

 	<p><b>POLICY &amp; PROCEDURE</b></p>	<p><b>POLICY NUMBER:</b></p> <p>257</p>
	<p><b>Subject:</b></p> <p>Minnesota Scratch Rule</p>	<p><b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b></p> <p>Approved: 4/20/99 Amended: 3/21/23 Retired:</p>

### Application of Minnesota Scratch Rule

The Minnesota Scratch Rule applies at all Minnesota Swimming sanctioned or approved meets, unless otherwise stated in the Meet Announcement. A host may elect to waive or modify all or part of the Minnesota Scratch Rule if stated in their Meet Announcement, including, but not limited to, seeding of events, check-in times and format, penalties for missed events, and the format and scratch procedures for prelim/final events.

### Non-State Championship Timed Final Events and Prelim/Final Events at Non-State Championship Meets

- A. **Pre-Seeded Timed Events.** All individual events under 400 yards/meters and all relay events shall be pre-seeded.
- B. **Deck-Seeded Timed Events.** Individual distance events 400 yards/meters and over shall be deck-seeded (positive check-in) events. Events seeded on deck shall be closed for seeding no earlier than ninety (90) minutes prior to the start of the event.
- C. **Events Where Prelims and Finals are Conducted.** All preliminary events shall be seeded in accordance with (A) and (B) above. The administrative procedures for scratching from finals for USA Swimming Championships (article 207.11.6.D-E), including penalties for a no-show in finals, shall be in effect.

### State Championship Meets

- A. **Scratch Procedure for State Championship Events.** The scratch procedures and penalties for all individual and relay events where preliminaries and finals are conducted, and all events at state championship meets, shall conform to the scratch procedures and penalties in the administrative procedures for USA Swimming Championships (Article 207.11.6.A-E) section in the current USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.
- B. **Distance Events.** All individual events 400 yards/meters and over shall be positive check-in events. Swimmers must check in by the scratch deadline for that day's events.
- C. **Timed Final Events without Positive Check-In and Relays.** There is no penalty for failure to compete in a timed final that does not require a positive check-in or a relay.
- D. **Re-Entry Fee.** The use of a re-entry fee as a means to void any penalties assessed for not competing in an individual event is prohibited.

### Language to be Included in the Meet Announcement

- A. The Meet Announcement shall include a section titled "Minnesota Scratch Rule" and the following language: "The Minnesota Scratch Rule shall be in effect for all events," *OR*;
- B. "The Minnesota Scratch Rule shall be in effect, with the following exceptions: (list the exceptions)."