

# WISCONSIN SWIMMING, INC.

## Title: Meet Conduct

## Policy 4

Effective Date: October 26, 1999; Supersede Date: May, 1999

Revision Dates:

October 26, 1999	4.1.3 and 4.5.1
January 27, 2004	4.1.3.F and 4.7
June 23, 2009	4.5.2.A
June 28, 2011	4.1.2,4.1.3.E, 4.2.A &D; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5; 4.7.2; 4.8;
April 24, 2012	4.2.1; 4.2.2

**Scope:** This policy provides direction to all LSC members, athletes, officials, coaches, and parents relating to meet conduct.

### ***4.1 Wisconsin Individual Scratch Rule***

Each swimmer shall inform himself/herself of the meet starting time and shall report to the proper meet authorities promptly upon call.

- 4.1.1 Scratching Events in Pre-Seeded Meets – Each swimmer shall report promptly to the starting blocks prior to the start of each race in which the swimmer is entered.
  - A. Any swimmer not reporting for or competing in an individual timed final event shall not be penalized.
  - B. Any swimmer not reporting for or competing in a preliminary heat when finals are scheduled shall not be penalized.
- 4.1.2 Scratching Events in Deck Seeded Meets – Any swimmer entered in an individual event who has checked-in for the event, must swim in the event. Failure to swim the event will result in the swimmer being barred from his/her individual event in which the swimmer is entered on that day or the next day, whichever is first. No penalty shall apply for a failure to compete if the swimmer or the coach notifies the Deck Referee, prior to his/her assigned heat, of a Declared False Start.
- 4.1.3 Scratching from Bonus Heats, Consolation Finals, and Finals:
  - A. Any swimmer qualifying for a bonus heat, consolation final, or final race in an individual event, who fails to compete in said bonus, consolation final, or final race, shall be barred from further competition for the remainder of the meet.  
Disqualification under this section shall apply only to swimmers qualifying based on the original preliminary results. However, if a swimmer or coach is notified prior to the start of the session, that the swimmer has scratched into a bonus heat, consolation final, or final race in an individual event, and that accepts the position, and then fails to compete, that swimmer shall be barred from further competition for the remainder of the meet.
  - B. In the event of withdrawal or barring of a swimmer from competition, the Meet Referee shall fill the bonus, consolation final, or final race, 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 not available to compete in finals. However, if an alternate is notified that he/she has scratched into a bonus heat, consolation final, or final race prior to the start of the session, and that swimmer accepts the position, and then does not compete, that swimmer is barred from further competition for the remainder of the meet.
- C. When bonus/consolation finals have not been swim and a barring or withdrawal is known to the Meet Referee, the Meet Referee shall reseed the bonus/consolation final, and final, if necessary, by inserting the alternate(s) in the appropriate lane(s), filling all lanes in the final race.
  - D. If a bonus heat or consolation final has been contested, the remaining final shall be swum without reseeding for empty lane(s).
  - E. Finals shall include those events in a preliminary-finals competition but swum as timed finals, with the fastest heat swimming in finals. A swimmer who fails to compete in a timed final event or in the fastest heat swimming with finals, who has checked-in for the positive check-in, is barred from competing in the next individual event in which the swimmer is entered either on that day on the next day, whichever is first. A Declared False Start is allowed in a timed final event with the fastest heat swimming with finals.
  - F. Exceptions for failure to compete – No penalty shall apply for failure to withdraw or to compete in an individual check-in event if:
    - a. The Meet Referee is notified in the event of illness or injury and accepts the proof thereof.
    - b. A swimmer qualifying for C, B, or A (bonus heat or consolation final or final race) race, based upon the results of the preliminaries, notifies the Meet Referee within thirty (30) minutes after announcement of the qualifiers for that race that he/she may not intend to compete, and further declares his/her intention not to compete within thirty (30) minutes following his/her last individual preliminary event of the session.
    - c. The Meet Referee determines that failure to compete is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the swimmer.

#### ***4.2 Wisconsin Relay Scratch Rule***

No penalty exists if a member of a relay team or the relay team itself fails to compete in a timed final or preliminary/finals competition.

#### ***4.3 Minimum Finish Judging***

A minimum of one (1) place judge, and preferably two (2) place judges, shall record the places/finishes of all competitors in a heat for timed finals, preliminaries and final races. An exception occurs when no automatic timing system is used. Then, two (2) places judges are required.

#### ***4.4 Minimum Number of Officials***

A minimum of three (3) USA Swimming certified Officials, at least two (2) of which must be certified Starter/ Referees, shall be present on deck at all times during competition of a

meet, including dual meets. The Referee and the Starter, two (2) different Officials, also may serve as Stroke and Turn Judges when sufficient other Officials are not available. At least one other certified Official must be on deck at all times. Additional Officials are required for major meets, especially for any meet with a prelim-finals format.

