



S W I M L E A G U E

RULES FOR SWIMMING COMPETITION

1. General

- A. These rules are specifically designed for closed meets in privately owned pools and shall govern the conduct of all swim meets, sponsored or sanctioned by the League. USS rules pertaining to stroke, disqualification, duties of officials, judging, timing and similar technical matters shall be observed at all League meets unless modified by these rules. Short course rules shall apply to all League competition.
- B. The schedule for the season will be determined by the Executive Board on or before the May league meeting.
- C. All competitors are encouraged to report to the host pool not later than 20 minutes before the meet is scheduled to begin and shall proceed immediately to their assigned area. When directed by the meet director, swimmers may take a short warm-up period after which they will return to their assigned places and hold themselves ready to report immediately to the clerk of course when their event is called. Warm-ups will begin at 5:30pm with the host team taking the pool first. At 5:45pm the pool will be turned over to the visiting team for a 15 minute warm-up. Meets shall begin promptly at 6:00pm.
- D. Spectators shall be strictly controlled and reasonable measures shall be taken to ensure that spectators do not interfere with officials in the performance of their duties.
- E. No event will be delayed pending the late arrival of a competitor.
- F. In converting yards to meters, a prescribed conversion factor of 1.11 shall be used.
- G. The order of events for head-to-head meets will be:
 - Freestyle
 - Freestyle Relays
 - Backstroke
 - Individual Medley (9-10 and older only)
 - Breaststroke
 - Butterfly
 - Medley Relays
- H. All meets will begin with the presentation of the flag and the playing of the National Anthem.
- I. It is not the purpose of the rules contained herein to set standards of care for the safety of the competitors. Safety considerations should be addressed by the competitor and the community pool organization where the meet is held. The host pool is responsible for providing a certified lifeguard on-duty during the meet.

Revised: 4/4/2017

2. Competitor Eligibility

- A. Families with full swimming privileges that are members in good standing are allowed to participate. "Swim Team Only" memberships are acceptable at the discretion of the community pool organization, but are to be reserved for swimmers who do not have a swim team opportunity within their neighborhood of residence. Swimmers competing in other summer neighborhood league programs are ineligible to compete in any YbDry event. The Executive Board may approve application for exceptions. This is in keeping with YbDry Swim League's mission – "the preservation and enhancement of neighborhood swim team programs."
- B. Recruiting swimmers outside the community pool organization jurisdiction (i.e. the neighborhood) is strictly prohibited. Breach of this rule will result in the forfeiture of the meet(s) in question and expulsion of the violating team. This, too, is in keeping with YbDry Swim League's mission – "the preservation and enhancement of neighborhood swim team programs."
- C. The eligibility of a swimmer to compete in a particular age group shall be determined by his or her age on June 1. The uppermost age group will consist of kids 15-18 years of age. No person over the age of 18 (as of June 1 of the season) will be permitted to compete. Swimmers ages 6 & under must be able to swim the length of the pool unassisted in order to compete in a meet.
- D. Age groups, divided by sex, and their individual event distances shall be as follows:
 - 6 year olds & under* (1 pool length)
 - 7-8 year olds* (1 pool length)
 - 9-10 year olds (1 pool length)
 - 11-12 year olds (2 pool lengths)
 - 13-14 year olds (2 pool lengths)
 - 15-18 year olds (2 pool lengths)

*For head-to-head meets, these groups will be combined into 8&under for backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and medley relays.
- E. In individual events, swimmers must compete in their own age group with one exception: swimmers can be aged-up one age group with the coaches', parents' and swimmer's consent. Swimmer must compete in this age group for the entire season. No swimmer may compete in a younger age group.
- F. IM swimmers must be 9 years or older and capable of completing the event.

3. Event Entries

- A. Event entries containing the first and last name of each swimmer and their birth date shall be provided to the host team no later than 11:59pm two (2) days prior to the scheduled meet (Sunday night for a Tuesday meet). Championship Entries shall be provided for BOTH sessions (all swimmers) no later than 11:59pm three (3) days prior to the FIRST session of the meet.
- B. It shall be the responsibility of each team representative to examine the entry list of the opposing team prior to the meet. If the entry list contains an irregularity, that irregularity may be corrected by agreement of the competing team representative.
- C. Relay participants can be changed at the meet as long as they meet the criteria in the *Formation of Relay Teams* rules outlined in this document.

