

Lancaster Summer Swim League

Rules & Regulations

Updated 4/2017

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Lancaster Summer Swim League is to foster a friendly yet competitive swim environment that encourages a collaborative spirit of sportsmanship shared by Swimmers, Coaches, Parents, Officials and Spectators, alike and to enable local swimmers to represent their community pool, intended for a healthy dose of competition that fosters growth and enjoyment for all involved.

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I. AUTHORITY

A. Meets

1. Meets shall be conducted in accordance with United States Swimming Age Group short course rules unless otherwise defined herein.
2. The home team is responsible for having a current USS Rule book and a copy of the current Lancaster Summer Swim League rules available at all meets.

B. Protest Board

1. The Protest Board shall consist of the League Chairman, a representative of the Lancaster Officials Club, and one additional representative from each Division.
2. Violations of rules and regulations, disputes, and protests will be reported in accordance with protest procedures.
3. Final authority in all disputes, violations and protests will rest with the Protest Board.
4. The Protest Board may cause a meet to be forfeited for failure to comply with League Rules.

C. Protest Procedures

1. All protests must be made first to the referee of the meet in question. If his/her decision is not acceptable to either coach, an appeal must be made.
2. All appeals must follow the procedure below:
 - a. The protest must be phoned to the League Chairman within 24 hours after the incident and then be submitted in writing.
 - b. The League Chairman will attempt to settle the matter.
 - c. The Chairman may call for a hearing before the protest board in the event that the matter cannot be settled individually.

D. Rule Changes

1. Recommendations for changes in the rules and regulations of the League should be presented to the Rules Committee for consideration.
2. All final changes in the rules and regulations of the League can be accomplished through action by the League.

E. Meetings

1. Meetings shall be conducted using Robert's Rules of Order.

II. ORGANIZATION

A. Composition

1. The League will be divided into three (3) divisions: Division I, II, and III
2. Each year the composition of the Divisions will change based on the final standings of the previous year. The top team in Division II, and III will move up to the next higher Division. The bottom team in Division I, and II will move to the next lower Division.
3. Teams facing a Division change may negotiate the move with the team with whom they would exchange places.
4. If both teams do not agree to remain in their respective Divisions, then both teams must exchange places.

5. If a tie occurs in the determination of the dual meet champion, the tie will be resolved in the following order:
 - a. The result of the dual meet between the two teams involved. The greatest number of points scored in the Divisional Championship meet.
 - b. The team with the worst dual meet record will finish at the bottom of that division. If a tie occurs in determining the bottom team of a division, the tie will be resolved in the following order:
 - i. The result of the dual meet between the two teams involved.
 - ii. The team with the fewest number of points scored in the Division Championship Meet.

B. Rotation of Dates

1. Dual meet date rotation for scheduling from season to season will be as follows:
 - a. The last meet date moves to the first meet date. All others move down one date.
 - b. Home/Visitor will rotate.

C. New Teams

1. Application for League membership must be made before the League Championship Meet of the year prior to the new team's provisional year.
2. Upon satisfactory completion of the provisional year, the League will vote on full membership for the applicant team.
3. New teams accepted into the League will be entered into Division III.

III. ELIGIBILITY

A. Pool Membership

1. All swimmers must be current members of the pool they represent. Exception is given to Community Pools and Recreation Associations which have formal rules for membership.
2. The swimmer's pool membership must conform to the established policy of the pool and/or recreation center they represent.
3. Current membership shall be established as of June 1st of the season of competition.
4. A swimmer may only compete for one summer swim league during any one season. A swimmer may compete with only one team in the League during any one season. Except when a swimmer changes place of residence, he/she may swim for the pool he/she joins. Ineligible swimmers will be disqualified and meets in which they swam forfeited.
5. Children of pool managers and/or coaches are eligible to swim for the team where the parent is employed.
6. Teams may not begin practice before the Monday before Memorial Day.
7. Any preseason clinic sponsored or sanctioned by a team must be advertised and open to all swimmers. Otherwise, it will be determined to be a preseason practice in violation of the league starting date rule. This violation will result in a forfeit of the team's first meet.

B. Certification of Swimmers

1. An eligibility roster must be submitted to the League at, or before, the last regular meeting (Dual Meet Meeting) prior the start of the current season. Only swimmers appearing on the League Roster may compete in dual meets, Divisional Championships, and the League Championships.