#### ***4.5 Warm-up Procedures***

- 4.5.1 The warm-up procedure establishes the requirements for any USA Swimming member club requesting sanction/approval from Wisconsin Swimming, Inc. The intent is providing an adequate, fair, and safe warm-up for all competitors and coaches. In conformance with Wisconsin Swimming Policy 2.2.1.C, the Meet Announcement shall specify warm-up times and procedures.
- 4.5.2 The warm-up procedures shall provide a minimum of a five (5) minutes quiet period between warm-ups and actual competition during which no one is permitted in the competitive pool.
- 4.5.3 Following are several definitions/descriptions contained/used in the procedure:
- A. General Warm-up: Circle swimming only, entry into the water shall be a feet first three point entry for all competition.
  - B. Sprint: One directional swimming from starting end only, racing starts from starting blocks are permitted.
  - C. Push/Pace: Circle swimming only, one or two lengths only, begin at starting end only, no racing starts from starting blocks.
  - D. Kicking/Pulling with Boards or Paddles: Not permitted in competition pool; permitted in separate diving well or in adjacent pool.
  - E. Marshal: A Host Club member, familiar with warm-up procedures, on deck during entire warm-up, with authority to recommend to the Meet Referee disciplinary action for violators of procedures.
- 4.5.4 A diving well physically linked to the competition pool, as in an “L” shaped pool, may be available for general warm-up and kicking/pulling during the warm-up period and for warm-downs only during competition with limits on the number of swimmers in the water at the same time. The Meet Referee or Marshall(s) may close the diving well to all individuals at their discretion.
- 4.5.5 A diving well not physically linked to the competition pool may be available for general warm-up/warm-down, and kicking/pulling during the warm-up period and during the competition. The Meet Referee or Marshall(s) may close the diving well to all individuals at their discretion.

#### ***4.6 Coaches Responsibilities***

- 4.6.1 Coaches shall instruct their swimmers regarding safety guidelines and warm-up procedures as they apply to conduct at meets and at practices.

4.6.2 Coaches shall supervise their swimmers throughout the warm-up at meets and at all practices.

***4.7 Host Team Responsibilities – Meet Marshals & Life Guards***

4.7.1 A minimum of two (2) Meet Marshals, who report to and receive instructions from the Meet Referee and/or Head Marshal, shall be on deck during the entire warm-up session to enforce safety guidelines and warm-up procedures.

4.7.2 Meet Marshals shall have the authority with the approval of the Meet Referee, to remove from the deck, for the remainder of the warm-up session or the meet, any swimmer or coach who violates safety guidelines or warm-up procedures.

4.7.3 A Meet Host must provide at least one (1) Red Cross certified Life Guard for the pool, who has no other responsibilities in accord with Wisconsin Administrative Code. The Life Guard(s) need not be member(s) of USA Swimming.

4.7.4 For a facility with a non-contiguous warm-up facility, other than one separated by a bulkhead and supervised by a Red Cross certified Life Guard, the Meet Marshals shall make periodic inspections of this pool, but they are not required to observe this warm-up pool on-going.

4.7.5 The Meet Director, Coaches, and Officials must be current non-athlete members of USA Swimming.

***4.8 Officials' Compensation***

Most Officials volunteer their time to officiate swim meets. Meet Hosts should not expect to compensate Officials financially. When necessary, the Meet Host's normal compensation for an Official is fifty dollars (\$50) a session.

***4.9 Meet Host Responsibility for Providing Timers and Officials***

The Meet Host shall have a full complement of Officials arranged prior to the day of the meet. Meet Hosts should not expect to find Officials from the audience (This includes Timers). Timers may be requested for both short and long course meets. However, they may not be mandatory for team entry into the meet as Timers ultimately are the responsibility of the Meet Host.

***4.10 No Smoking***

There shall be no smoking permitted within fifty (50) feet of any designated competitive area.

***4.11 Participating Club Responsibilities***

Each club shall be required to exercise proper control over its swimmers, including adult supervision at all times in the rest area, and to clean up its designated team area at the end of the meet.

Reason for Change	
October 26, 1999	4.1.3 Amended to eliminate the penalty for alternates failing to show at Finals 4.5.1 Amended to allow 30 minute warm-ups for 12 and under competition
January 27, 2004	4.1.3.F Amended to add "shall" in scratch procedure 4.7 Amended to comply with Wisconsin Administrative Code that Life Guard has no other responsibility
January 23, 2009	4.5.2.A Amended to require a feet first three point entry
June 28, 2011	4.1.2; 4.1.3 D & E4.2.2D Clarified use of Declared False Start 4.3. Amended Finish Judging for consistency with changed USAS Rule 4.4. Amended to require three Officials for dual meets; note additional Officials required for major meets 4.5. Provide consistency between Policy 2.2.1.c and 4.5 regarding warm-ups; require minimum of five minutes quiet time prior to competition
April 24, 2012	4.8 Changed focus to Officials normally volunteering 4.2 Deleted any penalty for relay failure to compete