

## **GEORGIA SWIMMING INC.**

### **SCRATCH RULE**

The Scratch Rule used in all meets in Georgia where the meet format has preliminary heats, consolation finals, and finals is the same “Scratch Rule” as that found in the current USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, Rule 207.7.9 D and E.

#### **D. 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 102.14.5D or deliberate delay of meet under 102.14.7A is not permitted and will be regarded as 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 re-seed the C, B, or A (bonus final, consolation final or) final, if necessary, to insert the alternate(s) in the appropriate lane(s), filling all lanes in the final.
- (4) If a C or B (bonus and consolation) final has already been contested, the championship final shall be swum without reseeding for the empty lane(s).

#### **E. 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.

\*LSC ADDITIONS:

1. In deck seeded events, a swimmer who has checked in, been seeded and fails to compete in said event,  
  
shall be barred from his or her next individual event, except as noted in section E above.
2. There is no scratch rule governing relays and there is no penalty regarding relay scratches.
3. First and second alternates are identified on the original results of the preliminary heats.
4. 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.
5. On the final day of LSC Championship competition, any swimmer who has checked in for finals and fails to show 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.
6. "Positive check-in", (for deck seeding), designating a swimmer's intent to swim a race, shall be denoted by the swimmer's or coach's initials next to the swimmer's name on the official entry sheet posted at the Clerk of Course.