2. Additions and deletions must be made to the roster on the Roster Change Form (SA-030) supplied by the league. All changes must be date stamped one week prior to any meet during the progress of the season. Roster additions can be scanned and sent to the league president/secretary to notify teams of additions.
3. Rosters must be organized according to sex and age groups giving name, date of birth, and school district of primary residence for each swimmer. Rosters must be submitted on form SA004, the electronic form provided by the league or age group printout from scoring/team management software. Coaches must sign and indicate the percentage of non-county swimmers. Coach's signature certifies that their roster is in accordance with the Lancaster Summer Swim League Rules.
4. June 1, of the current season, is the date that determines the age group in which a swimmer will compete for the current League season. Exception is given to graduating seniors who are over 18 years of age June 1. Regardless of their age, swimmers may not compete in the league after the summer following their graduation from high school.
5. Pools having two or more teams may move a swimmer up to replace a swimmer moving down. However, no changes may be made after the third dual meet of the current season.
6. Each team in the division must make copies of its initial roster for the other teams in the division. This will be due at the June league meeting.

IV. DUAL MEET PROCEDURES

A. Contestants

1. Only certified swimmers may compete.
2. A swimmer may advance one or more age groups in any particular meet, but must remain in that age group for the entire meet.
3. A swimmer may enter only three scoring events in any one meet including relays. A scratch in any event shall not affect a swimmer swimming in a later event. However, a scratch does count as one of the three allowed entries. Exhibition swims do not count as one of the three allowed swims.
4. Swimmers wearing caps must wear either their summer team cap or a generic cap for meets. Winter team caps will not be allowed.
5. Swimmers must compete in the correct event for their gender.

B. Events

1. The list of events and their order will be approved by the League Committee.
2. The visiting team coach must be informed prior to the first event when distances do not conform to those in the list of events.
3. Optional non-scoring events may be added, time permitting, through the agreement of both coaches. "Live heats" will be swum before exhibition heats. Exhibition heats will swim fastest to slowest.
4. There will be no diving event.

C. Scoring

1. The place judges will decide the order of finish.

2. If the place judges disagree, the meet Referee will make the final decision in accordance with the following: He/she may declare:
 - a. a tie splitting the points
 - b. a winner
 - c. call for a swim-off, with the agreement of both coaches
3. The scoring of place shall be: Relays 7-0; all other events 5-3-1-0.
4. All teams are limited to three entries in a 6 lane pool or 4 entries in an 8 lane pool.
5. Total team points will be used to determine a winner of the dual meet.
6. If a team officially finishes in the top three places of an individual event, they shall score only 8 points and the opposing team shall score 1 point if the opposing team has an official entry who has not been disqualified. The third place ribbon will go to the swimmer earning the place in that event, the point scorer from the opposing team will not be awarded a ribbon.
7. Score table personnel should include: announcers, host scorers, visiting scorers, and awards personnel. At NO TIME during the meet should swimmers, parents, and/or spectators interfere with scoring procedures.
8. A Coach (not a parent, swimmer, or spectator) may at any time during the meet request the running score, official times, or order of finish from the OPPOSING team's scorer.
9. Scoring personnel (both home and visiting team) shall share the responsibility for copying or electronically combining and printing both home and visiting team lineup information on event cards, including exhibition events, for each age group.
10. Running score should be tabulated at the completion of each stroke. When the scorers agree the results shall be announced.
11. All scorers must agree before the outcome of the meet is announced. Starter/referee for the meet shall sign all original score copies at the conclusion of the meet.
12. By mutual consent of both head coaches, Meet Manager or Touchpad software may be used to score a meet. Live heats will be scored using the Team Score Sheet and Lineup forms in addition to the computer scoring. Exhibition heats can be combined and seeded by the computer software.

D. Officials

1. Each pool should conduct or attend an instructional clinic on officiating prior to the first meet.
2. Each team should supply officials as designated below:
 - a. Two timers on each lane (one from each team)
 - b. Two stroke and turn judges (one from each team)
 - c. One head timer/recorder (home team)
 - d. One starter (home team). The starter may also act as the meet referee if he can witness all finishes.
 - e. One referee (home team)
 - f. Two finish judges (one from each team)
 - g. Two scorers (one from each team)
 - h. One take-off judge (appointed by the referee)
 - i. One announcer (home team) should use PA system

3. Members of the Lancaster Officials Club may be invited to serve in any of the officiating capacities at the option of either coach. The coach desiring the outside official, must notify the other coach five days prior to the meet of his/her intent to secure an outside official. The coach must confirm one day prior to the meet.
4. If either team cannot fill all positions, the referee will fill them from spectators. No protest on this basis will be honored.
5. Teams using a non-certified Starter/Referee must utilize only the most experienced person available at this position and that individual must have attended the official's clinic prior to the start of the current season. When using a non-certified referee (team parent, etc) make sure that particular team's finish judge is on the opposite side of the pool from the referee.

