



MEMORANDUM

February 12, 2020

VIA EMAIL

TO: NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Conference Commissioners, Head Coaches and Registered Officials.

FROM: Greg Lockard, secretary-rules editor
NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee.

SUBJECT: Pre-Championships Rules Review.

The following information is intended to serve as a review of pertinent playing rules and operational issues in order to provide a consistent standard of enforcement and compliance.

Bona Fide Competition - Time standards, consideration standards and optional-entry standards for swimming (individual and relay) events and diving events must be achieved in bona fide competition. Bona fide competition is defined as an event that conforms to all NCAA rules relevant to swimming and diving performances. They include the following:

- Meet is open to the public (spectators);
- Competition is between two or more teams of the same gender at the same time and site, from different collegiate institutions;
- All NCAA competitors must be eligible by NCAA standards;
- Meets must be in institutions' approved competition schedule;
- Meets must have published results; and
- Depending on the governing body, meet official(s) must be qualified and/or certified.
- OR
- Any bona fide meet as defined above and that is sanctioned or approved by USA Swimming and USA Diving that follows NCAA rules and regulations. (Rule 9)

End-Of-Season-Competitions - Division I institutions choosing to participate in end-of-season swimming and diving competitions that are held within the last 10 days of the qualifying period, with the exception of conference championships, must ensure that the meet host completes the [End of Season Meet Competition Form](#). The form must be submitted to the following NCAA staff member: Carol A. Reep at careep@ncaa.org; 317-917-6678 (women's) or Liz Homrig at lhomrig@ncaa.org; 317-917-6245 (men's) by no later than noon (Central time) Monday, March 2, 2020, for women and Monday, March 9, 2020, for men.

Event Day Questions – If there is a rules question during the respective championships, the meet referee shall be the singular point of contact to the secretary-rules editor. This policy is intended to prevent multiple contacts for a single issue.

Meet Committee – A meet committee shall be designated for each championship meet. This

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committee shall be responsible for the conduct of the meet and serves as the protest committee if such a situation should arise. An appeal before, during or immediately after a race should be resolved at the earliest opportunity, but no later than immediately following the current session; and the decision of the meet committee shall be final. (Rule 4-2)

Failure to Compete: Failure to compete in a preliminary heat of a prelim/finals event, for any reason other than medical cause, is simply a disqualification and a charged event with no further penalty. Failure to compete in a timed final or in a final that had preliminary qualification, for any reason other than medical cause, remains a disqualification and prohibits further competition in the meet. (Rule 5-1-1-a)

Medical Scratches – All requests for a medical scratch must include a written certification from a physician or a certified athletic trainer. A written certified request must be made, to enable a student athlete to be reinstated to compete in the same competition. (Rule 5-1-1-d)

Declared False Start vs. Scratching: Scratching is when a swimmer is eliminated by the coach following normal scratch protocol and is relieved of the requirement to swim and is not charged with an event swum. A declared false start is actually a disqualification and counts as an event contested for the student athlete. Since a declared false start doesn't take place until the heat of the race occurs, a coach can rescind a declared false start without penalty. If a relay should take a declared false start, they **must** turn in an entry card listing four eligible athletes and they are all in turn charged with an event. (Rule 5-3-4)

Relay Entries/Changes: If a relay event has preliminary qualification heats and finals, changes can be made in the relay line-up between preliminary and final heats (or between preliminary heats and swim-offs when applicable). If a relay event is a timed final, a student-athlete may swim on only one relay team even if they are swum with some heats in the morning and some in the afternoon, or even if some relays are non-scoring. A student-athlete can only compete on one relay – it is not permissible to swim on both an exhibition and a scoring relay in the same event. (Rule 5-7-1-g)

Seeding vs. Reseeding: A heat cannot be seeded with less than three competitors in it. However, once a heat is seeded, if declared false starts cause the heat to go below three, the heat may be swum because the declared false starts are disqualifications and the rule only speaks to seeding with a minimum of three participants. Since a coach can rescind the declared false starts, under current rules you DO NOT reseed when the heat goes below three. (Rule 5-7-3-d)

Appeal Procedure – Must be submitted in writing within 15 minutes after the finish of the final heat of the event in question. Appeals may only be lodged for errors in the recording of data, scoring and nonjudgmental errors in application of rules. The use of video is not permitted during the appeal process. If the referee uses video to review relay judging platforms, his/her decision is a judgement call and cannot be appealed. The decision of a meet committee is final. (Rule 8-4-3)

Time Trials: Each competitor or relay team is limited to one time-standard trial per event per meet. (Rule 9, Note 1)

National Collegiate Records - National collegiate men's and women's records will be registered only when established by students who are members of a collegiate swimming team and who are representing their institutions in bona fide competition. The completed form, along with the required supporting data, should be emailed to the NCAA swimming and diving secretary-rules editor. (Appendix C-1-3 and Appendix C-2-3)

Bulkhead Measurement: When bulkheads are used, the referee must verify the course measurement by laser before and after each day of competition. The host facility should provide the laser and conduct the measurement which is observed by the referee. If an NCAA record is set, the lane involved must be laser measured no later than the end of the session in which the record was set. Failure to properly measure bulkheads could nullify any performance recorded at the competition. (Appendix C-2-2)

Please send any questions by email to Greg Lockard (greg@swimdiverules.com). We will publish relevant questions and answers and communicate any clarifications to the membership.

The dates and locations for the 2020 NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving championships are as follows:

Division II Men and Women – Geneva, Ohio (March 11-14, 2020)
Division III Men and Women – Greensboro, North Carolina (March 18-21, 2020)
Division I Women – Athens, Georgia (March 18-21, 2020)
Division I Men – Indianapolis (March 25-28, 2020)

GL:bh

cc: NCAA Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Rules Committee
Selected NCAA Staff Members