

Appendix III to the New Jersey YMCA Swim League Constitution

Conduct of the Competition

This addendum sets forth guidance for the conduct of all New Jersey YMCA Swim League meets, including, but not limited to, dual meets, triangular meets, invitational meets and championship meets. It is considered to be definitive with respect to the matters specifically covered.

- I. Rules and Regulations** - All YMCA meets must be conducted in accordance with the then current USA Swimming ("USA-S") Technical Rules and Regulations (Rules 101-105), unless specifically modified herein. To the extent that specific situations are not covered herein, then such USA-S Technical Rules will be controlling.

All YMCA meets must be officiated by YMCA certified officials.

In order for any YMCA team to attend the YMCA National Swimming Championships, they must participate in three "closed" association meets plus one sanctioned championship meet. According to YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving Rules, such qualifying meets must be conducted in accordance with the USA-S Technical Rules and be officiated by YMCA certified officials. Therefore, it is essential that the above requirements relating to the rules to be followed and the officials used be strictly adhered to.

Racing starts from starting blocks shall not be permitted if the water depth is less than 5 feet. If the water depth is less than 5 feet, all swimmers shall start in the water, with one hand in contact with the end wall until the starting signal is given.

II. Competitors

- A. Individuals** - Each individual swimmer may enter a maximum of three official events, of which no more than two may be individual events. Exhibition (unofficial) swims will not count toward the number of events swum.

Swimmers are expected to swim in their age groups. However, a swimmer may swim up into a higher age group in a dual or triangular meet, but not down into a lower age group. Also, a swimmer may not swim the same event in two different age groups at a particular dual or triangular meet, but swimming up for one event does not require that swimmer to swim up for all events. For purposes of this rule, an event is defined as the Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly, Freestyle, Individual Medley, Freestyle Relay or Medley Relay.

- B. Relays** - Each team may enter an unlimited number of relay teams. All relay teams are considered official unless declared otherwise by the coach.

Relay teams shall consist of four swimmers, each to swim one quarter of the distance of the event.

- C. **Score Sheets** - Coaches may change the swimmers listed on the score sheet up until the time that the particular event is called to the starting blocks. After this, changes are not permitted.
- D. **Lane Assignments** - In dual meets, the home team shall swim in the odd numbered lanes and the visiting team shall swim in the even numbered lanes. Such lanes are available to each team for all events, including exhibition swims. However, in the interests of time, teams may relinquish their lanes to the other team for exhibition swims, provided that this is discussed and agreed upon by the coaches before the start of the meet. The referee should determine whether such agreement has been reached by the coaches prior to the start of the meet.

In triangular meets, the lane assignments will be determined by lot, with each team having the same number of lanes. (For example, in a six lane pool, Team A would have Lanes 1 and 4, Team B would have Lanes 2 and 5, and Team C would have Lanes 3 and 6; in an eight lane pool, Team A would have Lanes 2 and 5, Team B would have Lanes 3 and 6, and Team C would have Lanes 4 and 7.) Multiple heats must be provided to allow for all swimmers entered into the meet.

- E. **Heats** - In dual meets and triangular meets, the first heat of any event is considered to be the official heat for scoring purposes. Additional exhibition (unofficial) heats may be swum, subject to time constraints, but they do not enter into the scoring for the meet. Exhibition heats must be properly judged by the officials just like any other heat.

In all invitational and championship meets run utilizing the timed finals format, all heats are considered to be official heats for purposes of scoring and of determining the number of events swum by individual competitors.

- F. **Events** - The events to be swum at the various meets will be decided by the coaches at the Fall League Meeting and published as an Appendix to the League Constitution.

III. **Scoring and Determining the Order of Finish -**

- A. **Dual Meets** - For individual events in dual meets, 5 points will be awarded for first place, 3 points for second place and 1 point for third place. For relays, 7 points will be awarded for first place. In the case of ties, the points for the places in question will be split among the tying competitors.

