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| Pacific Northwest Swimming Rules and Procedures | Classes of Swimming Competition |
| Index AD-97-02 | Effective Date 9/1/11 |
| 09/01/01: Original | |
| 09/01/11: Updated policy to agree with current practice/procedures. | |

1. Senior Program

- a. Eligibility to compete in the Senior program is regulated by the minimum time standards for the event. Unless otherwise stated below or in the Meet Announcement, swimmers with a disability must meet the same qualifying time standards.
- b. The following parameters are either required -- "shall be" -- or strongly encouraged -- "should be"
 - i. An automatic timing system shall be used.
 - ii. Hy-Tek or equivalent Meet Management software that can export a result file compatible with SWIMS shall be used.
 - iii. The facility must conform to all applicable USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.
 - iv. Individual events should be deck-seeded with a positive check-in required to swim.
 - v. If the Order of Events is set by PNS, it should be published as part of the bid process.
 - vi. If the time standards are set by PNS, they should be posted on the PNS website at least 90 days prior to the meet's entry deadline.
- c. Classifications
 - i. Senior Championships: At least two senior championship meet opportunities shall be offered each year. Either or both may be combined with an Age Group Championship. Specific details shall be set by Technical Planning and published as part of the annual bid process.
 - ii. Senior Non-Championship Meets: Member clubs are encouraged to offer non-championship meet opportunities throughout the swim year through the meet bid process.

2. Age Group Program

- a. Eligibility to compete in an age group classification shall be determined by the swimmer's age on the first day of the meet. Unless otherwise stated below or in the Meet Announcement, swimmers with a disability must meet the same qualifying time standards.
- b. The following parameters are either required – “shall be” – or strongly encouraged – “should be”
 - i. Except as otherwise determined by Technical Planning and in accordance with USA Swimming Rules and Regulations 205.3.1.F, all meets in Age Group Competition shall be planned to allow the events for swimmers 12 years and younger to be completed in four (4) hours or less for a timed final meet session or a total of eight (8) hours or less per day for a prelim/final meet.
 - ii. With the exception of 25-yard events, an automatic timing system shall be used for all Championship meets and should be used for all non-championship meets Hy-Tek or equivalent Meet Management software that can export a result file compatible with SWIMS shall be used.
 - iii. The facility must conform to all applicable USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.
 - iv. Individual events listed in USA Swimming Rules and Regulations 102.1.2 should be offered as frequently as possible, along with 25-yard events for swimmers ages 8&under.
 - v. If the Order of Events is set by PNS, it should be published as part of the bid process. vii. If the time standards are set by PNS, they should be posted on the PNS website at least 90 days prior to the meet's entry deadline.
 - vi. Unless otherwise indicated below, all Age Group competition should be open to post-age group swimmers.

c. Classifications

- i. Age Group Senior Championships: At least two age group championship opportunities shall be offered each year. Either or both may be combined with a Senior Championship, i.e., open to post age-group swimmers. Specific details shall be set by Technical Planning and published as part of the annual bid process.
- ii. PNS-Formatted Series Meets: To encourage equitable competition across the LSC, Technical Planning shall design several series of meets, each scheduled on the same weekend but at as wide a geographic range of venues as possible to maximize participation while minimizing travel.

3. Open Water Program