E. Conduct of the Meet

1. All meets will be held in accordance with League schedules beginning at 6:15 pm. Both coaches may agree on another date and time for a scheduled meet.
2. A complete official entry form will be submitted to the scorers table by 5:30pm. Coaches may make changes prior to the start of the 17 and under boy's race for each succeeding stroke. Relay changes may be made during the intermission between the butterfly and the relays.
3. Entry changes must be submitted in writing to the scoring table.
4. Event cards and scoring sheets must be available at the scoring table 30 minutes prior to the start of the meet.
5. An officials meeting will be held 15 minutes before meet time.
6. A standard event card will be used to record the results of each race. Cards should be made up ahead of time and placed in proper event order. The head timer/recorder will record the results of each race on the event card and forward the cards to the scoring table. The use of an electronic timing system does not alleviate the above requirement. More than one person may record times.
7. All times, including exhibition lanes, exhibition heats, losing relays and disqualifications, must be recorded.
8. All cards will be kept at the scoring table until the meet is concluded.
9. The home team will swim in the odd-numbered lanes and the visiting team will swim in the even-numbered lanes.
10. Pool records should be kept and displayed in hundredths of a second.
11. The home team is required to provide complete meet results electronically to the website by 6:00pm the day following the meet. Results may be scanned as a PDF or HTML file. A \$10.00 fine will be levied on any team which fails to comply.
12. Meet results shall be made available for inspection by other coaches.
13. The host team is required to submit meet results to the news media (phone #291-8666)
14. Mandatory warm-up times shall be:
 - a. Home Team: 5:30 to 5:45 pm
 - b. Visiting Team: 5:45 to 6:00 pm
15. In an 8 lane pool, all 8 lanes are "live". The only exhibitions would be the full exhibition heats, or individual swims specifically designated by coaches as "exhibition."

16. The Lancaster Summer Swim League will follow a sportsmanship policy adopted April, 2004. (See separate handout for specific details.)

F. Postponement

1. The host team will cancel meets due to weather conditions at the last possible moment prior to the departure of the visiting team.
2. Meets already in progress will be postponed at the discretion of the referee. The referee may call for a delay not to exceed 30 minutes.
3. Meets that have been postponed will resume with the next scheduled event.
4. Coaches may mutually agree to cancel postponed meets if there is a clear winner at the time of postponement.
5. Meets must be rescheduled on the next available date within 7 days of the original date. The date of rescheduling should be decided at the time of postponement. In a situation where the two teams cannot agree on how to make up a postponed meet, the League president will be asked to make a final decision.
6. If a team is unwilling to reschedule a postponed meet, that team will automatically forfeit the meet.
7. When a meet already in progress must be postponed, the meet official shall hold the original line-ups until the meet resumes at a rescheduled date, unless both coaches agree to have the line-ups held by the home team scorer or unless both coaches agree to have the meet official sign each team's line-up after the last event swum and each team will hold their own line-up.
8. The following rules shall apply when a postponed meet in progress resumes on a rescheduled date:
 - a. Any swimmer who is eligible to swim as of the date of the rescheduled meet may be entered.
 - b. Because the meet had to be rescheduled, a coach is permitted to make changes in the line up, including changes in entries for the events that will occur immediately upon resumption of the meet. A coach shall submit entry changes in accordance with the provisions of Article IV, Section E of these rules, except that any entry changes for the stroke in progress as of the time of postponement must be submitted to the scorers' table at least one-half hour before the start of the resumed meet. In the alternative, a coach may submit a new line-up for the resumed meet, in which case the new line-up must be submitted to the scorers' table at least one-half hour before the start of the resumed meet.

G. Use of electronic/automatic timing

1. If a team is using electronic timing, the following procedures will be followed:
 - a. Electronic timing, which includes a pad and a plunger time, are sent to a timing system. This is the official time for a swimmer. This time will be given to the scorers table to place on the lineup sheets to be used as the official results.
 - b. Official times will determine the place and finish of swimmers, which will be sent to the scorer's table.
 - c. Two timers will still be required for each lane. Timers will write down their times at the end of each heat.
 - d. Place judges will still complete cards with the order of finish in the event that the electronic timing system fails.

V. RULE CLARIFICATIONS

A. False Starts

1. One false start will be allowed in all age groups.

B. In-water Starts

1. A forward start shall be used for in-water starts and is defined as the swimmer having one hand on the deck or coping edge and one foot on the wall.

