Regulations other than USA Swimming Rules and Regulation.

5.4.1 The requirements for and conditions of sanction are given in Article 202.5 in the current USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.

5.4.2 An Observed Meet Application Form must be submitted to Sanction Committee 45 days prior to the meet. A copy of the Observed Meet Application Form can be obtained from the Georgia Swimming website:

<http://www.gaswim.org/TabGeneric.jsp?tabid=106783&team=lscszgs>

5.4.3 A copy of the meet announcement must be submitted to the Sanction Committee accompanying the Observed Meet Application Form for approval.

5.4.4 Any changes or modifications to the meet announcement must be addressed prior to issuance of the sanction.

5.4.5 A suitable number of Stroke & Turn officials are required at both ends of the pool to observe the swims. The observed swims must conform to USA Swimming Rules and Regulations. Times for these observed swims may be submitted for entry into the SWIMS database.

5.4.6 Observed sanctions are non-transferrable to other organizations or clubs. Any such transferred sanction shall be void and the Sanction Committee shall deny any further sanctions to the organization or club violating this provision.

5.4.7 Sanction Fees

The fees for an Observed Meet will be \$50.00 which is payable to the Georgia Swimming Treasurer within 14 days after completion of the meet. Please note that LATE CHARGES will be assessed in accordance with current LSC policy adopted April 20, 2008. For fees which are 31-60 days late, add an additional 50% of the sanction fees. For fees which are greater than 60 days late add 100% of the sanction fees. Any team with an outstanding balance by the next LSC meeting will be prohibited from bidding any meet for the next season.

5.5 Sanction Application

The sanction application and a copy of the Meet announcement shall be submitted to the sanction committee at least 45 days prior to the scheduled meet date. This allows the committee to review the application and the Meet announcement and respond to the meet

director with any questions, issues, corrections or additions to the sanction application or Meet announcement.

Note: Swim meet sanctions will not be granted or allowed on any date GSI hosts an event such as House of Delegates, the All-Star Banquet, etc.

5.6 Meet Announcement

The meet announcement describes the rules and regulations by which the meet will be conducted and under which the sanction will be granted or approved by the sanction committee. It will outline the procedures which will be used to conduct the meet. Once the sanction is granted or approved, any deviation from the Meet announcement without prior approval of the sanction committee or the meet committee will be grounds for revocation of the meet sanction.

5.6.1 An example of a meet announcement document can be found at the following:

http://www.gaswim.org/TabGeneric.jsp?_tabid_ =106783&team=lscszgs

A helpful checklist for completing the meet announcement is also provided:

http://www.gaswim.org/TabGeneric.jsp?_tabid_ =106783&team=lscszgs

5.6.2 The meet announcement document may be customized to fit the type of meet being held. Questions regarding the meet announcement can be sent to the Sanction Chair or any member of the sanction committee.

5.6.3 Georgia Swimming Warm-Up Procedures

A. Pre-Meet Warm-Up Period

1. Control and Supervise are the key words for safe warm-ups.
2. Marshals must be actively supervising the warm-up to ensure that proper procedures are followed.

B. Warm-Up Procedures and Guidelines

1. No racing starts or diving allowed until lanes have been designated for such by the referee or designee.
2. Important points for specific warm-up period
 - i. No racing starts or diving in lanes other than those designated for such. The host club is encouraged to post signs on the starting blocks not designated for racing starts or diving to remind swimmers that the lane is closed for diving.
 - ii. Racing starts or diving shall be conducted from the start end.
 - iii. Coaches should supervise and be in control of their athletes at the start end of the pool when conducting racing starts or diving.
 - iv. Swimmers should be reminded by coaches that breaststrokes need more time than do freestyle or butterfly swimmers.

- v. Backstrokers should be reminded of the danger of leaving simultaneously with someone on the block. No athletes should be allowed on the starting block until the backstroker has executed her or his start.

C. Additional Considerations

1. The marshal / announcer should announce lane changes and/or warm-up changes as per the general and specific period information following.
2. Coaches should maintain as much contact with their swimmers as possible, verbal and visual, throughout the warm-up period.
3. Coaches are to be reminded that the responsibility for supervision of their swimmer(s) is the same at the meet as when on deck at practice.
4. Marshals have the authority through the Meet Referee or Meet Director over warm-up. A swimmer and/or coach may be removed from the deck for interfering with this authority.
5. Written notice regarding warm-up procedures should be posted at the meet or in the meet announcement.
6. The competition pool should be cleared from warm-up 10 minutes prior to the start of the session.