4. Limitations on Entries

A. Head-to-Head Meets

- 1) Each swimmer is eligible to enter up to 3 individual events and 2 relays.
- 2) Aging-up or competing as a co-ed swimmer on a relay will count as one of the swimmer's relays.
- 3) Violation of the limitations on entries rules by a swimmer will result in disqualification for the event(s) in question.

B. Championship Meets

- 1) In an effort to keep Championship meets within the time constraints, only 5 entries per team will be allowed in each individual event.
- 2) Only 1 entry per team will be allowed in each relay event.
- 3) Each swimmer is eligible to enter up to 3 individual events and 2 relays.
- 4) Aging-up or competing as a co-ed swimmer on a relay will count as one of the swimmer's relays.
- 5) Violation of the limitations on entries rules by a swimmer will result in disqualification for the event(s) in question.
- 6) Each swimmer must have competed in at least 2 league head-to-head meets during the current season in order to be eligible to compete in the league championship meet.

5. Formation of Relay Teams

A. Relay races present some of the most exciting and enjoyable events in a meet. Swimmers and spectators, alike, enjoy them. Participating on a relay team enhances the "team" aspect of what otherwise can be viewed as an individual sport. In forming relay teams, coaches should give consideration not only to putting together the most competitive team, but also creating the opportunity for every swimmer to participate on a relay team at least once during a season.

B. The following 4 methods are available to coaches when preparing relay teams. These methods are ranked in order of priority. Each method must be exhausted before moving on to the next. (A team's ability to use Method 1 must be exhausted before they can attempt to use Method 2, etc.) This is in keeping with the YbDry philosophy that all swimmers are to be treated with dignity while striving to improve their skills, enabling them to reach their personal best.

C. Methods for the Formation of Relay Teams

- 1) **Method 1: Same Age Group/Same Sex** - If a team has 4 or more swimmers in an age group of the same sex, they are required to pull from that age group and sex. If a swimmer from the appropriate age group and sex is not willing to compete, then no relays can be formed. (Ex: if a team has 4 swimmers of appropriate age and sex, but one is not willing to swim, then no relay can be formed.)

- 2) **Method 2: Same Age Group/Co-ed** - If a team has at least 1, but less than 4 swimmers in an age group of the same sex, then the team may enter a co-ed swimmer of the same age group. However, the relay event will count as one of the co-ed swimmer's relay entries.
 - 3) **Method 3: Aged-Up/Same Sex** - If a team still has less than 4 swimmers in an age group, the team may age-up one or more swimmers of the same sex. However, the relay event will count as one of the aged-up swimmer's relay entries.
 - 4) **Method 4: Aged-Up/Co-ed** - If a team still has less than 4 swimmers, the team may age-up a co-ed swimmer. However, the relay event will count as one of the aged-up co-ed swimmer's relay entries.
- D. Swimmers 8 & under may be moved up one age group to compete in a relay. Swimmers 9 and older may be moved up to any age group above their own, but each relay must have at least one swimmer of appropriate eligible age and gender.
 - E. No eligible swimmer may be passed over in order to form what is believed to be a more competitive relay team.
 - F. Under no circumstance may a swimmer be aged-up or a co-ed swimmer added if doing so eliminates the younger age group or different sex age group from forming a relay team of the appropriate age/sex.
 - G. Any relay team, formed by any manner, which contains 2 male swimmers, will be scored as a male relay and will count as one of the team's male relays.

6. Substitutions and Scratches

- A. Coaches or team representatives shall advise the head scorer, clerk of course and the opposing team representative of any entries to be scratched and any late entries prior to the start of the meet or as far in advance as possible. Inadvertent failure to report a late entry shall not disqualify that swimmer.
- B. No event will be delayed to permit late entries after the meet begins.
- C. Substitutions may be made in relay events; however, these substitutions must be made in alignment with the rules described in *Formation of Relay Teams*.

7. Timing

- A. Official time, to 2 decimal places (hundredths), shall be used for determining order of finish and records.
- B. Two (2) stopwatches per lane are required.
 - 1) Each team will provide a total of six (6) timers and one (1) head timer.
 - 2) Swimmers will be assigned lanes according to the qualification time submitted with their entry.
- C. Timers must be at the "finish" end of the pool and in a position where they can see any part of the swimmer's body touch the wall (i.e. leaning over the edge to watch the finish, not sitting in a chair back from the edge of the pool.)