VI. CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS

A. Site Selection

1. Selection for host sites for all championship meets will be made by the League committee at the August meeting.
2. In selecting a site for the championship meet, pool facilities will be of primary importance.
3. for hosting a Divisional Championship will be based on which team has not hosted the meet for the longest period of time regardless of division.
4. Priority for hosting the League Championship will be based on which team has not hosted the meet for the longest period of time.
5. Teams expressing an interest in hosting a divisional championship meet must indicate their interest at the August meeting for the next season.
6. The League Championship meet will be awarded on a two-year bid basis. Teams desiring to bid on hosting this meet must do so at the August meeting.
7. The League may withdraw the rights to host the League Championships the second year at the August meeting.

B. Dates for Championship Meets

1. The Divisional Championships meet will take place at the conclusion of the regular dual meet schedule.
2. The League Championship will take place one week following the Divisional Championships.
 - a. Relays will be held on Friday night.
 - b. Individual events will be held on Saturday with one session for all ages.

C. Entry Times

1. All entry times must be reported in hundredths of a second and accomplished by any of the following ways:
 - a. The dual meet time of a swimmer recorded in a 25-meter pool.
 - b. The dual meet time of a swimmer recorded in a 25-yard pool where the time has been converted from an official conversion chart.
 - c. The times recorded in an official time trial at a 25-meter pool where these times have been recorded by three watches and substantiated by the presence of a member of the Lancaster Officials Club.
2. Coaches must substantiate all times submitted if they are challenged by the meet committees.
3. All entries must be submitted in writing or via an accepted electronic format on official entry forms or electronic equivalent accompanied by a hard copy. A contestant who is not on the Meet Roster is ineligible to compete. All relay participants must be listed on the Meet Roster.
4. All League Relay and Individual entrants must have an entry time submitted.

5. Entry times must be included in the Divisional heat sheet.
6. Swimmers must participate in at least two dual meets to be eligible for the Divisional and League Championship Meets.

D. Awards

1. Awards for the Divisional Championships will be determined by the Rules Committee, but the purchase of those awards will be the responsibility of the host team.
2. Divisional awards will be ordered by the Vice President of the League.
3. Awards for the League Championship will be determined by the Rules Committee, but the purchase of those awards will be the responsibility of the hosts team.
4. Team awards for the League Championships are as follows:
 - a. Trophy for the team scoring the highest points in the relay events.
 - b. Trophy for the team scoring the highest points in the individual events.
 - c. Trophy for the first six placed teams in the overall championships.

E. Use of Automatic Timing

1. Three timers are required for each lane unless automatic timing is used.
2. Official times will determine the place and finish of swimmers.

F. Scratch Rule

1. A swimmer may be scratched from an individual event in order to replace a swimmer on a relay. The scratch must be made prior to the start of the meet. The swimmer must be listed on the master sheet and cannot exceed the allowed number of events swam.

VII. DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. General Information

1. Entries close 8:00 PM Friday, one week prior to the date of the Divisional meet.
2. Individuals are limited to three (3) events.
3. No limit to team entries in an individual event or relay event.
4. Events will be the same events approved for the dual meet season.
5. No exhibition swimmers will be permitted in any event.
6. Certified officials are to be used at Divisionals. This includes referee, starter, and 2 stroke and turn officials.
7. Swim-offs: To eliminate swim-offs, a tie will be scored by adding the place points together and dividing them equally among each team. The highest ribbon will be given to each swimmer. (Rule also applies to League Championships.)
8. Maximum entry fees will be set by the League officers.
9. The Division Championship Meet will be a "split session" meet. The AM session will be for swimmers in the 12 & Under, 14 & Under and Open age groups. The PM session will be for swimmers in the 8 & Under and 10 & Under age groups. The Divisional Host may run the meet as either a single session or as split session if there are 6 or less teams in one division.

VIII. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. General Information

1. Host team will establish entries' deadline. Entries can be submitted earlier and additions added after the Divisional meet. Electronic entries are due by 8:00pm Sunday night after Divisionals.
2. Only League members and intended League members may participate. Unattached swimmers are not allowed.
3. Swimmers must qualify to compete in the County Championships as per the attached time standards.
4. Eligible times must be established as written in VI.C.1.
5. Each contestant is limited to four events, at least one of which must be a relay.
6. Each team may submit unlimited entries in each event as long as the swimmers meet the qualifying standards.
7. Teams are limited to two relays per event.
8. In addition to the regular dual meet events, there will be a medley relay for each age/sex group. The medley relay will swim AFTER the free relay.
9. No exhibition swimmers will be permitted in any event.
10. Maximum entry fees will be set by the League officers.
11. Time standards may be changed by submitting a written request to the Rules Committee.
12. Electronic timing will be required for the League Championship Meet.