These are guidelines. Discretion and common sense must be used when establishing procedures. The procedures must fit the type of meet and circumstances – the number of swimmers, lanes available, and time available.

D. General Warm-Up Period (as outlined in the table following)

1. The first 20-45 minutes are for general warm-up in all lanes (circle swim).
2. No racing starts or diving off the blocks or ledge of the pool at this time.
3. No sprinting or pace work; circle swimming only.

E. Specific Warm-Up Period (as outlined in the table following)

1. Designated during the last 20-45 minutes of pre-meet warm-up period or as directed by the Meet Referee or designee.
2. When sprint lanes are opened, an additional marshal should be assigned to supervise the starting blocks.
3. For 10-lane pools, the lane schedule is as follows:

	Total length of warm-up period	
	60 Minutes or More	45 Minutes
Lanes 1-10, No racing starts or diving. General warm-up swimming, circle swimming only	0-30	0-15

Lanes 2 & 9, Racing starts only. Sprints, one-way only. Lanes 1 & 10, No racing starts or diving. Push-off, Pace 50s. Lanes 3 – 8, No racing starts or diving. General warm-up swimming, circle swimming only.	30-45	15-30
Lanes 2, 3, 8, 9 Racing starts only. Sprints, one-way only. Lanes 1 & 10, No racing starts of diving. Push-off, Pace 50s. Lanes 4 – 7, No racing starts or diving. General warm-up swimming, circle swimming only.	45-60	30-45

Note: If two pools are available, only general warm-up (circle swimming) is allowed in the second pool.

4. For eight (8) lane pools, the lane schedule is as follows:

	Total length of warm-up period	
	60 Minutes or More	45 Minutes
Lanes 1-8, No racing starts or diving. General warm-up swimming, circle swimming only	0-30	0-15
Lanes 2 & 7, Racing starts only. Sprints, one-way only. Lanes 1 & 8, No racing starts or diving. Push-off, Pace 50s. Lanes 3 – 6, No racing starts or diving. General warm-up swimming, circle swimming only.	30-45	15-30

Lanes 2, 3, 6, 7 Racing starts only. Sprints, one-way only. Lanes 1 & 8, No racing starts of diving. Push-off, Pace 50s. Lanes 4 – 5, No racing starts or diving. General warm-up swimming, circle swimming only.	45-60	30-45
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Note: If two pools are available, only general warm-up (circle swimming) is allowed in the second pool.

5. For seven (7) lane pools, the lane schedule is as follows:

	Total length of warm-up period	
	60 Minutes or More	45 Minutes
Lanes 1-7, No racing starts or diving. General warm-up swimming, circle swimming only	0-30	0-15
Lanes 2 & 6, Racing starts only. Sprints, one-way only. Lanes 1 & 7, No racing starts or diving. Push-off, Pace 50s. Lanes 3 – 5, No racing starts or diving. General warm-up swimming, circle swimming only.	30-45	15-30
Lanes 2, 3, 6 Racing starts only. Sprints, one-way only. Lanes 1 & 7, No racing starts of diving. Push-off, Pace 50s. Lanes 4 – 5, No racing starts or diving. General warm-up swimming, circle swimming only.	45-60	30-45

Note: If two pools are available, only general warm-up (circle swimming) is allowed in the second pool.

6. For six (6) lane pools, the lane schedule is as follows:

	Total length of warm-up period	
	60 Minutes or More	45 Minutes
Lanes 1-6, No racing starts or diving. General warm-up swimming, circle swimming only	0-30	0-15
Lanes 2 & 5, Racing starts only. Sprints, one-way only. Lanes 1 & 6, No racing starts or diving. Push-off, Pace 50s. Lanes 3 & 4, No racing starts or diving. General warm-up swimming, circle swimming only.	30-45	15-30
Lanes 2, 4, 5 Racing starts only. Sprints, one-way only. Lanes 1 & 6, No racing starts of diving. Push-off, Pace 50s. Lane 3, No racing starts or diving. General warm-up swimming, circle swimming only.	45-60	30-45

Note: If two pools are available, only general warm-up (circle swimming) is allowed in the second pool.

