

SPECIAL 2021 COVID Amendments

AS AMENDED January 27, 2021

Sections 11.01 through 12.07 only

(Previously amended January 24, 2018)

2021



ARTICLE XI. ELIGIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS

Section 11.01. Registration and Release of Liability

All participants shall be registered with the League and may also be registered with other national, regional or local swimming organizations. A liability release form containing terms and conditions approved by the Board shall be executed by a parent or legal guardian of each participant and filed with the League each year prior to the participants competing in any official League meet.

Section 11.02. Eligibility

- (a) Eligibility for registration shall be limited to bona fide Team members.
- (b) Each Team shall have on file with the League a statement of its membership policies defining "bona fide Team members." Such statements shall be reviewed and verified each year at the March meeting. A new statement needs to be filed with the League only if such membership policies have been changed by a Team.
- (c) Any participants desiring to register with the League who are exceptions to Section 11.02(a) and 11.02(b) above shall have their names presented to the League for approval prior to being registered with the League.

Section 11.03. Events Causing Ineligibility

Special 2021 season exemption:

Section 11.03 shall be suspended for the 2021 NCSL swim season.

Because of the COVID 19 pandemic, all swimmers maybe allowed to practice with any team starting in January 2021 and until the start of practice of the 2021 NorCal Swim League season. Upon registration for the 2021 NCSL swim season, the individual will comply with Section 11.05 of these Bylaws.

Upon beginning of the 2021 season (start date of practice), edited Section 11.03 (a) shall apply. The official practice start date and opening of NCSL registration date shall be determined by the NCSL 2021 Board for the league.

Upon the end of the 2021 season, all changes/edits and exemptions shall revert back to 2020 Bylaws.

All 2021 season and Championships records shall have an asterisk next to any swimmer taking advantage of the USA swimming club exemption after February 1st, 2021.

- (a) If, between the time period commencing on first 2021 season practice day and continuing through the completion of all four conference championship meets, an individual:

(i.) Swims in any United States Swimming-sanctioned meet; or

(ii.) Practices with, or competes for, any swimming team other than the swimmer's Team; then said individual shall be ineligible to register and participate (or continue participating, as the case may be) in the League swimming season occurring in said calendar year.

(b) Sections 11.03(a) and (b) notwithstanding, an individual will remain eligible to participate in a League swimming season if the individual participates on any of the following teams at any time between February 1 and the end of the League's swimming season:

(i.) High school swimming teams;

(ii.) Intercollegiate (junior college, community college, college or university) swimming teams;

(iii.) Water polo or synchronized swimming teams;

(c) A participant who becomes ineligible after the League swimming season commences shall immediately cease participation in all League swimming meets remaining in the season. All points scored by the participant prior to the date of his ineligibility shall remain valid and in full force and effect. If a participant competes in a League meet while ineligible, all points scored by the participant and any relay of which the participant was a member shall be rendered null and void, and the participant shall be deemed disqualified from all said events.

Section 11.04. Changing Teams After Registration

After a participant commences practicing with, or registers to swim with, a Team for a particular League swimming season, said participant may not swim during that season for any other Team unless the approval of the Board of Directors is first obtained. If a participant so changes Teams, said participant shall be subject to a penalty period of ineligibility of at least one League conference meet of the Team to which the participant has transferred, commencing with the date the Registrar receives the applicants' new application. The purpose of the penalty period shall be to discourage "Team hopping" or recruiting of registered participants. In no event shall the penalty be applied in situations where the participant has changed Teams as the result of a change in the participant's place of official residence.

Section 11.05. Changing Leagues After Registration

If, for a particular swimming season, an individual has already registered with or commenced practicing with a Team competing in another recreational league, said individual may not register or participate with any Team in the League unless the approval of the Board is first obtained. Board approval shall be given so long as the individual demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board that

he has ceased participating in the other recreational league and that the policies and rules of said other recreational league are in substantial conformity with those of this League.

Section 11.06. Evidence of Birth Date Process

Individuals applying for League registration shall provide a legal document of birth for the Registrar of the individual team they are registering with. It is the team's responsibility to validate birthdates of their swimmers. By submitting a league registration form on behalf of a swimmer, or a team roster with a swimmers name on it, the team is representing they have verified the age of the swimmer and would be able to prove the age within one week if requested.

Section 11.06.1. Registered Age Challenge

A team can challenge the age of a registered swimmer from another team by having the league representative of the challenging team submit a written challenge to the league representative of the team being challenged. The team being challenged has one week to provide a copy of a legal document proving the age. If the team is unable to produce this documentation, the challenged team forfeits all meets that the challenged swimmer participated in, including Championship Meets. League President and Registrar should be made aware of a challenge within 48 hours.

Section 11.07. Responsibility to Review Registration

Teams shall be responsible for reviewing registration applications and advising applicants of definite or tentative penalty periods to be confirmed by the Registrar.

Section 11.08. Ineligibility to Swim During Penalty Period

No participant who joins a Team under circumstances subject to the penalty period as determined by the Board may participate in any League meet prior to the termination of the applicable penalty period.

Section 11.09. Waiver for Clerical Error

The Registrar may recommend to the Board the approval of an applicant for dual or championship meet competition whose registration applications were not properly filed due to human and/or clerical error, and who, in the judgment of the Registrar, complies with all other provisions of the eligibility provisions contained in this Article XI. The Board shall take immediate action by the most expedient means to rule on the eligibility of the applicant. A majority vote of the Board shall be required for approval of the recommendation.

Section 11.10. Relief

If it is discovered that a swimmer has participated in a dual meet or meets without being registered with the League, the swimmer will not be penalized providing all other eligibility criteria have been met. Points scored by the swimmer in League swim meets while unregistered shall be dealt with in accordance with the League Dual Meet Rules and League Championship Meet Rules.

