

Arizona Scratch Rule

Scratch Procedure. When, following a round of competition, an athlete qualifies for subsequent round of competition (i.e., bonus (C), consolation (B), or championship (A) finals) the athlete shall notify the Referee, or the Referee's designee, of 1) the athlete's intention not to swim the event in further rounds of competition ("Scratch") or 2) the athlete's intention to wait until after his or her last individual preliminary event to make such decision(s) ("Intent to Scratch"). The athlete must make the declaration of Scratch or the possible Intent to Scratch within 30 minutes of the announcement of the qualifiers for the next round of competition. Such declaration shall be made at the place designated by the Referee. An athlete who has recorded the Intent to Scratch has 30 minutes after the conclusion of the athlete's last individual preliminary event to declare the intention to swim the event in further rounds of competition or to Scratch.

Athletes who do not Scratch or fail to notify the Referee, or the Referee's designee, of their decision regarding their Intent to Scratch, (see above) will be seeded into the further rounds of competition and will be subject to the penalties below. Athletes who are alternates who are subsequently seeded into any final by virtue of scratches are not subject to penalties below for failing to scratch, but are encouraged to do so. Subsequent to the expiration of the 30-minute period in which an athlete may Scratch or Declare the Intent to Scratch, the Referee shall cause the list of athletes qualifying for the next round of competition to be announced. If an Intent to Scratch exists for this event, the Referee shall cause an announcement to be made indicated that an Intent to Scratch exists. Subsequent to the expiration of the Intent to Scratch, the Referee shall cause the list of athletes qualifying for the next round of competition, including alternates, to be announced. It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to ascertain if he or she has been seeded into the next round of competition. Failure to Compete as the result of not being aware of the seeding of the next round of competition shall be subject to the penalties below.

Individual Scratch Rule. It is the athlete's responsibility to know and understand the starting time of the meet and his or her events. It is the athlete's responsibility to be in the proper vicinity and ready to swim at the appropriate place and time. 1) Pre-Seeded Events. Athletes shall report promptly to designated area and/or individual prior to the start of each race in which they are entered. i) Any athlete who does not report or compete (i.e., no show) in an individual timed final event shall not be penalized. ii) Any athlete who does not report or compete (i.e., no show) in a preliminary heat when finals are scheduled shall not be penalized. 2) Events Seeded on the Deck. In timed finals meets or timed final events swum in prelim/final meets, there is no penalty for athletes who fail to check in for a particular event; they will be scratched from that event and neither seeded in the event nor allowed any opportunity to swim. Athletes who have Positively Checked In (see 3. above) for an individual event that is Deck Seeded (see 3 above) must compete in the event. Declared false starts are permitted. Failure to compete in such an event will result in the athlete being barred from the next individual event in which he or she is entered, whether on that day or on a subsequent day of the meet. Failure to compete shall also result in a \$30 fine payable by the swimmer (or coach/team) prior to the conclusion of the meet.

Scratching from Bonus, Consolation, and Championship Finals Senior Level - The following procedure is mandatory for all Senior preliminary/finals meets unless other scratch rules are delineated in appropriate meet flyer.

(1) Any athlete qualifying for a bonus, consolation, or championship final competition in an individual event who fails to compete (no show) ("Failure to Compete") in either bonus, consolation, or championship final race shall be barred from further competition for the remainder of the meet, including relays, (except as noted in paragraph 4) below. A declared false start or deliberate delay of meet is not permitted and will be regarded as a Failure to Compete.

(2) In the event of withdrawal, no show or barring of an athlete from competition, the Referee shall fill the bonus, consolation, or championship final when possible with the next qualified athlete(s). First and second alternates shall be announced along with the final qualifiers. These alternates shall not be penalized if unavailable to compete in any levels of finals.

(3) For events with bonus finals, where bonus finals have not yet been swum and a withdrawal, no show or barring is known to the Referee, the Referee shall reseed the bonus, consolation, and championship final, if necessary and practicable, to insert the alternate(s) in the appropriate lane(s), filling all lanes in the finals.

(4) For events without bonus finals, where consolation finals have not yet been swum and a withdrawal, no show or barring is known to the Referee, the Referee shall reseed the consolation final and the championship final, if necessary and practicable, to insert the alternate(s) in the appropriate lane(s) filling all lanes in the finals.

...continuation of the Arizona Scratch Rule is contained in the Document Library at azswimming.org