F. Specific Team – Lane Assignment Warm-Up (Optional)

Where meet conditions warrant, host clubs may choose a specific team / lane assignment warm-up format. Each participating team will be assigned a specific lane for the entire warm-up period. Should this warm-up option be selected, a coach or marshal shall be assigned to each lane, at the start-end of the pool for the entire warm-up period.

	Total length of warm-up period	
	45 Minutes or More	30 – 45 Minutes

All Lanes, No racing starts or diving. General warm-up swimming, circle swimming only	0-30 or 45	0-20 or 25
All Lanes, Racing starts only. Sprints, one-way only, exit pool at opposite end.	30 or 45 To 45 or 60	20 or 25 To 30 or 45

Note: If two pools are available, only general warm-up (circle swimming) is allowed in the second pool.

6. Meet Results

Results for meets sanctioned by Georgia Swimming and conducted during the current year will be posted on the Georgia Swimming website. The host club must send a link to their database where meet results are located to the Georgia Swimming webmaster for posting. These meet results must be maintained for approximately 1 year. This is a part of the financial requirements for meet sanction. The Swims Database Coordinator will not upload any meet results unless a results link is provided.

7. Georgia LSC Championship Meet Proof of Time

In specified LSC championship meets, swimmers who fail to make the posted time standard for an event and who cannot prove their eligibility for the event with official meet results shall pay a \$50.00 fine for each “un-provable” event and shall be barred from further meets until the fine is paid. The fines are to be credited directly to the LSC travel fund.

7.1 At the conclusion of the specified meet, the results and a listing of failed times shall be sent to each club in the meet by the meet director, with a copy to the LSC SWIMS coordinator.

7.2 For each swimmer listed, the club, within 60 days of the last day of the meet, shall respond to the LSC designated individual(s) responsible for time verification with official meet results proof or a check for \$50.00 for each event. After 60 days, proof will no longer be accepted and the club and swimmer will be barred from further competition until the fine is paid.

8. Divisional Championship Meets

The Divisional concept was developed to further the stated goals of Georgia Swimming: “to increase opportunity, recognition, and growth in competitive swimming,” and to do so “for the benefit of swimmers of all ages and abilities.” As such, Divisional Championship meets comprise an important part of the LSC season plan. To ensure that the goals of Georgia Swimming are carried out, the following regulations shall govern the conduct of the Divisions and the structure of their Championship Meets:

8.1 A Divisional Championship is defined as a season-ending, prelim/final meet. While Divisions may choose to limit participation in certain events through imposing time standards, or by placing

a cap on the number of heats in certain events, the meet should be structured to allow a broad range of swimmers to compete; ideally the full roster of each participating team.

8.2 Competitions that meet the criteria laid out in 8.1 shall be considered “Championship Meets” and therefore the following rules shall apply.

8.2.1 The host club may enact a \$10 surcharge without prior approval of the Georgia Swimming Board.

8.2.2 Use of technical suits by 11&12 year old swimmers will be allowed.

8.3 Each Division shall have a representative on the Technical Planning Committee. Representatives shall be selected by the Division coaches and appointed according to the conditions laid out in the Georgia Swimming Bylaws (607.3.3) for a term of two years.

8.4 The structure of each Divisional Championship Meet will be determined by the Division’s teams. The responsibility for overseeing the development of Meet Information rests with the Divisional Representative to Technical Planning. He or she shall also be responsible for securing meet bids, and when necessary, administering a vote to determine the host. Selection of a meet host should take place prior to the Spring LSC meeting each year, and the Technical Planning Chair notified of the result.

8.5 Every four years, in conjunction with USA-Swimming’s Quadrennial plan, the Divisional Representatives are charged with conducting an evaluation of Divisional Meets, with the goal being to adjust team assignments to create the best possible competitive environment. Factors for consideration should include meet size, team size, and prospective travel time. This committee’s findings should be circulated prior to the Spring LSC meeting for input. It is recommended that changes be finalized at this meeting.

8.6 Teams who wish to change Divisions prior to the conclusion of the four-year cycle should notify their Division’s representative and the representative from the Division to which they hope to move. This notification should include a letter explaining why their move is necessary. The representatives will then poll their respective Divisions asking for an up or down vote. If a simple majority in each Division approves the change, a team will be free to move.

