



Rules & Regulations

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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.

2.0 Meet Bidding Procedure

- 2.1 The short course and long course meet schedules for the LSC are determined at the spring and fall House of Delegates meetings, respectively.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Notification of the Technical Planning Chairman prior to the LSC meeting about proposed meets allows for overall LSC meet planning. (Last Revision: September 2009 HOD)
- 2.4 Clubs must provide information about event fees, awards, and surcharges for each bid(s) (revised HOD April 2007). 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. (**Revised HOD April 2008**)
- 2.5 Approval is given by vote of the House of Delegates.

3.0 Meet Entry Fees

Swim Meet Maximum Entry fees (effective Sept 2004 and modified Apr 2007, Revised April 2011)

- 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 information.
- 3.3 Late Fee (Approved 9/25/05) A \$25.00 fee will be assessed for any swimmer that has to register on deck at a meet, as a result of their inability to prove current USA Swimming membership. This fee is in addition to

the Athlete Registration fee in effect at that time. Late fee and registration monies will be returned upon proof of a previous registration for the current year.

3.4 Swim Meet fees paid to LSC

3.4.1 Inter-squad, Dual and Tri Meets (if sanctioned)

\$25.00 per meet

3.4.2 Approved Meets

6% of entry fees for member organizations

\$25.00 for non-member organizations (adopted 4/01; amended 09/2009).

\$200.00 flat fee for GRPA (amended 09/2010)

3.4.3 Invitational or Open Meets

Sanction fee 6% (amended 09/2009)

3.4.4 Travel Surcharge

\$ 2.00 per out of state swimmer.

3.4.5 Observed Meets

\$200.00 flat fee per meet - waived for "GHSA" (amended 09/2010)

3.4.6 Swim-A-Thon Fees

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

3.5 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:

3.5.1 A facility surcharge up to \$10.00 per swimmer is allowed at any Georgia State Championship Meet at any facility in Georgia.

3.5.2 A facility surcharge of up \$15.00 per swimmer is allowed for a Georgia State Championship Meet at the Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia Facilities. (Amended 9/09)

3.5.3 Meet hosts will provide a financial statement post meet to the General Chairman, Age Group and/or Senior Vice Chair, and Finance Chair.

3.6 Facility Surcharge

Facility surcharges are not allowed except as identified in section 3.5.1, 3.5.2 above, and under the 2007 BOD approval of surcharges being allowed for any meet run in either the UGA or GA Tech facilities, up to

the \$15 limit. Host Clubs can appeal to the LSC Board of Directors for LSC funds to offset excessive facility charges. (Revised 09/2009)

4.0 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.

4.1 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

4.2 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.

4.2.1 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.

The requirements for and conditions of sanction are given in Article 202.2 and 202.3 in the current USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.

4.2.1.1 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:

4.2.1.2 A copy of the Meet Information must be submitted to the Sanction Committee accompanying the Sanction Application Form for approval.

<http://www.gaswim.org/boarddocs/Application%20for%20Sanction.pdf>

4.2.1.3 Any changes or modifications to the meet information must be addressed prior to issuance of the sanction.

4.2.1.4 A minimum of three officials are required in order for a Sanction to be granted. A referee, a starter and, at least, one Stroke & Turn official are required. The names of these officials must accompany the Sanction Application.

4.2.1.5 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.

4.2.1.6 Sanction Fees

The fees for a Sanctioned Meet will be 6% of the revenue from entry fees which is payable to the Georgia Swimming Treasurer within 14 days after completion of the meet. The fees for individual events shall be \$4.50 maximum and \$6.00 maximum per relay event. The fees for time trials at championship meets are \$6.00. Beginning with the 2011 – 2012 Short Course Season, entry fees 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.

4.2.2 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.

