

Wisconsin Swimming Policy 4.1 & 4.2: Scratch Rules
Proposed by George Geanon, Chair Officials Committee
Recommended by Rules Committee, April 27, 2011

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 in Pre-Seeded Events: 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 Positive Check-in Events: Any swimmer entered in an individual event, who has checked-in for the event, must swim the event. Failure to swim the event will result in the swimmer being banned from the next 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 State. ~~Exceptions for failure to compete — no penalty shall apply for failure to withdraw or to compete in an individual event — if:~~
- ~~A. The swimmer or the coach notifies the Deck Referee prior to his/her assigned heat, of a Declared False Start.~~
 - ~~B. The Meet Referee determines that failure to compete is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the swimmer.~~
- 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 heat, 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 a coach is notified that the swimmer has scratched into a bonus heat, consolation final, or final race in an individual event, accepts the position, and then fails to compete, the swimmer shall be barred from further competition off 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 heat, consolation final, or final race, when possible, with the next qualified swimmer. 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 the alternate is notified that he/she has scratched into a bonus heat, consolation final, or final prior to the start of the session, accepts the position, and then does not compete, that swimmer is barred from further competition for the remainder of the Meet.
 - C. When a bonus heat and/or consolation final has/have not been swum and a barring or withdrawal is known to the Meet Referee, the Meet Referee shall reseed the

- bonus heat, consolation final, and/or 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 the empty lanes(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 finals event or in the fastest heat swimming with finals in finals of a time final event and who has checked-in for the positive check-in event is barred from competing in the next individual event in which the swimmer is entered either on that day or on the next day, whichever is first. A Declared False Start is allowed in a timed finals event and 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:
 - 1. The Meet Referee is notified in the event of illness or injury and accepts the proof thereof.
 - 2. A swimmer qualifying for C, B, or A (bonus heat or consolation final or final) race based upon the results of the preliminaries notifies the Meet Referee thirty (30) minutes after announcement of the qualifiers for that race that he/she may not intend to compete, and further declares his/her intentions not to compete within thirty (30) minutes following his/her last individual preliminary event of the session.
 - 3. The Meet Referee determines that failure to compete is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the swimmer.

4.2 Wisconsin Relay Scratch Rule

- 4.2.1 Scratching from Pre-Seeded Relay Events: A relay team entered in a pre-seeded event that fails to compete in or report for that event shall not be penalized.
- 4.2.2 Scratching from Positive Check-in Relay Events
 - A. Any relay team entered in a relay event with positive check-in, that has checked-in and swimmers' names declared for that event, must swim the event. ~~Exceptions for failure to compete – n~~ No penalty shall apply for failure to withdraw or to compete in the relay event if:
 - ~~The relay team notifies the Clerk of Course before the seeding for that event has begun that the relay team wishes to scratch.~~
 - ~~¶~~ the relay team or coach notifies the Deck Referee, prior to the relay team's assigned heat, of a Declared False Start.
 - B. A relay team member failing to appear ready to swim for the relay event shall be barred from his/her next individual event in which the swimmer is entered, on that day or the next Meet day, whichever is first. The relay team members who do appear ready to swim shall not be penalized for failure of other relay team members to appear.
 - C. Exceptions for failure to compete – no penalty shall apply for failure to withdraw or to compete in a relay event if:

1. The Meet Referee is notified in the event of illness or injury and accepts the proof hereof.
 2. A relay team qualifying for C, B, or A (bonus heat, consolation final, or final) race based upon the results of the preliminaries notifies the Meet Referee within thirty (30) minutes after the announcement of the qualifiers for that race that the swimmer may not intend to compete, and further declares his/her intention not to compete within thirty (30) minutes following the swimmer's last individual preliminary event of the session.
 3. The Meet Referee determines that failure to compete is caused by circumstances beyond the control of the swimmer.
- D. ~~Finals shall include those positive checked-in relay events swum as timed finals in preliminary-finals competition.~~ those events in a preliminary-finals competition but swum as timed finals, with the fastest heat swimming in finals. Relay swimmers who fail to compete in a timed finals event or in the fastest heat swimming with finals, and who have checked-in for the positive check-in event are barred from competition in their next individual events in which they are entered on that day or on the next day, whichever is first. A Declared False Start is allowed in a timed finals event and the fastest heat swimming with finals.

Rational:

Clarify use of Declared False Start in the Scratch Rules.