Section 11.11. Financial Need

To discourage recruiting and “Team hopping”, fees assessed by individual Teams may not be waived nor non swim Team job offers be made during the participant’s first year with that Team, unless the Team has determined a financial need exists to offer such scholarship, or if the participant changes Teams as a result of a change of the participant’s place of official residence. Such determination of financial need shall be consistent within the Team. If a participant accepts a non-needs financial scholarship during the first year with the Team, the participant will be subject to the penalties assessed in Paragraph 11.04 above.

ARTICLE XII. COMPETITIVE PROGRAM

Section 12.01. Adoption of Rules for Dual Meets and Championships

The League shall maintain an adopted list of rules and regulations governing the conduct of League dual meets and League championship meets. The initial Dual Meet Rules and Championship Meet Rules for the League are attached to these Bylaws as Exhibits A and B, and are hereby incorporated into these Bylaws by reference.

Section 12.02. Application of U.S. Swimming Rules

U.S. Swimming rules governing age group swimming shall apply to all League swimming meets with the exception of any modifications contained herein or in the Dual Meet Rules or Championship Meet Rules

Section 12.02.1. Water Depth for Racing Starts

In pools with water depth 3 feet 6 inches or more at the starting end, it shall be permitted for swimmers ten years and younger to perform racing starts directly from the pool deck provided the pool deck is no more than 1 foot above the water surface.

Section 12.02.2. Lane Width

Minimum lane width for competitive swimming shall be no less than 6 feet 6 inches. Any team that has been a member of Northern California Swim League and competing in the same home pool continuously since 1/1/2018 is exempt from this minimum width in dual meets provided the lane width during competition is no narrower than it existed on 1/1/2018.

Section 12.02.3. Water Temperature

Water temperature 77 degrees Fahrenheit or above shall be maintained for competition. The home team shall notify the visiting team by 12:00 noon the day preceding the meet if the water temperature is expected to exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit during competition.

Section 12.02.4. Floating Lane Dividers

Floating lane dividers are not required to be provided outside the outermost lane being used if the side of the pool runs parallel to the lane for full length of the pool and minimum lane width is maintained between the pool wall and the closest floating lane divider.

Section 12.03. Determination of Age Group

For the 2021 Northern California Swim League season only: 2021 Bylaw – Section 12.03 Exception

Due to the cancelled 2020 Northern California Swim League (hereinafter “NCSL”) season caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, NCSL has adopted a single season (2021 NCSL season only) exception to Bylaw # Section 12.03 which permits all eligible 19-year-old swimmers (hereinafter and defined below as “Eligible 19-year-old”) the opportunity to practice and compete as outlined and limited below in a final recreational swim season. An Eligible 19-year-old is any swimmer who has a 19th birthday which falls on or before June 15, 2021, and whom would not be otherwise ineligible by participation in U.S. Swimming.

For the 2021 NCSL season the 15-18 year-old age group will be a 15-19 year-old age group in any dual meet, with the following exceptions:

1. The eligible 19-year-old swimmer must have been a part of an NCSL Team for a complete season within the past three, 2017, 2018 and/or 2019, seasons.
2. Eligible 19-year-old is ineligible (not permitted) to be break any team or NCSL records.
3. Eligible 19-year-old may compete and score points for his/her team in any dual meet, prior to Championships.
4. At Championships, Eligible 19-year-old may compete with the 15-18 year-old age group in trial events only. For final events, Eligible 19 year-olds will swim in their own, separate heats, which will be non-scoring heats for purposes of team points. Eligible 19 year-olds is ineligible (not permitted) to swim on relays at Championships.
5. At Championships, high point awards will be awarded for 15-18 year-olds and Eligible 19 year-olds separately (with no points earned by Eligible 19 year-olds to be counted in team earned points).

Upon completion of the 2021 NCSL season, 2021 Bylaw – Section 12.03 Exception is automatically rescinded and the current existing bylaw, Section 12.03, will resume without change for the 2022 season unless amended, modified or changed by the vote or written consent of a three-fourths majority of the Teams.

Section 12.04. Establishing Dual Meet Schedules

The League schedule of dual meets for each season shall be established by no later than the January Board meeting preceding the season being scheduled.

Section 12.05 shall not be enforced during the 2021 season only. The section 12.05 shall be returned to the Bylaws for the 2022 NCSL swim season.

Shall be reinstated in 2022:

No Team shall conduct practice during the time period commencing February 1 and extending through March 31 of any calendar year. A Team found to be in violation of this Section 12.05 shall not be eligible to participate in the next scheduled League championship meet. As used in these Bylaws, the term "practice" means any workout for the purpose of which is to build up and increase the physical conditioning and endurance of the swimmer. The term does not encompass stroke-and-turn instruction the focus of which is to promote improved swimming technique and which complies with Section 12.06.

Section 12.06. Permitted Stroke-And-Turn Training Programs and Swimming Lessons.

Notwithstanding Section 12.05 an individual shall not be ineligible to participate during a League swimming season if the individual participates in a stroke-and-turn training program or swimming lessons during the month of March provided that:

- (a) The focus of said programs or lessons is to develop stroke technique and not for building up and increasing the physical conditioning and endurance of the swimmer, and shall be limited as follows:
 - (i.) Each swimmer may participate no more than 60 minutes in one day;
 - (ii.) Each swimmer may participate no more than three (3) days in a week, and
 - (iii.) Each swimmer shall swim no more than 50 yards without stopping for instruction.

Section 12.07. Coaching Other Teams

Any coach of a Team is entitled to also coach other non-member teams such as high school, college and United States Swimming teams: provided, however, that all team practices for the Team must be conducted completely separate and apart from the practices the coach conducts for the non-member team.