

MARYLAND SWIMMING, INC.

SCRATCH PROCEDURES

- I. **USA Swimming Rules:** MSI follows USA Swimming Rules Section 207.7.9D(1) – (4) and Section 207.7.9E(1) – (3) with modifications and clarifications as follows.
- II. **Pre-seeded Timed Final Events:** There is no penalty for not competing (scratching) in a pre-seeded timed final event.
- III. **Positive Check-in Events** (applies to both timed final and prelims/finals events): In meets with positive check-in events, swimmers have to check-in with a meet official prior to swimming their events. Refer to the information package or meet notice for check-in requirements. If the swimmer fails to swim (scratches) after checking in for a positive check-in event, the swimmer will be disqualified from his/her next individual event unless the swimmer declares a false start per Rule 102.15.5D prior to the start of his/her heat. Swimmers failing to positively check-in will not be penalized nor allowed to compete in that event.
- IV. **Prelims/Finals Events** (non-National Championship format meets):
 - A. There is no penalty for a swimmer not competing in the preliminary heats of individual events.
 - B. A swimmer qualifying for (based on the results of the preliminaries) and wishing to scratch from a bonus, consolation or championship finals race shall notify the scratch official within 30 minutes of the announcement of the event results.
 - C. Alternately, a swimmer may make a declaration of intent to scratch within 30 minutes of the announcement of the preliminary event results, with final decision to scratch or not scratch being reported to the scratch official within 30 minutes of the completion of the swimmer's last individual preliminary event of the session. A swimmer declaring their intention to scratch and failing to return to the scratch official to make final resolution on the intent to scratch will result in the swimmer being seeded into the respective final heat. This Rule also applies to announced alternates for each of the individual events.
 - D. All other swimmers finishing below the places of the announced alternates will be excused from the responsibility of returning for bonus, consolation or championship finals heats.
 - E. If a swimmer fails to scratch and subsequently does not compete in the bonus, consolation or championship finals events, he/she will be barred from competing in the remainder of the meet, including relays unless such failure to compete is excused by the meet referee. For swimmers registered in the Maryland LSC, if the failure to compete occurs at the swimmer's last event of the meet, the swimmer will be fined \$50.00. This fine must be paid in accordance with Maryland Swimming Inc. Rules and Regulations before that swimmer or any swimmer from that club may compete in any other MSI sanctioned or approved meet.
 - F. There will be no penalty for not competing in pre-seeded relays.

- G. Per USA Swimming Rule 207.7.9D(1), declared false starts are not allowed in the bonus, consolation, or championship final heats of a prelims/finals event.
- H. In Maryland Swimming non-championship meets, the meet host is responsible for specifying, in the meet notice, any authorized deviations to these procedures.

V. **Maryland Swimming Championship Meet (MSCM)**: In addition to Paragraph IV above:

- A. Alternates: The top 4 alternates for finals will be announced with the preliminary results. Those alternates must follow the scratch procedures listed above in Section IV. Alternates beyond the first four are strongly encouraged to follow the scratch procedures to allow for full finals heats, but will be excused from the responsibility of returning for bonus, consolation or championship final heats. Coaches and/or the announced alternate swimmers are reminded to check the Scratch Table at the end of each preliminary session to determine which alternate swimmers have been placed into finals. Alternates ultimately not seeded into the finals or who are published as first or second alternates in the finals program shall not be penalized if unavailable to compete in finals.
- B. A declaration of intent to scratch must be made within the 30 minute time limit, with the decision to scratch or not to scratch being reported to the scratch official within 30 minutes of the completion of the swimmer's last individual preliminary event for the session. This rule also applies to alternates 1 - 4 for each of the individual events. For the Maryland Swimming Championship Meet, if the swimmer does not return to clarify their intent to scratch or not to scratch, it will result in the swimmer being seeded into the respective final heat.
- C. Per USA Swimming Rule 207.7.9D(1), declared false starts are not allowed in the bonus, consolation, or championship final heats of a prelims/finals event. If a swimmer fails to scratch and subsequently does not compete in the bonus, consolation or championship final events, he/she or the club for whom the swimmer represents will be subject to the penalties listed above in Section IV.E.

VI. **National Championship Format Meets**: For USA Swimming Championship Meets and LSC-sanctioned meets with the designation 'National Championship' format on the information package or meet notice, USA Swimming Rules Section 207.7.9D(1) – (4) and Section 207.7.9E(1) – (3) apply. For clarification purposes, the following information is restated:

- A. Prelims/Finals Events. Swimmers are required to swim in preliminary non-positive check-in heats entered unless 1) the swimmer has declared a false start per Rule 102.15.5D, 2) the swimmer is excused from competing in the event by the appropriate meet official, or 3) the swimmer has properly scratched from the event via the scratch procedures stated in the meet notice. Failure to swim in a preliminary pre-seeded event shall cause the swimmer to be barred from competing in any further preliminary events for that day, including relays, and the swimmer shall be required to positively check-in for his/her remaining events with the appropriate meet official by the scratch deadlines stated in the meet notice.
- B. A swimmer declaring their intention to scratch and failing to return to the scratch official to make final resolution on the intent to scratch will result in the swimmer being seeded into the respective final heat.