8. Finish Judges

- A. Two (2) finish judges (one (1) from each competing team) shall be at the “finish” end of the pool and are required to record the order of finish.
- B. Discrepancies
 - 1) In the event that there is a disagreement between an official time and the place judge’s order of finish, place judge’s order will override an official time.
 - 2) In the event that there is a disagreement between the two place judges, the times will determine the order of finish.
 - 3) In the event that a race is too close to determine an order of finish by the place judges, times will be used to determine the order of finish.

9. Volunteers

- A. All volunteers with the exception of runners must be at least 14 years of age and not swimming at the meet that they are a volunteer.
- B. Runners must be at least 12 years of age and not swimming at the meet that they are a volunteer.

10. Scoring and Scoring Values

- A. All YbDry League meets will be scored using the Hy-Tek Meet Manager program. The host team is responsible for providing a computer, printer and other essentials to run the program. The “host team” for the Championship is the team that will host the last session of the Championship Meet. That team is responsible for the scoring at all sessions of the Championship Meet.
- B. The scoring computer will be operated by two (2) scorers (one from each competing team). Times will be entered by both scorers. It is the responsibility of each scorer to review each time card and insure that accurate information is entered into the computer.
- C. Event results will be printed and posted in a timely manner.
- D. Scorers are not to be approached by team representatives, coaches, swimmers or parents requesting swimmer times, as this information will be posted as soon as practical.
- E. Head-to-head meet individual events shall be scored as follows:

The maximum number of scorers per event per team is 3.

1st scoring swimmer	7 points
2nd scoring swimmer	5 points
3rd scoring swimmer	4 points
4th scoring swimmer	3 points
5th scoring swimmer	2 points
6th scoring swimmer	1 point

- F. Head-to-head meet relay events shall be scored as follows:

1st place 7 points
All others 0 points

G. Championship meet individual events shall be scored as follows:

The maximum number of scorers per event per team is 2.

1st scoring swimmer	13 points
2nd scoring swimmer	11 points
3rd scoring swimmer	10 points
4th scoring swimmer	9 points
5th scoring swimmer	8 points
6th scoring swimmer	7 points
7th scoring swimmer	6 points
8th scoring swimmer	5 points
9th scoring swimmer	4 points
10th scoring swimmer	3 points
11th scoring swimmer	2 points
12th scoring swimmer	1 point

H. Championship meet relay events shall be scored as follows:

The maximum number of scoring teams per event per team is 1.

1st scoring team	13 points
2nd scoring team	10 points
3rd scoring team	9 points
All others	0 points

11. Disqualification

- A. Disqualification shall be governed by USS rules in all meets. When a swimmer is disqualified, a "DQ" card will be filled out by the offending swimmer's coach or the starter with the swimmer's name (or event, heat, and lane) and the reason for the disqualification. The "DQ" card will be given to a runner for delivery to the scorers' table.
- B. As per USS swimming rules, a false start by a swimmer will result in disqualification. False start determinations will be made **ONLY** by the starter or the offending swimmer's coach.
- C. All other "DQ"s, including those related to swim technique, will be made **ONLY** by the offending swimmer's coach. An opposing coach may inform the offending swimmer's coach of an infraction, but the decision is up to the offending swimmer's coach. Other parents are **NOT** to be involved in the "DQ" process.
- D. Disqualification should be age and skill appropriate and be used for the purpose of maintaining fair competition, while maintaining a fun and encouraging environment. The final determination is left to the judgment of the coach, however, the following should be considered:
 - 1) The offense created a significant unfair advantage for the offending swimmer, and
 - 2) The advantage changed the outcome of the race with regard to team points and/or individual ribbons/places, and

- 3) The swimmer should have known that the offending action is not allowed per the rules of swimming.

OR

- 4) The offending swimmer intentionally demonstrated unsportsmanlike behavior that could be considered detrimental to the team, league, and/or sport.
- E. If there is a violation per the USS swimming rules, but it was deemed not to meet the criteria to result in disqualification, the appropriate coach should still use it as a learning opportunity.