8.7 When each Divisional Meet is sanctioned, team eligibility will be restricted by Division. Team assignments will be listed on the Georgia Swimming website.

8.8 Current assignments are listed below. New teams will be assigned by the Divisional Reps acting in committee:

Northeast: ABSC, ASL, BAY, GA, HRST, LA, MORG, NGR, ROCK, SHOC, SUMM, WW

Northern: ASA, BA, CCAC, CPAC, CW, DAQ, FCS, GWSA, HLHK, LINS, LTG, NJBD, NWGA, PSC, SPAC, TRSC, TWS, ATAQ, FPY, WCY, SEA, ZBN

Central: ACE, CAD, CBF, DCS, EXEL, MAAC, SCAT, RAYS, SFY, TARA, TCS, USAC, VS, WOLF, ESC, GST, HCTS

Southern: BT, BOOM, CGA, GCAT, HURR, LCAC, OAC, SEGA, SMAC, SST, SWAG, TTW, VAST, WRA, BAR, VPST

Metro: DYNA, GOLD, SA

9. Fines

Clubs which are late paying their sanction fees will be assessed fines according to the following:

- 9.1 Effective April 20, 2008 - Late fees for unpaid sanction fees 31-60 days late add additional 50% of the sanction fees.
- 9.2 Greater than 60 days late add 100% of the sanction fees.
- 9.3 Any team with an outstanding balance by the next LSC meeting will be prohibited from bidding any meet for the next season.

10. Swim-A-Thon

Reference the USA Swimming Swim-A-Thon Handbook and contract.

11. Open Water Swimming

The popularity of open water swimming has significantly increased so as to move it into a highly competitive part of USA Swimming. Open water swimming events, require thorough planning to provide the highest level of safety for athletes, coaches, meet personnel and officials involved in the meet.

11.1 Procedure for Open Water Swimming

Georgia Swimming, and all open water swimming events sponsored by Georgia Swimming, Inc., will follow the procedure set forth by USA Swimming for Open Water Swimming.

<http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=1422&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en>

The procedure for establishing and sanctioning an open water swimming meet are outlined in the following memo:

<http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=1422&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en>

A safety checklist for an Open Water Swimming event is outlined in the following:

<http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=1422&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en>

11.2 The Open Water Meet Application is found at the following:

<http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=1422&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en>

Before the LSC Sanction Chair is permitted to issue a sanction for an open water swimming event, approval of the meet plan must be obtained from USA Swimming. This application outlines the necessary elements of the meet plan. Completing the application does not automatically grant you approval of the meet plan. Failure to include all aspects requested in the application will automatically cause the application to be denied. The meet plan will be reviewed by a designated open water zone representative who will issue an approval or a denial within one week of receipt. If not approved, the reason(s) will be supplied so that the applicant can take the necessary remedial actions.

The following items must be submitted:

Meet Plan

Application for Sanction (per LSC)

Application for Open Water Meet

Meet announcement

Water Quality Certification (website references are acceptable with URL)

Submit to LSC Sanction Chair per established local rules. The Independent Safety Monitor shall be selected by the designated representative within the LSC, independent of the Local Organizing Committee. The LSC Sanction Chair is required to submit the packet and the name of the Independent Safety Monitor to the designated open water zone representative for approval. Be certain to allow for the extra time this will take (approximately 1 week). Local sanction fees apply.

12. Officials

Georgia Swimming welcomes and encourages the assistance of certified officials (and apprentices when capacity allows) at any meet hosted by a Georgia Swimming registered club. To volunteer, please notify the Meet Referee prior to the meet or, at least approximately one hour before each session. Officials (and apprentices) should be prepared to present their LSC certification card and their USA Swimming Registration Card to the meet Referee. They must wear their credentials at all times while working on deck or while in hospitality. Standard dress for officials is blue pants, shorts or skirt; white polo shirt and white shoes and socks for most

meets. At some prelim/finals meets, the dress may be different for assigned officials as determined by the meet referee.

13. Georgia Scratch Rule

The Georgia Scratch Rule, used in all meets in Georgia where the meet format includes preliminary heats, consolation finals, and finals, is the same "Scratch Rule" as found in Section 207.12 Administrative Conduct of USA Swimming Championships, of the current USA Swimming Rules and Regulations. Certain Georgia LSC additions apply as outlined in Exhibit A herein, which may be updated from time to time using the following link:

<http://www.gaofficials.org/sanctions.html>

EXHIBIT A

GEORGIA SWIMMING INC.

