

EXHIBIT A

GEORGIA SWIMMING INC.

SCRATCH RULE

The Scratch Rule to be used in all Georgia LSC sanctioned meets where the meet format includes preliminary heats, consolation finals and finals, is the "Scratch Rule" as found under "Administrative Conduct of USA Swimming Championships", subsection "Scratch Procedures", subsections "Scratching from finals" and "Exceptions for failure to compete", of the current "USA Swimming Rules and Regulations". An excerpt is provided below.

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).

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."

Unless otherwise stated in the final sanctioned Meet Information: the following Georgia LSC additions listed below apply to all timed final meets as well as all preliminary/finals meets.

- (1) Swimmers that qualify for **any** final heats as announced in the meet information will also be subject to these rules.
 - (2) In all deck seeded events ^(a), a swimmer who has been checked in either personally or by a team coach, has been seeded and then fails to compete in said event, shall be barred from his or her next individual event, except as noted in “Exceptions for failure to compete” above. This rule only applies to timed-final events 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 a particular deck-seeded event as specifically stated in the meet announcement.
 - (3) There is no scratch rule governing relays and there is no penalty regarding relay scratches.
 - (4) Qualifiers for all finals heats are those as identified on the originally posted results of the preliminary heats. 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 all 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’ names on the official entry sheet posted at the Clerk of Course. Failure to check in shall be considered to indicate that the swimmer **will not compete**.
 - (8) In cases where changes to the USAS rules cause conflict with the Georgia LSC additions, USAS rules shall take precedence.
- (a) Interpretation: The change clarifies the intent of the rule. If there are no limits placed on the number of swimmers in the deck seeded event – then there is no penalty for a no-show in that event; given that no swimmer was impacted by the no-show and everyone that wanted to swim got to swim. If a limit is placed on a deck seeded event (e.g. the fastest 30 swimmers), then a no-show could cause the exclusion of the 31st fastest swimmer from competing and would result in a penalty against the no-show swimmer.

Revised: ~~September 12, 2015~~

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