12. Protests & Arbitration

- A. The Executive Board will make the final decision on all protests.
- B. Protest involving turns, strokes and other technicalities:
 - 1) Any protest or complaint of this type shall be communicated to the opposing team's coach immediately after the event is completed. If a resolution cannot be reached at that time, the protest must be submitted in writing within 24 hours to the meet Executive Board.
 - 2) If the protest is made during the competition, no awards may be given to any swimmers in that event until the Executive Board rules on the protest.
- C. Protests affecting the eligibility of any swimmer to compete in any race shall be made in writing to the Executive Board before the race is held if possible. If the protest is made during the competition then the swimmer can compete under protest and no awards may be given to the swimmers in that event until the Executive Board rules on the protest.
- D. Any other protest arising from the competition itself shall be communicated to the opposing team's representative and the meet director before leaving the meet with the protest submitted in writing within 24 hours to the Executive Board.

13. Meet Rainouts & Cancellations

- A. Nothing is more important than the safety of all YbDry swimmers. Sudden summer showers and thunderstorms are common in the Carolinas. While no one wants to postpone, delay or reschedule a swim meet, good judgment must be used when faced with inclement weather. The following weather policy will be used to make determinations regarding inclement weather's impact on swim meets.
 - 1) **Rain Prior to a Meet** - Rain prior to a meet will not cause cancellation of the scheduled meet unless the host pool's water quality has been hampered. In such event, every effort will be made to notify the team representatives.
 - 2) **Rain During a Meet** - A light rain during a meet will not necessarily cause the meet to be interrupted. However, if the intensity of the rain makes proceeding with the meet a hardship, the meet director and visiting team representative will make the decision to temporarily halt the meet until the rain subsides. No rain delay will last more than a total of 60 minutes. Meets that cannot resume after 60 minutes will be cancelled or postponed. The same rules regarding completion/continuation that apply to thunder/lightning will be applied to meets interrupted by rain.

- 3) **Thunder/Lightning During a Meet** - In the event that thunder and/or lightning is present*, all swimmers are to be immediately removed from the pool and directed to a safe area. The meet director is responsible for recording the time of the thunder/lightning occurrence. After a 30 minute period without a second occurrence, the meet may continue. If thunder/lightning occurs during the 30 minute period the meet director will re-record the time of occurrence and begin another wait period. No meet delay, due to weather, will exceed a total of 60 minutes.

*Thunder and/or lightning are present if thunder is heard or lightning is seen.

- B. **Calling a Meet Due to Inclement Weather** - In cases of rain, thunder, lightning, etc. the meet director and the official representative of the visiting team will meet at least every 15 minutes to determine whether to wait, reschedule, or cancel the remainder of the meet. No meet delay will extend beyond a total of 60 minutes.
- C. **Disposition of a Meet Called Due to Inclement Weather** - A meet called due to weather will be considered complete and scored only if Event #36 has been completed. Meets called due to weather that have not completed Event #36 will be rescheduled for completion. On the rescheduled date the meet will pick up at the point where it was interrupted. Any event in-progress when a meet is called will be re-started on the rescheduled date.
- D. **Disposition of a Meet Called Due to Time** - The League has set a predetermined end time of 10:00pm for meets due to noise ordinances. If the meet has not concluded at this time the stroke in progress will be finished and the meet scored. (Ex. If 9-10 butterfly is underway at 10:00pm all remaining age groups (11-18) will swim butterfly and the meet will end.) Meets will be scored from the beginning to the end of the last stroke completed for all age groups. A meet may be called at a later time only if both team representatives agree in advance on a call time (i.e. 10:30 pm, 11:00pm, etc).
- E. **Number of Delays** - It is possible that during a meet inclement weather could cause more than one delay. Should a meet be delayed, then resumed, but later delayed again, due to inclement weather, the same process described above will be applied. However, no meet will be delayed more than three times. Upon what would be the fourth delay, the meet will be called (and scored, if Event #36 has been completed). If the meet has not progressed beyond Event #36, the meet will be rescheduled for completion. On the rescheduled date the meet will pick up at the first event number following the last event completed. Any event in-progress when a meet is called will be re-started on the rescheduled date.

14. Resignation

- A. No team shall have claim on any assets after resignation, either forced or not, under any circumstances.
- B. Should the league dissolve for any reason, all assets will be divided equally among the teams after all debts are paid.