SCRATCH RULE

The Scratch Rule to be used in all Georgia LSC sanctioned meets where the meet format includes preliminary heats, consolation finals and finals, is the "Scratch Rule" as found under "Administrative Conduct of USA Swimming Championships", subsection "Scratch Procedures", subsections "Scratching

from finals” and “Exceptions for failure to compete”, of the current “USA Swimming Rules and Regulations”. An excerpt is provided below.

Scratching from finals:

- (1) Any swimmer qualifying for a C, B, or A (bonus and consolation final or) final race in an individual event who fails to compete in said final shall be barred from further competition for the remainder of the meet, except as noted in paragraph E. A declared false start under 101.1.3F or deliberate delay of meet under 101.1.5 is not permitted and will be regarded as a failure to compete.
- (2) In the event of withdrawal or barring of a swimmer from competition the Referee shall fill the C, B, or A (bonus and consolation final or) final, 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 unavailable to compete in the finals.
- (3) Where C and B (bonus and consolation) finals have not been swum and a barring or withdrawal is known to the Referee, the Referee shall reseed the C, B, or A (bonus final, consolation final and the) final, if necessary, to insert the alternate(s) in the appropriate lane(s), filling all lanes in the final.
- (4) If the C or B (bonus and consolation) final has already been contested, the (championship) final shall be swum without reseeding for the empty lane(s).

Exceptions for failure to compete:

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) A swimmer qualifying for a C, B or A (bonus or consolation final or) final race based upon the results of the preliminaries notifies the Referee within thirty (30) minutes after announcement of the qualifiers for that race that they may not intend to compete and further declares their final intentions within thirty (30) minutes following their last individual preliminary event.
- (3) It is determined by the Referee that failure to compete is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the swimmer.”

Unless otherwise stated in the final sanctioned Meet Information: the following Georgia LSC additions listed below apply to all timed final meets as well as all preliminary/finals meets.

- (1) Swimmers that qualify for ***any*** final heats as announced in the meet information will also be subject to these rules.

- (2) In all deck seeded events ^(a), a swimmer who has been checked in either personally or by a team coach, has been seeded and then fails to compete in said event, shall be barred from his or her next individual event, except as noted in “Exceptions for failure to compete” above. This rule only applies to timed-final events where the meet management has placed limits on the number of heats to be contested or the number of individual entries to be accepted for a particular deck-seeded event as specifically stated in the meet announcement.
 - (3) There is no scratch rule governing relays and there is no penalty regarding relay scratches.
 - (4) Qualifiers for all finals heats are those as identified on the originally posted results of the preliminary heats. Any qualifier who has moved up into this group as a result of the posting of corrected preliminary results after original results have been posted shall not be subject to penalty.
 - (5) The meet official designated to receive initial intentions not to compete and final intentions shall be announced at the beginning of each session. It is suggested that this official be the Clerk of Course.
 - (6) On the final day of “**LSC Championship**” competitions, any swimmer who has checked in for finals and fails to compete will be assessed a \$50 fine. This fine must be paid before the next LSC Championship meet in which the swimmer intends to compete or the swimmer will be barred from competition.
 - (7) A “Positive check-in procedure” shall be used for all deck seeded events. A swimmer’s intent to swim a race shall be denoted by the **swimmer’s or swimmer’s coach’s** initials entered next to the swimmers’ names on the official entry sheet posted at the Clerk of Course. Failure to check in shall be considered to indicate that the swimmer **will not compete**.
 - (8) In cases where changes to the USAS rules cause conflict with the Georgia LSC additions, USAS rules shall take precedence.
- (a) Interpretation: The change clarifies the intent of the rule. If there are no limits placed on the number of swimmers in the deck seeded event – then there is no penalty for a no-show in that event; given that no swimmer was impacted by the no-show and everyone that wanted to swim got to swim. If a limit is placed on a deck seeded event (e.g. the fastest 30 swimmers), then a no-show could cause the exclusion of the 31st fastest swimmer from competing and would result in a penalty against the no-show swimmer.

Revised: September 12, 2015