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

4.2.2.1 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/boarddocs/Application%20for%20Approval.pdf>

- 4.2.2.2 A copy of the Meet Information must be submitted to the Sanction Committee accompanying the Approved Meet Application Form for approval.
- 4.2.2.3 Any changes or modifications to the meet information must be addressed prior to issuance of the sanction.
- 4.2.2.4 A minimum of three officials are required in order for an Approved Meet to be granted. A referee, a starter and, at least, one Stroke & Turn official are required. The names of these officials must accompany the Approved Meet Application.
- 4.2.2.5 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.
- 4.2.2.6 Sanction Fees
The fees for an Approved Meet will be 6% of the revenue from entry fees which is payable to the Georgia Swimming Treasurer within 14 days after completion of the meet. 6% of entry fees for member organizations, \$25.00 for non-member organizations (adopted 4/01; amended 09/2009). \$200.00 flat fee for GRPA (amended 09/2010) 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.

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

- 4.2.3.1 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/boarddocs/Application%20for%20Observation.pdf>

- 4.2.3.2 A copy of the Meet Information must be submitted to the Sanction Committee accompanying the Observed Meet Application Form for approval.
- 4.2.3.3 Any changes or modifications to the meet information must be addressed prior to issuance of the sanction.
- 4.2.3.4 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.
- 4.2.3.5 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.
- 4.2.3.6 Sanction Fees
The fees for an Observed Meet will be \$200.00 which is payable to the Georgia Swimming Treasurer within 14 days after completion of the meet - waived for "GHSA" (amended 09/2010). 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.

5.0 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.

6.0 Four Hour Rule

For meets which are sanctioned by Georgia Swimming and consist of swimmers 12 years and under, host clubs are strongly encouraged to complete these sessions in less than four hours. As part of the meet results package, the meet referee will submit the times required to complete each session consisting of swimmers 12 years and under. These results are monitored by the Officials Committee and repetitive violations by host clubs may result in loss of opportunities to bid future meets.

7.0 Georgia LSC Championship Meet Proof of Time (Rev 4/00)

7.1 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. (Last Revision: September 2009 HOD)

7.1.1 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 Age Group/Senior Vice chair.

7.1.2 For each swimmer listed, the club, within 60 days of the last day of the meet, shall respond to the Age Group/Senior Vice Chair 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.

7.1.3 The Age Group/Senior Vice Chair shall collect all money and track all barred swimmers and shall transmit collected funds to the Vice chair of Finance within 80 days of the meet.

8.0 Fines

8.1 Effective April 20, 2008 - Late fees for unpaid sanction fees 31-60 days late add additional 50% of the sanction fees.

8.2 Greater than 60 days late add 100% of the sanction fees

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

9.0 Swim-A-Thon

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

www.usaswimming.org/_Rainbow/Documents/39117fd8-e909-4c09-a425-98f21c39c390/Handbook%202010.pdf

10.0 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.

11.0 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 to all timed final meets as well. A copy of the Georgia Scratch Rule can be obtained using the following link:

<http://www.gaswim.org/boarddocs/GeorgiaScratchRule-4-18-2010-Approved.pdf>

GEORGIA SWIMMING INC. SCRATCH RULE

The 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 2010 USA Swimming Rules and Regulations. Certain Georgia LSC additions listed below apply to all timed final meets as well.

“207.12.6.D. 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).

E. 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.”

Georgia LSC Additions:

Unless otherwise stated in the final sanctioned Meet Information:

1. Swimmers that qualify for any additional heats beyond the above mentioned “C, B and A” final heats as announced in the Meet Information will also be subject to the above rules concerning scratching from finals.
2. In all deck seeded events, a swimmer who has checked in, been seeded and fails to compete in said event, shall be barred from his or her next individual event, except as noted in section E above. This rule also applies in timed finals meets 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 deck-seeded events.
3. There is no scratch rule governing relays and there is no penalty regarding relay scratches.
4. Qualifiers for all finals heats and the first and second alternates are those as identified on the original results of the preliminary heat. 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 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 name on the official entry sheet posted at the Clerk of Course.

Adopted by the HOD
April 18, 2010