The "no sweep" rule will be in effect, so that no team can take the points for all three places. If one team sweeps the first three places and the other team has a swimmer who competes and completes the race, then the first team will be awarded 8 points and the second team will be awarded 1 point. If the second team has no competitors in the event or their competitor(s) is (are) disqualified, then the first team will be awarded 8 points and the remaining point will be lost from the meet.

No points will be awarded for 8 & Under events or exhibition (unofficial) swims. However, these events and heats are to be judged by the officials just like the "official" events and heats.

- B. Triangular Meets** - Triangular meets will not be scored unless all three coaches agree to score the meet. Prior to the start of the meet, the referee should determine whether or not the meet is to be scored. If the meet is to be scored, the scoring for individual events will be 9 points for first place, 4 points for second place, 3 points for third place, 2 points for fourth place and 1 point for fifth place, with only the top two swimmers from each team scoring. Scoring for relays will be 11 points for first place and 4 points for second place, with only the top relay team from any club scoring. If disqualifications result in less than five individual swimmers or two relay teams scoring points, the remaining points will be lost from the meet.
- C. Invitational and Championship Meets** - Scoring for these meets will be in accordance with USA-S Rule 102.7 unless stated otherwise in the relevant Meet Invitation document.
- D. Team Score** - In the interests of sportsmanship, in dual meets, when one team reaches or passes 105 points at the end of an event, that team shall declare its remaining swimmers and relays "unofficial", with the points for the remaining events being awarded to the other team, to the extent that it has swimmers in those events. The no sweep rule will remain in effect even after a team declares its swimmers and relays "unofficial".
- E. Determining the Order of Finish** - When fully automatic judging and timing equipment (touch pads) is in use and functioning as the primary judging and timing system, the order of finish and the official times will be determined using such automatic equipment. If an apparent malfunction occurs with respect to a particular lane, the referee shall make an appropriate investigation, including making reference to the order of finish determined by the place judges, and conclude whether or not the system was functioning properly. The mere fact that the system produces a back-up time is not prima-facie evidence of a system failure. If the referee concludes that there was a system failure for a particular lane, the back-up time for that lane will be used, after adjustment to integrate it into the other valid times, as set forth in USA-S Rule 102.16.5.

When semi-automatic timing equipment (buttons) or manual timing (watches) is being used as the primary judging and timing system, the order of finish determined by the place judges will be the official order of finish if they agree on all places. If they do not agree on all places, then the modified ballot system will be used to determine the official order of finish. In either case, a swimmer with a faster time may be awarded an official order of finish that is lower than the time would indicate; this is appropriate.

IV. Officiating -

- A. Officials** - All officials, except lane timers, scorers and recorders, must be certified YMCA officials who hold current valid certifications. In no instance may a coach from a team competing in a meet act in an officiating capacity at such meet.

It is the intention of the NJ YMCA Swim League to provide officiating that is balanced, by team, wherever possible, with respect to judging strokes and turns, order of finish and relay take-offs. However, if one team fails to provide the requisite number of officials, as set forth below, it forfeits its right to balanced officiating.

All heats of all events, regardless of whether or not they enter into the scoring for the meet, must be judged by the officials for compliance with the applicable rules for the strokes being swum.

- B. Dual and Triangular Meets** - The officials required for a dual or triangular meet would be as follows:
- 1. Referee** - The referee should be provided by the host team, and must be a YMCA Level II certified official. If the host team cannot provide a Referee meeting this qualification, the visiting team may do so.
 - 2. Starter** - The starter should also be provided by the host team, and must be a YMCA Level II certified official. If the host team cannot provide a Starter meeting this qualification, the visiting team may do so.
 - 3. Stroke and Turn Judges** - Each team must provide at least one stroke and turn judge who is a YMCA **Level I or II** certified official.
 - 4. Place Judges** (also referred to as Finish Judges or Across-the-Board Judges) - Each team must provide one place judge who is at least a YMCA Level I certified official.
 - 5. Relay Take-off Judges** - Each team must provide one relay take-off

Judge who is a YMCA Level I or II certified official.

