USAS 2020 August Meet Sanction Update

July 17, 2020

Dear members,

As we continue to navigate these challenging times, we remain focused on supporting our teams and members in their return to training and competition.

We are aware of the considerable differences and effects of the COVID-19 crisis across the country and are being mindful of these as we further develop our “crawl, walk, race” strategies, initially introduced in June.

Following input from athletes, coaches, committee volunteers, and staff, the USA Swimming Board of Directors approved the following event sanctions for August 2020:

* **LSCs will be limited to the sanctioning of meets comprised only of athletes and clubs registered within the LSC.\***
* **There will be no restrictions on the use of times**

(\*A club, geographically isolated within their LSC, may be granted the opportunity to compete in an adjacent LSC with permission from both the club’s LSC and the adjacent LSC.)

More than anything, it is important to remember that all training and competition must conform to local, state, and federal public health guidelines.

Should you have any questions regarding meet sanctioning and competition, please contact Joel Shinofield at [jshinofield@usaswimming.org](http://pages.usaswimming.org/CCd00K0wr0fK0wZB0R01Z02).

All competition must conform to local, state, and federal public health guidelines.  **Please note the amendments to Articles 202.4 and 202.6 listed below**, as well as reference documents on our COVID Page:

[Return to Competition Plan](https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/coaching-resourcesdocuments/2020returntocompetition.pdf)

[LSC Sanction Requirements](https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/governance/2020returntocompetitionlscsanctionreqsv2i-3.pd)  (Updated language listed below)

For the month of August 2020, LSCs will be limited to the sanctioning of meets comprised only of athletes and clubs registered within the LSC.\* All competition must conform to local, state, and federal public health guidelines. An LSC shall establish submission deadlines for sanction or approval applications and shall publish such deadlines, along with relevant instructions and forms.

(\*A club, geographically isolated within their LSC, may be granted the opportunity to compete in an adjacent LSC with permission from both the club’s LSC and the adjacent LSC.)

And to amend Articles 202.4 and 202.6 as follows, effective August 1, 2020:

202.4.10 Application for sanction shall be accompanied by a copy of the complete meet announcement which shall include the following:

[A – M No change]

              N The following statement:

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and individuals with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable.

USA Swimming, Inc., cannot prevent you (or your child(ren)) from becoming exposed to, contracting, or spreading COVID-19 while participating in USA Swimming sanctioned events. It is not possible to prevent against the presence of the disease. Therefore, if you choose to participate in a USA Swimming sanctioned event, you may be exposing yourself to and/or increasing your risk of contracting

or spreading COVID-19.

**BY ATTENDING OR PARTICIPATING IN THIS COMPETITION, YOU VOLUNTARILY ASSUME ALL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 AND FOREVER RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS USA SWIMMING AND [THE LSC] AND EACH OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM ANY LIABILITY OR CLAIMS INCLUDING FOR PERSONAL INJURIES, DEATH, DISEASE OR PROPERTY LOSSES, OR ANY OTHER LOSS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CLAIMS OF NEGLIGENCE AND GIVE UP ANY CLAIMS YOU MAY HAVE TO SEEK DAMAGES, WHETHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, FORESEEN OR UNFORESEEN, IN**

**CONNECTION THEREWITH.**

              This statement shall also be included in heat sheets.

202.4.16 To address circumstances related to COVID-19, a supplemental document to the meet sanction request shall include:

a. A statement of the local protocols and requirements;

b. The plan for spectator ingress and egress;

c. The planned number of individuals gathering in the spaces: pool, deck, spectator seating, etc.;

d. Safe Sport considerations to ensure parents have access to and/or the opportunity to observe their child; and

e. An attestation statement in which the meet host attests that the conduct of the meet will adhere to local jurisdictional guidelines.

202.6.6

[A-G No change]

              H   The following statement:

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and individuals with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable.

USA Swimming, Inc., cannot prevent you (or your child(ren)) from becoming exposed to, contracting, or spreading COVID-19 while participating in USA Swimming sanctioned events. It is not possible to prevent against the presence of the disease. Therefore, if you choose to participate in a USA Swimming sanctioned event, you may be exposing yourself to and/or increasing your risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19.

**BY ATTENDING OR PARTICIPATING IN THIS COMPETITION, YOU VOLUNTARILY ASSUME ALL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 AND FOREVER RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS USA SWIMMING AND [THE LSC] AND EACH OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, EMPLOYEES OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM ANY LIABILITY OR CLAIMS INCLUDING FOR PERSONAL INJURIES, DEATH, DISEASE OR PROPERTY LOSSES, OR ANY OTHER LOSS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CLAIMS OF NEGLIGENCE AND GIVE UP ANY CLAIMS YOU MAY HAVE TO SEEK DAMAGES, WHETHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, FORESEEN OR UNFORESEEN, IN**

**CONNECTION THEREWITH.**

This statement shall also be included in heat sheets.

202.6.19 To address circumstances related to COVID-19, a supplemental document to the meet sanction request shall include:

a. A statement of the local protocols and requirements;

b. The plan for spectator ingress and egress;

c. The planned number of individuals gathering in the spaces: pool, deck, spectator seating, etc.;

d. Safe Sport considerations to ensure parents have access to and/or the opportunity to observe their child; and

e. An attestation statement in which the meet host attests that the conduct of the meet will adhere to local jurisdictional guidelines.