6. Timers - in dual meets, each team must provide one timer, with a stop watch, for each lane (e.g., six timers for a six-lane pool); for triangular meets, each team shall provide enough timers so that there are two timers for each lane being utilized. Timers do not have to be YMCA certified officials.

7. Scorers - Each team must provide one scorer who need not be a YMCA certified official.

C. Championship Meets - For statewide championship meets (8 & Under Championships, Bronze and Silver Championships and YMCA State (Gold) Championships), the host team will be expected to provide a Meet **Director**, who will be responsible for all the administrative arrangements surrounding the meet. **The Meet Referee(s) for such meets must be appointed or approved by the NJ YMCA Officials' Committee. Deck Referees and Starters should be assigned by the Meet Referee.** Such officials need not be affiliated with the host team, but rather they should be the most capable, experienced officials in attendance. All teams competing in a championship meet are encouraged to send officials to work the meet and the host club should utilize all such officials wherever possible. For championship meets, in addition to the officials noted above under "Dual Meets", chief judges and chief timers should also be utilized.

For invitational meets, the guidelines above for championship meets should be followed, with the responsibilities of the referee, starters and chief judges assigned to the most capable, experienced officials in attendance, regardless of their team affiliation.

D. Duties and Responsibilities - Officials may perform more than one duty, as long as such duties are not incompatible (e.g., a stroke and turn judge could not also be a finish judge, as he/she could not determine the order of finish while also judging the strokes at the finish). In the absence of finish judges and relay take-off judges, the referee and starter may assume those responsibilities, although the NJ YMCA Swim League strongly recommends that this not be done.

All disqualifications for infractions of the rules should be recorded, and every effort should be made to tell the individual swimmer. If the swimmer cannot be informed, then the referee should inform the coach of the infraction.

All potential disqualifications for false starts or early relay take-offs should require dual confirmation. In the case of false starts, such dual confirmation would be by the referee and the starter; for relay take-offs, such dual confirmation would be required by both relay take-off judges.

When swimmers are starting in the water, either due to water depth restrictions or individual preference, the swimmer's hand must be in contact with the wall until the starting signal is sounded. In the case of relays exchanges, some part of the swimmer's body must be in contact with the wall until the incoming swimmer makes contact with the wall.

- E. Jurisdiction** - The jurisdiction of the various officials will depend on the number of officials present and the layout of the facility. The key is to assure that there is balanced officiating so that no individual swimmer or team is judged more strictly than any other swimmer or team simply because of the placement of the judges (e.g., it would be unfair to assign one official to judge two lanes while another official judged three lanes.)

Generally, when there are only two stroke and turn judges, each should judge half the number of lanes for the length of the racing course, with the visiting team official judging lanes 1-3 and the home team official judging Lanes 4-6. Depending on the layout of the facility, the referee and starter may assist by judging turns and finishes at the start end of the racing course.

When four stroke judges are available, it is generally best to divide the pool into quadrants and assign each judge to a quadrant, with the visiting team officials judging lanes 1-3 and the home team officials judging Lanes 4-6. In this case, backstroke events are best judged from the end of the racing course, whereas breaststroke and butterfly events are best judged from the side of the racing course.

When six or more stroke and turn judges are available, it is generally best to use a combination of stroke judges to walk the sides of the racing course and turn judges at each end of the racing course, with the visiting team officials judging lanes 1-3 and the home team officials judging Lanes 4-6. When separate stroke judges and turn judges are utilized, the turn judges are responsible for the first stroke out from the wall and the last stroke into the wall. Stroke judges are responsible for officiating the swimmers after the first stroke from the wall, with responsibility for the kick during the last stroke into the wall.

March 2003

Revised: October 2006

October 2007

May 2010